



St. Michael Catholic Parish

Where we Celebrate the Sacraments, Grow Disciples,
and Bring Christ to People.

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Jesus said to Simon Peter,
“Simon, son of John,
do you love me
more than these?”

John 21:15



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IN THIS ISSUE

- Fr Carl on the Sacraments of Initiation—page 5
- Knights Rib Cook Off on May 11—page 6
- Upcoming events—page 7
- Parishioner Gwen Hallstom, Age 103, featured in the Independent —page 8



Today's Gospel reading zooms in on an intimate conversation between Jesus and Peter. Not long before this, at the Passion, Peter had denied Jesus three times. Now the risen Lord asks Peter three times, "Do you love me?" What's particularly interesting about this scene is the language that Jesus and Peter use. When the Lord asks Peter, "Do you love me?" he uses the Greek word "agape," which refers to an unconditional, sacrificial, self-giving love; the deepest love you can imagine. Surprisingly, Peter answers, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you," but instead of "agape," he uses the Greek word "philia," which refers to a friendship; it's not quite the same depth of love as "agape."

Clearly, Peter is not ready to give all that Jesus is asking for, but today's readings are all about God's willingness to take whatever we're willing to give him and work with it. In the first reading this week, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, we see that Peter eventually does become willing to give his whole life for the risen Lord. This Sunday's readings challenge us to consider what our response would be to Jesus' question: "Do you 'agape' me?"

Unpack the First Reading Acts 5:27-32, 40-41

In the joy the apostles felt in being found "worthy" to suffer for Jesus, we see most clearly the way in which Jesus turned the world upside down. In Jesus, eve-

rything that men and women had sought to avoid from the beginning of time had become a mark of one's solidarity with the suffering Christ. What a wonderful place the world has become since Jesus has turned even the worst things into a cause for joy.

The cause of this joy is "the Name." The name, of course, is that of Jesus. The Jews wouldn't



They speak the holy name of God and so spelled it Y-H-W-H (without vowels) to inhibit pronunciation. The oldest papyrus fragments of the Gospel of Matthew, recently dated to between 30 and 70 A.D., abbreviate the name Jesus using the letters I-S, apparently in imitation of the Jewish practice. This could suggest that "the Name," as we find it referred to in the Book of Acts, may have also been a way of referring to Jesus without pronouncing his holy name. Whether or not that's the case, it's inspiring to realize that even the earliest Christians recognized and tried to express Jesus' divinity. Only God could turn the world upside down in the way Jesus did.

Unpack the Second Reading Revelation 5:11-14

What we see in this week's reading is one of the many instances of heavenly worship in the book of Revelation. The assembly consists in this case of countless thousands of angels, elders, and four living creatures. The elders' number twenty-four and likely represent the twelve tribes of Israel and Israel reconstituted in the twelve apostles. The four beasts resemble those found in Ezekiel's vision and have traditionally been interpreted as the four angelic spirits who govern the earth. The number four represented for the Jews, as for many ancient cultures, the world. The four images used (a lion, an ox, a man, and an eagle) are also used as symbols of the four Gospels.

The fundamental point of St. John's Revelation is that prayer is the most important thing in the world. Everything that participates in the ebb and flow of history is tied to prayer. Through prayer we link ourselves to the absolutely sovereign will of God and his divine plan. In the end, the whole of the cosmos will participate in one great acclamation of praise for all God has done. It's vital that we understand that when we participate in the Liturgy, we're engaging in the most important thing we'll ever do. On our worship depends the fate of nations and peoples, the whole of world history.

Unpack the Gospel John 21:1-19

Ronald Knox, in his commentary on this section of the Gospel of John, seems to suggest that a lot of strain has been placed on this passage in trying to make it say things of mystical or sacramental significance that the text doesn't necessarily indicate. It's true that there's a very warm (what he calls "pastoral") feeling about this final scene of the Gospel story. The end of the Gospels signals the beginning of everything else, the rest of time and the whole of eternity.

Certainly, one should consider all the significance of Jesus asking Peter to undo his threefold betrayal with a threefold profession of love. Certainly, it's important that Peter's first experience of Jesus' Lordship and his own sinfulness occurred in very similar circumstances (Luke 5:8). But Knox is certainly right, too, in pointing out that this seems to be one of those scenes that are particularly appropriate for restful, joyful meditation. In its haunting simplicity, it tells us more about the Resurrection than could any catechism or theology text.

For Discussion

With family, friends or in your small group, watch the short **Opening the Word** video on FORMED.org. Then reflect on the following questions:

In the Gospel reading, according to the presenter, why does Peter use a different term for the word "love" than Jesus does?

Why does Jesus ask Peter three times if he loves him? What in the Gospel story might this be related to?

This week's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles shows us that Peter eventually gave Jesus "agape" love. How can Jesus transform the small things we are able to give him into great things?

The Power of Divine Love

"Prior to the experience of betrayal, the Apostle [Peter] certainly would have said: 'I love you (agapo-se) unconditionally.' Now that he has known the bitter sadness of infidelity, the drama of his own weakness, he says with humility: 'Lord; you know that I love you (filo-se),' that is, 'I love you with my poor human love.' Christ insists: 'Simon, do you love me

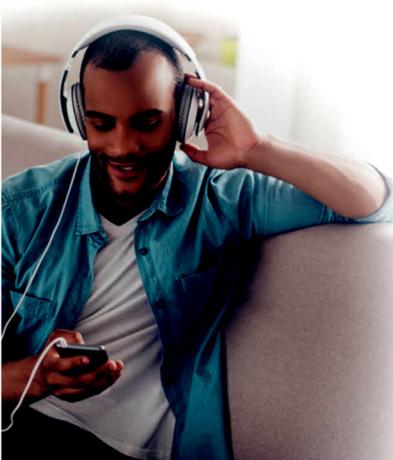
with this total love that I want?' And Peter repeats the response of his humble human love: 'Kyrie, filo-se,' 'Lord, I love you as I am able to love you,' The third time Jesus only says to Simon: 'Fileis-me?' 'Do you love me?' "Simon understands that his poor love is enough for Jesus, it is the only one of which he is capable, nonetheless he is grieved that the Lord spoke to him in this way. He thus replies: 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you (filo-se).'

"This is to say that Jesus has put himself on the level of Peter, rather than Peter on Jesus' level! ... From the naïve enthusiasm of initial acceptance, passing through the sorrowful experience of denial and the weeping of conversion, Peter succeeded in entrusting himself to that Jesus who adapted himself to his poor capacity of love. And in this way he shows us the way, notwithstanding all of our weakness. We know that Jesus adapts himself to this weakness of ours."

—Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, May 24, 2006

Reprinted from this week's Opening the Word leader materials with permission from Augustine Institute.

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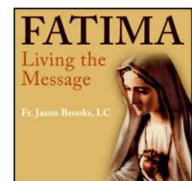


Fatima: Living the Message By Fr. Jason Brooks

Heed Your Mother's Advice

Fr. Jason Brooks brings to light why Fatima is regarded by many as the most important spiritual event of the past 100 years and why Our Lady's message is still as relevant as ever.

Listen free at StMichael.FORMED.org
on the "Community" tab



"I thought I knew the story of Fatima well, but this gave even MORE insight into the message and meaning of Our Lady of Fatima."

—Carl, Maineville, OH

Pray Throughout the Week



Mass Intentions

Saturday 5/4

8:30am Kenneth Russel De Silva
5:00pm Ray Zinnel
7:00pm Iris Juarez

Sunday 5/5

6:45am Sofia Hernandez †
8:00am Mass for Our Parish
9:30am Joseph Arthur Roman
11:00am* The Crosett Family
The Baugh Family
Tina Gregory
John J. Vericella
Cecilia Tiojanco †
12:30pm Coreen O'Rourke †
6:00pm Fr Poon

Monday 5/6

8:30am Mario Brian Lee Llacer

Tuesday 5/7

8:30am James Kane †

Wednesday 5/8

8:30am Ernesto Torres †
7:00pm Estela Ochoa †

Thursday 5/9

8:30am Fr Gus

Friday 5/10

8:30am David Hom †

* The 11:00 am Mass on the first Sunday of the month is a “communal Mass” with several intentions.

To request a Mass Intention, please visit the church office. The customary donation of \$10 goes to the priest celebrating the Mass.



Lectio Divina Prayer & Resolution

Prayer:

Imagine that you were one of the disciples in today's Gospel scene. You have followed Jesus, learned from him, walked with him. But now imagine he pulls you aside and asks you the question that he asked Peter that day, “Do you love me?” What goes through your mind, knowing that Jesus will know your heart and the truthfulness of your answer? How would you respond? Are you willing to “agape” Jesus—to love Jesus with total, unconditional, self-giving love? If, in truth, you would answer as Peter did with a “philia” love, what do you think Jesus would say to you in response?

Resolution:

Ask Jesus to show you one or two things in your life that might be holding you back from loving him with your whole heart, giving him that agape love. If you (like Peter) can't.

Special Intentions

For the repose of the souls of those who have died, and for the comfort of their friends and family. For funeral information, please see StMichaelLivermore.com/Funerals

Submit your prayer requests to our growing prayer team at Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com

Father Carl's Message of the Week



Sacraments of Initiation: Rooted to Sanctifying Grace

Dear St Michael Family,

This Sunday, I would like to remember and pray for all our children who will receive their First Holy Communion, and for our teens who will be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. These Sacraments are vital to our life of grace, in our pursuit of happiness and holiness as followers of Jesus.

The three Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Each is meant to strengthen our faith and to forge a deeper relationship with God. Baptism frees us from original sin, Confirmation strengthens our faith and Eucharist allows us to taste the body and blood of eternal life and be reminded of Christ's love and sacrifice.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1285, states that "Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the 'Sacraments of Christian initiation,' whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence, they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed."

Originally, these Sacraments were

administered together. Still to this day in the Eastern branches of both Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches, all three Sacraments are still administered at the same time to both infants and adults. Today, western Christians in the Roman Catholic Church celebrate them as different milestones in the spiritual lives of followers. Whether received all at once or over a period, the purpose of these Sacraments is the same: to graft and root us in the source of sanctifying grace. This sanctifying grace is that which strengthens us as we live out our Christian Faith in our daily lives.

How can we live out our Baptismal call, strengthened by the grace of Holy Communion and the gifts of the Holy Spirit? The answer to this question leads us back to our vision and mission of our parish:

1. We Celebrate the Sacraments

Attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days faithfully. Go to Confession regularly. Visit the Blessed Sacrament frequently. Set aside time for daily prayer.

2. We Grow Disciples and Bring Christ to People

Evangelize by telling people about Jesus. Participate in works of charity. Be a good example of a disciple by following Jesus' commands. Take advantage of the resources our parish has purchased for you with FORMED.org and Bishop Robert Barron's video studies.

3. We are welcoming and hospitable

Inspire people by being prayerful and loving. Continually invite others to join our ministries and opportunities for growth in our spiritual life. Look for new faces. Smile, say 'hello' and introduce yourself. Keep in mind always what it felt like to be the "new kid".

In his first General Audience (April 11, 2018) after releasing a major document on holiness in ordinary life, Pope Francis said that "Baptism permits Christ to live in us, and to live united with him, in order to collaborate in the Church, each according to his or her own condition, to the transformation of the world."

The pope insisted that Baptism marks a profound change in one's life. "There is a before and after Baptism," he said, saying it "expresses the passage from one condition to another ... [it's] a sign of purification for a new beginning."

As we join our newly Baptized, those who received their First Communion and those who were Confirmed, let us be reminded that our Sacraments of Initiation are not meant to be put inside the closet of our hearts. They are meant to be lived out, to give testimony in our world that Christ indeed is Risen and is alive!

Fr. Carl

Events Happening This Week



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- ◆ Competition & Multiple BBQ Foods, Desserts, Beer, Wine, Soda and Water for sale
- ◆ Boutique Vendors, Multiple Stages/Bands & Kid Fun/Area

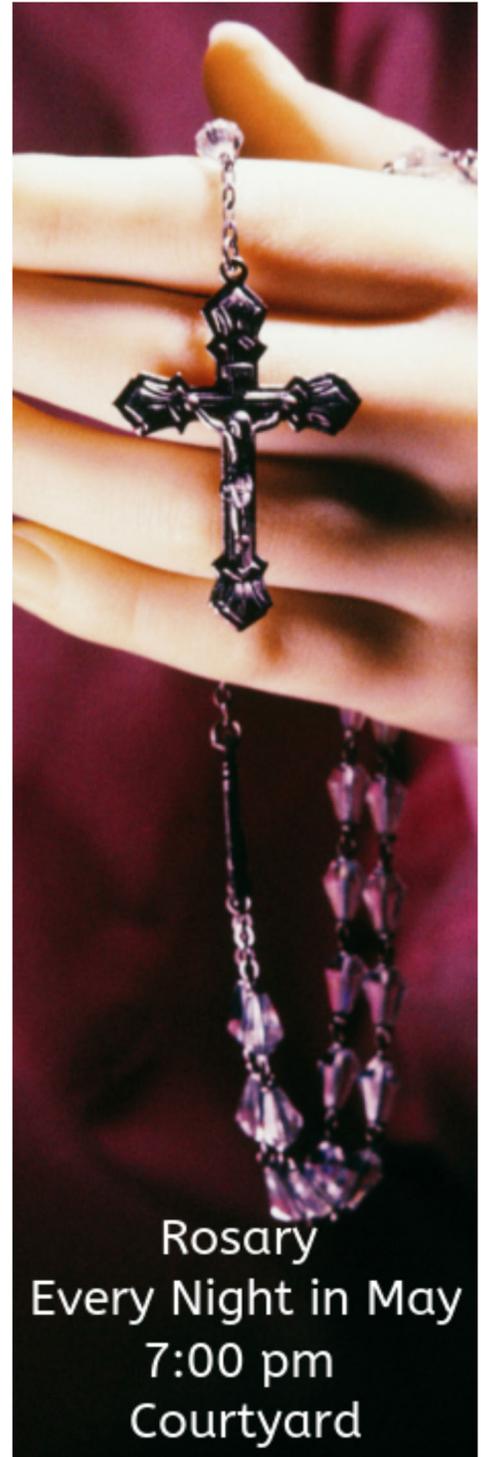
Saturday May 11, 2019

10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Monsignor Adams Field / St Michael Schoolyard
263 & 345 Church St, Livermore



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Rosary
Every Night in May
7:00 pm
Courtyard



Knights of Columbus

Membership Drive
Sunday, May 12

May is the Month of Mary



The Bible and the Virgin Mary

The Bible and the Virgin Mary is a dynamic twelve-part video series that beautifully explains the Catholic truths about Our Lady, showing how she has been a part of God's plan to bring salvation to the world since the beginning of time. In addition to explanation of dogmas, answers to common objections, and demonstration of Mary's presence in the Old and New Testaments, this study discusses Church-approved Marian apparitions that play an important role in Catholic Tradition. It's sure to help Catholics and non-Catholics alike grow in an understanding and appreciation of the Mother of God.

Watch this series free at StMichael.FORMED.org under "Study" —> "Faith Formation" —> "Discover the Catholic Faith".

Praying the Rosary Together

Join us as we pray the Rosary in multiple languages for *Family, Peace and Life* every night throughout the month of May at 7:00 pm in the Courtyard. New to praying the Rosary? This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the flow of this powerful prayer.

Additional group Rosary opportunities:

English
7:15 am, Mon-Fri in the Church
9:15 am, Mon-Sat in the Chapel

Spanish
6:30 pm, Saturdays in the Church
12:15 pm, Sundays in the Church

Rosary on the Go

Pray the rosary while on your commute, running errands, exercising, gardening or doing housework! Listen and pray with legendary hall of fame sportscaster Vin Scully free by visiting StMichael.FORMED.org under "Listen" then scroll down to "Pray".

There are a number of recorded Rosaries available for purchase on iTunes, Amazon, GooglePlay or wherever you purchase music. Listen to a few samples to find the voices that you find pleasing, and pray the Rosary on the go!

Save These Dates!



May 14: *Mass of Remembrance* at 7:00 pm in the Church
Remember your departed loved ones at a bilingual Mass of Remembrance sponsored by Grief Support.

May 16-July 18: *Wisdom—God's Vision for Life* Bible Study will meet on Thursdays in the Convent at 6:30 pm. Learn how to gather, gain, and grow in wisdom!

May 31: *Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary* begins in the Church with praying the Rosary in multiple languages at 6:15 pm, followed by Mass at 7:00 pm, then a procession with the Coronation of Mary.

June 1: *Italian Catholic Federation Bingo Bash* at 6 pm at St Augustine. Proceeds benefit Children's Hospital treatment of Cooley's Anemia, plus other ICF Charities. RSVP: Patty 925-462-2191.

June 2-22: *Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist* at-home study with family or small group in preparation of Corpus Christi.

June 24-June 28: *Vacation Bible Camp* from 9:15 am - 12:45 pm for TK-6th grades at St Michael Church & School.

For questions, registration or interest in volunteering, please email our team at VBC@StMichaelLivermore.com

Thank You for a Beautiful Holy Week & Easter!



Thank you for your generous contributions!

4/28/19 Collection	\$16,081.75
Month-to-Date	\$66,572.46
Month Goal	\$65,294.12
Percentage Reached	102%
Faith Direct	\$11,356.00
Maintenance (April)	\$8,446.20
Easter Collection YTD	\$43,895.85
Holy Land	\$5,968.91
Holy Thursday	\$2,384.95

Parishioner Gwen Hallstrom, Age 103, featured in the May 2019 edition of The Independent Magazine. Thank you for your service, Gwen!



Parde Carl's Mensaje de la Semana

Sacramentos de iniciación: enraizados en la gracia santificante



Querida familia de San Miguel,

Este domingo, me gustaría recordar y orar por todos nuestros hijos que recibirán su Primera Comunión, y por nuestros adolescentes que serán sellados con los dones del Espíritu Santo en el Sacramento de la Confirmación. Estos sacramentos son vitales para nuestra vida de gracia, en nuestra búsqueda de la felicidad y la santidad como seguidores de Jesús.

Los tres sacramentos de iniciación son el bautismo, la confirmación y la eucaristía. Cada uno debe fortalecer nuestra fe y forjar una relación más profunda con Dios. El bautismo nos libera del pecado original, la Confirmación fortalece nuestra fe y la Eucaristía nos permite recibir el cuerpo y la sangre de la vida eterna y recordar el amor y el sacrificio de Cristo. El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, párrafo 1285, establece que "El bautismo, la Eucaristía y el sacramento de la Confirmación juntos constituyen los 'Sacramentos de Iniciación Cristiana', cuya unidad debe ser salvaguardada. Debe explicarse a los fieles que la recepción del sacramento de la Confirmación es necesario para completar la gracia bautismal, ya que por el sacramento de la Confirmación, [los bautizados] están más perfectamente vinculados a la Iglesia y están enriquecidos con la fuerza especial del Espíritu Santo. Por lo tanto, son como verdaderos Testigos de Cristo, más estrictamente obligados a difundir y defender la fe con palabras y hechos". Originalmente, estos sacramentos

fueron administrados juntos. Aún hoy en día, en las ramas orientales de las iglesias católica romana y ortodoxa, los tres sacramentos todavía se administran al mismo tiempo a bebés y adultos. Hoy, los cristianos occidentales en la Iglesia Católica Romana los celebran como ritos diferentes en la vida espiritual de los seguidores. Ya sea que se reciban todos de una vez o durante un período, el propósito de estos Sacramentos es el mismo: injertarnos y enraizarnos en la fuente de la gracia santificadora. Esta gracia santificadora es la que nos fortalece a medida que vivimos nuestra fe cristiana en nuestra vida diaria.

¿Cómo podemos vivir nuestro llamado bautismal, fortalecido por la gracia de la Santa Comunión y los dones del Espíritu Santo? La respuesta a esta pregunta nos lleva de nuevo a la visión y misión de nuestra parroquia:

1. Celebramos los Sacramentos Asistir fielmente a la misa dominical y los días santos. Ir a la confesión regularmente. Visitar el Santísimo Sacramento con frecuencia. Reservar tiempo para la oración diaria.

2. Cultivamos discípulos y traemos a Cristo a las personas Evangelizar contando a la gente acerca de Jesús. Participar en obras de caridad. Ser un buen ejemplo de discípulos siguiendo los mandamientos de Jesús. Aprovechar los recursos que nuestra parroquia con FORMED.org y los estudios de video del obispo Robert Barron.

3. Ser acogedores y hospitalarios.

Inspirar a la gente siendo más amable y piadoso. Invitar continuamente a otros a unirse a nuestros ministerios y oportunidades de crecimiento para nuestra vida espiritual. Buscar nuevas caras. Sonreír y decir "hola" y presentarnos. Tener en cuenta siempre lo que sentimos al ser el "niño nuevo".

En su primera audiencia general (11 de abril de 2018) después de publicar un importante documento sobre la santidad en la vida cotidiana, el Papa Francisco dijo que "el bautismo permite que Cristo viva en nosotros y viva unido a él, para colaborar en la Iglesia, cada uno según su propia condición, a la transformación del mundo".

El Papa insistió en que el bautismo marca un cambio profundo en la vida de uno. "Hay un Bautismo antes y después", dijo, diciendo que "expresa el paso de una condición a otra ... [es] una señal de purificación para un nuevo comienzo". Al unirnos a nuestros recién bautizados, aquellos que recibieron su Primera Comunión y aquellos que fueron Confirmados, recordemos que nuestros Sacramentos de Iniciación no deben ser colocados dentro del armario de nuestros corazones. ¡Están destinados a ser vividos, a dar testimonio en nuestro mundo de que Cristo verdaderamente ha resucitado y está vivo!

P. Carl

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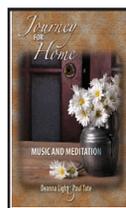
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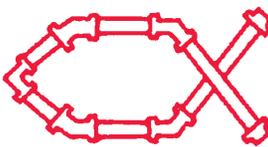
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Information | Información

St. Michael Parish | La Parroquia de San Miguel

458 Maple St, Livermore, CA 94550 925-447-1585 StMichaelLivermore.com

Pastoral Emergencies | Emergencias Pastorales 925-521-4117



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Mass | Misa

Mon-Sat | Lu-Sa 8:30 am

Wed | Mi 7:00 pm (español)

First Friday | Primer viernes

12:00 pm in the chapel

en la capilla

Sat Vigil | Vigilia del Sábado

5:00 pm (English), 7:00 pm (español)

Sunday | Domingo

6:45 am, 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am,

12:30 pm (español), 6:00 pm

Sign Language | Lenguaje por Señas

1st Sun, 11:00 am

Primer domingo a las 11:00 am

Traditional Latin Mass

2nd Sun, 8:00 am

Tagolg

3rd Sun, 3:30 pm

Vietnamese | Vietnamita

4th Sun, 3:30 pm

Cuarto domingo a las 3:30 pm

First Friday

12:00 pm in the Chapel

Confession | Confesión

Saturday, in the church |

Sábado en la iglesia

9:00 am & 3:45 pm in English

6:15 pm en español

Monday & Friday in the church |

Lunes y viernes en la iglesia

7:30 am in English & español

Wednesdays in the Convent Chapel

2:30 pm

Anointing of the Sick |

Unción de los Enfermos

1st Saturday after 8:30 am Mass or

by appointment: 925-447-1585 |

1er sábado después de las 8:30 am

Misa o con cita previa: 925-447-

1585

Office Hours | horas de oficina

M-F 9:00 am—5:00 pm

(Closed 12:00 pm—2:00 pm)

Clergy | Clero

Rev. Carl Arcosa, Pastor

Rev. Alfonso Borgen, Parochial Vicar

Rev. David Staal, Associate

Rev. Stanislaus Poon, Retired

Rev. Bento Tamang, in residence

Rev. Deacon Bill Archer

Rev. Deacon Rob Federle

Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes

Pastoral Council |

Consejo Pastoral

Pastoral Council Chair:

Mike Pereira

PC@StMichaelLivermore.com

Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Fidelis

Atuegbu, Jo Anne Lindquist, Frank

Draschner, Jeff Andersen, Cynthia

Garay, Alison Wilke and Glenda

Dubsky.

Finance Council |

Consejo Financiero

Finance Council Chair:

Edna McComb

Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Edna

McCombe, Analy Palomino, Vanessa

Suarez and Erleene Echon

St. Michael School |

Escuela de San Miguel

925-447-1888 smsliv.org

Faith Formation in

English

925-667-4096

Catecismo en Español

925-667-4096 Niños

925-344-7150 Adultos



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Rev. Deacon Bill Archer	925-667-4056
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