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SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

Anyone of you who
does not renounce
all your possessions
cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:33

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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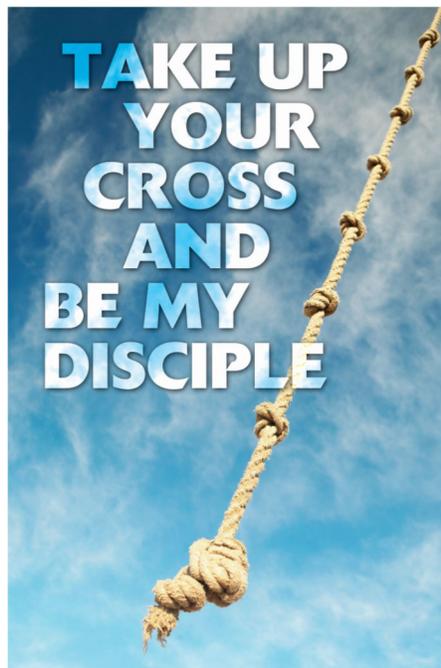
Today's Gospel reading about being Jesus' disciple is both beautiful and challenging. In it we hear that no one is worthy to be called Jesus' disciple unless he hates his mother/father/sister/brother/spouse for Jesus' sake, takes up his own cross to follow Jesus, and renounces his possessions. To modern readers, this probably doesn't sound like very good marketing on Jesus' part; all three of these requirements for following Jesus are quite challenging.

We have to remember, however, that Jesus is speaking in a Jewish context. In Hebrew tradition, to hate one thing and love another simply meant to give preference to one over the other. Jesus is saying that to be his disciple one must put Jesus—that is, God—above even one's own family. If God is not in first place, then nothing is in its right place.

In this Gospel reading we hear that great crowds are following Jesus. He has become very popular—everyone wants to be near him. But then Jesus turns to the crowds with the challenge to love him above all other loves. It can be easy for us to get very excited and enthusiastic about the Christian faith, but it's much harder to imitate Christ in the face of our day-to-day struggles. As you delve into this week's Scripture readings with the participants, the key question is: Are you walking in the footsteps of Christ?

Unpack the First Reading Wisdom 9:13-18b

In this text from Wisdom we can see clearly the Church's teaching that we are subject to certain effects of original sin, the sin that we have inherited from our first



parents, Adam and Eve. In the beginning, in our unfallen state, the human person would have been possessed of a sublime integrity, the right ordering of our passions or emotions under the direction of an intellect and will that had the gift of supernatural virtues and gifts of the Holy Spirit, as well as a special gift of infused knowledge. In that original state, which would have followed upon our having been made by God in innocence and grace, we would have easily had concourse with him and been at peace with each other.

Because of the first sin, however,

we find that our emotions are often at odds with reason. As St. Paul says; "For I take delight in the law of God, in my inner self, but I see in my members another principle at war with the law of my mind" (Romans 7:22-23). Our minds, although still capable of rational reflection, are subject to a darkening that came upon them when Adam and Eve revolted against God, and our wills are weakened too. And our own personal sins can leave us weakened still more. In this fallen state we need grace from God to be able to return, in some measure, to that original clarity of soul and mind and to be able to integrate our emotions and drives into an ordered human life, one marked by a self-mastery that is the foundation for all real love.

Unpack the Second Reading Philemon 9-10, 12-17

The letter of St. Paul to Philemon is one of what are called the Captivity Letters, written while Paul was a prisoner in Rome between 61 and 63 A.D. It is the shortest of Paul's letters (notice that it has no chapter numbers but only verse numbers, since it is only long enough to comprise one chapter). It is a very touching personal letter to a propertied man from the city of Colossae. Unfortunately, part of his "property" included human slaves, which would have been an acceptable part of the Greco-Roman culture of the time. Although Paul does not condemn slavery in this letter, he reminds Philemon that he and his slave, Onesimus by name, are united as

brothers in the Christian faith they now share. And that common Christian dignity—which is based upon their common human dignity—should transform the master-slave relationship they have had into something else, Paul suggests. Apparently Onesimus had run away from his master after having stolen some of his property and had then become a Christian in Rome.

Unpack the Gospel Luke 14:25-33

In this Gospel passage our Lord explains how we overcome the problem of that effect of original sin that our first reading describes, the loss of integrity in our powers. Jesus uses here what scholars call a *Semiticism* in this text, in this case a hyperbolic statement or a wild extreme to make a clear point. In saying that we should “hate” our family members and even our own lives, he does not mean that we should really hate them. That would overturn the fourth commandment to honor father and mother, which Jesus himself upholds in Mark 7:10-13 and his own command that we should love our neighbor as ourselves.

He means rather that we must put everything in its proper place to reorder our lives and our loves. Since our emotions, which are bodily in origin, tend to try to override our higher faculties as an effect of the fall, we tend to love lesser things above those higher things that should mean the most. We tend to prefer our own bodily comforts, even when it may hurt others. And even our laudable love for family members can get in the way of the highest goods of the human race at times. Think of the man who refuses to go to war because of his love for his family, when it is precisely to protect them that he ought to go. All lesser loves can get in the way of that love which is most important, our love for God. And, in fact, all lesser loves will be made stronger if we get that highest love right.

Reflect & Discuss

Explore what this week’s Scripture readings have to say about the cost of true discipleship by watching the short *Opening the Word* video available free at StMichael.FORMED.org Discuss the following questions with a friend:

According to the Gospel reading and the video presentation, what are some of the requirements for true discipleship?

What does the presenter say it means when Jesus tells us we must hate our parents, siblings, other family members in order to truly follow him? Why is this necessary for true discipleship?

Which of the three requirements for discipleship do you find most challenging at this point in your life: preferring Jesus to anyone else, taking up your cross, or renouncing possessions? Why?

Prayer

Eternal God and Father, thank you for calling us to follow your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray for the courage to prefer you above all others, to take up our crosses, and to renounce our possessions. We offer you, Lord, our petitions for all our needs, especially _____. Amen.

Reprinted from the Opening the Word Leader Guide with permission from Augustine Institute.

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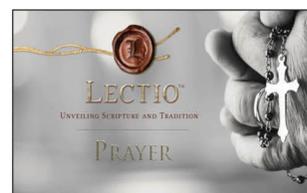
Lectio: Prayer

Session 1: Prayer

Prayer as a Conversation

Prayer is one of the most basic elements of a life of faith, but sometimes it feels like a one-way “conversation.” Dr. Gray shows how the solution to this problem can be found in the Scriptures.

Watch free at
StMichael.FORMED.org



“Dr. Tim Gray explains the practice of Lectio in a way that makes you thirst for more!”

—Debbie S., Austin, TX

Pray Throughout the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday 9/7

8:30am Terri Herigstad
5:00pm Helen Raskosky †
7:00pm Paula & Antonio Hernandez †
Margarita Tomas Ascencion †

Sunday 9/8

6:45am Ramiro Resendez †
8:00am Anthony & Catherine Sharkey †
9:30am Maureen Yost †
Donna Hawkins †
11:00am Gabriel & Rose Longoria †
12:30pm Pedro Franco †
6:00pm Mass for Our Parish

Monday 9/9

8:30am Eldon Lyons †

Tuesday 9/10

8:30am Agripino Nunez †

Wednesday 9/11

8:30am Francisco Xavier Nguyen
7:00pm Tomas Sanchez †

Thursday 9/12

8:30am Fernando Castro †

Friday 9/13

8:30am Hector Hernandez †

To request a Mass Intention, please visit the church office. It is customary to offer a \$10 donation for the priest celebrating the Mass.



Prayer Meditation

In today's Gospel reading, great crowds are going along with Jesus when he gives three conditions for true discipleship. Imagine yourself in this scene and Jesus speaking directly to you about these conditions. Jesus tells you that you must prefer him above anyone else. Is there anyone in your life that you are placing before God—for your approval, your sense of fulfillment, your sense of self-worth? Next, Jesus tells you that you must take up your cross and follow him. What cross might he be asking you to bear now? Finally, Jesus tells you that you must renounce your possessions. What thing(s) are you holding onto that is holding you back from true discipleship?

Resolution

Luke describes the crowds "traveling with" Jesus when our Lord gives these three conditions for taking the next step of becoming a true disciple. Tell Jesus that you don't want to just be a traveler. You want to be a disciple. Ask him to show you what you can do this week to "follow" him more closely as a disciple, rather than merely "travel with" him.

Weekly Prayer for Alpha

For those who are still undecided about attending the first Alpha dinner on September 9, that the Lord may inspire them and remove every obstacle in their way.

For all of our soon-to-be guests at Alpha, that God may continue to direct them toward our dinner events where they will encounter Jesus.

For our Alpha team, that they may receive abundant blessings and resources to welcome our guests and assist in bringing them to Jesus.

Fr Carl's Message of the Week



Humble Ministry

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ..."

Ephesians 4:11-12

Dear St Michael Family,

As we approach the Feast of St Michael Archangel celebrations, I would like to commend and praise God for the selfless dedication of our volunteers in our many ministries.

As we dig in deeply to the meaning and significance of ministry, let us be reminded that ministry means to serve in humility and in faith. It is first and foremost the act of answering a call from God and not just a job or activity that we like to do on our own terms. True ministering brings joy and peace, a smile to your face. In fact, ministers are so joyful in their work, that they want to give it away by inviting more people

to join the team.

Let us learn from the lives of the saints and countless parishioners who have toiled without seeking rest, who have served without looking for the reward of human praises. For at the end, our ministry is our way of thanking God for all His Blessings and all His graces.

God will continue to call and appoint people whom He desires to serve in His Church. The story of King David and his election to be the King of Israel is a vivid example of how God sees the humble and simple heart (1 Samuel 16). Jesus in the Gospel also is clear about this reality of vocation to ministry. It is not you who chose me, but I who chose you. (John 15:16)

Thank you, my fellow ministers! As lay ministers, God has called you not just to serve and build up the Church here at St Michael's, but also He has called you to the greater purpose: to let the light of Jesus shine wher-

ever you are in the world, to all the people you meet every day.

This year, as part of celebrating the Feast of St Michael the Archangel, we have incorporated the Ministry Fair for us to affirm your dedicated service to God. This is also an opportunity for other people and parishioners to know that we have many ministries that serve the spiritual and human needs of people in the name of Christ.

I hope and pray that each parishioner prays for the openness to hear God's call to serve in a ministry. It is my hope that all can dedicate their lives to humble service to God, in obedience to the precepts of our Holy Mother Church and for the greater glory of God.

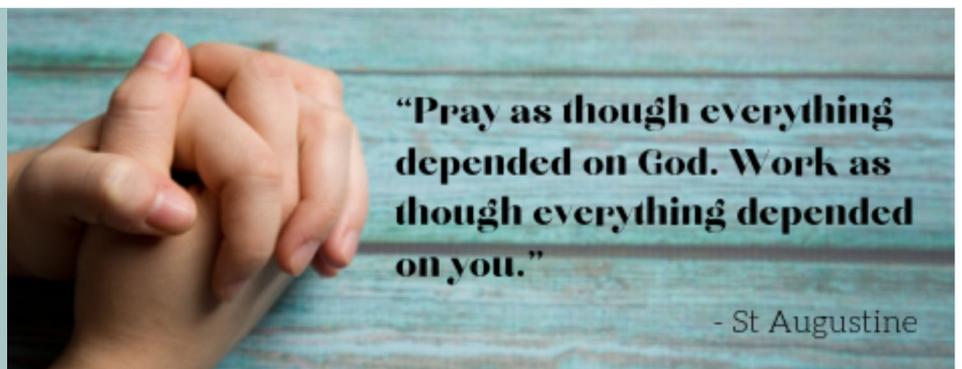
May God bless you and your families.

Fr Carl

Explore Our Ministries!

If you're ready to get involved? Explore St Michael ministries online at:

StMichaelLivermore.com/ready-get-involved



On the Calendar This Week

Alpha Starts on Monday, September 9

It's not too late to invite someone to Alpha. Enjoy a relaxing (FREE!) dinner, watch a video about the very basics of the Christian faith and enjoy a conversation. Alpha is designed for people who do not identify as Christians or who are not living a Christian life. RSVP at StMichaelLivermore.com/Alpha

Join LifeTeen and Edge - Sign Up Weekends on September 8 & 15

Is your teen looking for more friends, fun, and faith? "Edge" for 7-8th graders meets on Sundays in the convent at 3pm and "Lifeteen" for high school students meets on Sundays at 7pm after the 6pm Mass. Sign up after Mass!

Join Cub Scout Pack 903—September 11 at 7 pm in the Hall

Boys and girls in grades K-5 (and their parents) are invited to join us for our first pack meeting of the year! Pack 903 is the only Catholic-chartered Cub Scout pack in the Tri-Valley. Come and see what we're all about! Call/Text Andre Miron at 925-321-2542 or email at gnarly903@gmail.com

Wheelchair Sunday—September 14-15

The Livermore Knights of Columbus is partnering with the American Wheelchair Mission to raise funds and provide a life changing gift in the form of brand new wheelchairs to people with physical disabilities and lack of mobility. A second collection will be taken at Masses on Saturday, September 14th and Sunday, September 15th.

Catechetical Sunday—September 14 & 15

Those who have been designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry on September 14th at the 5pm and 7pm Masses and September 15th at the 9:30am, 11:00 am, 12:30pm and 6:00pm Masses.

Dress-a-Girl Sew Fest—September 14

Help make simple dresses for girls in poverty-stricken countries. Come help with sewing, ironing, cutting; bring your sewing machine or serger, iron, ironing board, scissors. Questions? Call Suzanne Beck at 925-352-8447

YOUNG ADULTS!

You've probably been on your parent's parish registration since you were a kid. Now it's time for you to have your own registration! Please stop by the Church office to complete a simple registration form and get your own envelope number.

NEWLY ENGAGED?

Congratulations! If you would like to get married at St Michael's, your first stop is to visit StMichaelLivermore.com/Weddings. Before you book your reception venue, you will need to make an appointment to meet with one of our priests.

INFANT BAPTISM

Ready to have your baby baptized? Please download the information packet online at: StMichaelLivermore.com/Baptism

ST VINCENT DE PAUL STORY

"Mary" recently lost her job and needed help with rent. She had a daughter attending Catholic high school and was concerned about the tuition. Mary asked us to pray that things would go well in her job interview the next day. We helped her with rent and prayed with her. Unfortunately, she did not get the job, but we have continued to help with gas cards, so she can get to scheduled job interviews. Please keep Mary in your prayers.

Is God calling you to be a Vincen-tian? Contact Janet Graham at janet.graham@comcast.net

Save These Dates!



Fall Bereavement Series Starts September 19 St Charles

The Grief Support Ministry for St Charles and St Michael is sponsoring an eight-week bereavement series on Thursdays from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, at St Charles, Sept 19—Nov 7. Please call or email Claire if you are interested in attending. 925-447-9800 or clairelascola@gmail.com

Feast of St Michael the Archangel September 20-29

Novena of Masses.
Parish Raffle.
Dinner Auction.
Ministry Fair.
(See next page for details)

Mass in Tagalog Sun, September 22 at 3:30 pm Church

Join us in celebrating Mass in Tagalog, followed by a potluck at the Hall!

Parish Offices Closed Monday, October 1 ... after the festival!

Blessing of the Animals Saturday, October 5 at 10 am Courtyard

In honor of St Francis of Assisi, we will bless our beloved pets! Bring your animal buddy for a special blessing. In order to keep the peace, please keep dogs on leashes and small pets inside carriers.

500th Anniversary of Catholic Christian Evangelization in the Philippines

Saturday, Oct 5, 8 am - 4 pm Church & Large Hall

Bring your family and friends to this free Diocesan event at St Michael's, celebrating 500 years of Filipino Catholic culture, from the islands to the mainland. Celebrate Mass with Bishop Alejandro Aclan, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles. Hear an inspiring talk by Bishop Mylo Hubert Vergara, Ordinary of the Diocese of Pasig, Philippines. Lunch will be served. Please register in advance at bit.ly/500thAnniversary

Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary Monday, October 7 at 7:00 pm

Rosary in 10 languages in the Parish Courtyard.

OCTOBER IS ROSARY MONTH

Pray with us every evening in October at 7:00 pm in the Courtyard.



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FEAST OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Hawaiian Dinner & Auction



Saturday, September 28 at 6:00 pm
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FEAST OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL



Novena of Masses

September 20 at 8:30 am	September 24 at 7:00 pm
September 21 at all Masses	September 25 at 7:00 pm (Spanish)
September 22 at all Masses	September 26 at 7:00 pm
September 23 at 7:00 pm	September 27 at 7:00 pm
	September 28 at all Masses

Offering nine Masses for those who have fallen away from the Faith and those who do not know Jesus.



FEAST OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Parish Ministry Fair

Sunday, September 29
9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Church Parking Lot



FREE Game Booths for Kids | Food Trucks | Entertainment
Ministry Information | Fellowship & Fun

FEAST OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Raffle!

First Prize
\$2,000 & Dinner with Fr Carl

Second Prize
\$1,000 & 55" TV

Third Prize
\$500 + Spa Package

Fourth Prize (x5)
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\$10 donation per ticket

Purchase tickets and return donation and stubs at the Church Office.





Ministerio con humildad y fe

"Y dio algunos, apóstoles; y algunos, profetas; y algunos, evangelistas; y algunos, pastores y maestros; para el perfeccionamiento de los santos, para la obra del ministerio, para la edificación del cuerpo de Cristo ...

" Efesios 4: 11-12

Querida familia de San Miguel,

Al acercarnos a las celebraciones de la Fiesta de San Miguel Arcángel, quisiera felicitar y alabar a Dios por la dedicación desinteresada de nuestros voluntarios en nuestros variados ministerios.

A medida que profundizamos en el significado y la importancia del ministerio, recordemos que el ministerio significa servir con humildad y fe. Es ante todo el acto de responder a un llamado de Dios y no solo a un trabajo o actividad que nos gusta hacer en nuestros propios términos. La verdadera ayuda trae alegría y paz, una sonrisa en el rostro. De hecho, los ministros están tan alegres en su trabajo que quieren invitar a

más personas a unirse al equipo.

Aprendamos de la vida de los santos e innumerables feligreses que han trabajado sin buscar descanso, que han servido sin buscar la recompensa de las alabanzas humanas. Porque al final, nuestro servicio es nuestra forma de agradecer a Dios por todas sus bendiciones y todas sus gracias.

Dios continuará llamando y nombrando a las personas a quienes desea que sirvan en su Iglesia. La historia del rey David y su elección para ser el rey de Israel es un vívido ejemplo de cómo Dios ve el corazón humilde y sencillo (1 Samuel 16). Jesús en el Evangelio también es claro acerca de esta realidad de vocación al ministerio. No eres tú quien me eligió, sino yo quien te eligió a ti. (Juan 15:16)

¡Gracias, mis colegas ministros! Como ministros laicos, Dios los ha llamado no solo a servir y edificar la Iglesia aquí en San Miguel, sino que también los ha llamado a un propósito mayor: dejar que la luz de

Jesús brille donde sea que estén en el mundo, a todas las personas que conocen diariamente.

Este año, como parte de la celebración de la Fiesta de San Miguel Arcángel, hemos incorporado la Feria del Ministerio para que podamos afirmar su dedicado servicio a Dios. Esta es también una oportunidad para que otras personas y feligreses sepan que tenemos muchos ministerios que sirven a las necesidades espirituales y humanas de las personas en el nombre de Cristo.

Espero y rezo para que cada feligrés pueda escuchar el llamado de Dios para servir en un ministerio. Espero que todos puedan dedicar sus vidas al servicio humilde a Dios, en obediencia a los preceptos de nuestra Santa Madre Iglesia y para la mayor gloria de Dios.

Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias.

P. Carl



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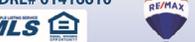
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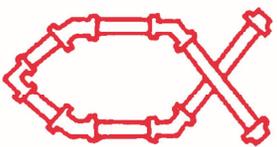
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Mass | Misa

Mon-Sat | Lu-Sa 8:30 am

Wed | Mi 7:00 pm (español)

First Friday | Primer viernes
12:00 pm

Sat Vigil | Vigilia del Sábado

5:00 pm (English), 7:00 pm (español)

Sunday | Domingo

6:45 am, 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am,
12:30 pm (español), 6:00 pm

**Sign Language | Lenguaje por
Señas**

1st Sun, 11:00 am

Primer domingo a las 11:00 am

Traditional Latin Mass

2nd Sun, 8:00 am

Tagalog

3rd Sun, 3:30 pm

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

Wednesdays in the Convent Chapel

2:30 pm

Anointing of the Sick |

Unción de los Enfermos

1st Saturday after 8:30 am Mass or
by appointment: 925-447-1585 |
1er sábado después de las 8:30 am
Misa o con cita previa: 925-447-
1585

Eucharistic Adoration |

Adoración Eucarística

24/7 in the Chapel. For after hours
access code, call 775-772-6369.

Office Hours | horas de oficina

M-F 9:00 am—5:00 pm
(Closed 12:00 pm—2:00 pm)

Clergy | Clero

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

**Pastoral Council |
Consejo Pastoral**

Pastoral Council Chair:
Mike Pereira
PC@StMichaelLivermore.com

Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Fidelis
Atuegbu, Jo Anne Lindquist, Frank
Draschner, Jeff Andersen, Cynthia
Garay, Alison Wilke and Glenda
Dubsky.

**Finance Council |
Consejo Financiero**

Finance Council Chair:
Edna McComb

Fr Carl Arcosa, Eric Hom, Edna
McCombe, Analy Palomino, Vanessa
Suarez and Erleene Echon

**St. Michael School |
Escuela de San Miguel**

925-447-1888 smliv.org

**Faith Formation in
English**

925-667-4096

Catecismo en Español

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

Ministerio Hispano

Veronica:
Hispano1@StMichaelLivermore.com
Ricardo:
Hispano2@StMichaelLivermore.com



Rev. Father Carl Arcosa, Pastor Pastor@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4057
Rev. Father Alfonso Borgen Parochial Vicar Padre@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4053
Rev. Deacon Bill Archer	925-447-1585
Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes DeaconD@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-447-1585
Eric Hom Business Manager Business@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4052
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School Front Office	925-447-1888
Alison Wilkie, School Principal awilkie@csdo.org	925-447-1888
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Joseph Garcia, Youth Ministry Youth@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4093
Tina Gregory Communication/Adult Enrichment Adult@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-667-4051
JaNet Hancock, Music Director Music@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-292-5071
Marjorie Melendez, RCIA RCIA@StMichaelLivermore.com	925-447-2925
RICA (español)	925-667-4053