



ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Welcoming • Faithful • Diverse

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MEET ENRIQUE "RICK" RODRIGUEZ, OUR PARISH'S NEW BUSINESS MANAGER SHARING EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH, AND HOPE WITH OUR COMMUNITY

For Rick Rodriguez, applying for a job at a church never really made sense because his work experience tied him to corporate America. Yet, when he was laid off from his job, despite the fact that it did not make sense, he decided to apply for a job with a church.

"I was guided to look into positions at the Diocese of Fort Worth, and that led to seeing an open position with St. Michael in Bedford," Rick says. "My wife and I visited the church before I was offered the job — it felt like home, so we joined the St. Michael family."

Rick is the new Business Manager here at St. Michael. He and his wife have already gotten involved in the parish. His wife joined the Catholic Daughters and will be an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, while Rick joined the Knights of Columbus and serves as a lector. They also participated at their first St. Michael Feast Day.

"We serve because it is the right thing to do," Rick says. "His grace pulled us through life-threatening medical issues — the least we can do is share our experience,



Rick (at left) is excited to have the opportunity to work in an environment where he can openly thank God, praise Him, pray with others, and grow in his faith.

CONOZCA A ENRIQUE "RICK" RODRÍGUEZ, GERENTE FINANCIERO DE NUESTRA PARROQUIA COMPARTIENDO EXPERIENCIA, FORTALEZA Y ESPERANZA CON LA COMUNIDAD

Para Rick Rodríguez, solicitar empleo en una iglesia no parecía lógico porque su trabajo le ataba a los negocios. Pero al ser despedido de su empleo, aun cuando no parecía lógico, decidió hacerlo.

"Me dijeron que solicitaría puestos en la Diócesis de Fort Worth, y eso me llevó a una plaza disponible en St. Michael, Bedford," dice Rick. "Mi esposa y yo visitamos la parroquia antes que me hicieran una oferta — Me sentí en casa, y nos unimos a la familia de St. Michael."

Rick es el nuevo Gerente Financiero en St. Michael. Su esposa y él ya se han involucrado en la parroquia. Su esposa participa en las Hijas

Católicas de América y será un ministro extraordinario de la Sagrada Comunión, mientras Rick es Caballero de Colón y lector. También participaron en su primer Festival de St. Michael.

"Servimos porque es lo correcto," dice Rick. "Su gracia nos trajo por crisis a

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A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

STEWARDSHIP POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS AT ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When I think of December, the first thing that comes to my mind is Advent and Christmas. While that may seem to be the obvious topic to think about, there really are several other possibilities. I could think of the Church's season of Advent. It does prepare us for Christmas, but its major theme is Christ's Second Coming in triumph at the end of time. I could think of the Immaculate Conception, the holy day which is the patronal festival of the United States. I could think of Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose popularity has spread far beyond the Hispanic community. And then December holds the first day of the season of winter. And because December marks the end of the civil year, I should think of organizing my financial papers for income tax and spend the latter part of the month developing my resolutions for the New Year.

But instead, I think about Christmas. It is one of the greatest feasts of the Christian year, along with Easter and Pentecost. That is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the babe in the manger in Bethlehem, who is the eternal Son of God made man.

The basic truth of Christmas, celebrating the birth of Jesus the Messiah, God Incarnate, is plenty of reason for us all to rejoice and worship. But we have piled such an additional load onto our Christmas observance that worship is often almost lost in the shuffle.

Think about what weight Christmas must bear: we send Christmas cards to people we contact at no other time of the year. We must put up wreaths and Christmas trees and lights. It is the time of year above all others to visit relatives — "home for Christmas" is a sort of national motto. There is a Christmas dinner to plan and cook. And then we have Christmas presents to buy. No wonder the Christ Mass becomes an afterthought!

Presents, at least, are a natural extension of the Christmas theme: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (Jn 3:16). As God loved us and expressed it by giving his Son, so we, in turn, share the love we have

received by giving to others. And it is natural to show the joy we feel at the birth of our Savior with decorations and festivities.

Maybe, though, we can combine our Christmas activities with our stewardship commitments. Treasure, although challenging, is the simplest. Shouldn't the most expensive Christmas present we give be the one to Jesus whose birthday we are celebrating? Risen and glorified, he needs nothing we have. But his Body, the Church, continues Jesus' mission here on earth and always needs additional resources.

Time and Talent may be a little more complicated, but can't we spend a little more of our time in worship and prayer? Drop into the Church for a visit to the Christmas Crib and offer a prayer of thanks for the gift of God's Son. Maybe you can attend Mass each day of the Christmas Octave. Have your family gather for prayers together in the morning or at dinner, in preparation for Christmas Day and through the Christmas season.

And Talent? There are lots of possibilities: Sing in the choir for the Christmas Masses. Help decorate the Church. Cook or bake for someone who is shut in. Invite someone who will be alone to share Christmas dinner with your family. Offer to work in a soup kitchen if you are alone. The possibilities are endless.

Yes, December means Christmas. But with a little planning, we can make this hectic time one of real blessing both for ourselves and others. Pray for me that I can keep Christmas properly, and I will pray for you. And by the way, have a merry Christmas!

In Christ,

Fr. Vijaya Raju Mareedu, SAC
Pastor



UNA CARTA DE NUESTRO PASTOR

LAS POSIBILIDADES DE CORRESPONSABILIDAD ABUNDAN EN EL ADVIENTO Y LA NAVIDAD

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Al pensar en diciembre, lo primero que viene a mi mente en el Adviento y la Navidad. Aunque parece un tema obvio, hay otras posibilidades. Podría pensar en la temporada de Adviento en la Iglesia. Nos prepara para la Navidad, pero su tema central es la Segunda Venida de Cristo, triunfal al fin de los tiempos. Puedo pensar en la Inmaculada Concepción, el día santo en que celebramos la Patrona de Estados Unidos. Puedo pensar en Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, cuya popularidad sobrepasa la comunidad hispana. Y diciembre señala el fin del año civil, y debo pensar en organizar mis papeles financieros para preparar los impuestos y pasar el resto del mes preparando mis resoluciones de año nuevo.

En vez de esto pienso en la Navidad. Es una de las grandes fiestas del año cristiano, junto a la Pascua y Pentecostés. Celebramos el nacimiento de Jesús, el niño en el pesebre en Belén, que es el Hijo de Dios hecho hombre.

La verdad básica de la Navidad, celebrar el nacimiento de Jesús, el Mesías, Dios hecho hombre, sería suficiente para que no regocijemos y veneremos. Pero hemos acumulado una carga adicional a nuestra fiesta de Navidad que la veneración con frecuencia se pierde en el bullicio.

Pensemos en la carga sobre la Navidad: enviamos tarjetas a personas que nunca contactamos. Colgamos guirnaldas, ponemos árboles y luces. Es el tiempo para visitar parientes – ir a casa en Navidad es un lema nacional. Debemos planificar y cocinar una cena. Tenemos que comprar regalos navideños. ¡No en balde se nos pasa la Misa!

Los regalos, al menos, siguen el tema de la Navidad: "Porque de tal manera amó Dios al mundo, que dio a Su Hijo unigénito..." (Juan 3:16). Tanto como nos amó Dios que nos dio a su Hijo, nosotros compartimos ese amor

dando a los demás. Y naturalmente mostramos nuestro júbilo por el nacimiento de Jesús, decorando y festejando.

Sin embargo, podemos combinar nuestras actividades navideñas con nuestros compromisos de corresponsabilidad. Tesoro, aunque un reto, es sencillo. ¿No debiese ser el mayor regalo el que damos a Jesús al celebrar su cumpleaños? Resucitado y elevado no necesita nada nuestro, pero Su Cuerpo, la Iglesia, sigue la misión de Jesús en la tierra y necesita recursos.

El Tiempo puede ser más complicado, pero ¿no podemos pasar tiempo en veneración y oración? Pasen por el templo, visiten el pesebre, oren dando gracias por el regalo del Hijo de Dios. Tal vez pueden ir a Misa diaria durante la octava de Navidad. Junte a su familia para orar en la mañana o en las comidas, preparándose para la Navidad y durante la temporada navideña,

¿Y el Talento? Abundan las posibilidades: cante en el coro en las Misas de Navidad, ayude a decorar la iglesia. Cocine para alguien recluido. Invite a quien está solo a cenar con su familia en Navidad. Ayude a servir a los necesitados si está solo. Hay infinidad de oportunidades.

Sí, diciembre es Navidad. Pero, con un poco de planificación, podemos hacer este ajetreado tiempo una verdadera bendición para nosotros y los demás. Oren por mí para que observe correctamente la Navidad, y yo oraré por ustedes. Por cierto, ¡feliz Navidad!

En Cristo,

Fr. Vijaya Raju Mareedu, SAC
Pastor



CHRISTMASTIME STEWARDSHIP

HOW WE CAN BRING HIS SON TO THE WORLD

It is common to give gifts during Advent and Christmas, but it is never enough just to leave it at that. True, Jesus gave *Himself* to us at the first Christmas. And, as always, we should strive to imitate Him by giving of *ourselves* in some way as we celebrate the anniversary of His birth. But there is a way to give even more than just we — by giving the gift of Christ to others. The seasons of Advent and Christmas are perfect opportunities to share the love and message of Jesus with others in a beautiful way.

Of course, giving of us in imitation of Jesus is a beautiful thing. But it is just as important to remember that, as human beings, we bear the likeness of God. As Catholics, our Lord literally dwells within us when we receive Him in the Eucharist. In turn, we do much more than imitate Jesus when we selflessly give of ourselves to others. Indeed, just as Mary carried Christ in her womb when she visited her cousin, Elizabeth, and just as she brought Him in her arms to Simeon as a newborn child, we can also literally bring Jesus Christ to the world.

What a profound task Our Lord has laid out for us this season! As He grew in Mary's womb, Jesus could only go

where Mary chose to take Him. Of course, He could not do anything — He could not even speak. Mary became His hands and feet, and even His voice. Mary could have stayed at home during her pregnancy, resting and preparing for life with a newborn, as most mothers do. But instead, the Blessed Mother helped her Son begin His mission by bringing Him to her cousin, Elizabeth. Today, in much the same way, Christ invites us to share Him with the rest of the world. He chooses to make His presence known through us.

How do we bring Jesus to those in our parish and community? We might visit a sick parishioner over the holidays, providing fellowship and support. We may consider serving a local soup kitchen, doing our part to make sure that the hungry are fed. We could help a tired friend clean her house, making life a little bit easier during this busy season. Or we can share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others. We might donate money so that a starving child in a poor country can have something to eat. These are just a few examples of how we can practice stewardship.

As Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, following is the schedule for our Sunday obligation:

Saturday, December 23 — 6:00 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 24 — 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Christmas Liturgy schedule:

Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) — 4:00 PM (Children's Choirs/Handbell Choir/English), 6:00 PM (Tongan Choir),
8:00 PM (Spanish Choir), Midnight (Adult Liturgical Choir/English)

Monday, December 25 (Christmas Day) — 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM **ONLY** (both in English)

New Year's Eve Schedule:

Saturday, December 30 – 6:00 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 31 — 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. **NO 5:00 PM Mass.**

Adoration is from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, 8:00 PM Vigil Mass.

Monday, January 1, 2024 (New Year's Day) — 9:00 AM (English), 11:00 AM (Spanish)



CORRESPONSABILIDAD NAVIDEÑA

CÓMO PODEMOS TRAER SU HIJO AL MUNDO

A costumbramos a dar regalos en Adviento y Navidad, pero no basta con eso. Ciertamente Jesús se nos entregó en la primera Navidad. Como siempre, debemos imitarle dando de nosotros al celebrar Su nacimiento. Pero hay un modo de dar más que nosotros – llevando Cristo a otros. Las temporadas de Adviento y Navidad son perfectas oportunidades de compartir amor y el mensaje de Jesús con otros de forma hermosa.

Por supuesto, entregarnos en imitación de Cristo es hermoso. Pero es importante recordar que, como humanos, somos creados en imagen de Dios. Como católicos, nuestro Señor vive en nosotros cuando Lo recibimos en la Eucaristía. A su vez, hacemos más que imitar a Jesús al entregarnos a otros. Tal como María cargaba a Jesús al visitar a su prima Isabel, y tal como le cargaba en brazos al ver a Simeón con el pequeño Niño, podemos literalmente llevar a Jesucristo al mundo.

¡Qué profunda tarea nos presenta el Señor en esta temporada! Como cuando crecía en el seno materno,

Jesús sólo podía ir dónde María le llevara. Por supuesto no podía hacer nada, ni siquiera hablar. María era Sus manos y pies, Su voz. María pudo permanecer en casa durante su embarazo, descansando y preparándose para el recién nacido, como muchas madres. Pero nuestra Santísima Madre ayudó a su Hijo a comenzar Su misión llevándole a su prima Isabel. Hoy de la misma manera Cristo nos invita a compartirle con el resto del mundo. El escoge estar presente por medio nuestro.

¿Cómo llevamos a Jesús a nuestra parroquia y comunidad? Podemos visitar a un feligrés enfermo en las fiestas, llevándole amistad y respaldo. Consideremos servir alimentos en un refugio, ayudando a alimentar al hambriento. Podemos ayudar a un amigo cansado a limpiar su casa, aliviando su carga en esta temporada. O podemos compartir la Buena Nueva de Cristo con otros. Podemos donar dinero para que un niño hambriento en un país pobre tenga alimentos. Esos son algunos ejemplos de cómo podemos ejercitarse nuestra responsabilidad en esta temporada.

Puesto que Nochebuena es en domingo, éste es el programa para la obligación dominical:

Sábado, 23 de diciembre — 6:00 PM Misa de Vigilia

Domingo, 24 de diciembre — 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM y 11:00 AM

Agenda de liturgia de Navidad:

Domingo, 24 de diciembre (Nochebuena) — 4:00 PM (Coro de Niños/Coro de Campanas/inglés), 6:00 PM (Coro Tongano), 8:00 PM (Coro hispano), Medianoche (Coro Litúrgico de adultos/inglés)

Lunes, 25 de diciembre (Navidad) — 9:00 AM y 11:00 AM **SOLAMENTE** (ambas en inglés)

Fin de Año:

Sábado, 30 de diciembre — 6:00 PM Misa de Vigilia

Domingo, 31 de diciembre — 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM y 1:00 PM. **NO hay Misa de 5:00 PM**

Adoración de 7:00 PM a 8:00 PM, 8:00 PM Misa de Vigilia.

Lunes, 1 de enero de 2024 (Año Nuevo) — 9:00 AM (inglés), 11:00 AM (español)



VISITING MINISTRIES BRING THE EUCHARIST TO THE FAITHFUL BEYOND OUR PARISH WALLS

Here at St. Michael, we strive to be a welcoming faith community. Many members of our parish family can't make it to weekly Mass — one way to be welcoming is to go out to them. So, we are blessed with dedicated stewards who take time each week to bring the Eucharist to those who can't attend Mass. This is a way to make them feel connected to our parish family. The homebound and those in hospitals, assisted living facilities and nursing homes all have the opportunity to receive the Eucharist weekly.

As Deacon Tom Doran says, this ministry is ultimately all about hospitality.

"The mission of our ministers is to greet everyone with a smile, spend some time with them and make sure they feel connected to St. Michael Parish and, most importantly, to Christ," Deacon Tom says.

Some of the people our ministers visit may have no other contact with a person all week. So, the minister's visit is a true gift. Deacon Tom adds that this ministry also shows dignity to the person receiving the Eucharist. The minister even brings the person the parish bulletin.

To show the importance of this ministry, the ministers are called forward after Communion at Sunday Mass to fill their pyx with the Eucharist. Our whole parish prays for them. Our parish priests also hold Mass at some of



the facilities on rotation. The Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick are also offered.

While some of our parishioners cannot physically be with us at Mass, they are an important part of our parish family.

"There is no better way to live out our baptismal call to serve others than to be the light of Christ to those who are unable to worship with our faith community at Mass," Deacon Tom says. "As with many ministries, you receive so much more than you can possibly give by bringing Christ to those in need."

Carolyn Dominik has brought the Eucharist to local nursing homes for about seven years. Before that, she visited nursing homes to just be with people — so this ministry has been a perfect way to continue that.

"I knew this is where I belong," she says. "This is where the Lord wants me."

Some of the people Carolyn visits have Alzheimer's and are bed-bound. Even though many of them don't speak, Carolyn can see that light in their eyes when they receive the Eucharist.

"This is such a blessing to them and me," she says.

Carolyn would encourage others to be part of this important work of bringing the Eucharist outside our parish walls.

If you would like to bring the Eucharist to the homebound, contact Brittany Boudreau at brittanylynnboudreau@gmail.com; to those in hospitals, contact Tom Cayot at tmcayot@hotmail.com; to those in nursing homes, contact Carolyn Dominik at 817-578-9605.

MINISTERIOS VISITANTES LLEVAN LA EUCHARISTÍA A LOS FIELES FUERA DE LOS MUROS PARROQUIALES

Aquí en St. Michael, nos esforzamos en ser una comunidad de fe acogedora. Muchos miembros de la comunidad parroquial no pueden venir a la Misa semanal – una manera de acogerles es ir a ellos. Somos bendecidos con discípulos corresponsables que sacan tiempo semanalmente para llevar la Eucaristía a quienes no pueden asistir a Misa. Es una forma de mantenerlos conectados a la familia parroquial. Los recluidos en casa, en hospitales, o en casas de cuido tienen la oportunidad de recibir la Eucaristía semanal.

Como nos dice el Diácono Tom Doran, este ministerio es en esencia sobre hospitalidad. "La misión de nuestros ministros es saludar a todos con una sonrisa, pasar tiempo con ellos, y asegurar su conexión con la parroquia de St. Michael y, principalmente, con Cristo," dice el Diácono Tom.

Algunas de las personas que nuestros ministros visitan no ven a otra persona toda la semana. La visita del ministro es verdaderamente un regalo. El Diácono Tom añade que este ministerio muestra la dignidad de quien recibe la Eucaristía. El ministro incluso le entrega el boletín parroquial.

Para mostrar la importancia de este ministerio, los ministros son llamados luego de la Comunión para recibir el Pyx con la Eucaristía. Toda la parroquia

ora por ellos. Nuestros sacerdotes celebran la Misa en algunas facilidades en rotación. Se ofrecen los sacramentos de Reconciliación y Unción.

Aunque algunos feligreses no pueden acompañarnos en Misa, son parte importante de nuestra familia parroquial.

"No hay mejor manera de vivir el llamado bautismal de servir a otros que ser la luz de Cristo para quienes no pueden participar en Misa con la comunidad," dice el Diácono Tom. "Como en muchos ministerios, recibimos más de lo que damos al llevar a Cristo a los necesitados."

Carolyn Dominik ha llevado la Eucaristía a casas de cuido por los pasados siete años. Antes visitaba los lugares para estar con la gente – este ministerio es la prolongación ideal.

"Sabía que era mi lugar," dice. "Aquí me quiere el Señor."

Algunas personas vistadas por Carolyn tienen Alzheimer y están encamadas. Muchas de ellas no hablan, Carolyn ve la luz en sus ojos al recibir la Eucaristía.

"Es una bendición para ellos y para mí," dice.

Carolyn anima a otros a unirse al esfuerzo por llevar la Eucaristía a quienes están recluidos.

Si quiere llevar la Eucaristía a los recluidos, comuníquese con Brittany Boudreau en brittanylynnboudreau@gmail.com; para los hospitalizados con Tom Cayot en tmcayot@hotmail.com; para las casas de cuido, comuníquese con Carolyn Dominik al 817-578-9605.





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LITURGY SCHEDULE

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 6:00 PM Vigil (English)
Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM (English),
1:00 PM (Español)
Monday through Friday: 8:30 AM (English)
Wednesday: 5:30 PM (English)
Thursday: 7:00 PM (Español)

CONFESION

Thursday: 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
Saturday: 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

ADORATION

Weekly Adoration: Friday, 9:00 AM - Noon
First Friday Adoration: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

MEET ENRIQUE "RICK" RODRIGUEZ

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strength, and hope with others. We have always tried to be active members of our parish. The fact that I work where I worship has turned out to be a more fulfilling experience than I thought it would be."

Rick and his wife were both raised Catholics, so there were a lot of things about the faith that they simply accepted. They are now taking the opportunity to strengthen their faith through learning, studying and actively participating in being Catholic.

"Music helped me connect with the Church and my family growing up made sure I stayed Catholic," Rick says. "Lifelong friendships were made at St. Thomas and CCD classes. Later, St. Patrick's Cathedral and All Saints helped our young family establish ourselves. We sacrificed to make Catholic education a priority for all three kids, and we volunteered every step of the way to ensure we were there for their formation."

Rick is excited to have the opportunity to work in an environment where he can openly thank God, praise Him, pray with others, and grow in his faith.

"All the challenges and growing pains are normal — thank you for giving me the opportunity to stub my toe as I learn to work in a church," Rick says. "I trust you all and look forward to seeing what God does with this diverse team of doers."

CONOZCA A ENRIQUE "RICK" RODRÍGUEZ

continuó desde la portada

la experiencia y esperanza con otros. Siempre tratamos de ser miembros activos de la parroquia. Trabajar donde rindo culto es una experiencia enriquecedora, más de lo esperado."

Rick y su esposa fueron criados como católicos, y aceptaban gran parte de la fe. Ahora se dan la oportunidad de fortalecer su fe aprendiendo, estudiando y participando activamente en ser católicos.

"La música me ayuda a conectarme con la Iglesia y mi familia, al crecer me ayudó a permanecer como católico," dice Rick. "Desarrollé grandes amistades en Santo Tomás y las clases de CCD. Luego la Catedral de San Patricio y Todos los Santos ayudaron a nuestra creciente familia a establecernos. Nos sacrificamos para dar prioridad a una educación católica para nuestros tres hijos y fuimos voluntarios para participar en su formación."

Rick se emociona por la oportunidad de trabajar en un ambiente donde puede agradecer a Dios, alabarle, orar con otros, y crecer su fe.

"Los retos y problemas son normales – gracias por permitirme los errores mientras aprendo a trabajar en una parroquia," dice Rick. "Espero que anticipen ver lo que Dios hace con este equipo."