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

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Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 19, 2018



WHOEVER EATS
MY FLESH
AND DRINKS
MY BLOOD
HAS ETERNAL LIFE,
AND I WILL RAISE THEM
ON THE LAST DAY.

John 6:54

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100 Years of Catholic Tradition
Centennial
September 28-30



Bread from Heaven

In the recent Gospel readings, we have witnessed the unfolding of Jesus's discourse on the Eucharist. Today, we reach the climax of his teaching, and we are able to meditate on his words about the Bread from Heaven, with which he longs to feed us. These words unveil how much God desires intimacy with each one of us.

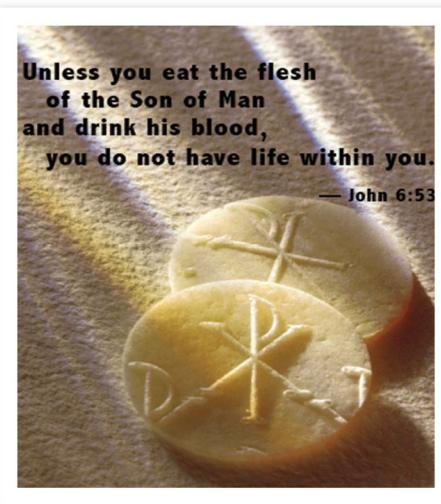
In this Gospel, Jesus definitively teaches that he wants us to consume his Body and Blood in the Eucharist. This moment reveals something profound about Catholic doctrine, and indeed, it is a relational moment in which God reveals how he desires to be in communion with us. Even in the Garden of Eden, God promised to send a Savior who would bring us back into communion with him in a passage called the Proto-evangelium—the First Gospel (Genesis 3:15). God made numerous covenants with the people of Israel, to bring them into deeper communion with him, and the fulfillment of these covenants is in the Eucharist.

If we read this Gospel with skeptical hearts, then we won't be able to receive God's gift. The Eucharist is a deep mystery that requires the eyes of faith. If we approach these verses with a faith-filled heart, we see that he desires us to consume his very Body and Blood. We will thereby have the deepest intimacy with him. Consuming the Eucharist enables us to share in God's own life.

First Reading Reflection

Proverbs 9:1–6

The Book of Proverbs invites us to enter into the mystery of God's wisdom. While the book is mostly composed of short aphorisms about wise living, if taken as a whole, it gives us insight into the very heart of what it means to be like God. Wisdom is no mere catalog of good advice, but rather a



divine way of thinking, living, and perceiving. Wisdom is not a series of "life hacks" for an efficient daily routine. Rather, it is a kind of knowing that comes from within, an awareness and judgment honed by long experience and patient study of reality.

When one pays careful attention to the Creator and to his creation, he can learn and grow in understanding, not just "effective" living, but truly right living. In Proverbs, Wisdom is personified as a woman who invites all passersby to her banqueting table (see Proverbs 9:1–6). Nearby, her opponent, "Lady Folly" also sets up a lethal banquet of foolishness

(see vv. 13–18). To each of us, then, is presented a choice. We can either submit ourselves to what is true and thus dine at the table of Wisdom, or we can lose ourselves in ignorant rejection of reality and die at the table of Folly. Both of the invitations are perpetually open and both sound the same: "Let whoever is naïve turn in here" (v. 4, 16). If we are willing to turn our back on the temptations that surround us and embrace God's call, we will find ourselves sitting at Wisdom's dining table for all eternity.

Second Reading Reflection

Ephesians 5:15–20

St Paul, here in his Letter to the Ephesians, teaches us that our obligation to live a moral life does not merely flow from a sense of duty. Neither can we earn our way to Heaven on good behavior. Rather, our moral life comes from the fact that Jesus rose from the dead and brought us to share in his victory over our chief enemy, death. Through Baptism we participate in Jesus's Death and Resurrection. Paul even quotes an early Christian hymn that calls out to each of us: "Arise from the dead!" (Ephesians 5:14). It is because of our resurrection-identity in Christ that we are to live "not as foolish persons but as wise" (v. 15). If we have risen from the dead then we ought to live like it, that is, live a good moral life infused with the glory of the Resurrection. In connection with this idea, Paul shows us that a certain kind of knowledge or intelligence goes along with resurrection life.

Sin originates in ignorance, so he charges us: "Do not continue in ignorance" (v. 17). On the contrary, we ought to seek to understand the Lord's will. He then compares two types of inebriation. While the world offers the "debauchery" (v. 18) of fleshly drunkenness, the Holy Spirit offers us what the Church Fathers call a "sober intoxication," which overflows not in drinking songs, but in "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" (v. 19). If we truly enter in to our new identity in Christ, our hearts will brim with gratitude, our minds will be transformed as we seek true knowledge, and our lives will be characterized by Christlike action.

Gospel Reflection

John 6:51–58

This short Gospel passage is the pinnacle of Jesus's famous Bread of Life Discourse. After feeding the five thousand and dialoging with the Jews about the sign of manna, he boldly proclaims, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven" (John 6:51). He thus identifies himself with the manna

that fell in the desert for the Israelites to eat. Just as that bread sustained them in the wilderness, so now the new bread of the Eucharist will sustain Jesus's followers in the wilderness of earthly life. Beyond that, he says, "Whoever eats this bread will live forever" (v. 51). Eternal life is on the table—to enter in, we must partake of this sacred meal. The Jews respond to this teaching with indignation and incredulity, but Jesus does not back down. Instead, he further heightens his claim by insisting that they must drink his blood (see v. 53) and even chew his flesh (see v. 54). Before this point, in the original Greek, Jesus has been using the regular verb for eating, but now he switches to using a different word, trogo, which means to chew or munch (see vv. 54, 56–58). While the Eucharist is a spiritual meal, Jesus is here emphasizing its physical dimension. In order to transform us spiritually, he will come to meet us in a physical form, under the appearance of bread and wine, which have actually been changed into his Body and Blood. Thus, we witness a miracle at every Mass.

Join the Discussion

St Michael's has an online forum to discuss the Sunday Mass readings at StMichael.FORMED.org on the Community tab. Watch the short video and post your questions and comments. Or simply take this bulletin to reflect and discuss with a friend.

What is your experience of the Eucharist?

When did you first understand that the Eucharist is not merely a symbol but truly Christ's Body and Blood? Or do you still struggle with this?

How has your understanding of the Eucharist affected your faith in Christ?

Spend time with Jesus, present in the Eucharist, in the Adoration Chapel this week.

Reflections reprinted here with permission from Augustine Institute.

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Convinced

Why Would Anyone Become Catholic?

Why would intelligent, successful people give up careers, alienate friends, and cause havoc in their families...to become Catholic? As he was considering his own move into the Church, Donald Johnson traveled around the country to get answers from some of today's most prolific Catholic converts.



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—Alison M.
Our Lady of the Mount, NJ

Mass

Intentions

Saturday 8/18

- 8:30am Lafica Fernandes
5:00pm Elene Santos †
7:00pm Margaret Johnson †

Sunday 8/19

- 6:45am Thomas Heise †
8:00am John Fleming †
9:30am Georgia Fry †
11:00am Ilda Rosa †
12:30pm Roy Burt †
6:00pm Mass for Our Parish

Monday 8/20

- 8:30am The Leitao & DeSouza Families †

Tuesday 8/21

- 8:30am Lillian Hart †

Wednesday 8/22

- 8:30am Ray Werner
7:00pm Andres Ortega †
Margarito Mendez †

Thursday 8/23

- 8:30am Peggy O'Neill †

Friday 8/24

- 8:30am Nenita Manuel
Herbert DiGrazia †

To arrange a Mass intention, please visit the Church Office. The suggested donation of \$10 per intention goes to the priest who celebrates the Mass.



WHOEVER EATS
MY FLESH AND
DRINKS MY BLOOD
HAS ETERNAL LIFE,
AND I WILL RAISE
THEM ON THE
LAST DAY.

- JOHN 6:54

Picture Jesus making eye contact with you as he is unveiling the mystery of the Eucharist for the first time. How do you respond to his words about the Eucharist? Does it make you feel happy or confused?

Take the word that comes to mind and reflect on what it means to you personally. For example, the phrase “unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you” might have stuck out to you. Ask yourself what this means in your own life. Is there some place in your heart where you resist this teaching from Jesus? Is the Lord inviting you to deeper faith in the Eucharist?

Resolution

The Eucharist is Jesus's gift of himself to us. In the reception of Holy Communion, we become one with him, and he lives in us. The Eucharist is meant to be the center of our thoughts and actions. Spend some time with Jesus, present in the Eucharist, in the Adoration Chapel this week.

Prayer Requests

In thanksgiving for all those who have contributed financially to St Mary's Dinner. Please pray for the St Michael's volunteers who will prepare and serve this dinner on August 26, and for the homeless and very low income clients of St Mary's Center.

For our pastor, Fr Carl, as he gets to know our community, that he may receive all the graces necessary for leading our large parish.

For the repose of the souls of Virginia Ypil, Robert Boyle, Rick Baumgart, Livia Villa and Roger Alejandro Sarria.

Send your prayer requests to our parish “Prayer Warriors” at Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com



Dear Parishioners of St. Michael,

The Sacrament of Penance (also known as Reconciliation or Confession) and Anointing of the Sick are integral parts of the parish mission for spiritual healing and growth. As your pastor, and as my personal devotion, I am adding to our regular sacrament schedule the following:

Confession on Mondays and Fridays at 7:30 am in the Church in English, Spanish or Filipino.

Confession by Appointment.

Please call Jacqueline at 925-447-1585 to schedule an appointment. Come prepared and never hesitate to receive God's mercy.

Anointing of the Sick for yourself or your loved one, please call Jacqueline during office hours at 925-447-1585. After hours, please call the Pastoral Emergency line at 925-521-4117.

Catechism of the Catholic Church (1514) says that the Anointing of the Sick "is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death. Hence, as soon as anyone of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived."

It is my desire that the sacraments of healing be readily available for parishioners and their loved ones.

Once Father Alfonso returns from vacation, we shall introduce the "Priest of the Day" and "Deacon of the Day" duty. The purpose of this pastoral management approach is to have your clergy available during office hours particularly on the weekdays for speedy response to parishioners' needs and requests. My goal is to have our office, ministries and organization always ready to attend to your spiritual needs.

I will be sharing more with you my other ideas. If you have a brilliant idea to make our parish more vibrant, welcoming and holy, please feel free to sit down with me and share it with me.

In Jesus, I trust! St. Michael, defend us and protect us!

Fr. Carl
Pastor@StMichaelLivermore.com



Forgiven explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love. By looking at God's revelation of his mercy in Scripture and making a step-by-step examination of the Rite itself, **Forgiven** communicates God's invitation to each one of us to come experience his indescribable love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Watch the Forgiven series on any browser at StMichael.FORMED.org or on your FORMED phone app.

Look under "Study" then "Sacramental Preparation" or enter FORGIVEN in the search bar.

Session 1: Where are you?

Session 2: An Encounter with Mercy

Session 3: Embraced in Mercy—The Rite Explained

Bonus Episode:

For Children—How to Make a Great Confession

THIS WEEK

MONDAY, AUG 20

St. Bernard

Readings: Ez 24:15-24; Dt 32:18-21; Mt 19:16-22

TUESDAY, AUG 21

St. Pius X

Readings: Ez 28:1-10; Dt 32:26-28, 30, 35cd-36ab; Mt 19:23-30

WEDNESDAY, AUG 22

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings: Ez 34:1-11; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 20:1-16

THURSDAY, AUG 23

St. Rose of Lima

Readings: Ez 36:23-28; Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; Mt 22:1-14

FRIDAY, AUG 24

St. Bartholomew

Readings: Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51

SATURDAY, AUG 25

St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz

Readings: Ez 43:1-7a; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 23:1-12

Golden Friends Prayer Service and Luncheon at 10 am in the Large Hall

SUNDAY, AUG 26

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Ps 34:2-3, 16-21; Eph 5:21-32 [2a, 25-32]; Jn 6:60-69

Knights of Columbus Membership Drive

More info at LivermoreKnights.org

COLLECTION REPORT

Thank you for your continued support!

8/12/18 Collection	\$19,726.99
Month-to-Date	\$47,784.20
Month Goal	\$87,058.82
% to Goal Reached	55%
Faith Direct	\$7,642.00
Maintenance (Aug)	\$8,369.69

BISHOP'S APPEAL

Give at OakDiocese.org or the church office. Thank you!

Number of Donors	157
Average Gift	\$336.43
Funds Raised	\$52,819
Percentage Reached	68.15%
Parish Goal	\$77,500



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Celebration of Our Lady of Help Festa de Nossa Senhora da Ajuda

All are invited to this event sponsored by the Portuguese group IDES Livermore & Pleasanton.

Thursday, August 23 & Friday, August 24:

Recitation of the Rosary at 7:30 pm at a private residence in Pleasanton. Please email ideslp@outlook.com for address.

Saturday, August 25:

7:30 pm Rosary at Saint Michael Convent Chapel, with benediction.

Sunday, August 26:

11 am Mass, procession to Saint Michael's Hall, accompanied by the Portuguese marching band, Recreio do Emigrante Português. Tri Tip lunch for sale. Concert following lunch.



Adult Confirmation Classes

Begin Thurs, Sept 6 at 7 pm Convent

If you are at least 18 years old, a baptized, practicing Catholic who has received First Holy Communion but have never been confirmed, this is the group for you!

Email Marjorie Melendez
RCIA@stmichaellivermore.com

What Did Jesus Really Teach?

4-Session Online Mini-Course

In four short videos, delivered to your email inbox weekly, Bishop Robert Barron unpacks some of Jesus' most important parables and teachings. In this mini-course, you will discover how to apply Jesus' words to life today. After you watch each video, please respond to the reflection questions as comments to the group.

September 5: Learn the secret to the "good life" according to Jesus.

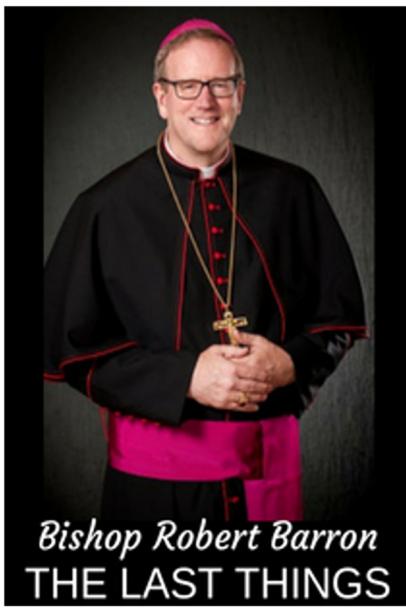
September 12: How is Christian love different?

September 19: The most famous story in the world.

September 26: Are you a sheep or a goat?

Registration is free at

[Flocknote.com/StMichaelLivermore/TeachingsofJesus](https://flocknote.com/StMichaelLivermore/TeachingsofJesus)



The Last Things

5-Session Online Study

As we approach the end of the liturgical year, the Church focuses on the "last things". Join us in a 5-week online study with Bishop Robert Barron to discuss topics such as death, judgment, Heaven, and Hell. When you register, you will receive via email one short video with reflection questions each week. Please plan to share your comments and questions with the group.

October 31: What will happen when we die?

November 7: Does God really send people to Hell?

November 14: Why Purgatory is actually a good thing.

November 21: What can we know about angels?

November 28: What is the goal of Christianity?

Register free at [Flocknote.com/StMichaelLivermore/TheLastThings](https://flocknote.com/StMichaelLivermore/TheLastThings)



100 Years of Catholic Tradition *Centennial*

September 28-30



Celebrate Mass with Bishop Michael Barber on Friday at 6 pm
Food, Entertainment & Fun at the Fall Festival Saturday and Sunday
Encounter Our Church History
StMichaelLivermore.com/Centennial

Families Behind the Windows

The History of Our Stained Glass

Sunday, September 23 and September 30

Everyone is welcome to attend a slide lecture on our beautiful stained glass windows on Sunday, September 23rd, from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in the church. The speaker will be Dr. Barbara Mitchell, retired art historian, who has given many presentations on religious art at St. Michael over the years. Come learn a bit about the early pioneer families in the parish! Living descendants of people named in our windows are especially invited to attend.

On the following Sunday, September 30th, from 2:30 to 4:00 pm (during our Parish Festival), Dr. Mitchell and Nancy Hernandez will offer a chance to walk through the church and study the windows in daylight. Tours are available to anyone who wishes to come, and will be given in English and in Spanish.



Looking for “Window Descendants”

Are you a descendant of those who are remembered on our church's stained glass windows? Help us solve more mysteries and be part of the Families Behind the Windows presentation.

Contact Barbara Mitchell at 925-455-0944 to share your family's story.

T-Shirts, Tote Bags, Wine Glasses & Magnets!

Get your official commemorative St Michael Centennial collectable keepsakes after Mass **next week** while supplies last. Look for the sales table in the courtyard. All proceeds benefit St Michael's.

Who's Gonna Win the Top Raffle Prizes?

At the Fall Festival, the raffle is one of our biggest money-makers, raising more than \$20,000 last year. Can we count on your support of the raffle again for this Centennial Celebration year?

Each ticket costs \$10.00. You may

purchase them for yourself or sell them to friends and family. If you'd like more to sell, just ask!

1st prize: \$2,500

2nd prize: \$1,000

3rd prize: \$350 Apple gift card

4th prize: 5 drawings for \$100 Amazon gift cards.

Kindly return raffle ticket stubs with payment to the church office.



Queridos feligreses de San Miguel,

El Sacramento de la Penitencia (también conocido como Reconciliación o Confesión) y la Unción de los Enfermos son partes integrales de la misión de la parroquia para la curación y el crecimiento espiritual. Como su pastor, y porque es mi devoción personal, estoy agregando a nuestro calendario regular lo siguiente:

Confesiones los lunes y viernes a las 7:30 a.m. en la iglesia en inglés, español o filipino.

Confesión por cita. Por favor llame a Jacqueline al 925-447-1585 para programar una cita. Venga preparado y nunca dude en recibir la misericordia de Dios.

Unción de los enfermos para usted o su ser querido, llame a Jacqueline durante el horario de atención al 925-447-1585. Después de horas, por favor llame a la línea de Emergencia Pastoral al 925-521-4117.

El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica (1514) dice que la Unción de los Enfermos "no es un sacramento para aquellos que están a punto de morir. Por lo tanto, tan pronto como cualquiera de los fieles comienza a estar en peligro de muerte por enfermedad o la vejez, el momento apropiado para recibir este sacramento ya ha llegado".

Es mi deseo que los sacramentos de sanacion estén disponibles para los feligreses y sus seres queridos.

Una vez que el padre Alfonso regrese de vacaciones, presentaremos al "Sacerdote del día" y al "Diácono del día". El propósito de este enfoque de administración pastoral es tener al clero disponible durante el horario de oficina, especialmente los días de la semana, para poder responder rápidamente a las necesidades y solicitudes de los feligreses. Mi objetivo es que nuestra oficina, los ministerios y las organización esten siempre listas para atender a sus necesidades espirituales.

Compartiré contigo mis otras ideas. Si usted tiene una idea brillante para contribuir a que nuestra parroquia sea más vibrante, acogedora y santa, siéntase libre de compartirla conmigo.

En Jesús, ¡confío! ¡San Miguel, defiéndenos y protégenos!

P. Carl
Pastor@StMichaelLivermore.com

PERDONADO
EL PODER TRANSFORMADOR DE LA CONFESIÓN

Perdonado explora la gracia y sanación que se otorgan en la Confesión y muestra cómo es que este sacramento de misericordia revela la profundidad y la abundancia del amor de Dios. Contemplando la revelación de la misericordia de Dios en las Sagradas Escrituras y haciendo un examen detallado del Rito en sí, la serie **Perdonado** manifiesta la invitación de Dios a cada uno de nosotros para que experimentemos Su amor indescriptible en el Sacramento de Reconciliación.

StMichael.FORMED.org
Study
Preparación Sacramental
Perdonado

Sesión 1: ¿Dónde Estás?
Sesión 2: Un Encuentro de Misericordia
Sesión 3: Explicación del Rito

Sesión extra: Para Niños: Cómo Hacer una Buena Confesión

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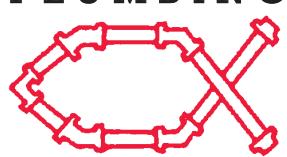
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Information | Información

St. Michael Parish | La Parroquia de San Miquel

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

Pastoral Emergencies | Emergencias Pastorales 925-521-4117



Flocknote.com/sml



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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

Low gluten hosts are available. Please make a request in the sacristy 10 minutes prior to Mass.

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 775-772-6369 |
24/7 en la Capilla. Para el código de acceso después de las horas, llame al 775-772-6369

Office Hours | horas de oficina

M-F 8:30 am—5:00 pm
(closed during lunch)

Sun 8:30 am—12:30 pm

Clergy | Clero

Rev. Carl Arcosa, Pastor
Rev. Alfonso Borgen, Parochial Vicar
Rev. David Staal, Associate
Rev. Stanislaus Poon, Retired
Rev. Deacon Bill Archer
Rev. Deacon Rob Federle
Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes

Pastoral Council | Consejo Pastoral

Pastoral Council Chair:
Mike Pereira
michaelpereira@comcast.net

Eric Hom, Fidelis Atuegbu, Jo Anne Lindquist, Dave Parks, Frank Draschner, Miguel Ibarria, Jeff Andersen, Cynthia Garay and Glenda Dubsky.

Finance Council | Consejo Financiero

Finance Council Chair:
TBD

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

925-667-4096 Niños
925-344-7150 Adultos



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Rev. Father Alfonso Borgen Parochial Vicar Padre@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4053
Rev. Deacon Bill Archer	925-667-4056
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Ana Fregoso, RICA	925-344-7150