

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

 ${\bf Email\ Address:\ stmichael archangel@rcchawaii.org\ /\ Office\ Hours:\ Monday\ through\ Friday\ |\ 9am-4:30pm$

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

(starting January 5th) WEEKEND MASSES: Sat 4pm, Sun 7am, 9am, 4pm / SPANISH MASS: Sun 12 noon

Gift Shop Hours: Sun 7:30am - 11:00am

Website: saintmichaelparishkona.org January 5, 2025 | 5 de enero de 2025

The Epiphany of the LORD

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

FINDING GOD

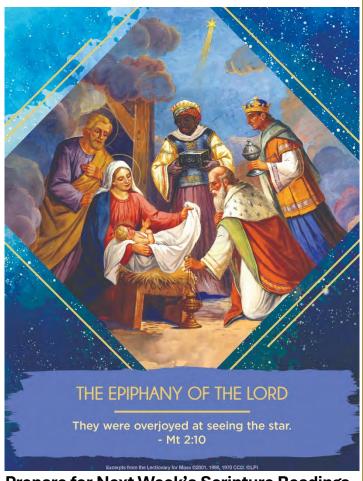
The splendid magi, all sparkle and dash and solemnity, march right up off the pages of Matthew's Gospel and into our churches today. Matthew alone tells us this grand and seductive story so that we might see the light and know that the child these magi visited is the fulfillment of prophecy, the king of the world that stretches to the magi's home country and beyond, right down the ages to us.

We too see and understand anew. Like the magi, our patron saints for this day, we see in the newborn child the king of the universe and light of the world. Like the magi, we find in ourselves a new faith and a new life. Like them, we return to our home by a new route.

We are asked to come away from this festive season ourselves renewed and awake to the presence of God among us. We are asked to find God where God is to be found, to be attentive and surprised and ready to bow down in adoration and to offer our gifts. - Copyright J.S. Paluch Co.

PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do you, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Reading/Primera Lectura: Isaiah (Isaías) 40:1-5,9-11 Psalm/Salmo: 104(103):1b-2,3-4,24-25,27-28,29-30 2nd Reading/Segunda Lectura: Titus (Tito) 2:11-14;3:4-7 Gospel/Evangelio: Luke (Lucas) 3:15-16,21-22

NEW Sunday Mass Schedule starting January 5 - 7am, 9am, 4pm (English) 12noon (Spanish)

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.

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

Deeply fatigued from their perilous journey, the three wise men must have been filled with doubt and hope in equal. measure, wondering if the star would truly lead them to the promised King. "Is this really worth it?" they may have questioned. "Will we ever meet this child?" And then, in a single gaze. Christ broke into the world of humanity. In this perfect encounter with the Son of God, the wise men "prostrated themselves" and "opened their treasures" before him - in all his glory and all his innocence. We, on our earthly pilgrimage, may relate to feeling exhausted, full of both hope and heartache, as we wait and wonder where we will meet Jesus, Today, remember, he is here, among us. Waiting for our presence, waiting for our heart, Like today's Scripture from Isaiah, the Magi must have experienced their hearts throbbing and overflowing with wonder and awe at the sight of their long-awaited King.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

"Your light has come!" What thrilling words these must have been, proclaimed to a world that had been shrouded in darkness, eagerly - desperately - waiting for their God to save them. And not only has their light come, with it came a promise that this light would guide all nations. Yet this invitation to light, to freedom, also comes with a great responsibility. This light that came into the world isn't just for us to follow; it is also for us to reflect to others. In today's world, this may not involve leading flocks of sheep or strumming a 10-stringed lyre, but it does call us to live as radiant witnesses of Christ's love, always singing his praise! Perhaps this means living joyfully despite our suffering. Maybe it looks like practicing generosity, when we feel like we have little left to give or remaining hopeful in a bleak situation. We are called to praise at all times, but it takes different forms in the different seasons of our life. Whatever season we find ourselves in, let us, like the Magi, seek the King, trusting in his promise and following his light.

REFLECT

Consider areas in your life where the Child Jesus is waiting to break in. Where does he long to heal you, comfort you, and bring you peace? Like the wise men, we are on a pilgrimage filled with hope – and at times, fear and restlessness. On this great feast, let us offer Jesus our treasure – our hearts – and, in return, he will give us the greatest gift of all: himself.



Life of Stewardship

Today is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. For centuries we as Catholics celebrated this Feast on Jan. 6, but the decision was made a number of years ago (at least in the United States) to celebrate the Epiphany on the Sunday which falls between Jan. 2 and Jan. 8.

"Epiphany" means "manifestation." It is on this day that Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is revealed as the light of all nations. Officially Christmas is not over. In fact, the recommendation of the Church is that on this day those who display a crèche, a nativity or manger scene, should replace the shepherd and sheep with the Magi and their likely animals on which they traveled as well as their gifts. However, that is all secondary to the real meaning of this day.

At Christmas the Messiah Jesus was revealed to the shepherds, who were Jewish. But on this day the Lord is revealed to all nations and to the Gentiles (represented by the Magi). We are all familiar with the star the Magi followed, but we need to understand all that is happening and what it means. This all represents the Light of Christ, a Light which today we honor and commemorate. We are called to be the Light of Christ right now to those around us and those with whom we come in contact. That way we can be the disciples Christ wants us to be.

The poet William Cullen Bryant captures the significance of the star the Magi followed very well when he wrote, "O Father, may that Holy Star, Grow every year more bright, And send its glorious beams afar, To fill the world with light."

- Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship

Parish News

Consecration to God the Father Ministry

Please join us in prayer to honor God Our Father, Sunday, **January 5 at 3:00pm.** For more information, contact Romana.

St. Michael's 15th Annual Golf Tournament

We are looking for individuals to join our Golf Tournament planning committee. NO golf experience needed, just a desire to join other parishioners in planning and executing the annual event. Our first meeting will be held in Grace Parish Center on Tuesday, January 7th at 4:30pm. For more information, call Don at 808-756-6912.

Men of Faith

Our meetings focus on reflections on the prior weekend readings as we strive to grow closer to our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ and His Church. We meet weekly on Wednesdays on St. Michael's South Lanai from 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM. Come join us!

Grief Recovery Outreach Program

If your heart has been heavy at times this holiday season, there is effective help available to you.

The Grief Recovery Method program, a structured and confidential group education program, will provide you with steps and actions to heal pain from loss, either recent or long ago.

There is no cost for this program, but it requires a firm commitment, and attendance at all weekly sessions. The eight week program will be held on Wednesdays beginning January 8th until Feb 26th, 2025, from 10am-12 noon, at St. Michael's. Please note: this well-studied and effective program is **not** counseling or therapy, is **not** a drop-in program. Recovery

from the grief of significant emotional loss, is achieved through a series of correct actions, learned in a confidential class setting.

For more information and to register, contact Suzanne Zaw, Grief Recovery method Specialist, at (808)339-7980 or leave a message for her at the Parish Office.

Spiritual Book Club

Our next Spiritual Book Club meeting is on Thursday, January 16th at 4pm in the Grace Parish Center. This month's book is Gardete Et Excultate - On the Call to Holiness in Today's World by Pope Francis. Meetings are now available via Zoom. Call the Parish Office for more info.

Life Care Ministry

Come join our Life Care Ministry on Thursday mornings from 9:45am to 11:00am at Life Care Center. Located in Keauhou, the Life Care Center is a facility for long term skilled nursing care and rehab residents. We begin at 10am with Communion Service in the recreation room with the residents who are mobile. Holy Communion is brought to the rooms of those who are unable to come to the recreation room. They are extremely grateful for our visits, bringing Christ to them in the Eucharist, in his Holy Word, with Prayers, song and joy. After the Communion Service we have a fun singalong. This is truly a work of mercy and act of God's love. Contact the office for an orientation and to answer any questions.

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

Please join fellow parishioners on January 19th after the 7am and 9am masses for a delicious breakfast and warm fellowship in the Grace Parish Center. The \$5 per person (children free when accompanied by parent) menu items include pancakes, sausages, fruit, juice, water and kona coffee.

Faith Formation

Please take note the time change for all classes. Start-

Faith Formation Classes Grades K-5

ing January, we will meet from 10:15 to 11:50. January classes will be held on Sunday the 4th, 11th and 26th. No class on January 19th. We are in need of a Faith Formation 4th grade teacher. The requirements are a love of God and a desire to teach children more about their Catholic faith. If this is something you might enjoy doing, please call Margaret through the Parish Office.

- Margaret Essex, Cathecist

Youth Ministry Classes Grades 6-12.

Classes are held on most Sundays from 5:15 - 7:15pm in the Grace Parish Center. Happy New Year! Classes for January will be held on January 12, 19, and 26.

- Edwina Fujimoto, Youth Minister

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) Want to become Catholic? Want to receive the Sacraments?

Anyone age 18+ who is curious about the history, rites, and spirituality of Christianity and wants to learn more about the Catholic faith, the development of Sacred Scripture, and/or is thinking of becoming Catholic to delve into deeper relationship with God as an intentional disciple of

Stewardship of Treasure

December 23rd - 29th, 2024

 ONLINE GIVING
 \$ 9,600.00

 SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS
 \$ 15,093.50

 GRACE PARISH CENTER CAMPAIGN
 \$ 21,731.35

 CHRISTMAS
 \$ 22,051.00

Parish Center Update

We have collected **\$5,533,126.97** 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 DECEMBER 2024
MONTHLY DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT: \$11,525.00
MONTHLY 'OHANA IN CHRIST ASSESSMENT: \$2,446.33

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.

Jesus Christ. Join us for an informal conversation that may lead to receiving the Sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion). We meet weekly after the 9am Mass on Sunday.

The Epiphany of the Lord

Have you ever wondered why the magi had gold, frank-incense, and myrrh? Matthew's Gospel tells us, "Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh" (Matt. 2:11). Why are these things their "treasures"? One possible answer is they were magicians and astrologers, and these three items were the tools of their questionable trade. In offering them to Christ, they demonstrate that they will cease using such items to predict or control life. They place this baby-king, the God of Israel, at the center of their lives, and not their own de-vices of control, manipulation and prediction.

Isn't that what we need to do, too? Consider, for example, the magical power of money, symbolized by the magi's gold. Seemingly whatever we ask of money, it does. It wields a god-like power over the world. It can predict the future by guaranteeing better outcomes for us - which is why it is such a tempting alternative to trusting in God. The problem is such absolute trust in money enslaves us to the economic forces that make money so powerful. In paying homage to Jesus with "gold" (i.e., tithing), we participate in his authority over (and therefore freedom from) the magical sway of money.

What things in your life do you use to predict or control your future? What in your life seems to give you power over the world? Those are your treasures. Are you tired of feeling enslaved to them? Find a way to open them and give them to

Christ, and you will be freer. - Father John Muir, ©LPi

The song "We Three Kings" details the gifts of the Magi, but do you know what you're singing? "Born a king on Bethlehem's plan, gold I bring to crown Him again." This one is the most straightforward-gold symbolizes the Kingship of Christ. "Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom." Myrrh is an embalming spice. Already at Christ's birth, we have the symbolic reminder of his death. "Frankincense to offer have I. Incense owns a deity nigh." In many religious traditions, incense symbolizes prayers rising to heaven. In some pagan traditions, it is thought to help "call down" the deity. The gift of frankincense symbolizes Jesus' role as the Great High Priest, sanctifying the world through his sacrifice. - LPi

Treasures From Our Tradition

Tuesday of this week is Christmas Day in Russia and in much of the Orthodox world. This curious difference in sched-ule has a lot to do with how calendars have been developed and changed over the years. In the year 45 B.C. Julius Ceasar gave the empire his Julian Calendar, with the winter solstice on January 6. This put an end to a system in which officials called "pontiffs" were able to tweak the calendar by adding extra days in as needed. He invented two new months at that time, December and January; and in order to correct the mess the pontiffs had made, forced a year of 445 days on the emp-ire in what he named "The Last Year of Confusion." The new months varied in number of days according to a complex schedule, but the calendar was still off by nearly twelve minutes a year, and lost a full day every 130 years.

Pope Gregory XIII reformed the calendar in 1583, but not everyone appreciated his efforts. England held out for two hundred years. The year 1700 was a leap year in England, but not in France; they were eleven days apart! George Washington was really born on February 11; when the Gregorian calendar was finally adopted in the English colonies shortly before the Revolution, he had to move his birthday to February 22. Now the calendars are thirteen days apart, which accounts for Russia's Julian calendar Christmas. And Caesar thought he had brought confusion to an end! - James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments The Answer

Have you ever had an epiphany? I'll confess that I've never spent much time reflecting on the term "epiphany." In my head, there has always been a strict separation of church and state when it comes to this word. I think of the religious feast of the Epiphany, when we celebrate the magi's encounter with the Christ Child, as totally distinct from our modern understanding of the ancient Greek word epipháneia, which means "manifestation" or "appearance."

"I've had an epiphany," I have said many times before, and what I mean is that I have come to a long-awaited realization. I have received the answer to a question which has perplexed me, perhaps troubled me. I now know what course of action I must take.



YOU ARE INVITED

MONDAY

• Friendly Place Lunches 10:30am-12pm

• Knights of Columbus 5:45pm (2nd Monday of the month)

• Church Cleaning 6:00pm

TUESDAY

• Coffee with the Priests 7:30-9:00am

• Golf Planning Committee 4:30pm

• Charismatic Prayer Group 6:30-8:00pm

WEDNESDAY

• Adoration 7:30-5:00pm

Kupuna Ministry 8:30-10:30am

Benediction/Evening Prayer 5:00pmMen of Faith 5:30-6:30pm

THURSDAY

 Spiritual Book Club 4:00-5:30pm (3rd Thursday of each month)

• Young Adults Group 6:00-7:00pm

FRIDAY - NO EVENTS

SATURDAY

Church Cleaning 7:30amGrounds Maintenance 7:30am

• Confession 9-10am

SUNDAY

 Children's Rosary Group After 9am Mass (Last Sunday of each month)

 Immigration Seminar 1:00-2:00pm (Last Sunday of each month)

 Consecration to God the Father 3:00pm (1st Sunday of each month)

• Faith Formation (K-5) 10:15-11:50am

• Faith Formation (6-12) 5:15-7:15pm (Classes resume in January. 1/5 for Gr. K-5; 1/12 for Gr. 6-12)

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults After 9am Mass

Baptism

Classes are held once a month. Parents and Godparents must attend class.

To register, please email baptism.stmichaelkona@rcchawaii.org

Marriage

Please notify the office and allow six months before the date of marriage for preparation "Today is the Epiphany," I say to my children when we make a king cake and bring the little magi figures to our Nativity beneath the Christmas tree (which will, after to-day, be put back into storage, for the Christmas season has come to its fulfillment). And I've always thought I meant I was saying two very different things.

But today, I ponder the journey of the magi, one that must have often been treacherous and uncomfortable. I think about their meeting with Herod, a situation that certainly was fraught with tension and fear. And I imagine the feeling in their hearts as they approached the young Messiah and fell to their knees. I think of the peace they must have felt. The new, vibrant awareness of what their own purpose was. It was an epiphany for them - a discovery of truth. An answer. It should be the same for us.

- Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman, ©LPi

Everyday Stewardship-Detours Lead to Purpose

"The Story of the Other Wise Man" by Henry Van Dyke was first published in 1895. It tells the fictional story of Artaban, a fourth wise man who began a journey to visit Jesus, the newborn King. Unlike his fellow Magi, he failed to make it there for the birth of Jesus because he kept pausing to help various people in need. In fact, it took him about 33 years of searching before his quest comes to an abrupt end when he is hit in the head with a falling roof shingle. His final breath takes place in Jerusalem near the place where Jesus is being crucified. As he lies dying, he hears the voice of Jesus telling him that the gifts he has given all along the way to "the least of these" he has actually given to Jesus himself.

If you have never read this story or seen the made-for-television movie based on the tale, you really should seek it out. It is a story that reminds us of a profound truth: Jesus himself rests in the lives of all those around us in need. In the story, it was the wise man's constant response to a stewardship call that prevented him from getting where he wanted to go. In the end, where he needed to go was more significant than where he thought he should go.

If we live lives of generosity and graciousness, we may find ourselves on constant detours from the road on which we are traveling. It is in the detours and the unexpected circumstances of our journey that often times we find our true purpose in life. We think God is somewhere we must travel to, when in reality, God is closer than we think in the least likely of places. - Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI



SATURDAY, **J**ANUARY **4**TH 4pm - Joan Donnellan, Birthday Blessings

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5TH THE EPHIPHANY OF THE LORD

- 7am Necitas Revilla, Rest in Peace
- 9am Anna Janevicius, 1st Anniversary of Death
- 4pm Anthony Grande, Birthday Blessings, and Ana Maria Gonzalez Alcantar, Anniversary of Death

MONDAY, JANUARY 6TH

- 7am Gloria Lynne Fabel, Anniversary of Death
- 5pm Alejandro Arcos-Priest, Rest in Peace

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7TH

- 7am Robert Leopoldino, Rest in Peace
- 5pm Enrique Fabian Arcos Sevilla, Rest in Peace

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8TH

• 7am - MISSA PRO POPULO

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9TH

- 7am Marcelo Perez Perez, Rest in Peace
- 5pm Gary Mohi, Rest in Peace

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10TH

- 7am Monica, John, & Luke Choe and Elijah Kim, Birthday Blessings
- 5pm Ernest Kunitake. Rest in Peace

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11TH

• 7am - Nancy Pawelski, Birthday Blessings

Requesting a Mass Intention

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **808-326-7771.**

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 <u>2nd</u> and 4th Saturdays of the month

from 9 - 9:45am at Immaculate Conception Church Parking Lot.

Baby Jesus Meets the Public

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

In the ancient world, an epiphany referred to the appearance of a god among humans. For the church, the Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the public recognition of Jesus by the outside world when the magi found the newborn in Bethlehem. The connection between the first reading from Isaiah and the Gospel could not be more clear. Matthew picks up on Isaiah's prophecy of a guiding light (the star), travelers coming from afar (the magi), and extravagant gifts (gold and frankincense) to show that Jesus is the promised savior.

Over the centuries, many legends have told of the magi who followed the star to discover Jesus. All scripture tells us about their identity, however, is that they were "from the east," which Matthew's readers would have known meant that they were Gentilesnot Jews. This was significant because Matthew was writing for a primarily Jewish audience, trying to convince them that Jesus was their long-awaited savior. At the same time, Matthew wanted his readers to hear that people outside of their religion also recognized this baby as worthy of their homage.

In effect, Matthew is telling them that Jesus came for anyone and everyone, regardless of where they come from or what their religious background is.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, the public "coming out" of Jesus to the wider



Dean Denton flock pastoralcenter.com

"We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

Sheepish Question:

What personal and spiritual gifts can I offer as Christ's light?

world. Although Jesus was born into a specific religion and culture in a particular time in history, the Epiphany reminds us that he is not limited to being a savior to the Jewish people. He is available to everyone, as Mary demonstrated by welcoming the foreign travelers "from the east."

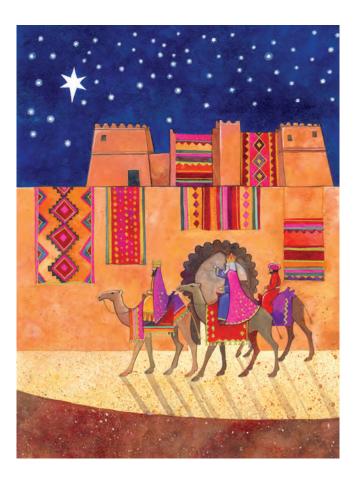
Questions of the Week

In some cultures, the Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated more than Christmas. Does your family have any Epiphany traditions? What would be an appropriate way to celebrate?

> Were you taught that salvation is limited to a set population of chosen people, or did you grow up with the belief that Jesus came for all people, regardless of their religion? How did that affect how you related to others outside of your church?

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EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Radiant Light

God our guiding light,
you illuminated the long path to our
Lord for the Magi.
Like the travelers,
we are overjoyed by your radiant
presence made known to us.
Though darkness blankets the world,
your glory shines upon us.
May we gather,
walk by your light,
and pay homage to you all the days
of our lives.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, January 5, 2025 Treasures for the Lord

Today's readings: Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–11, 12–13; Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6; Matthew 2:1–12. The Magi travel to pay homage to the Holy Family after Jesus is born, a fulfillment of the prophecy we hear in the first reading. Isaiah urges Jerusalem to "rise up in splendor," for the light has come. He tells of people who journey a long distance, "bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord." The Magi do just this and bring three gifts to honor baby Jesus: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. There is much symbolism in these gifts: gold identifies Jesus as a king; frankincense, used as incense for offerings, symbolizes prayer; myrrh, used in healing and embalming, foreshadows Jesus' death.

Though it may feel like Christmas is over as the world has moved on from celebrating the holiday season, the Church celebrates Christmas until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (this year, that is next Sunday, January 12). In the spirit of Christmas, reflect on what treasures you possess to give to the Lord, on what gifts you can offer to your community and the Church. After your prayerful reflection, offer a gift to someone this week. A person in your community might appreciate the gift of quality time; an agency might welcome your volunteer hours; children in your family would appreciate the gift of faith through faith-sharing on the Epiphany; and organizations that serve families appreciate monetary gifts.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, January 6 Consolation and Desolation

"Do not trust every spirit but test the spirits to see whether they belong to God," warns John the apostle. Indeed, it is critical to discern God's will. St. Ignatius of Loyola writes about the states of consolation (joy, peace, being settled) and desolation (fear, anxiety, being unsettled) in prayerful decision-making. Per St. John's encouragement to deepen our spiritual awareness, take time today to learn about Ignatian discernment. Consider how you can practice prayerful discernment. *Today's readings: 1 John 3:22—4:6; Psalm 2:7bc–8, 10–12a; Matthew 4:12–17, 23–25.*

Tuesday, January 7 Abundance

Jesus takes five loaves and two fish to feed the vast crowd gathered to hear him preach. The disciples are skeptical as Jesus turns a small amount of food into an abundance that feeds five thousand people. Invite your family to reflect on the abundance with which God has blessed you. Gather at the end of the day and say a prayer of gratitude, naming some of those blessings. *Today's readings: 1 John 4:7–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 3–4, 7–8; Mark 6:34–44.*

Wednesday, January 8

Take Courage

In today's Gospel, Jesus walks on water during a storm to reach the disciples. They are terrified, but Jesus says to them: "Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!" The wind dies down and the disciples are astounded. Their hearts are hardened, as they cannot comprehend Jesus' self-revelation as the Son of God. Find a church in your area that offers Eucharistic adoration. When you go to pray, consider how you can keep your heart from hardening. How can you surrender your fears? *Today's readings: 1 John 4:11–18; Psalm 72:1–2, 10, 12–13: Mark 6:45–52.*

Thursday, January 9 Liberty

Highlighting Jesus' mission of liberation, the Gospel proclaims that he will especially serve the marginalized and forgotten, bringing "glad tidings to the poor." From the first reading, we hear that "God is love." Further, "We love because he first loved us." Set time aside this week to serve someone who is afflicted or oppressed. While you serve, pray with John the apostle's words: whoever does not love another "whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen." *Today's readings: 1 John 4:19—5:4; Psalm 72:1–2, 14 and 15bc, 17; Luke 4:14–22a.*

Friday, January 10 Withdraw to Pray

Jesus cleanses a leper and, while word of his ministry spreads and crowds gather to listen to him, he withdraws "to deserted places to pray." Amid his healing and preaching, Jesus models the importance of cultivating a prayer life. Spend time creating a prayer space in your home. This should be a space to which you can withdraw, like Jesus. Set time aside to pray in this space at least once every week. *Today's readings: 1 John 5:5–13; Psalm 147:12–13, 14–15, 19–20; Luke 5:12–16.*

Saturday, January 11 Idols

Take John the Baptist's words to heart: "He must increase; I must decrease." To do so, "be on your guard against idols," as the first reading states, and consider what takes you away from God. Before going to sleep tonight, prayerfully review your day. How did you give glory to God? What "idols" distracted you from doing so? *Today's readings: 1 John 5:14–21; Psalm 149:1–2, 3–4, 5, 6a and 9b; John 3:22–30.*





REV. KONELIO FALETOI

Pastor and Vicar Forane of the West Hawaii Vicariate

REV. CLAUDIO AGUIRRE Parochial Vicar

DEACON SÁNDOR HERNÁNDEZ MORALES MEALI'INANI DUARTE-HERNÁNDEZ

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