

Established
July 5, 1840

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

We are disciples who act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God.

Churches: † Immaculate Conception-Holualoa † Holy Rosary-Kalaoa † St. Paul's-Kawanui † St. Peter's by-the-Sea-Kahalu'u
St. Michael's Church 75-5769 Alii Drive | Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 | Phone: (808) 326-7771

Email Address: stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org / Office Hours: Monday through Friday | 9am—4:30pm

WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES: 7am Monday through Saturday at St. Michael the Archangel

WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES: 5pm Mon Tues Thurs Fri (English) & 6pm Wed (Spanish) at Immaculate Conception

Adoration: Wednesday 7:30am—4:45pm / **Confessions:** Saturday 9am at St. Michael's Church

WEEKEND MASSES: Sat 4pm, Sun 7am, 9am, 1:30pm, 4pm / **SPANISH MASS:** Sun 11:30am

Gift Shop Hours: Mon - Tue - Wed - Fri 9:30am - 1:30pm & Sun 6:30am - 2:30pm

Website: saintmichaelparishkona.org **January 7, 2024 | 7 de enero 2024**

The Epiphany of the Lord

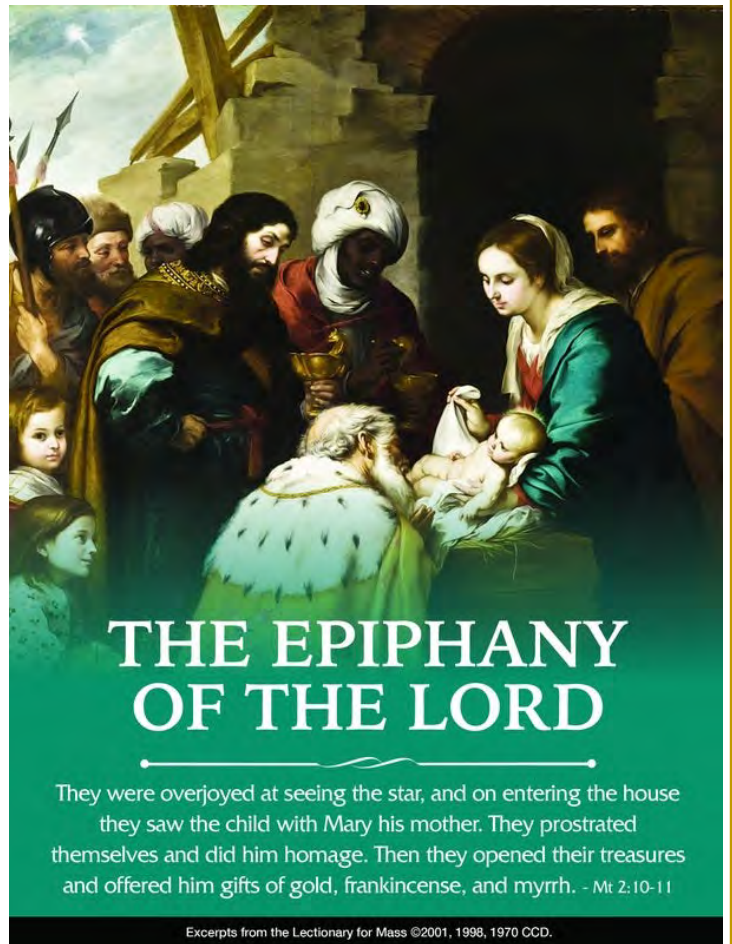
Reading I - **Isaiah 60:1-6** | Psalm - **72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13** | Reading II - **Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6** | Gospel - **Matthew 2:1-12**
Primera Lectura - **Isaías 60:1-6** | Salmo - **71:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13** | Segunda Lectura - **Efesios 3:2-3,5-6** | Evangelio - **Matias 2:1-12**

PARTNERS IN THE PROMISE

As a society, during these days we can be in something of a “postpartum” depression. Our celebrations of Christmas and the New Year are over, and after today many of us will put away the decorations and the last visible remnants of the celebrations of the past weeks. The apostle Paul today uses the expression “partners in the promise.” This is an uplifting phrase for us to reflect upon, and to think of as our own calling in these days following the birth of the Lord. What is this promise? We can find it in the gifts the magi bring: it is a promise of being a royal priesthood (gold), a holy nation (frankincense), a people set apart for self-giving (myrrh). We find more of the promise in Isaiah—a light shines upon us! In the psalm we know a promise of a world of flowering justice, profound peace, the poor rescued, pity for the lowly and the poor. This is the promise; and one of the best ways for us to lift ourselves out of any possible low spirits we may be suffering is to live out our partnership in this promise each and every day.

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“See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the people; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory.” - Isaiah 60:2



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Reading/Primera Lectura: **1 Samuel (1 Samuel) 3:3-10,19**

Psalm/Salmo: **42:2,4,7-8,8-9,10/39:2,4ab,7-8a,8b-9,10**

2nd Reading: **1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a,17-20**

Segunda Lectura: **(1Corintios) 6:13-15,17-20**

Gospel/Evangelio: **John (Juan) 1:35-42**

Aloha! Welcome to Our Parish - We hope you will find our parish community a place where your faith will be nourished. We encourage you to register with the parish. Registration forms are available in the kiosk, or can be completed online at saintmichaelparishkona.org. To our visitors, we pray that you enjoy your stay in Kona and are blessed with safe travels home.

January 7, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

It's interesting how an event can be interpreted by different people. God's revelation of himself in the birth of the child Jesus is clearly one such event. The Magi, Gentiles from the east, had heard of this "newborn king of the Jews" and undertook a long and arduous journey to see him and offer him homage. They were edified and eager in their search. Herod, himself a king - of the Jews - did not have the same reaction. The very thought of this "newborn king" threatened him and filled him with rage and suspicion. In this moment in human history, the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles (i.e., the Epiphany) unveils the truth of God's redemptive work for all of creation to be reconciled to himself. This truth has been accepted and rejected throughout time, and our celebration of this feast gives us an opportunity to give thanks in a focused and particular way for our acceptance of it - to give thanks for the gift of our faith. Perhaps it is even a moment for us to have our own, colloquial epiphany: an "aha moment," where we once again truly understand the depth of God's love for us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The Magi, the Gentiles from the east, were changed after their encounter with the Christ Child; they were warned not to return to Herod and they obeyed and took a different route home. In today's second reading, St. Paul says it has been revealed that Gentiles are "coheirs, members of the same body" - the body of Christ. Just as the magi were forever changed by their journey, so must we be. Their journey is a model for us, but we do not have to seek Christ in the world as they did; he is here with us, in Word and in the Eucharist. The Incarnation of Jesus is pure gift to our weary, troubled world. As we heard in Isaiah, "rise up! ... [our] light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon [us]." As the Magi followed the light of the star, let us rise to the occasion and respond to God's light in our world by recognizing the good gifts God gives us each day. And then thank him for his enduring presence in our lives.

PRAY *Lord God of heaven and earth,
you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation
by the guidance of a star ...
Fill us with the light of Christ,
that our concern for others may reflect your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

(from USCCB Epiphany prayer for blessing of home)

Life of Stewardship

Today, we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. The Gospel account of the three magi traveling to meet Baby Jesus is one that we know well. Yet, when we pause to reflect on this moment when these men met Christ for the first time, we recognize that there is much to be said for us still today.

When the magi entered the house, it says, "they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage." Clearly these men knew that they were in the presence of their King. They also came bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, which symbolize Christ's kingship, divinity, and humanity.

Christ is still manifesting Himself to us today. We enter God's house weekly, and we are in His presence. When we meet Him, do we offer Him our gifts - our time, talent, and treasure? As Christian stewards, we are called to respond with love, reverence, and gratitude.

Let us prepare our hearts to receive Christ's many manifestations in our lives. We just need a grateful disposition to receive them. - *Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship*

Parish News

Annual Parish Retreat - Saturday, January 27

Our annual Parish Retreat will be held on Saturday, January 27 beginning with our daily Mass at 7am until 1pm.

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided and there is no cost to attend. Please RSVP to the office at 808-326-7771.

Our speaker will be Fr. Godfrey Mullen, OSB - a dynamic and engaging speaker that has led retreats across the country. This retreat offers a time for spiritual renewal. The focus will be on God's call to live as good stewards in Thanksgiving to Him who feeds us with His own Body and Blood. This is an invitation to reflect on God's unconditional love for us and our response to that love. With an emphasis on the Eucharist, attendees will learn more about its impact on our lives and how we can grow closer to Christ by availing ourselves of His true presence. Come and grow closer to Jesus!

Consecration to God the Father Ministry

Please join us in prayer to honor God Our Father, **Sunday, January 7 following the 1:30pm Mass at St. Michael's South Lanai.** We will pray Consecration Prayers to God Our Father and Divine Mercy.

Volunteer for the 2024 Homeless PIT Count

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. Our Hawaii Island count is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23 to Monday, January 29, 2024. To volunteer, scan the QR code or email volunteer@hopeserviceshawaii.org. Attend ONE of the Trainings hosted on Zoom: Wednesday, 1/10 from 9-11am OR Friday, 1/12 from 1-3pm.



National Human Trafficking Prevention

January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. On Thursday, January 11, members of the St. Michael's community are invited to join others in the community together

with Ho'ola Nā Pua (HNP) staff to peacefully sign wave bring-ing awareness to the issue of sex trafficking and the ex-ploitation of our youth. Meet the HNP team on Henry Street in front of the Walmart parking lot at 3:30 p.m. to pick up signs and sign wave from 4-6 pm. Signs will be provided or bring your own that comply with instructions when you sign up. To sign up and for more info go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/human-trafficking-awareness-day-hoola-na-pua-sign-waving-tickets-782424662227?aff=oddttdcreator> or email shirleydavid49@gmail.com.

Knights of Columbus Council 13227

This month's meeting will be held on **Monday, January 15 at 5:45pm in the Grace Parish Center.** All visiting Knights and prospective new members are welcome.

Santo Niño de Cebú - January 21, 2024

The feast day of Santo Niño de Cebú comes each year on the third Sunday in January, and is a big celebration in the Philippines. This is a devotion that centers around the image of the Christ child, and celebrates the conversion of the Philippines to Christianity. The festival, known for street parties, parades, and dancing, is called Sinulog meaning "like water current movement"- based on the movement of the dance which tells the History of the conversion to Christianity. This year, our parish will celebrate Santo Niño de Cebú at our 9am Mass on Sunday, January 21. Bring your favorite Filipino dessert to share after Mass.

We will also celebrate with other parishes islandwide at our 4pm Mass with a reception to follow in the Grace Parish Center. Everyone is welcome to join!

Spiritual Book Club

The Spiritual Book Club will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 4pm - 5:30pm in the Grace Parish Center. The first meeting will be on January 25th.

Our first book is Richard Rohr's **Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life**. There are two versions available and can be found on Amazon in hard-back or kindle versions. An alternative source for the original version is Second Sale. We look forward to seeing everyone on January 25th! For more information, contact Dennis Boyd through the Parish Office.

Immigration Ministry Seminar - February 11

Join us on February 11 at 12:30pm in the Grace Parish Center for an informational one-hour seminar on immigration by attorney Evita, who will discuss federal immigration laws. If you, or someone you know from any country in the world, are here in the USA without legal status and are not sure where to begin the process to become legal, this is a must attend. All immigration questions will be answered. For more information, email Evita at evitatolu@outlook.com.

Faith Formation Grades K-5

Faith Formation classes for K-5 will resume on Sunday, January 7th after the 9:00 Mass. Due to the Martin Luther King holiday, no classes will be held on January 14th.

Stewardship of Treasure

Dec 25th - Dec 31st, 2023

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 11,057.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 12,482.00
GRACE PARISH CENTER CAMPAIGN	\$ 96,073.00

Parish Center Update

We have collected **\$4,718,008.55** for the Parish Center Campaign, which includes pledge payments.

Mahalo for your continued generosity.

Offerings can be mailed directly to the parish office; or click on our website's "Online Giving" to share your blessings.

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2024

MONTHLY DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT: **\$10,831.00**

MONTHLY 'OHANA IN CHRIST ASSESSMENT: **\$1,724.18**

The above amounts fund Diocesan ministries, as listed in *'Ohana in Christ* to help support our parishes, pastors, schools, service agencies, and communities within the Diocese of Honolulu.

Online Giving

St. Michael's Church provides **Online Giving** - a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy - visit saintmichaelparishkona.org and click our **ONLINE GIVING** tab. Your gift will be securely transferred directly to the parish bank account.

Faith Formation/Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

We will have a Youth Retreat for Grades 6-12 on Saturday, January 13 in the Grace Parish Center from 9am to 5pm.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

The OCIA classes for January will be held on January 8 and January 22 **from 5:45pm - 7:15pm** in the **Grace Parish Center**.

Charismatic Prayer Group

The Charismatic Prayer Group will meet on **Tuesday, January 9** from 6:30 - 8pm in the Grace Parish Center. Join us as we deepen our relationship with Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit with praise & worship, teachings & sharing in person and by video, discussion and prayers.

New Bible Study Class starts January 18

Our Bible Study class starts on January 18th. *Romans: The Gospel of Salvation* is an eight-week Bible study that will help make sense of the difficult passages regarding faith, works of the law, and justification. It will provide an authentically Catholic, comprehensive, and simple way to understand this challenging epistle. Participants will meet **weekly on Thursdays from 10:30am - 12 Noon** to view an engaging video presentation followed by group discussion. For more info or to register, email Hin at hcheung@hawaii.rr.com.

The Epiphany of the Lord

A stranger in a foreign land, I was exhausted and homesick as my summer Spanish immersion ended in Guatemala. The rusty minivan arriving outside my small residence filled

me with joyful hope. I was flying home to the U.S. and would be, at long last, completely happy. Or so I thought. After about half an hour of being home, I thought to myself, "This place is boring. I want to go somewhere." So, I hopped in my car and left to see my friends. As I drove, I wistfully wondered, "Where am I truly at home?"

The feast of Epiphany has a lot to do with our notion of home. Where is our origin? Where are we going? When is our wandering done? Saint Matthew tells us of the Magi, "They were overjoyed at seeing the star." This star will bring them home, to a place where their questing will end, and they will be satisfied. Their real home is neither in the East nor in the earthly Jerusalem. Somehow, their home is wherever this boy and his parents are.

If you're a teenager or older, you probably know by now that every physical home we have is temporary. So, we look up at the countless stars in our proverbial skies: things which bedazzle and beckon us to follow toward peace. The Gospel invites us to behold that; at long last, God has sent us a star to follow home, one that whispers, "Follow me! I will take you home!" Perhaps that star is your spouse. A friend. An opportunity. A cause. An intuition about a new direction. A prayer group. What is it for you? How will you know? It will lead you to Mary and Joseph and their son, and you will be home.

- Father John Muir, ©LPi

Treasures From Our Tradition

Epiphany celebrates the wake-up calls of life, the showings of God's majesty and power in the person of Jesus. The feast alerts us to look for signs of the Lord's grace and action in our lives today. In this context, the call of the Second Vatican Council to reform the sacramental life of the Church, including our pattern of care for the sick, is indeed a holy awakening.

Prior to the 1960s, our care for the sick had collapsed in the popular imagination into something everyone called "last rites." An immensely complicated ritual, with anointing accompanied by quickly muttered Latin prayers, was enacted for a marginally conscious person at "death's door." By the time a priest was called, the sick person might not be able to receive viaticum, or derive much personal benefit from the ritual. The healing effects of the sacrament, investing suffering with the dignity of a link to Christ's cross, and the immense assurance of forgiveness for a person reviewing the life journey, were hidden. Suddenly, an epiphany swept through the Church, and the way we care for the sick was utterly transformed. It took several centuries, however, for the Church to reach that moment of renewal.

- Rev. James Field, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Everyday Stewardship - It's All About Love

My mother-in-law was the best gift-giver I ever knew. One could say my parents spoiled me growing up, but there was something about her gifts to me that made me feel overwhelmed. I guess it was that after several years

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REV. ROYD MWEEMBA
Parochial Vicar

REV. HENRY GUILLEN-VEGA
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CAROLYN LIVINGSTON
Gift Shop Manager

SUSAN KEEN
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Administrative Assistant
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I still was surprised that she would think enough of me to get me something no one else would. She was able to make me feel special every time. Of course, I believe she honored me in this way because I accepted her greatest gift to me, her daughter.

Sadly, my mother-in-law did not live long in this world. She passed away over a decade ago due to an aggressive cancer. Some of her material gifts to me remain, while others are long gone. But the memories and the effect of those gifts remain because it was never all about the gifts themselves. It was about relationship. It was about her and me. It was about love.

What we offer Jesus is never about the gift itself. It is about the motivation behind the action and the effect that action has on the body of Christ. Many of the gifts we give today to God and his people will fade away like the mist of the early morning, but the effects of those actions will last forever. It is about relationship. It is about God and us. It is about love. - Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments - Step Into the Light

How strange it is to think that if not for Herod's directions, the magi would not have known where to find Jesus. They were not Jews, they knew nothing of the old prophecies. It was Herod who convened the scholars. It was Herod who pointed the way - for ulterior motives, certainly, but nonetheless, this is the part he played. It was Herod who made the Epiphany possible.

"Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance," writes the prophet (Isaiah 60:3). A king may keep to the shadows, suspicious of the light - he may foolishly imagine he can snatch it from the sky to keep as his own possession, and, upon finding the light cannot be governed, grow to loathe it, and even seek to extinguish it once and for all.

But all his grand designs will come to nothing because there is no king so powerful that he can see in the dark. And even a man like Herod - a man so jealous that he sought to kill God - cannot prevent the breaking of day.

The Epiphany marks the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. It is a celebration of truth reaching places it was not expected to reach, of brightness illuminating corners of the world long ago consigned to shadow. It is a reminder that the battle has already been won, the night is over. All that remains is for us to decide: will we step into the light?

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman, ©LPI

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH

- 4pm - Louella Branco, Special Intention

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

- 7am - Robert "Bob" McClean, Rest in Peace
- 9am - Janice Unger, Rest in Peace
- 1:30pm - Bartolome N. de Guzman, Rest in Peace
- 4:00pm - Marcelino Bacxa, Rest in Peace

MONDAY, JANUARY 8TH

- 7am - Jack & Joy, for Healing
- 5pm - Lolita V. de Guzman, Rest in Peace

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9TH

- 7am - Amalefoa Molio'o for Healing
- 5pm - Amparo A. Villanueva, Rest in Peace

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10TH

- 7am - MISSA PRO POPULO

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11TH

- 7am - Amalefoa Molio'o for Healing
- 5pm - Jeff Freeman, Rest in Peace

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12TH

- 7am - Amalefoa Molio'o for Healing
- 5pm - For all the Faithful Departed and for the Poor Souls in Purgatory

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13TH

- 7am - Wynnumb Sabile, Blessings

Requesting a Mass Intention

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **326-7771**. If you'd like to request a specific day and Mass time, **please call well in advance of the date to secure it.**

Mass cards are available.

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat..."

—Matthew 25:35

The Food Pantry Ministry

The Food Pantry is open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from **9 - 9:45am at Immaculate Conception Church Parking Lot.**

Courage to Follow a Star

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Isaiah 60:1-6 - Glory of the new Zion
- ▶ Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 - Commission to preach God's plan
- ▶ Matthew 2:1-12 - The visit of the Magi

The Feast of the Epiphany brings the Christmas season to a close as the Magi visit the infant Jesus. "Epiphany" is a Greek word meaning a "showing" or "manifestation." In this context it refers to the public recognition of Jesus as the newborn king of the Jews.

Not much is known about the Magi: their names, their country of origin, or even how many there were is never mentioned in the Bible. So who were they? In Jesus' time, the term Magi referred to a caste of Persian priests. They were astrologers who looked to the stars as guides. We don't know their place of origin, except that it was from somewhere east of the Holy Land, perhaps Arabia or the Syrian desert because of the gifts they brought.

Whoever they were, the mysterious people who came to worship Jesus were pagan foreigners. They would have been well-educated and wealthy. They were also seekers, willing to give up the comforts of their daily lives for a long journey to an unknown destination. They were courageous enough to seek an audience with the feared tyrant, King Herod. Clearly, something very powerful was drawing them, and they trusted that they were being led. Later, they trusted their dreams that they should not return to Herod and returned to their homes by a different route. We can only wonder how their lives

CHURCH SURVEY p.1:
IS THE CHURCH MEETING YOUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS?
 yes
 no

CHURCH SURVEY p.2:
WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR US?

THERE'S ALWAYS A CATCH...

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"Upon you the Lord shines ... Nations shall walk by your light."

Sheepish Epiphany:
Wait—AM I shining the light of Christ for anyone?

were changed by the baby and the Holy Family they met.

Questions of the Week

- 1 What new thing(s) did the scriptures reveal to you this Christmas season about who Jesus is in your life or whom he wants to be for you?
- 2 In what ways are you called to be like the Magi, courageous and trusting although you may not know where you are being led?

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JFD

*Congratulations to our Island Treasures 2023!
 Mahalo for living a stewardship life of service in ministry to our parish!
 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10*



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 Brother Joseph Dutton, please pray for me.
 I will be forever thankful if you present my
 request to God through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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