



St. Michael Catholic Parish

Where we celebrate the sacraments, grow disciples, and bring Christ to people.

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The Kingdom of heaven

is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.

Matthew 13:45-46



**Seventeenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

July 30, 2017

Choosing the Higher Goods

First Reading

Solomon prays for an understanding heart (1 Kings 3:5, 7-12).

King Solomon certainly made a good start to his reign, asking only for those gifts he would need to rule wisely and well. Pleased with his humble request, God gave him a matchless wisdom that is renowned still. But the great wealth and power that accrued to Solomon because of his gifts led him away from God. First Kings 11:4 tells us that “when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father” (RSV: 2CE).

Solomon’s heart was turned from the true God by other loves—loves that drew him away from that one love that he had first sought. In the end, Solomon’s story is not so much a lesson in the search for wisdom as a cautionary tale. From the heights of the divine favor, Solomon ended by building altars to gods that would eventually demand the sacrifice of the children of the kings of Israel and would lead to the division and eventual total destruction of Israel. This man to whom God had appeared twice (see 1 Kings 11:9) and who had been given every earthly and spiritual gift fell because of his pride, reminding us that we should never relax our vigilance in being single-minded for God and for the things of God. When we come to believe that what we have is due to our own powers, those powers themselves cease to be gifts and become a curse.

Second Reading

All things work for good for those who love God (Romans 8:28-30).

St. Paul reminds us that from start to finish, everything comes from God. He calls us into existence and then orders our lives in such a way that we have the requisite natural and supernatural gifts to make it home to him. He calls, justifies, and then glorifies those whom he predestined for his purposes. But Paul does not mean that we are locked into a me-



chanical process that leaves no room for the operation of human freedom. As he says, “All things work for good for those who love God.” Who or what we will love is the critical human question. When we love that which is below us, we fall. When we love that which is above us, we rise. The Church teaches that everyone receives sufficient grace for salvation. If we respond positively to that grace by loving God in return, that sufficient grace will flower into salvation. If we waste it, turning our love in the wrong direction, that attraction will lead us further away from our true purpose. Thus, our eternal destiny depends on who or what we love.

Gospel Reading

The one who knows of the kingdom of heaven brings new and old from the storeroom (Matthew 13:44-52 [44-46]).

The Danish religious philosopher Søren Kierkegaard, in a book called *Purity of Heart Is to Will One Thing*, strives to convince us to reject spiritual mediocrity. We tend to want to make a deal with God. “If you don’t trouble me too much, I will confess faith in you and worship you ... on Sunday, that is.” Our modern culture, which has yielded untold numbers of conveniences and technologies, only reinforces our sense that God and his religion make nice decorative additions to a life that is largely of our own choosing and making. For many of us, what would really be changed if we chose not to be Christians, but rather ethical pagans?

Jesus’s short parables, however, reveal that the problem with this kind of calculation is that it attempts to weigh finite things against something of infinite weight. God is the very foundation of all things, the Source and Sustainer of the whole material universe and spiritual realm. He is the ultimate treasure, the pearl of great price that any rational man would sell everything to obtain. Even the whole universe cannot outweigh him. In fact, innumerable universes would be nothing but dust in comparison. Every ounce of our energy ought to be expended in seeking him and striving for sanctity. After all, when we live that way, God supplies all the rest, or as St. Paul put it, “All things work for good for those who love God.”

Grow in Discipleship

The Bible often challenges us to compare the good we find in the world with the good we find in God.

Today's Scriptures focus on comparing God's Word, law, commands, and will with earthly goods and riches. Psalm 119 tells us that while gold and silver are valuable, God's wisdom is even more valuable. The relative good of precious metals pales in comparison with the good to be found in God.

The Gospel reading also asks us to make a comparison between the wealth of the world and the wealth of faith. Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven is more valuable than anything in this world. Like the merchant searching for fine pearls or the man seeking a treasure buried in a field, we must be willing to give up all that we have in order to gain Heaven.

The fact is that the acquisition of Heaven comes at an incredible cost. If we are going to follow the Lord, we

have to desire him more than anything the world offers: more than power, prestige, or wealth. If we are going to pursue God's way of wisdom, we must place everything in this world below our desire to become saints.

This lead us to the fundamental questions of life: What have you and I given up to become a follower of Christ? What are you and I willing to give up?

Discussion

Today's Scripture readings ask us to make a comparison between the riches of the world and the riches God offers. Let's see what Tim Gray has to say about this topic in the short Opening the Word video on FORMED.org.

What is the difference between moral relativism and what Dr. Gray calls the "righteous relativism" the Church is calling us to?

What does Psalm 119 compare gold and silver to? What does the Gospel compare Heaven to?

DIGGING DEEPER: The Wisest King

King Solomon is mentioned in both the Bible and the Qur'an as the son of David and the king of Israel. His mother was the famous Bathsheba. The Bible says he was the builder of the first Temple in Jerusalem and a man of great wisdom and insight. One of the best-known examples of Solomon's wisdom is the story of two women who both claimed to be the mother of a baby. When Solomon suggested that they cut the baby in half, the true mother was willing to give him up rather than allow him to be killed. Because of that, Solomon knew she was the real mother. Solomon is believed to have ruled Israel from 970 to 931 BC.

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Mass

Intentions

Saturday 7/29

8:30am Ted James Schumacher, Jr. †
5:00pm Paulo Monjes †
7:00pm Jesus Valencia
Rosario Vernal & Enrique Soto †

Sunday 7/30

6:45am Dr. Anne Corbet Neuhaus
Dr. Jim Corbett †
8:00am Dennis Leibrock †
Isaac Strong †
9:30am Antony Pham Van Hoi †
Fernando Castro †
11:00am Ledna Perez †
12:30pm Julieta Simas †
6:00pm Teresita Brizuela Ilog †

Monday 7/31

8:30am Melanie Maher †
Julio, Isabel, Betty & Lynn †

Tuesday 8/1

8:30am The Halter Family †
Patricia Werner †

Wednesday 8/2

8:30am William Lawrence †
Gladys V. Alviso †
7:00pm Soto Valencia Family

Thursday 8/3

8:30am Fr Alfred Amos
Richardo Coelho †
Dolores Antiporta †

Friday 8/4

8:30am Daniel Moore
Betty Hamstrong †
Juanita †
Steven Gibbons †

To request a Mass intention, please visit the church office.

Prayers & Devotion



Today's readings all center around having the wisdom to discern what is truly valuable in life. Let us pray now for that wisdom.

Prayer

King Solomon was a successful and powerful king. And yet he begged God for greater wisdom to guide his life and his leading of the people of Israel. He prayed, "Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong." Meditate on these words, and prayerfully consider areas in your life where you, like Solomon, need more wisdom from God to guide you. Ask the Lord to help you.

Resolution

What can you do this week to seek God's wisdom in a particular area where you sense you needed his guidance more? Imitate Solomon's desire for wisdom and ask the Lord to help you pursue the true spiritual goods in life, not just the goods of this world.

Use your journal to write down your thoughts and reflections and your resolutions.

Parish Prayer Requests

For the financial means to make necessary repairs and upgrades to our church facilities.

For all of our parishioners who are traveling during the summer months.

For the repose of the souls of Jose Perez Cruz and Regino Ramos de Leon

*Please send your prayer requests to
Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com*

News & Announcements

Painting

You may have noticed, that the Education Center building and the surrounding school buildings are being newly painted and should be completed by the first week in August.

Air Conditioning

You also may have noticed the AC went out in the church! The compres-

sor went out, and we are in the process of fixing it, and assessing the cost of replacing the whole unit.

Parish Hall

The Hall opening in early September will be pushed back due to the City of Livermore coming to us with a city requirement that was not initially presented to us back in late 2016.

Read the Full Update

Get the full scoop on facility updates on the parish website at

StMichaelLivermore.com/
FacilityUpdate

Bishop's Appeal Update

The Annual Bishop's Appeal in the Diocese of Oakland is one way to serve our fellow parishioners and the broader community as we demonstrate our unity as Catholics of the Diocese of Oakland. Our parish goal is to raise \$61,694. To date, we have contributed \$38,312.34 (62% of our goal). Donate online at bit.ly/BishopAppeal

Collection Report

Thank you for your generous gifts! It is only with your support that St Michael Parish can continue to celebrate the sacraments, grow disciples and bring Christ to people.

July 23 Collection	\$14,801.72
Month to Date	\$81,382.65
Monthly Goal	\$107,843.14
Percentage reached	75%
Maintenance for July	\$10,984.05
Faith Direct for July	\$14,896.50

Mother of Perpetual Help Novena

Join the Legion of Mary in venerating the Blessed Mother and Baby Jesus through Byzantine icon picture. This novena seeks strength and assistance from Our Blessed Mother. During this devotion we pray, sing and request petitions. We meet in the Chapel every Wednesday at 6:00 pm for about 45 minutes. Questions? Contact: michaelpereira@comcast.net

Maintenance & Improvement Collection

On the first weekend of the month, we have a second collection for our Maintenance & Improvement fund. This fund will be used to continue to make improvements towards our parish facilities including the Church building, Convent, and Education Center. Not only will this fund be used for parish improvements, but will be used to help make daily maintenance repairs. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity as we work to make these improvements and manage our facilities for all in the community to enjoy.

Expanding Tech Ministry

We are expanding our Tech Ministry to improve the sound experience parishioners have when attending Mass. The main task is to monitor and mix the sound at parish Masses, using an iPad. We are currently in need of volunteers at the 5:00 Saturday and 8:00 Sunday Masses, training and support will be provided. Contact JaNet Hancock, Director of Music at 925-292-5071 or Music@StMichaelLivermore.com.

Cemetery & Funeral Advance Planning Summer Promotion

Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services is offering a Summer Promotion at all of its locations. Together with the parish discount, all pre-need cemetery purchases are 10% off with extended financing terms at zero interest. In addition, there is a similar discount on pre-need funeral services. Please contact Frank Draschner at 925-784-6666 for details.

Promotion applicable July 1st through September 30, 2017.

This Week

MONDAY, JULY 31

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Readings: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34; Ps 106:19-23; Mt 13:31-35

Suggestion:

Consoling the Heart of Jesus is a beautiful self-guided Ignatian Spirituality retreat available on FORMED.org.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

Readings: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Ps 84:3-6a, 8a, 11; Mt 13:47-53

Suggestion:

Altar Gang: What's What in the Church is a great animated video for kids to learn about what they see inside the church. Watch free on FORMED.org.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9

Events:

Maintenance & Improvement second collection.

Birthday blessings at all Masses

Mass with Sign Language at 11:00 am

Transfiguration of the Lord

The Scripture passages point toward the divinity of Jesus Christ, one of the most important points of our faith as Christians. This key doctrine is also a great mystery: How can Jesus be fully man? What does that mean? How well do we understand this claim?

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

St. Alphonsus Liguori

Readings: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Ps 103:6-13; Mt 13:36-43

Events:

Suicide Prevention & Awareness Workshop at 7:30 pm at St Augustine

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

St. John Vianney; First Friday

Readings: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Ps 81:3-6, 10-11ab; Mt 13:54-58

Suggestion:

St John Vianney is the patron saint of priests. On FORMED.org, watch episode 3 of the yDisciple series CALLED, which explores Holy Orders.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

St. Eusebius of Vercelli;
St. Peter Julian Eymard

Readings: Ex 34:29-35; Ps 99:5-7, 9; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Events:

Afternoon Confession at 2:30 pm in the Convent Chapel.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major; First Saturday

Readings: Lv 25:1, 8-17; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Mt 14:1-12

Events:

Anointing the Sick following 8:30 am Mass.
Confession at 9:30 am and 3:45 pm in English, 6:45 pm in Spanish



Pick a Leaf, Donate a Gift Card

Stop by the church office foyer

Watch for Your Raffle Tickets

Coming to your mailbox are your raffle tickets. Please sell them to support our parish. There are some fantastic prizes available!

Interested in Sponsoring a Booth?

Email Festival@StMichaelLivermore.com for details.

Volunteer Sign Ups Coming in August

After each Mass in August, there will be an opportunity to get involved in making the Fall Festival a huge success!

Upcoming

New Office Hours

Monday - Friday from 8:30am - 5:00pm, effective Monday, July 31
Closed for lunch 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Sundays from 8:30am - 12:30pm, effective late August

Register for St. Michael/St. Charles CYO Basketball

Season begins in October. Register now by visiting www.smsccyo.org
All boys and girls in 1st through 8th grades are welcome to register.

Plenary Indulgence for the 100th Anniversary of the Fatima Sat, August 12

Group rosary before the statue of Our Lady of Fatima begins at 4:30 pm.

Backpack Delivery Day Sat, August 12

If you are 18 or older, you are eligible to deliver backpacks to kids at their homes. Meet us at the Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormon Church), 1501 Hillcrest Ave, Livermore, at 9 am on August 12.

Dress-a-Girl Sew Fest Sat, August 19

Come make simple dresses for girls in poverty-stricken countries. Meet us at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton from 9 am to 3 pm. Stay as long as you like! Contact suzbeck@yahoo.com.

Live Christ Share Sat, Aug 19

All are welcome to this seminar designed to bring you closer in your relationship with Jesus and to re-evangelize your faith. For more info contact Susanna at jouy1235@gmail.com.

Deadline to Register for Teen Confirmation Mon, August 21

Classes for Teens will be on Mondays at 6:00—8:00 pm starting September 18, or Sundays at 2:00-4:00 pm starting September 24th. Deadline to register is August 21 (second year students are automatically enrolled into the program and do not need to register again.)

Deadline to Register for Faith Formation & First Communion Wed, September 6

Classes in English will be on Wednesdays at 4:00-5:30 pm or 6:00-7:30 pm, beginning October 4th. Classes in Spanish will be on Fridays at 5:00-6:30 pm, beginning October 6th.

Deadline to register is September 6. Download registration forms at StMichaelLivermore.com/FaithFormation or at the church office, or faith formation office.

Confirmation Preparation Classes for Adults Wed, September 6

If you are...

- at least 18 years old
- baptized, practicing Catholic
- have received your first Holy Communion
- living the marriage disciplines of the Church
- have never been confirmed

... then this is the group for you!
Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 6 at 7:30 pm in the Convent. Call or email for more info, or just plan to attend on September 6.

Marjorie Melendez 925-447-2925
RCIA@stmichaellivermore.com

St Michael Parish Fall Festival Sept 30 & Oct 1

Celebrate 100 years of history and look forward to the future at this fun-for-all-ages festival! Games, silent & live auctions, raffle drawings and entertainment... and of course FOOD from our diverse ethnic communities.

Save the date and tell your friends.



Noticias Parroquiales

La matriculación ya esta disponible

Formación de fe grados 1-5

**Ministerio de la juventud de secundaria
confirmación de adolescentes**



Grados 1-5: Clases en inglés serán miércoles 4:00-5:30 o 6:00-7:30, comenzando el 4 de Octubre. Clases en Español serán los viernes de 5:00-6:30, empezar el 6 de Octubre. Fecha límite para inscribirse es el 6 de Septiembre.

Confirmación de adolescentes: clases serán los Lunes a 6:00 – 8:00 comenzando 18 de Septiembre o los Domingos comenzando el 24 de Septiembre. 2:00-4:00, Fecha límite es para inscribirse es el 21 de Agosto (segundo año los estudiantes están inscritos automáticamente en el programa y no necesita registrarse de nuevo.)

Ministerio de la escuela media: 6-8^º grado secundaria borde Ministerio de la juventud reunirá el Jueves a las 6:30-8:00, a partir del 5 de Octubre. No hay plazos, sólo caer registrarse!

Formularios de inscripción en la oficina de formación de fe, oficina de la iglesia o descargar en StMichaelLivermore.com/FaithFormation

tienes preguntas? Comunicarse con Lourdes en el 925-667-4096 Faith@StMichaelLivermore.com



¡Importante!

No habra ninguna misa los miércoles por la noche durante el mes de julio.

El Rev. Alfonso Borgen, OFM Conv, será el nuevo Vicario Parroquial de la Parroquia San Miguel, Livermore Efectivo 1de Agosto del 2017



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Reflexiones

EL REINO DE DIOS ES COMO...

Parábolas y más parábolas. ¿Qué es lo que tenemos que saber acerca del Reino de Dios de varias parábolas? El reino de los Cielos es como un tesoro enterrado en un campo. El reino de los Cielos es como un vendedor de perlas finas. El reino de los Cielos es como una red arrojada al mar. Estas parábolas no son difíciles de entender, pues se enfocan en algo valioso que se tiene que buscar: un tesoro, una perla, una buena pesca. Aquellos que buscan estas cosas renuncian a lo que tienen para conseguir lo que buscan.

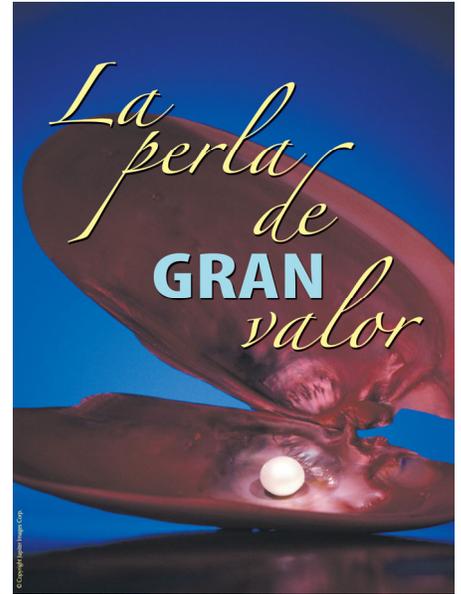
Aquellos que se atreven a buscar se les reconoce su sabiduría al valorar más lo que están buscando que lo que ya tienen. Aun el pescador puede distinguir lo que es bueno de lo que es inútil y lo desecha.

El reino de los Cielos es algo precioso que se tiene que buscar, aún por encima de las buenas cosas que tenemos en este mundo. Es más importante que cualquier cosa que tenemos y atesoramos. Jesús dice que al final de los tiempos cuando se separe lo bueno

de lo malo, la buena voluntad disfrutará la felicidad del reino de los Cielos.

LO NUEVO Y LO ANTIGUO

Es la sabiduría divina que nos permite darnos cuenta lo valioso que el reino es. Una parábola termina esta lectura: "todo escriba instruido en las cosas del reino de los Cielos es semejante al padre de familia, que va sacando de su tesoro cosas nuevas y cosas antiguas" (Mateo 13:52). Es como la Iglesia, que sabe qué conservar de las tradiciones del pasado y qué apreciar del tiempo presente. La tradición es algo que se pasa de generación en generación, aunque no necesariamente sin cambio. Por ejemplo, siempre tenemos pastel para celebrar un cumpleaños. Y, sin embargo, quizá eso en el pasado era tener pasteles con decoración blanca o amarilla y de sabor vainilla. Hoy, puede ser un pastel de chocolate, un pastel con helado, o un choco flan. Puede tener tantas velitas que representen la edad de la persona del cumpleaños, o una vela por cada decena de años y una por el cada año subsecuente, o una velita más grande. Puede tener, lo vi una vez



en un catálogo, números romanos para deletrear los años. Las tradiciones pueden cambiar y aun así transmitir la verdad de aquello que representan. Lo mismo pasa con la Tradición de la Iglesia. Los líderes sabios aportan lo nuevo y lo antiguo, y buscan en el Reino de Dios lo que es bueno.

Lecturas de hoy

1 Re 3:5, 7-12; Sal 119 (118):57, 72, 76-77, 127-130; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52 [44-46]

EXCEPTO el 30 de septiembre al 1 de octubre

Unase a nosotros para la más deliciosa variedad de comida étnica, representante de nuestra diversa comunidad, con diversión y juegos para toda la familia. Celebraremos a nuestro patrono, St Michael y lanzaremos el año del centenario de nuestra iglesia. Horario de atención: el sábado, 30 de septiembre de 11-21:30 y el domingo

1 de octubre de 10-16:00.

¿Desea ayudar en el Festival de otoño de este año para que sea un éxito rotundo? Puede patrocinar un stand, ofrecerse como voluntario, donar a la subasta, comprar boletos de la rifa! Correo electrónico Festi-



val@StMichaelLivermore.com para ver cómo puede ser parte de este evento histórico.

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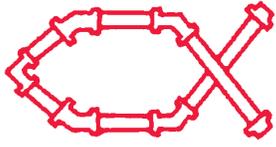
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Mass | Misa

Mon-Sat | Lu-Sa 8:30 am

Wed | Mi 7:00 pm (español)

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

Vietnamese | Vietnamita

4th Sun, 3:30 pm

Cuarto domingo a las 3:30 pm

Confession | Confesión

Saturday, in the church |

Sábado en la iglesia

9:00 am & 3:45 pm in English

6:15 pm en español

1st & 3rd Wed in the Convent Chapel,
at 2:30 pm in English

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

Eucharistic Adoration |

Adoración Eucarística

24/7 in the Chapel. For after hours

access code, call 925-980-4826 |

24/7 en la Capilla. Para el código de

acceso después de las horas, llame al

925-980-4826

Clergy | Clero

Rev. Van Dinh, Pastor

Rev. Rafael Hinojosa, Parochial
Vicar

Rev. David Staal, Associate

Rev. Alfred Amos, In Residence

Rev. Stanislaus Poon, Retired

Rev. Deacon Bill Archer

Rev. Deacon Rob Federle

Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes

Rev. Deacon Bob Vince

Pastoral Council |

Consejo Pastoral

Pastoral Council Chair: Mike Pereira

michaelpereira@comcast.net

Fr. Van, Fr. Rafael, Eric Hom, Ricardo

Echon, Fidelis Atuegbu, Jo Anne

Lindquist, Dave Parks, Frank

Draschner, Ken Varallo, Irving Gar-

cia, Cynthia Garay and Glenda

Dubsky.

Finance Council |

Consejo Financiero

Finance Council Chair: Dave Ruth

daveruth@alrinc.com

Fr. Van Dinh, Fr. Rafael Hinojosa,

Eric Hom, Cynthia Garay, Edna

McCombe, Analy Palomino, Vanessa

Suarez

St. Michael School |

Escuela de San Miguel

925-447-1888 smsliv.org

Faith Formation in

English

925-667-4096

Catecismo en Español

925-453-6494 Niños

925-344-7150 Adultos

Boletín en Español

510-691-2864



New Direct Phone Numbers!

Fr Van Dinh, Pastor	925-667-4057
Parochial Vicar	
Eric Hom, Business	925-667-4052
Deacon Bill Archer	925-667-4056
Kathy Hawkins, Bookkeeper	925-667-4058
Church Front Office	925-447-1585
School Front Office	925-447-1888
Lourdes Kay, Faith Formation	925-667-4096
Priscilla Stutzman, DRE	925-667-4097
Joseph Garcia, Youth Minister	925-667-4093
Tina Gregory, Communication	925-667-4051
JaNet Hancock, Music	925-292-5071
Debbie Pizzato, Liturgy	925-667-4095
Marjorie Melendez, RCIA	925-447-2925
Ana Fregoso, RICA	925-344-7150