



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-Kahalua
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, 4pm / SPANISH MASS: Sun 12 noon

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

Website: saintmichaelparishkona.org **January 26, 2025 | 26 de enero de 2025**

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Reading I - **Nehemiah 8:2-4,5-6,8-10** | Psalm - **19(18) 8,9,10,15** | Reading II - **1 Corinthians 12:12-30** | Gospel - **Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21**
Primera Lectura - **Nehemías 8:2-4,5-6,8-10** | Salmo - **19(18) 8,9,10,15** | Segunda Lectura - **1 Corintios 12:12-30** | Evangelio - **Lucas 1:1-4, 4:14-21**



TIME

The holidays are well behind us; the year stretches out ahead. And what sort of year will it be? To judge by the words of Jesus in today's Gospel, it will be "a year acceptable to the Lord." And Jesus surely didn't mean only the next three hundred sixty-five days facing his listeners at that time.

When Jesus announced the "arrival" of God's favor, it was a message for all time, for every year. Similarly, we read today in Nehemiah how the people gathered with solemnity to hear God's word as though for the first time. They listened, and then fell to the ground and wept. But the prophet said, "Today is holy . . . do not be sad, and do not weep."

The "year acceptable to the Lord" is this year. The day that is "holy" is this day. The time to listen is now. What sort of year will you have? What sort of day? God's help is always here. What you do with each day can be holy and acceptable to the Lord if you but listen to and act on God's word.

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3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free.
- Lk 4:18*

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

Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Reading/Primera Lectura: **Malachi (Malaquias) 3:1-4**
Psalm/Salmo: **24(23):7,8,9,10**

2nd Reading/Segunda Lectura: **Hebrews (Hebreos) 2:14-18**
Gospel/Evangelió: **Luke (Lucas) 2:22-40**

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.



St. Michael's 15th Annual Golf Tournament - Saturday, March 8 - Kona Country Club
Format: 2-person Scramble \$150.00 per player / Register online using the QR Code



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 26, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 | 1 Cor 12:12-30 | Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

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

Late 19th-century English author G.K. Chesterton famously wrote, “Catholic doctrine and discipline may be walls, but they are the walls of a playground.” We can think of God’s commandments serving as rules governing primary school recess: by providing us with a structure in which we can explore, play, stumble, and get up again, they allow us to discover who God created us to be without wandering far from his love. The mosaic law that served the Jews in today’s first reading had given them the necessary parameters to live and grow within the covenantal relationship they had with God. Their unfaithfulness had led them astray, but upon their return from exile in Babylon they wept when hearing God’s word for the first time in generations. They knew the power of God’s commandments to keep them safe and secure in his love, and recognized all they had lost by wandering. Their sorrow was turned to joy in the knowledge that God rejoiced in their return to him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Just as Ezra “opened the scroll so that all the people might see it” in today’s first reading, Jesus also “unrolled the scroll” and then rolled it back up so that all might see *him*. Ezra held the law in his hands, Jesus is the fulfillment of the law in himself. Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel, “Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing,” were an infusion of new life breathed into a new creation by God who is outside of time. All things, all mistakes, all failures brought about in our human pride and disobedience were being refashioned into new brick and mortar to build God’s kingdom in and through Christ. Jesus, with his commandment to love one another as he loves us, gives us structure and a true freedom to discover who God created us to be, while helping us not wander far from this playground the Lord has given us. Knowing what holds us together, and relying on it to guide us, enables us to help build the kingdom even more for the glory of God and the good of others.

LEARN

Research a Catholic teaching you do not fully understand for example, why Catholics attend Mass on Sundays. Ask God for the light to see how this teaching is life-giving instead of life-limiting. If you have the opportunity, share what you’ve learned with someone.

“
The Spirit
of the Lord
is upon me,
because he has
anointed me.

”

(Lk 4:18)



Getty Images/Group

Life of Stewardship

Today's Second Reading, from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, picks up where we left off last week and continues with a similar theme. The message is that we are each unique in the gifts and talents God has given to us, and therefore, we all have different tasks to fulfill as members of the Body of Christ.

What is further developed this week is the truth that, though different in our roles, every single individual is equally important and needed in the Church, from the freshly baptized newborn to the teenager sitting reluctantly by his parents, to the elderly shut-in who can no longer attend Sunday Mass. "God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended. If they were all one part, where would the body be? But as it is there are many parts, yet one body." (1 Cor 12:18-20)

What does this teach us as Christian stewards? It shows us that we all have equal dignity and worth in God's sight, and that if God sees us as equally precious, we should view each other in this same light. It teaches us to humbly recognize our own gifts as well as the giftedness of every member of our parish family. And, while God designed us to be ultimately dependent on Him, it seems He has also designed us to need each other! In the week ahead, let's take this mission to heart, examining the way we can use our gifts and talents for this mission. It might feel uncomfortable at first. But the good news is you don't have to do it all. Do your part, let your brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ do theirs, and know that the Spirit of the Lord is upon us all as we live out this stewardship way of life. - *Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship*

Parish News

Feast of Santo Niño Salamat Po

Maraming salamat po (thank you very much) to everyone for the Santo Niño celebration held last week. Thank you especially to the event organizer Julie Garana, dance choreographer Eloi Bellah and her lovely dancers, Pacita Bantangan for the beautiful floral décor, Vicky Basmayor and also to everyone who shared their delicious desserts during our coffee hour after the 9am Mass.

"Word of God Sunday" - January 26

As disciples of Jesus, we emphasize the importance of the Bible in Catholic life and encourage one another to read and study the **Word of God** as a regular part of our lives. Pope Francis, has instituted the **Sunday of the Word of God** to be celebrated annually on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. During Mass, we will have a commitment prayer and blessing as you hold onto your personal Bibles.

Children's Rosary

St. Michael's Children's Rosary Club will meet after the 9am Mass on January 26. We will pray one decade at the grotto.

Immigration Ministry Seminar

Please join us on Sunday, January 26 at 1:00pm 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 at-

tend. All immigration questions will be answered.

Special Collections - January 26

This week we have two special collections. The **Black & Indian Mission** collection and **The Church in Latin America** collection. Envelopes for both collections are available in the kiosks.

Monthly Food Pantry & Diaper Ministry Drive

The monthly parish food & diaper drive will be held on **Monday, January 27 from 9-10am at Immaculate Conception Church Parking Lot.** MAHALO for your continued support of this important ministry. We are grateful for your generosity and rely on your donations to help feed 1000 people each month. Items most needed this month are tuna and canned vegetables. Diaper sizes needed are size 6 and Pull-Ups 4T-5T Boys and Girls. You can also leave food & diaper donations in the baskets at the Church entrance when you come to Mass.

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Each Wednesday at noon, at St. Michael's Church we pray the Way of the Cross in the Church for the safety of all those who are held captive by traffickers for either sex or agricultural work. The prayers, developed by Bishop Silva, require twenty minutes of your time. On **Wednesday, January 29**, before the noon prayers, we will sign wave in front of the Church beginning at **11:30 am.**

Men of Faith

We invite all men to our weekly scripture sharing every Wednesday from 5:30pm to 6:30pm on the south lanai of our church. Come early to spend time with Christ in Adoration, evening prayer and Benediction starting at 5pm. This Wednesday (Jan. 29th), our Men of Faith gathering will meet in the Grace Parish Center for potluck sharing. Bring a dish to share in fellowship with one another sharing the Word of God from the past Sunday's scripture readings. Also, on Wednesday, February 12th, Dr. Scott French will be sharing with the Men of Faith his first of three series of the Miracles of the Holy Eucharist focused on helping men understand the sacredness of the Body and Blood of Christ.

New Parishioner Orientation Luncheon

You are invited to our New Parishioner Orientation and Lunch **on Sunday, February 2nd at 12:30pm in the Grace Parish Center.** Come learn the history of our Parish, meet our priests and ministry coordinators. **Please RSVP** to the Parish Office with your name, contact phone number and amount of people attending.

Consecration to God the Father Ministry

Please join us in prayer to honor God Our Father, **Sunday, February 2 at 3:00pm.** We will pray Consecration Prayers to God Our Father and Divine Mercy.

Kona Choral Society Free Concert

Join us for their annual Gospel Heritage Concert of traditional spirituals and gospel tunes here at St. Michael on **Friday, February 7, from 7:00-8:30pm.**

Stewardship of Treasure

January 13th - 19th, 2025

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 2,483.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 13,783.00
GRACE PARISH CENTER CAMPAIGN	\$ 8,832.00

Parish Center Update

We have collected **\$5,581,556.17** 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 JANUARY 2025

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.

Valentine Dinner & Dance - February 14

Please join fellow parishioners on Friday, February 14th for 5pm cocktails, 6pm dinner and a Valentine dance from 7pm to 9pm in the Grace Parish Center hosted by the Knights of Columbus. The \$40 per person ticket sales will be held after all weekend masses on the church lanai on January 26, February 2, and February 9 or until sold out.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Classes Grades K-5

Please take note the **new time for class is now 10:15 to 11:50**. Classes will be held on January 26, February 2, 9, and 23. No class on February 16. *-Margaret Essex, Cathecist*

Youth Ministry Classes Grades 6-12.

Classes will be held on February 2, 16, and 23. No class on February 9. We will have a **Retreat Day on Sunday, February 16th from 1 pm to 7:15 pm**. Refreshments will be provided. *-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 a deeper relationship with God as an intentional disciple of Jesus Christ. We meet weekly on Sundays after the 9am Mass.

The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

A young couple in my parish told me they were expecting their second child, a baby boy. I knew that their five year old

only child Emma had been desperately wanting to be a big sister for years, so I said, "Emma must have been so happy when you told her the news." "Actually," they said, "she burst into tears. She wanted a baby sister!" How often in life God wonderfully fulfills our desires and we are sad because we don't approve of the way he does it. We want to control the gift and the delivery method.

The same thing occurs in the Gospel this week when Jesus announces in his hometown that the promise of an Anointed One bringing glad tidings to the poor is "fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). After a moment of elation, his fellow townsfolk realize this man is the way God is fulfilling his promises, and they erupt into a violent outburst. So Jesus departs. How sad for them.

Every single Sunday at Mass, including this one, some version of this happens to many of us. God's word announces the fulfillment of God's promises in Christ, and we easily overlook or disdain it. His way is almost never according to our narrow expectations. What's required of us is to set these aside, and to embrace a new openness to God's gifts, no matter how he wishes to give them. God is fulfilling his promises the way He likes - why be sad?

- Father John Muir, ©LPi

Treasures from our Tradition

Next week's feast of the Presentation is a day for the blessing of candles. Why does liturgy require candles? In the first years of the church, worship was often at night, and candles and torches were carried from place to place within the worship space as needed. Candles were also a mark of festivity and hospitality when people gathered for prayer in homes, and later on in large buildings with thick walls and dark corners. But even after gaslight and electricity, candles were kept.

Part of the reason has to do with the warm, clean light of a candle's flame. Candles are a good sign of the partnership of God and creation: wax made by bees, gathered and fashioned by human hands into something beautiful and useful. In order for the light to shine, the candle surrenders itself, almost as if it is pouring itself out so that the light can flood into the world. The candle of baptism, placed into our hands, and carried again and again, speaks silently of that same wisdom. If you would save your life, you must lose it. You must pour your life out like Christ so that you may be filled with the light of his love.

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

Everyday Stewardship - Plant Your Works in the Word

One of the things about Scripture is that even the smallest word and shortest phrase can be critical to the overall message. When you take a quiet moment to rest with the Word, you find how quickly the most mundane sentence can reach out and grab you, pulling you into a deeper contemplation of some truth you hadn't even considered until then.

But we often fail to act as the Israelites in the Book of Nehemiah, standing before the Water Gate "listening attentively." Whether it's at Mass during the Liturgy of the Word or at home poring over the Bible, time after time we

Parish Life Photos

Be featured in our bulletin, website, social media, newsletters, etc. Send your ministry/parish life photos to smkonamedia@rcchawaii.org

YOU ARE INVITED

(schedule may change without advance notice)

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

WEDNESDAY

- Adoration 7:30-5:00pm
- Kupuna Ministry 8:30-10:30am
- Human Trafficking Sign Waving 11:30am
- Benediction/Evening Prayer 5:00pm
- Men 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 7:30am
- Grounds 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
(Please refer to the Faith Formation section for class dates)
- 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

find ourselves less mindful than we could be. Our ears accept the sounds of the words and our eyes glance over the shape of the letters.

But are we truly mindful? The best answer is hopefully at least sometimes. There are always tasks to be completed, problems weighing on our minds that we can't quite give over to God. We lose ourselves in these things instead of in Scripture. We "clock in" with Bible reading instead of "diving in."

We can never forget that the words of the Lord are spirit and life. They are the soil that quickens the seed of all stewardship. There is no mindfulness, no prayer, no graciousness, no gratitude or accountability or sense of commitment unless there is the Word.

So let us pray today for mindfulness, that our every action will be grounded in the law of God - giving it true spirit and life.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments - These Evil Days

"Alas, that these evil days should be mine." If you've ever seen "The Lord of the Rings," you might recognize this quote from "The Two Towers." The words are spoken by King Theoden at the grave of his only son and heir, as Theoden contemplates the coming war for Middle Earth, a war which has already claimed the life of his son, a war he wants no part of, a war that seems utterly hopeless and unwinnable.

These evil days. You don't have to be a fantasy enthusiast or even a Tolkien fan to identify with Theoden here. We have all experienced this same feeling of despair, perhaps increasingly in this age of technology and social media, when the ills of the whole world - violence, injustice, moral disorder and chaos - are in our faces, on our phones, looming over our days.

But when we despair like this, we forget an important truth: this is the time of fulfillment, and we are lucky enough to be living through it. Yes, the world is broken. It was broken two thousand years ago, too, when Jesus stood up in the synagogue on the Sabbath and read the words of the prophet Isaiah: "He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."

Jesus didn't come to fix the brokenness of the world. He came to fix our brokenness. He offers us not relief from the trials of life, but an answer to the question of how to live in joy, in love and in purpose in the midst of these evil days.

- Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman, ©LPI



SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH

4pm - Jim Oppenheim, for Healing

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME WORD OF GOD SUNDAY

- 7am - Mercedes Gonzalez, for Healing
- 9am - Robert Leopoldino, Rest in Peace
- 4pm - Francis Rodillas, Rest in Peace and Mary Kersten McWilliams, Rest in Peace

MONDAY, JANUARY 27TH

- 7am - Helen Kamaka, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Bill Grant, Rest in Peace

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28TH

- 7am - Henrietta Gouveia, 19th Anniversary of Death
- 5pm - Bill Grant, Rest in Peace

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29TH

- 7am - Sean, Lorraine and David Wilkinson, May they Rest in Peace

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30TH

- 7am - JP Rowland, Birthday Blessing
- 5pm - Bill Grant, Rest in Peace

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31ST

- 7am - Robert Sanborn, deceased, Birthday Remembrance
- 5pm - Bill Grant, Rest in Peace

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST

- 7am - Sister Noel Le Claire, Velda Juffer, Catherine Santi, Dorothy Legge, May they Rest in Peace

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

He's From Where??

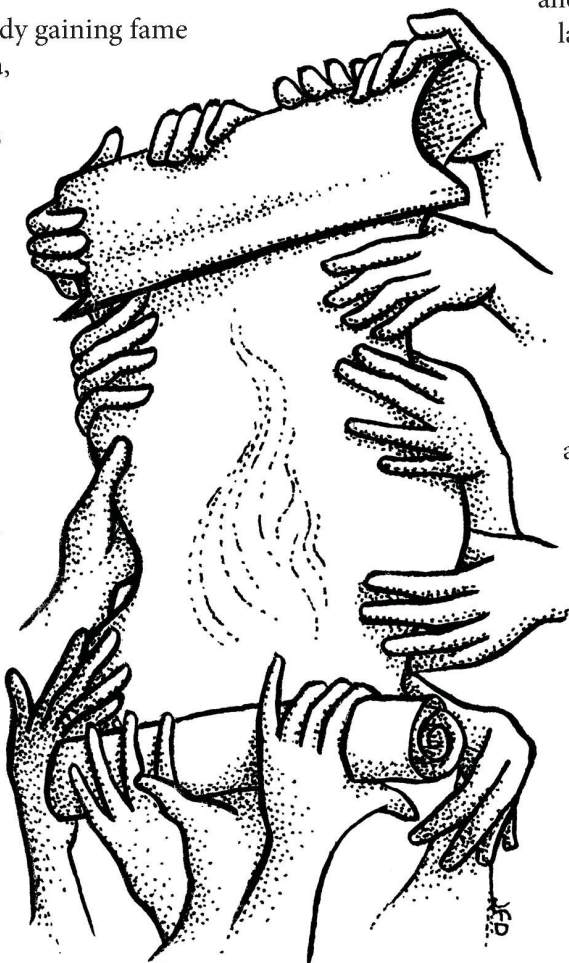
This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 - Ezra reads the Law
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 - Analogy of the body
- ▶ Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21 - Beginning of Jesus' preaching

Luke reminds us that Jesus is from the town of Nazareth, a backwater village of about 500-1,500 people, most of whom were poor and illiterate. As part of the immensely powerful Roman Empire spread across the Mediterranean, Nazareth would barely have registered on the radar of the rulers of the day.

No wonder that the world was shocked to hear about an itinerant preacher from there who was attracting a great following. In John's Gospel, we hear how incredulous this seems. When Philip told Nathanael about Jesus for the first time and mentioned he was from Nazareth, Nathanael burst out, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" (Jn. 1:46).

But here is Jesus, already gaining fame and respect in the area, reading from the Old Testament scroll. (He's from Nazareth, and he knows how to read!) He was not from the priestly class, yet by the time he comes back to Nazareth on this particular day, Jesus had already assumed the role of a religious teacher by speaking in the local synagogues. Then he reaches beyond that role and announces he is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy about the anointed one sent by God. This happens very early in Luke's Gospel,



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"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me ... he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor."

Sheepish Question:
With my eyes fixed on Jesus, where does his Spirit lead me this week?

and Jesus is starting off with a bold proclamation, unapologetic about his background and upbringing. He is setting the tone for the work he has come to do.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Who do you know from a background of no reputation who has made a positive impression or impact on you? Maybe they were from a tiny town, or went to a little-known college, or didn't go to college at all, or in some way rose above their station.
- 2 Which of Jesus' lines about what he was anointed to do strikes you as most exciting or hopeful? Why?

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Brother Joseph Dutton, that You will
grant me this favor - - -
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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