

St. Alexander Church

The Epiphany of the Lord
January 4, 2026

The Palos Catholic



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. - Mt 2:10-11a

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

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St. Alexander Parish Administration Directory

Parish Administrative Center

7025 W. 126th St., Palos Heights, IL 60463

Phone: 708-448-4861

Pastor: Rev. Martin Michniewicz ext. 227
Associate Pastor: Rev. Colm Mitchell ext. 223
Deacons: Jim Horton, Michael Ciciura, Fran Pendergast
Director Parish Home & Health Ministry: Jim Horton ext. 232
Operations Manager: Paula Somers ext. 233
Director of Music: Matthew Berardi ext. 224
Youth Minister: Tyler Ried—708- 448-6624
Athletic Director Michael Kennedy
Parish E-Mail: alchurch1@comcast.net
St. Alexander on the Web: www.stalexanderpalos.org

St. Alexander School

7025 W. 126th St., Palos Heights, IL 60463

Phone: 708-448-0408 Fax: 708-448-5947

Principal: Sharon O'Toole
Administrative Assistant: Mary Ann Pellicore
School Web: www.stalexanderschool.com
School E-Mail: info@stalexanderschool.com

Religious Education Office

7025 W. 126th St. Palos Heights, IL 60463

Phone: 708-448-6624

Coordinator of Religious Education: Tyler Ried
Religious Ed. E-Mail: tried@archchicago.org
Knights of Columbus: 708-448-4861 ext. 400
Knight of Columbus on the Web: www.kofc14057.org

Spreading the Holy Fire

Celebrating Christ Risen from the Dead through the 7 Sacraments

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

BAPTISM

Celebration of Entrance into Christ's Church

You should be a registered parishioner of St. Alexander, or willing to register and join our Faith Community. Relatives of St. Alexander parishioners are also welcome.

At least one Godparent must be a practicing Catholic. The other must be a Christian. Parents must register for a class on Baptism **BEFORE** your baby is baptized. Archdiocesan required classes are held once a month, usually on the first Tuesday of the month, and facilitated by trained parishioners.

Baptism contact Joan DeVito 448-4861 ext. 237

CONFIRMATION

Celebration of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

This Sacrament is normally celebrated in 8th Grade and is a 2 year program of preparation.

Confirmation Contacts:

Tyler Ried - Religious Education 448-6624

Sharon O'Toole - School 448-0408

The Archdiocese also offers classes for adults wishing to receive Confirmation. **Adult Confirmation Contact -**

Fr. Martin Michniewicz 448-4861

OCIA *Celebration of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*

This process is for adults who would like to join the Roman Catholic Church and have never been Baptized, or were Baptized in another Christian denomination. There is also a process for children (OCIC) and teens (OCIT).

OCIA/OCIC/OCIT contact - Fr. Martin Michniewicz 448-4861

EUCARIST

Celebration of Sharing Fully at Christ's Altar of Sacrifice & Communion with Jesus and His Church

Eucharistic Liturgy (Mass)

Sunday Vigil: 5:00 PM (Saturday)

Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM, & 6:00 PM

Monday through Friday: 8:30 AM

Saturday Morning: 8:00 AM

First Saturday Devotions after 8:00 AM Mass

Holy Day: 8:30 AM & 7:00 PM

Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

On the 1st Wednesday of the month

6:00-7:00PM in the Church

SACRAMENTS OF HEALING

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Celebration of God's Restorative Love & Forgiveness

Sacrament offers strength to the living. If someone becomes seriously ill, please call the Parish Administrative Center. Ministers of Care are available to bring Holy Communion and/or visit with the sick and homebound.

Also every 1st Saturday after the 5:00 PM Mass

RECONCILIATION

Celebration of God's Forgiveness through Personal Confession

Saturday Morning: 8:30 AM (until all are heard)

Saturday Evening: after the 5:00 PM Mass

Other Times by Appointment

SACRAMENTS OF COMMITMENT

MATRIMONY

Celebration of God's Blessings on the Loving Union between Man and Woman

Please call the Parish Administration Center at least 4 months in advance of your wedding. Pre-Cana for engaged couples is required by the Archdiocese.

Matrimony Contact:

Fr. Martin Michniewicz or Fr Colm Mitchell 708-448-4861

HOLY ORDERS

Celebration of Ordained Service to the Church

The three offices of the Sacrament of Holy Orders are bishop, priest and deacon. All three are conferred by the sacramental act called "ordination."

Priesthood Contact - Fr. Michniewicz 448-4861 ext. 227

Fr. Colm Mitchell 448-4861 ext. 223

Archdiocese of Chicago Vocation Director:

Rev. Timothy Monahan 312-534-8298



FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

As the liturgical season of Christmas soon comes to an end, I would like to thank all the people who helped make our liturgical celebrations so spiritually meaningful and enjoyable. Such as our parish Arts and Environment Committee who put so much time into planning and decorating our church this year for Christmas. Also, our parish Musicians and Cantors for their extra hours of practice and for their wonderful execution of their skills leading our congregation in singing and spiritual reflection. All our Ushers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, and others who assisted at Mass to celebrate this special season. Finally, a big thanks to all our parishioners who participated in our Masses and for all those who were so generous by donating to our Christmas collections either in person or via the mail. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, especially during these challenging times, as we continue to celebrate the sacraments and the many ministries at St. Alexander Parish.

Many thanks to Lawn Funeral Homes who sponsored our 2026 calendars. The calendars were very popular this year. If you would like one please call the parish office to check on availability.

Thanks also to Mary Sodetz who organized this year's Sharing Tree, and to all those parishioners who participated by purchasing gift cards or donating money. Thanks to your generosity many people at The Port Ministries were able to celebrate Christmas with a meal, warm clothes, and a gift for their children. I am very proud of your generosity. This year's amount totaled \$11,800.00.

God Bless,
Father Marty

GET OUR WEEKLY BULLETIN EMAILED TO YOU!

Subscribe to ParishesOnline.com to get a link to our weekly parish bulletin delivered straight to your inbox! Visit parishesonline.com and search for our parish to get started today. It's fast, easy and free!



Society of St. Vincent de Paul & Knights of Columbus FOOD COLLECTION

Please donate to our ongoing food collection for St. Blase. Donations should be placed on the bench across from the SAVE room. Thank you for your generosity!
NO EXPIRED FOOD PLEASE!

A Prayer for "Renew My Church"

Lord Jesus, you speak to us today, as you spoke to holy men and women who have gone before us. In every age and in our own time, you call to us and say: Renew My Church.

Pour out the gift of your Holy Spirit upon us, and so enable us

*to hear you clearly
to listen to each other attentively
to imagine our future boldly
to discern your direction wisely
to persevere in your holy will courageously*

*to stay together in charity
to surrender our own plans readily
to embrace the greater good
to hand on your gifts to future generations*

May we remain in the holy company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the apostles, and all the saints.

May their example and presence inspire us with patient confidence in the work of your grace.

We ask this of you who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
 You bring hope alive in our hearts
 And cause our Spirits to be born again
 Thank you for this new year
 For all the potential it holds.
 Come and kindle in us
 A mighty flame
 So that in our time, many will see the
 wonders of God
 And live forever to praise
 Your glorious name.



Graham Daniel Judycki, son of Brian & Kathleen, was baptized on Sunday, December 21, 2025 by Fr. Colm Mitchell.

We welcome him into the family of the church and offer his parents our prayers and good wishes.

EPIPHANY

Solemn things of mystic meaning:
 Incense doth the God disclose;
 Gold a royal Child proclaimeth;
 Myrrh a future tomb foreshows.



We ask you to remember and pray for the souls of the faithful departed. May they forever rest in the Lord's peace. We especially pray for:

Vicki Liebegott, daughter of Margaret Levato
Mary Ann Tobin, mother of Kimberly Campobasso


READINGS FOR THE WEEK
January 5-11, 2026

Monday:	1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/ Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday:	1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday:	1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/ Mk 6:45-52
Thursday:	1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/ Lk 4:14-22a
Friday:	1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/ Lk 5:12-16
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30
Sunday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/ Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17



*Prayers
FOR HEALING*

**Prayers of the Faithful
for the Sick**

As the faith family of St. Alexander, we unite with one another to pray for those who need healing of their body, mind or spirit. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join in prayer for:

Lisa Krisik	Elizabeth Hannan Hurley
Molly Flynn	Denise Jandura
Rich Jandura	Richard Krisik
Edward Wier	

If you or anyone in your family would like to be added to our *Prayers of the Faithful for the Sick* please contact the Parish Administrative Office by noon on Friday.

**SCRIPTURE
REFLECTION**

When I was 22, I went on a pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year of 2000. I was traveling light with just a backpack, one blue shirt and black pants, little money, and no Italian. I had a few close friends and one goal: to reach the Eternal City. Despite the challenges and deprivations, I felt alive in a way I had never known before.

When do you feel most alive? I'd wager it's not when you're most comfortable or surrounded by stuff. Rather, it's when your life is aimed at something great; when you're on a meaningful and challenging journey with good friends.

That's the image the Magi give us in today's Gospel. They set out from the East not with certainty, but with hope. They study the signs, discipline their attention, and journey together, offering the best they have when they find the newborn King.

The Church gives us their story at the start of the year to reawaken something in us. We are not meant to drift. We're meant to journey as pilgrims. The Jubilee Year of 2025 may have ended, but our pilgrimage has not. Like the magi, the closer we get to Christ, the more alive we become.

— Father John Muir

Today's Readings: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, January 8th



We will meet at 2:00PM in Room 311 to discuss the Old Testament and Mary, the Perpetual Virgin. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn about the Bible and our Blessed Mother. All are welcome. Please come and join us.

HAPPY & BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL!

MASS ANNOUNCEMENTS

If any parish ministry or organization would like to have an announcement made at Mass we ask that you please have the information to the office by noon on Friday. This allows us to compile the books we need for weekend liturgies by the end of Friday. Also, please limit announcements to one or two sentences.



Intercessory Prayer Experience

Call on the Holy Spirit and expect Him to show up! The Father has promised Him to us.

“Jesus said: And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” Luke 24:49

Come join us after Mass at 5:45PM on the first Saturday of each month.

Deacon Mike will offer time to pray with anyone for the intercession of the Holy Spirit regarding individual prayer intentions.

After Mass the Sacrament of Confession and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will also be available.

WELCOME TO ST. ALEXANDER!

We extend a warm welcome to all our guests and visitors who have graced us with their presence at today's liturgy. We hope that you feel at home here; please let us know if we can be of any assistance while you are with us.

Home Bound or Ill?

If you, or someone you know, are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive communion in their home, please call either Deacon Jim Horton or Deacon Fran Pendergast at 708-448-4861.

Join us for a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament



**Every first Wednesday of the month 6-7pm in Church
Wednesday, January 7th**

“A Holy Hour before the Most Blessed Sacrament so pleases the Heart of Jesus, that every man, woman and child on earth receives a new effect of God’s graces.” - St. Faustina

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary

O most blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of tenderness and mercy,
I, an unworthy sinner, fly to you with all the affection of my heart
and I beseech your motherly love,
that, as you stood by your most dear Son, while he hung on the Cross,
so in your kindness, you may be pleased to stand by me, a poor sinner,
and all Priests who today are offering the Sacrifice here
and throughout the entire holy Church,
so that with your gracious help we may offer a worthy and acceptable oblation
in the sight of the most high and undivided Trinity. Amen.

WORD OF LIFE

“O Blessed Mother, at the angel’s word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations... Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid.”

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Contact the parish office at 708-448-4861 if you would like a Mass intention for 2026.

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT
-Religious Ed
-Youth Ministry
(JR High/ High School)
-Stay and Play



WWW.TRIED-YM.COM

ParishSOFT

If you would like to make a one-time electronic donation or sign up for recurring gifts please scan this bar code.



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Faith Direct has joined forces with ParishSOFT Managed Giving. You will see some changes to your giving portfolio and can still sign on to your account as you did before. ParishSOFT Giving offers all the same reliable features you've come to know – recurring gifts, online giving, and donor support – plus new enhancements to better serve you:

- Modern giving options: including Apple Pay, Google Pay, Venmo, PayPal, stock, and crypto.
- Anonymous Giving.
- Mobile-friendly experience: give online, through the app, or by text.

Donors can give based on preferred schedule, with support for weekly contributions rather than once-a-month processing. ParishSOFT Managed Giving will make your giving experience more convenient and meaningful. All your existing information, recurring gifts, and donation history will transfer automatically – no action is needed unless otherwise notified.



The traditional date of Epiphany is January 6, but in the United States it is celebrated on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8.

It is a long-held Catholic tradition to bless one's home on (or near) the celebration of the Epiphany by using chalk to write a special inscription above the home's entrance. This weekend, blessed chalk is available for you to take home and participate in this tradition.

The inscription written over the door changes every year. For this year, you should write: "20 + C + M + B + 26."

The Letters C, M, and B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They are also the first letters of the Latin words Christus mansionem benedicat, "May Christ bless the house." The + signs represent the cross, and 2026 is the year.



Knights of Columbus – A Heartfelt Thank You!

Through your generous support over the first two weekends in December, the sale of "KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" yard signs and car magnets raised \$1,230.00 in proceeds and donations.

This blessing will provide approximately 40 brand-new coats next fall for children most in need—personally identified by their teachers and principals.

Traditionally, these coats have warmed the children of our sharing parishes: Saint Agnes in Chicago Heights and Saint Gall in Chicago. The joyful photographs displayed on the posterboard show the very real impact of your kindness—smiling children staying warm because of you.

From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU for Keeping Christ in Christmas.



Join Us For A

Dueling Pianos

Extravaganza

Hosted By

St. Al's FSA

JANUARY 9, 2026



HOWL 2 GO
BY HOWL AT THE MOON

TICKETS \$35 PER PERSON - \$60 PER COUPLE

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM
PIANO SHOW AT 8PM

BYOB & SNACKS
21 & OVER EVENT

SAVE THE DATE!

January 29th

Our Next Women's Event



CHAIR YOGA

Join friends
and fellow
parishioners
for a fun yoga
workout!

Low-Gluten Hosts

At the 9:30AM Mass an Extraordinary Minister of Communion will be available with low-gluten hosts. The Extraordinary Minister will be located at the entrance of the ramp which leads to the sanctuary on the side where the statue of our Blessed Virgin is presented.

Spiritual Direction

Opportunity for Spiritual Direction

Christian Spiritual Direction is an ancient spiritual discipline that is a way of companioning people as they seek to look closely, through the eyes of their heart, at the guidance and transforming work of God in their lives. Direction is given by one believer to another and helps the seeker to respond to the Holy Spirit's communication by living out this relationship with God. The focus of this type of spiritual direction is on experience, not ideas, and specifically on the religious dimension of experience.

Moreover, experiences are viewed as an expression of the ongoing personal relationship God has established with each one of us. The director is considered a gentle guide in this process. Spiritual direction meetings take place once a month in a one on one setting. Prayer, silence, and listening are used to assist the seeker in discerning the movement of the Holy Spirit in their lives. All conversations take place in strict confidentiality.

If you are interested in getting more details about or using Spiritual Direction ministry, please contact Deacon Mike Ciciura at 630-243-9342 or mciciura@archchicago.org

WORD OF LIFE

"Through the Incarnation and birth of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. The Son of God has united himself with every human being and desires for us to share eternal life with him... Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, and we reflect his glory in the world."

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Saturday, January 10th



Sunday, January 11th

7:30 AM— Susan Murphy, Bob Straz, Betty Chwierut
9:30 AM— Rich Cruz, Wendy Loftus, Nancy Dougherty, Patti Hartig (LG)
11:30 AM— Paul Sullivan, Jeff & Ofelia Foreman
6:00 PM— Michael Collins, Sharon Ayres, Merrill Jurgens

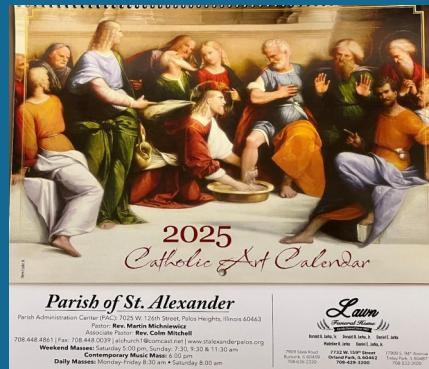
READERS

Saturday, January 10th



Sunday, January 11th

7:30 AM— Paula Somers
9:30 AM— Frank Lonergan
11:30 AM— Joan DeVito
6:00 PM— Bob Ayres, Johanna Jurgens



2026 PARISH CALENDARS

Thanks to the generosity of
Lawn Funeral Home,
we continue to offer our Parish Calendars!
They are available in the back of church
or in the parish office.

DADDY *daughter* DANCE

APRIL 25, 2026

SAVE THE DATE



**24/7 HOTLINE: 708-429-SAFE
WE SUPPORT VICTIMS OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Assisted Listening Systems for Church Sound

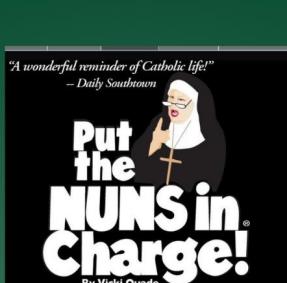
Our church is equipped with a hearing "loop" system which will allow those with a tele-coil (T-coil) in their hearing aid to hear more clearly. Some hearing aids will automatically switch to our "loop" system. Other hearing aids must be *manually* switched to the T-coil mode.

If you do not think your hearing aid is functioning properly with our "loop" system it may be because: A) Your hearing aid does not have a built-in T-coil OR B) You have to *manually* switch your hearing aid to the T-coil mode.

T-Coil Switches: If your hearing aid has a switch labeled **M-T-O** the switch should be set to the **T** position. If your hearing aid has switch labeled **M-MT** the switch should be set to the **MT** position.

Please consult your Audiologist with any questions, and to be sure that your hearing aid is equipped with a T-coil and is working properly.

If you do not have a hearing aid with tele-coil (T-coil), we have purchased four individual hearing devices, specifically programmed for our system, that can be used during our liturgies on Sunday. They will be placed in a box on the bench outside the school office. We do ask that you please clean the hearing device after Mass, with the alcohol wipes that are on the bench, before returning them to the box. Thank you and we hope this will help to enhance your liturgical experience.



One Night Only! St. George Parish Life Center

A night of comedy so funny it ought to be a sin!
From the creator of Late Nite Catechism this show has
Mother Superior sharing her thoughts on everything
from cell phones to road rage!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026
DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM
\$25 TICKET INCLUDES PIZZA
BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGES
AND SNACKS

Reserve your seat in Sister's class by purchasing
tickets at the school or rectory office.
For more information call 708-532-2243

Mass Intentions For The Week



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JANUARY 4, 2026

Saturday, January 3rd

5:00 PM— Bridget Raftery
Dale Yukich
Ray & Dorothy Majdecki
William & Jeanette Schuble
Ralph Dziuba
John & Genevieve Laskey

Sunday, January 4th

7:30 AM— Irene Brajner
Josephine Data
Robert McQuiston
Brian Cadore
Vincent & Mary Hoban
Colleen J. Nix
Betty Chwierut—Special Intention
9:30 AM— Raymond & Marion Hunt
Jack Meade
Richard Lyman
Mary Foskett
John Janik
Bernadine Dressel

11:30 AM— Tom Scanlon
Paul Pendergast
The Family of Paul Lorenzini
Brendan Quealy

6:00 PM— For the Parishioners
Special Intention

Monday, January 5th (St. John Neumann)

8:30 AM— Dolores Compton—1st Anniversary
Colleen J. Nix
Eric Zempich—Birthday Blessing

Tuesday, January 6th (St. André Bessette)

8:30 AM— Patrick Murphy
Mike Sweeney
Margaret Corbett
Colleen J. Nix
Nancy Lukasik
Mike—Healing Intention
Lisa & Alex Liceaga & Family—Blessing

Wednesday, January 7th (St. Raymond of Peñafort)

8:30 AM— Jason Lewis
Ralph Dziuba
Muriel Rooney
Colleen J. Nix
Eric & Sue Zempich & Family—Blessing

Thursday, January 8th

8:30 AM— Brock Mavity
Tom Scanlon
Marguerite Quinn
Colleen J. Nix

Friday, January 9th

8:30 AM— Tom & Kathleen Walsh
Colleen J. Nix

Saturday, January 10th

8:00 AM— Virginia M. & Joseph T. Feldner
Colleen J. Nix

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD JANUARY 11, 2026

Saturday, January 10th

5:00 PM— Dale Yukich
Marilyn Reddy
Ralph Dziuba
Joan Veronica Marlon
Paul Lunter

Sunday, January 11th

7:30 AM— Anna & Nathaniel Ringelstein—
1st Wedding Anniversary
Irene Brajner
Colleen J. Nix
Paul Pendergast
Catherine Hoban
9:30 AM— Raymond & Marion Hunt
Nell Hanley
Ed Fioretti
Don & Mary Tadda
11:30 AM— Michael Belczak
Tom Scanlon
Paul Lunter
Matthew Schmeski Sr.
Rosa Greenwald
6:00 PM— For the Parishioners
Margaret C. Fried

A Prayer for “Renew My Church”

Lord Jesus, you speak to us today, as you spoke to holy men and women who have gone before us. In every age and in our own time, you call to us and say: Renew My Church.

Pour out the gift of your Holy Spirit upon us, and so enable us

*to hear you clearly
to listen to each other attentively
to imagine our future boldly
to discern your direction wisely
to persevere in your holy will courageously
to stay together in charity
to surrender our own plans readily
to embrace the greater good
to hand on your gifts to future generations*

May we remain in the holy company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the apostles, and all the saints.

May their example and presence inspire us with patient confidence in the work of your grace.

We ask this of you who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen