



St. Michael Catholic Parish

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

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Jesus said,

“Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Matthew 18:20



September 10, 2017

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Out of Bondage

First Reading

Warn the wicked, trying to turn them from their ways (Ezekiel 33:7-9).

There is a particular responsibility that goes with the prophetic office. Ezekiel, whose name means “God strengthens,” was given a very important mission as regards the people: to warn them of Jerusalem’s impending destruction, and then to bolster their hopes in the Babylonian exile. This chapter (33) begins as we see here with God telling Ezekiel that he must be the watchman on the wall who warns the city with a trumpet blast about the coming of the enemy. Midway through this same chapter, Ezekiel receives word in Babylon, where he is living with the first of the Jewish exiles, that the city of Jerusalem has fallen.

His task now is to explain the reasons that God has allowed this to happen to his chosen people in the hope that this will finally turn their hearts back to the God who first gave them the land they have now lost. Because remembrance of God’s past actions on behalf of his people is so important to maintenance of the covenant with God, when they forget him and his works, God repeats himself, so to speak. By sending them back to the area where Abraham had first come from when God called him out of Babylon and into the promised land, he is reminding them that what he has given he can take away. But God is also true to his promise, and that is the message of Ezekiel: that God will lead his people back again, in the way he led their father Abraham, out of Babylon and back into the land of promise.

Second Reading

Owe nothing to anyone, except mutual love (Romans 13:8-10).

In this portion of Romans, St. Paul is concerned with explaining to this community of Christians how they should conduct themselves in the world. And here, as a kind of summation of the whole, he gives the central moral teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ: love. He lists four of the last seven of the Ten Commandments, those having to do with how we are to treat our neighbor; note that he doesn’t even bother to list the rest, finishing his list with a rather surprising, “whatever...” We shouldn’t take from this that St. Paul doesn’t know or care about the Ten Commandments!

The critical part of this teaching is that love accomplishes all of the commandments, whatever they may be. We must be clear that he is not saying that love substitutes for the law or erases the law, but that love accomplishes what the law commands. He means that the love that has come to dwell in our hearts by the grace of Jesus Christ and his Spirit moves us to live in a way that is not simply expressed by a moral code. Supernatural charity or love is a new power that enables us not only to obey the “shalt nots” of the old law, but to live in a positive disposition which is ordered to more than simply observing justice toward our neighbor. Jesus commands us not only to be just to our neighbor, which is what the law required, but to love our enemies!



An *Opening the Word* reflection by FORMED.org

Gospel Reading

If two agree about anything for which they pray, it shall be granted to them (Matthew 18:15-20).

After having given the “keys of the kingdom” to Peter in Matthew 16 (the Gospel reading two Sundays ago), we now see an aspect of the power to bind and loose that Peter receives being extended to the disciples. The Church itself is given a certain authority in the world. Reminiscent of the prophetic commission that we see in the first reading, Christians are to be “watchmen” over others who may stray from the truth. We have a prophetic responsibility, which we have received by Baptism, to speak honestly and directly to those in the Church (a “brother”) who may begin to stray from the path of love that Paul describes in Romans.

Jesus tells us that to guard against this simply being taken as a personal grudge by the one receiving the correction, we should go with others who can thereby make clear that this is not personal, but rather an objective matter of proper Christian conduct. You might be tempted to think that when Jesus says, “If he refuses to listen...treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector,” that he means reject him all together. But we need to recall that the person who recorded this Gospel for us was a tax collector named Matthew. And Luke tells us about how Jesus treated the tax collector named Zacchaeus (Luke 19). Likewise, St. Paul is sent to preach the good news to the Gentiles by Jesus (Acts 9:15). Sometimes Christian love will have to be tough love, giving clear signs of God’s disfavor at sin, but love and mercy are to have no limits for those in Christ.

Grow in Discipleship

Is there someone in your life you need to forgive? If we look deep enough, most of us will admit that there is someone we still haven't forgiven for something that was done to us; perhaps something that happened years ago.

One of the great spiritual truths is that forgiveness is as much for ourselves as it is for the other person. If we do not forgive, we hold that person in bondage to their sin. And we hold ourselves in bondage both to the sin and the sinner as well.

It isn't always easy to forgive. Sometimes we don't even want to forgive. We begin the process, and it is a process, by asking for the desire to desire to forgive. Eventually, as that desire takes root, we learn to let go of our mistaken notions about forgiveness and come to understand what forgiveness really consists of.

Forgiveness doesn't mean that the sin doesn't matter. It doesn't mean that we forget something bad happened to us. It doesn't mean every-

thing is "all better," and it certainly doesn't mean that restitution and justice aren't needed. True forgiveness is a free will action, prompted by God, that frees us from bondage. It's not an emotion; it's an act of the will. It's making a decision to let go of the chains that bind us, and then moving forward.

Remember that the Lord tells us that everything can be worked to the good for those who believe, including the greatest of sins committed against us. One of the keys to having that happen is our cooperation with God's requirement to forgive. But first, we have to be willing to take that first step of the will.

Watch the short *Opening the Word* video Reflection at FORMED.org

What is forgiveness, according to the video?

What are some of the things forgiveness doesn't mean?

According to the presenter, what

happens to us when we don't forgive?

What happens to the person we haven't forgiven?

DIGGING DEEPER: Loosed on Earth

"In imparting to his apostles his own power to forgive sins, the Lord also gives them the authority to reconcile sinners with the Church. This ecclesial dimension of their task is expressed most notably in Christ's solemn words to Simon Peter: 'I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.' The office of binding and loosing, which was given to Peter, was also assigned to the college of the apostles united to its head." —CCC 1444

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

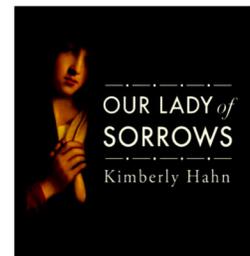
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Mass

Intentions

Saturday 9/9

- 8:30am Nick & Alice Sanchez †
5:00pm Paul Nguyen Ngoc Hahn †
Elizabeth Hnatow †
7:00pm Mass for Our Parish

Sunday 9/10

- 6:45am Ramiro Rezendez †
8:00am Norma & Bud Motta and Family
9:30am Justin Agness
Jerry Dixon †
11:00am Marilyn Rita Estill †
The Stiemann Family
12:30pm Pedro Franco †
6:00pm Tanner Rose Higgins
Laura Balsler †

Monday 9/11

- 8:30am Melanie Maher †
For the Victims of 9/11

Tuesday 9/12

- 8:30am James P. Sweeney, Sr. †
Fernando Castro †
Mikey Kalchik
Agripino Nunez †

Wednesday 9/13

- 8:30am Slegried Forspreveer †
Amado B. Gorospe
Cornelius & Richard Frydendal †
7:00pm Hector Hernandez †

Thursday 9/14

- 8:30am Robin Rasmussen †
Magna Flauta †
Fredrick G. Zamora

Friday 9/15

- 8:30am Fr. Ralph Zimmerman
Alice Kachel †
Andreas Mandelenis
Rosalino Estrada †

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

Prayers & Devotion



Today we heard about the importance of forgiveness, both for ourselves and for the people we forgive.

PRAYER:

Listen now as Jesus comes before you and says, "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone." As you hear those words, is there someone you believe has "sinned against you"? Have you done as Jesus commands by telling this person how you feel, or are you harboring secret ill will? How do you respond to Jesus?

RESOLUTION:

Consider the people in your life whom you may need to forgive. Make a plan to talk with them in order to resolve your differences.

Download the weekly *Opening the Word* prayer journal at FORMED.org to write down your thoughts, reflections and your resolutions.

Parish Prayer Requests

For the consolation and help for the victims of Hurricane Harvey, and in thanksgiving for first responders and volunteers.

For the victims and families of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

For the repose of the souls of Manuel Serpa, Herbert DiGrazie, Donald Scullion and Dr. Luis de Carvalho.

Please send your prayer requests to Prayers@StMichaelLivermore.com

Why You Need Confirmation

Growing beyond a self-centered spirituality

We are born spiritually in the sacrament of Baptism. We become sharers in the divine life of the most Blessed Trinity. We begin to live a supernatural life. As we practice the virtues of faith and hope and love and as we unite with Christ in His Church in offering worship to God, we also grow in grace and goodness.

But at this stage our spiritual life, like the life of a child, is largely self-centered. We tend to be preoccupied with the needs of our own soul, with the effort to “be good.” We cannot be wholly self-centered, of course—not if we understand what it means to be a member of Christ’s Mystical Body, and not if we understand the significance of the Mass. But in general our religious life does revolve around self.

Living for others

Then we are confirmed. We receive a special grace by which our faith is deepened and strengthened, so that it will be strong enough not only for our own needs but for the needs of others with whom we shall try to share it.

With the onset of adolescence a child begins to assume, progressively more and more, the responsibilities of adulthood. He begins to see his place in the total family picture and in the community at large.

Similarly, the confirmed Christian begins to see more clearly (or ought to) his responsibility to Christ for his neighbor. He becomes deeply concerned (or ought to) with the welfare of Christ-in-the-world—which is the Church—and the welfare of Christ-in-his-neighbor.

It is in this sense that Confirmation is a spiritual “growing up.”

Special grace

In order that we may have such a concern for Church and neighbor, in deed as well as in feeling, the sacrament of Confirmation gives us a special grace and a special power.

Just as the “mark” or character of Baptism made us sharers with Christ in His role of priest, giving us the power to participate with Him in divine worship, so also the character of Confirmation makes us sharers with Christ in His role of prophet or teacher.

We now participate with Him in the



task of extending His kingdom, of adding new souls to His Mystical Body. Our words and our works are directed not merely to our own sanctification but also to the purpose of making Christ’s truths alive and real for those around us.

NEXT STEPS

Visit StMichaelLivermore.com/Confirmation for more information.

High school students, the deadline to register for Confirmation classes is Monday, September 11. Talk to Joseph at 925-667-4093 or email Youth@StMichaelLivermore.com

Adults, classes are on Wednesdays at 7 pm in the Convent. Talk to Marjorie at 925-447-2925 or email at RCIA@StMichaelLivermore.com or



- Grow your identity in Christ.
- Meet other Catholic teens.
- Be a member of an open community of peers.
- Give and receive support for living a Christ-centered life.
- Have a lot of fun!

Oh, and there’s food. Always.

Celebrate Mass with us on Sundays at 6:00 pm, then join us in the Convent.

Collection Report

Thank you for your generous offerings!

Due to the holiday weekend, the September 3 collection report will be published next week.

To set up regular donations or make a one-time donation, please visit FaithDirect.net

This Week

MONDAY, SEPT 11

Readings: Col 1:24 -- 2:3; Ps 62:6-7, 9; Lk 6:6-11

Events:

Teen Confirmation Registration Deadline! Get the paperwork at StMichaelLivermore.com/Confirmation

THURSDAY, SEPT 14

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Readings: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

Suggestion:

Spend time in quiet prayer in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel meditating upon the mystery of Jesus's passion.

SUNDAY, SEPT 17

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Sir 27:30 -- 28:9; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

Events:

Lifeteen! All teens are invited to celebrate Mass at 6:00 pm and then join us for fellowship and fun in the Convent after.

Forgiven Debt

Since most of us of us have trouble forgiving even once or twice, the standard set in next Sunday's Gospel is hard to comprehend. To help Peter, and us, understand that we are to forgive so much because we have been forgiven so much, Jesus tells the parable of the servant who owed a great debt to his master.

TUESDAY, SEPT 12

The Most Holy Name of Mary

Readings: Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-11; Lk 6:12-19

FRIDAY, SEPT 15

Our Lady of Sorrows

Readings: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Suggestion:

Listen to Kimberly Hahn's talk on **Drawing Strength from Our Lady of Sorrows**. See page 3 for details.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 13

St. John Chrysostom

Readings: Col 3:1-11; Ps 145:2-3, 10-13ab; Lk 6:20-26

SATURDAY, SEPT 16

Ss. Cornelius and Cyprian

Readings: 1 Tm 1:15-17; Ps 113:1b-7; Lk 6:43-49

Events:

Turn in Fall Festival raffle tickets to be entered to win a \$50 Amazon Gift Card!

Talent Show Auditions from 4-5:30 pm in Room 26 at St Michael School.

Fatima Rosary at 4:30 pm in the Church.



Parish Wide Study

SESSION 1: THE JOURNEY OF FAITH TRINITY, FAITH & THE GOD WHO IS LOVE

We begin our journey into the heart of the Catholic Faith as pilgrims, exploring the reality of God, who he is, and how he expresses himself to us in the most meaningful way imaginable.

This week, watch the 30-minute video **Symbolon: Knowing the Faith, Session 1**. Download the participant materials located just under the video for your own reflections or to discuss with a friend.

Access the Symbolon video study series free from any browser at FORMED.org. Get your free account using parish code **P4XNPZ**

Upcoming

St Michael's Got Talent Tryouts

Tues Sept 19

All parishioners are invited to participate in a talent show as part of our festival on Saturday, September 30. We welcome acts of all shapes and sizes; dances, gymnastics routines, instrument pieces, magic tricks, skits, singing groups, joke-telling, poetry recitation, martial arts routines, basketball rhythm dances, and more!

A committee of parish staff, SMS school faculty and parishioners will observe tryouts and select the acts on Tues, Sept 19 from 4-5:30 pm in Room 26 at St Michael School.

Train to Become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Oct 3 OR Oct 17

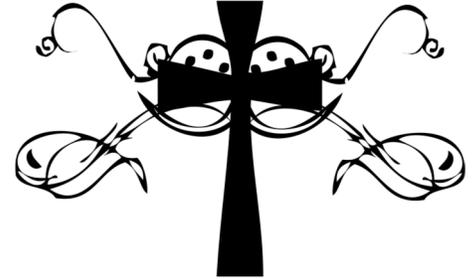
Attend either Tuesday, October 3 after 8:30 am mass until about 10:30 am **OR** Tuesday, October 17 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Please RSVP to Debbie Pizzato at Liturgy@StMichaelLivermore.com

KofC Family Movie Knight

Friday, October 6

Join us at St Michael's for a FREE viewing of Disney's UP at 7:30 pm.

Contact dwarnold@gmail.com
925-337-6155



Journey Through Grief Fall Workshop Series

The Grief Process—9/14
Coping with Grief—9/21
Feelings—9/28
Where is God in Our Pain—10/5
Grief in the Body/Self Care—10/12
Making Progress—10/19
Remembrance Ritual—11/2
Coping with the Holidays—11/9

Sessions are at St Charles 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Register by email at clairelascola@gmail.com

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Get info on how to donate and volunteer for this annual event at StMichaelLivermore.com/FallFestival



Noticias Parroquiales



LOS SANTOS Y OTRAS CELEBRACIONES

Domingo: Vigésimo Tercer Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario; Día de los Abuelos

Lunes: Día de los Patriotas

Martes: El Santísimo Nombre de la Virgen María

Miércoles: San Juan Crisóstomo

Jueves: La Exaltación de la Santa Cruz

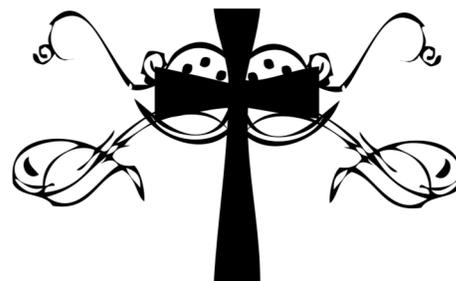
Viernes: Nuestra Señora de los Dolores

Sábado: Santos Cornelio y Cipriano

Comenzamos nuestro camino hacia el corazón de la fe Católica como peregrinos, explorando la realidad de Dios, quién es, y cómo se manifiesta a nosotros en la forma más significativa posible.

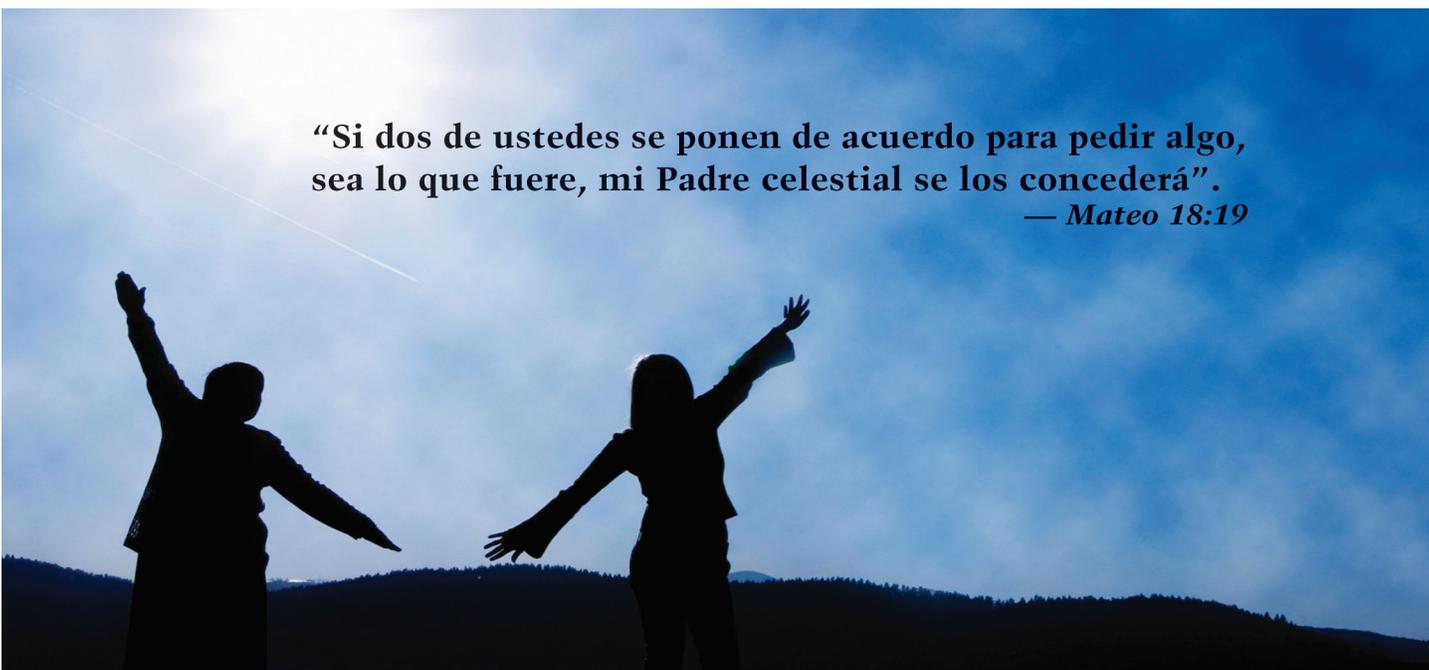
Esta semana, mira el Symbolon video de 30 minutos: conocer la fe, sesión 1. Descargar los materiales participantes situados justo debajo del video de tus propias reflexiones o a discutir con un amigo.

Accede el Symbolon serie estudio video libre desde cualquier navegador en FORMED.org. Obtenga su cuenta gratis usando código parroquial **P4XNPZ**



“Si dos de ustedes se ponen de acuerdo para pedir algo, sea lo que fuere, mi Padre celestial se los concederá”.

— Mateo 18:19



LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura -- Somos responsables unos de otros y debemos guiarnos mutuamente (Ezequiel 33:7-9).

Salmo -- Si hoy escuchas su voz, no endurezcas tu corazón (Salmo 95 [94]).

Segunda lectura -- La ley del amor nos obliga (Romanos 13:8-10).

Evangelio -- Jesús está presente siempre que haya dos o tres reunidos en su nombre (Mateo 18:15-20).

EL CAMINO DEL AMOR

Aunque las lecturas de hoy podrían parecer tristemente preocupadas con el pecado, san Pablo explica porque el pecado es importante para discutir: porque cada pecado reduce la cantidad de amor que hay en el mundo. Pablo cambia el enfoque de pecado a amor cuando él escribe: "cumplir perfectamente la ley consiste en amar" (Romanos 10:13). ¡Que fuerza tiene ese versículo! Si empezamos a recitar esa frase, estaríamos bien en nuestro camino a una vida más generosa, no solo evitando el pecado lo más posible, sino también activamente buscando formas de hacer la vida más agradable para nuestros prójimos. Memorizar versículos nos inspira cuando enfrentamos dificultades durante el día, cuando estamos irritados con alguien, por ejemplo, o necesitamos tomar una decisión. Recordando que "cumplir perfectamente la ley consiste en amar" podría verdaderamente ayudarnos a evitar el pecado y hacer el bien en nuestra vida diaria.

EL CAMINO DE LA ORACIÓN

Aprender un versículo de la Biblia de memoria es, desde luego, una forma de hacer oración. En el Evangelio de hoy, Jesús nos anima a rezar. Jesús firmemente cree en el poder de la oración, avanzar es una garantía de obtener resultados: "Yo les aseguro también que, si dos de ustedes se ponen de acuerdo para pedir algo, sea lo que fuere, mi Padre celestial se lo concederá". Jesús promete algo más también, algo vitalmente importante. Más que un juego como el de Ir a Pescar en el cual esperamos "obtener lo que pedimos"; la oración es un vivo encuentro con el mismo Jesús: "pues donde dos o tres se reúnen en mi nombre, ahí estoy yo en medio de ellos". Las lecturas de hoy nos mueven más allá de lo pequeño y abre un mundo enorme para nosotros. Rechazamos la mezquindad del pecado no porque temamos el castigo, sino porque queremos amar a nuestro prójimo profundamente. Oramos a nuestro Dios todopoderoso no porque queremos favores de una máquina que dispensa golosinas, sino porque queremos dedicar un tiempo con nuestro Señor y Salvador, Jesucristo.



Inscripciones voluntarias después de la misa de cada Domingo de agosto!

No pierda la oportunidad de ayudar en el Festival de Otoño para que sea un gran éxito. Hay trabajos de todas las formas y tamaños!

- ¿A su ministerio o grupo le gustaría patrocinar una cabina?
- ¿Recibo sus boletos de rifa por correo?
- ¿Registro el 30 de septiembre y el 1 de octubre en su calendario?

¿Tiene más preguntas? Festival@StMichaelLivermore.com

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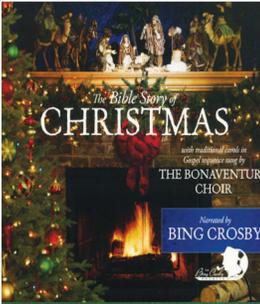
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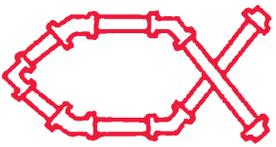
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Mass | Misa

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. Alfonso Borgen, 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

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Pastoral Council Chair: Mike Pereira
michaelpereira@comcast.net

Fr. Van, Eric Hom, Ricardo Echon,
Fidelis Atuegbu, Jo Anne Lindquist,
Dave Parks, Frank Draschner, Ken
Varallo, Irving Garcia, Cynthia Garay
and Glenda Dubsy.

Finance Council | Consejo Financiero

Finance Council Chair: Dave Ruth
daveruth@alrinc.com

Fr. Van Dinh, Eric Hom, Cynthia
Garay, Edna McCombe, Analy Palo-
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St. Michael School | Escuela de San Miguel

925-447-1888 smsliv.org

Faith Formation in English

925-667-4096

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925-453-6494 Niños

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510-691-2864



New Direct Phone Numbers!

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Kathy Hawkins, Bookkeeper	925-667-4058
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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
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