



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

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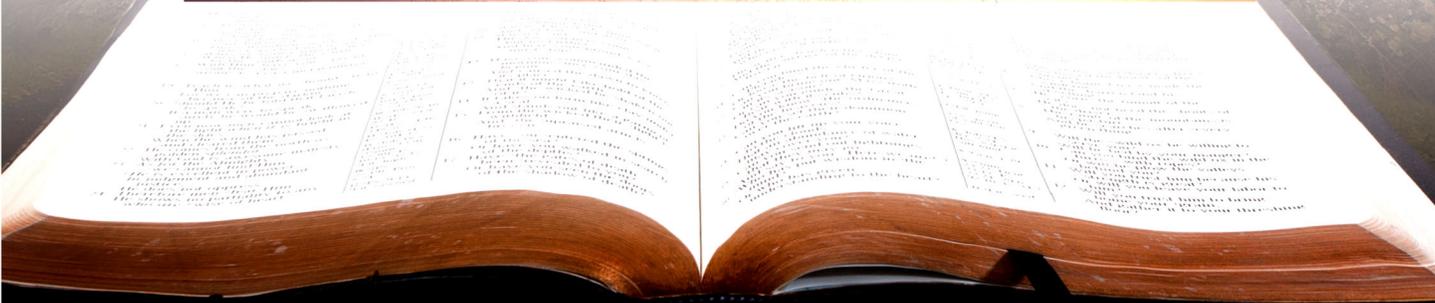


AUGUST 26, 2018 • TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Master, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of**

eternal life.

John 6:68



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100 Years of Catholic Tradition
Centennial

September 28-30



A Hard Saying

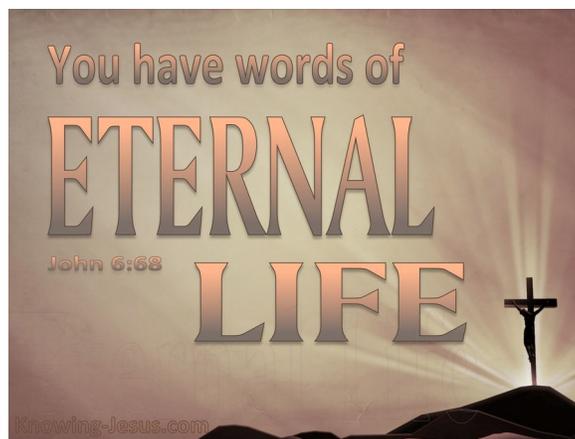
The word “Christian” literally means “follower of Christ.” Because we are Christians, we are followers of Christ, but how many of us truly know what that means? Maybe we have never consciously decided to follow him, but we go to Church because of how we were raised or because of our spouse.

Unfortunately, many Catholics simply go through the motions in their spiritual life. They may receive their sacraments and celebrate holidays with their families, but is it possible that Jesus wants us to give more of ourselves to him? To follow Christ truly and fully, we can’t simply go through the motions. We can’t attend Mass and not reverence the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ present in the Eucharist. Jesus doesn’t want us to attend Mass only to think about the upcoming football game or work on Monday. He wants us to come to Mass, ready to receive his grace and give ourselves entirely to him.

In the Gospel this week, we finish Jesus’s discourse on the Eucharist. After he proclaims that we must eat his flesh and drink his blood to gain eternal life, his disciples must make a decision. Many say that his proclamation concerning the Eucharist is a “hard saying,” but some remain with him and grow in even deeper friendship with him. The same question faces us this week – will we choose to follow Jesus in all he teaches, even in the hard sayings, or will we abandon him for the easier path?

First Reading Reflection Joshua 24:1–2a, 15–17, 18b

We express loyalty in many different ways: by wearing our team’s colors on gameday, by donating to our alma mater, or by voting for candidates who represent our ideals. Loyalty has a way of interlinking our own interests with those of another. When we commit, our hearts are united, our interests are combined, and we look out for each other’s



good. In this reading, Joshua is leading the Israelites in a covenant renewal ceremony. He exhorts them to pledge themselves to the Lord and to repudiate the false gods of their ancestors and neighbors. Specifically, he cites the gods of Egypt, the gods of the Amorites and the gods that the ancestors of Israel worshipped “beyond the River,” that is, back in Mesopotamia beyond the Euphrates. Joshua takes it for granted that the Israelites will “serve” a god. The underlying Hebrew word for this is *avad*, which means to serve, work, or worship. The Israelites had “served” Pharaoh in Egypt, but now will they commit to serving the Lord? Choosing for the Lord involves

rejecting false gods. While we might not be tempted to worship the gods of the Amorites, our “idols” come in many forms: money, pleasure, security, selfishness, etc. We must repudiate our temptations and all evil in order to live for the good. Joshua sets the example for us: “Choose today whom you will serve . . . as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (24:15). Whom will you serve?

Second Reading Reflection Ephesians 5:21–32

Near the end of his Letter to the Ephesians, Saint Paul gives us practical teachings about household order, explaining how to embody the Gospel in our family relationships. While he discusses parent-child and master-slave relationships, at the head of the list is marriage, the central family relationship of husband and wife. Sadly, the vision he presents for order in marriage and family life is often misconstrued as license for male domination or misogyny. But in fact, Paul presents a balanced and holistic teaching of Christ-like self-sacrificial love. Here the husband is entrusted with the leadership of the family, hence the wife’s call to “subordination” and “respect” (5:22, 33). Yet the husband is not off the hook. Rather, he is called to love his wife “even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her” (v. 25). If we have a good appreciation of what Jesus endured for us on Good Friday, then the husband’s role is not one of domineering

control, but of sacrificial, servant leadership. The husband is called to love his wife through his suffering on her behalf. In return, Paul notably does not teach the wife to “love” per se, but to “respect,” in which her appreciation for her husband shines through in her esteem for him. When lived out rightly, marriage is a beautiful icon of Christ’s union with his bride, the Church. Paul looks on in awe of this “great mystery” (v. 32). May our marriages and families truly reflect the grandeur of this great mystery!

Gospel Reading Reflection John 6:60–69

At one point or another in life every one of us experiences failure. Failure is a time of crisis in which we can start to doubt ourselves, our purpose, and our plans. It is humbling to fail in relationships, career, or in any other area of our lives. It brings us face to face with our weaknesses and limitations. While Jesus, of course, is the ideal servant of God, the

perfect evangelist, even he experienced failure. In this Gospel reading, which immediately follows the Bread of Life Discourse, Jesus’s followers abandon him. His teaching about eating his Flesh and drinking his Blood was too much for them to handle. After hearing it, “many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him” (John 6:66). This moment is a powerful lesson for us. Jesus did nothing wrong and yet his disciples departed. Sometimes when we fail, it is because we really dropped the ball and the negative consequences of our actions serve as a wake-up call to change. Yet, as Jesus’s example shows, it could be that our failure is not the result of mistakes, but the result of decisions and circumstances beyond our control. One thinks of the undeserved guilt that children of divorced parents often feel or the troubled conscience of the last person to speak with a suicide victim. If Jesus can fail, then sometimes we will too, even when the failure is not our fault. The important thing is to stay close to the Lord in the midst of

our failures so that we can rebound from our mistakes with the help of his grace.

Join the Discussion

Go to StMichael.FORMED.org and click the Community tab. Watch this week’s Opening the Word video and post your comments to the discussion questions. Or share the questions below with a friend this week:

What has been your experience of your faith journey?

Have you intentionally chosen to follow Jesus and give your life to him? If not, what is holding you back?

What would be the impact of one Christian living his or her life with the Eucharist as the center of his or her life?

What about a whole parish?

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Saint Augustine’s Confessions

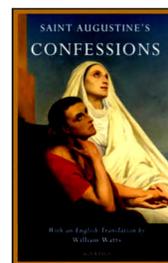
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—Joseph B, Lincoln, NE

Mass

Intentions

Saturday 8/25

8:30am Mary & Jack Dyer
5:00pm Gus Ronda
7:00pm Margarita Zamorano †
Antonio Hernandez †
Patricia Murillo

Sunday 8/26

6:45am Josephe Maria
8:00am Ilda Rosa †
9:30am Pricilla Perez †
11:00am Bob & Keith Moreland †
12:30pm Mass for Our Parish
6:00pm Connie Hoxie †

Monday 8/27

8:30am Rosario Maniquis †

Tuesday 8/28

8:30am Bing & Winslow Families
Richard Laron

Wednesday 8/29

8:30am Fredrick Bittikofer †
7:00pm Alice & Nick Sanchez †

Thursday 8/30

8:30am Juliette Garcia
Delfin Gatchalian †

Friday 8/31

8:30am Angela Scatena †

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.

Master, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of eternal life. ~ John 6:68

Return to the Gospel for today. Put yourself in the moment when Jesus is turning to his disciples to ask if they will leave him. Look honestly at Jesus and everything that he teaches. Do you want to follow him?

Take the word that comes to mind and reflect on what it means to you personally. For example, the phrase, “Do you also want to leave?”, might have stuck out to you. Ask yourself what this means in your own life. Is Jesus asking you to stay with him, to follow him, and to open your heart to a deeper friendship with him?

Resolution

Jesus sacrificed so much in order to give us the Eucharist—he even broke his own body and poured out his own blood (Matthew 26:26-29). To follow Him on this path will require us to sacrifice as well. Jesus gave up worldly power, popularity, and even friendship. What are some things in your own life that Jesus is inviting you to sacrifice so that you can be free to follow him?

Remember in Prayer

In thanksgiving for a successful Backpack Project, and for the generous contributions from parishioners. 175 backpacks were filled and distributed to Livermore students in need.

Our parish clergy, staff, ministry members and our school staff, families and students, that they may continue to answer Jesus’ call.

For all students returning to school, that they may richly grow this academic year.

For the repose of the souls of Daniel Figueriedo, Livia Villa, Roger Alejandro Sarria, Jean Diane Edwards and Editha Bagnas Minglana.

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

Statements regarding recent revelations of clergy sexual abuse



August 16, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The news we have been receiving about the horrible actions of priests, bishops and cardinals has stunned and disgusted me. Those who have harmed children and vulnerable adults must be held accountable. The bishops who refused to stop this immoral and criminal behavior must also be held accountable. I am shamed by the actions of these men and have vowed to work with all people of

good will to make our Diocese a safe place for all.

To that end, we have policies and procedures in place mandating that every person who serves in our Diocese, whether clergy, religious, staff or lay volunteer, receives training in how to identify and stop predatory behavior. The Diocese of Oakland has a zero tolerance policy to the sexual abuse of minors on the part of anyone who serves the church. We also have staff which respond to each allegation of abuse, and have a loving and responsive team to assist survivors of clerical sexual abuse. We have an independent Diocesan Review Board composed of lay experts in psychology, police investigators, retired judges and abuse survivors, which examines complaints of misbehavior. I follow their recommendations.

I welcome the initiative of Cardinal DiNardo, President of the US Bishops Conference, whose August 16 statement can be read at [Bit.ly/CardinalInitiative](https://www.usccb.org/bishops/statements/2018/08/16-cardinal-di-nardo-statement-on-clergy-sexual-abuse) to establish an investigation into questions surrounding bishops' accountability, an opening of new and confidential reporting channels for complaints, proper independence and lay, not clerical, leadership of the process.

The love of Christ compels us to be better models of Jesus' love, mercy, and healing. We must never violate the trust placed in us. As Bishop of Oakland, I promise there will be consequences for those who do.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

The Most Reverend
Michael C. Barber, SJ
Bishop of Oakland



August 18, 2018

Dear Parishioners,

I join with Bishop Barber in his disgust over the horrific actions that have been uncovered. Such evil and crime must not be condoned. Silence should not be the course of action. Let us pray that justice be served and that victims

may be healed of abuses committed by the clergy.

I know that this scandal is a big blow for us who wear the Roman collar. But let us also continue to support our dedicated and loving priests in our community and diocese who are models of compassion and love. I also ask for support for me as your pastor, and for support for those ministering at St Michael Parish and School.

I urge you all to continue to be vigilant and proactive for the safety of our children and youth, and let us do our best effort to secure a safe and healthy community for them. Let us make this our highest priority, knowing that we have a

school, children's faith formation and youth ministry programs in our parish.

This is the biggest scandal that we face in the Catholic Church in the United States today. This is a heavy cross that we now carry. However, I believe God can use this time to purify our church hierarchy, reminding us all that power and authority is for service and ministry, as Jesus taught us.

May God grant us the gift of healing and forgiveness! St. Michael, pray for us!

Fr. Carl Arcosa
Pastor

THIS WEEK

MONDAY, AUG 27

St. Monica

Readings: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12; Ps 96:1-5; Mt 23:13-22

TUESDAY, AUG 28

St. Augustine

Readings: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17; Ps 96:10-13; Mt 23:23-26

WEDNESDAY, AUG 29

The Passion of St. John the Baptist

Readings: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18; Ps 128:1-2, 4-5; Mk 6:17-29

THURSDAY, AUG 30

Readings: 1 Cor 1:1-9; Ps 145:2-7; Mt 24:42-51

FRIDAY, AUG 31

Readings: 1 Cor 1:17-25; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11; Mt 25:1-13

SATURDAY, SEPT 1

Readings: 1 Cor 1:26-31; Ps 33:12-13, 18-21; Mt 25:14-30

Anointing of the Sick after the 8:30 am Mass.

SUNDAY, SEPT 2

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Ps 15:2-5; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Maintenance & Improvement
Second Collection

Sign Language interpreter at the 11 am Mass.

COLLECTION REPORT

Thank you for your continued support!

8/19/18 Collection	\$17,325.17
Month-to-Date	\$65,109.37
Month Goal	\$87,058.82
% to Goal Reached	75%
Faith Direct	\$7,642.00
Maintenance (Aug)	\$9,134.69

BISHOP'S APPEAL

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

Number of Donors	158
Average Gift	\$335
Funds Raised	\$52,939
Percentage Reached	68.31%
Parish Goal	\$77,500

Serve Meals at Open Heart Kitchen

Wednesday, August 29 at Asbury Methodist on East Avenue, Livermore.

Shift A: 12:30 - 2:00 pm.
Shift B: 2:00 - 3:30 pm.

Sign up with Diane Schord at dhschord@sbcglobal.net or 925-447-4344



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

Dress-a-Girl Sew Fest

Saturday, Sept 8, 9am-3pm
Large Hall

Come make simple dresses for girls in poverty-stricken countries! We meet once a month. We need all kinds of help: sewing, ironing, cutting. Bring your sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors, along with your helping hands and we will put you to work! Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447 or suzbeck@yahoo.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

Latino Night

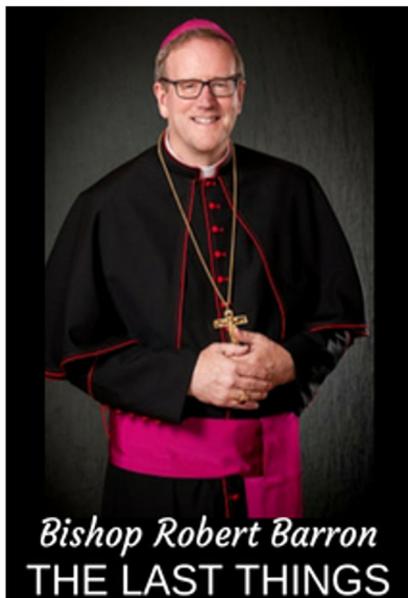
Saturday, Sept 8, 6-10 pm
Large Hall

The Livermore Knights' Hispanic Round table will be celebrating the Latino culture with a night of fun for the entire community on September 8th from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. We will have food for sale. Entertainment will include karaoke and traditional music from different parts of Mexico. The theme will be to wear your traditional clothes. If you want to donate a dish, please contact Irving 925-339-5342

Noche Mexicana

Sábado, 8 de sept, 6-10 pm
salón grande

Mesa redonda hispana tendra una celebración de la cultura latina con una noche de diversión para toda la comunidad el 8 de septiembre 6 p.m.-10 p.m. Tendremos comida en venta. El entretenimiento incluirá música charaokee y musica tradicional de diferentes partes de México. El tema será usar tu ropa tradicional. Si desea donar un platillo, comuníquese con Irving 925-339-5342



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



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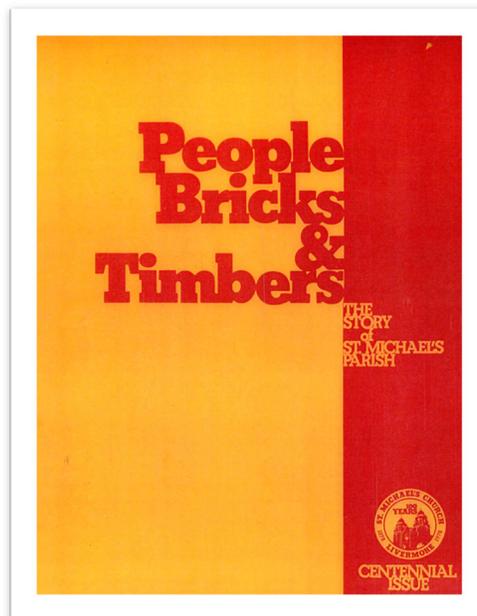


Celebrate Mass with Bishop Michael Barber on Friday at 6 pm
Food, Entertainment & Fun at the Fall Festival Saturday and Sunday
Encounter Our Church History
StMichaelLivermore.com/Centennial

People, Bricks & Timbers

In 1978, for the parish's centennial celebration, **People, Bricks & Timbers: The Story of St Michael's Parish**, a book recounting St Michael's history, was published. Only a limited number of copies were printed, but now you can download a digital copy of our history on our parish website:

StMichaelLivermore.com/centennial



Donate Auction Items

The silent auction at the Fall Festival is always a highlight of the weekend! Can you help make it a huge success? We are looking for Autographed sports memorabilia, jewelry, restaurant gift cards, tickets to events, weekend get-aways and themed baskets.

Please call Sharon Dec at 925-669-4402 with your questions and to arrange a pick up!

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.

Declaraciones sobre revelaciones recientes de abuso sexual del clero



16 de agosto de 2018

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Las noticias que hemos recibido sobre las acciones horribles de sacerdotes, obispos y cardenales me han sorprendido y disgustado. Aquellos que han lastimado a niños y adultos vulnerables deben rendir cuentas. Los obispos que se negaron a detener este comportamiento inmoral y criminal también deben rendir cuentas. Me avergüenzan las acciones de estos hombres y me he comprometido a trabajar con todas las personas de buena voluntad para hacer de nuestra Diócesis un lugar seguro para todos.

Con ese fin, tenemos políticas y procedimientos que ordenan que

cada persona que sirve en nuestra Diócesis, ya sea clérigo, religioso, personal o voluntario laico, reciba capacitación sobre cómo identificar y detener el comportamiento predatorio. La Diócesis de Oakland tiene una política de cero tolerancia al abuso sexual de menores por parte de cualquier persona que sirve a la iglesia. También tenemos personal que responde a cada acusación de abuso y contamos con un equipo atento y afectuoso para ayudar a los sobrevivientes de abuso sexual clerical. Tenemos una Junta de Revisión Diocesana independiente compuesta de expertos en psicología, investigadores policiales, jueces jubilados y sobrevivientes de abuso, que examinan las quejas de mala conducta. Sigo sus recomendaciones

Acojo con beneplácito la iniciativa del Cardenal DiNardo, Presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos de

EE. UU., cuya declaración del 16 de agosto puede leerse en [Bit.ly/CardinalInitiative](https://bit.ly/CardinalInitiative) para establecer una investigación sobre cuestiones relacionadas con la rendición de cuentas de los obispos, apertura de canales de nuevas denuncias y para reclamos confidenciales con independencia propia y laica, no clerical, liderando el proceso.

El amor de Cristo nos impulsa a ser mejores modelos del amor, misericordia y curación de Jesús. Nunca debemos violar la confianza depositada en nosotros. Como Obispo de Oakland, prometo que habrá consecuencias para aquellos que lo hagan.

Atentamente en Cristo,

El Reverendísimo
Michael C. Barber, SJ
Obispo de Oakland



18 de agosto de 2018

Queridos feligreses,

Me uno al Obispo Barber en su disgusto por las terribles acciones que se han descubierto. Tal maldad y crimen no deben ser consentidos. El silencio no debe ser el curso de acción. Oremos para que se haga justicia y para que las víctimas puedan ser sanadas de los abusos cometidos por el clero.

Sé que este escándalo es un gran golpe para nosotros que usamos el collar romano. Pero también sigamos apoyando a nuestros dedica-

dos y amorosos sacerdotes en nuestra comunidad y diócesis, que son modelos de compasión y amor. También solicito apoyo para mí como su pastor y apoyo para aquellos que ministran en la Parroquia y Escuela de San Miguel.

Los insto a todos a que continúen siendo vigilantes y proactivos para la seguridad de nuestros niños y jóvenes, y hagamos nuestro mejor esfuerzo para asegurarles una comunidad segura y saludable. Hagamos de esto nuestra más alta prioridad, sabiendo que tenemos una escuela, programas de formación de fe de los niños y de jóvenes en nuestra parroquia.

Este es el mayor escándalo que enfrentamos hoy en la Iglesia Católica en los Estados Unidos. Esta es una cruz pesada que ahora llevamos. Sin embargo, creo que Dios puede usar este tiempo para purificar nuestra jerarquía eclesial, recordándonos a todos que el poder y la autoridad es para el servicio y el ministerio, como Jesús nos enseñó.

¡Que Dios nos conceda el don de la curación y el perdón! San Miguel, ruega por nosotros!

P. Carl Arcosa
Pastor

ST. MICHAEL

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Information | Información

St. Michael Parish | La Parroquia de San Miguel

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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)

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

Monday & Friday in the church |

Lunes y viernes en la iglesia

7:30 am in English & español

1st & 3rd Wednesdays in the Convent Chapel

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 Dubsy.

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 smliv.org

Faith Formation in English

925-667-4096

Catecismo en Español

925-667-4096 Niños

925-344-7150 Adultos



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