

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



## Enlighten Us

Radiant God,  
you are the source of all light and joy.  
Illuminate our communities  
and show us the way to live in peace  
and harmony.  
Shower us with knowledge of your  
holy will  
and grant us courage to manifest  
your presence throughout the world.  
Help us to bring the Good News  
of your life among us  
to the ends of the earth.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Look Back, Look Forward



*Today's readings: Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–13; Ephesians 3:2–6; Matthew 2:1–12.* Little is known about the three visitors from the East who paid the holy family homage. Still we can't help but marvel at their determination to meet Jesus despite the distance and that their only guide was a star.

In many cultures, Epiphany is celebrated with as much festivity as Christmas. The day may be marked with parades, parties, gift-giving, the three kings cake, and holiday meals. Create annual traditions to make Epiphany special in your household. The liturgy offers a house blessing on this day. Inscribe 20+C+M+B24 with chalk on the door frame. It stands for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, “let Christ bless this house” and the current year. Custom attributes the letters to the names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and

Balthasar. Bring the figurines of the three Magi closer to the manger, light candles, and sing your favorite Epiphany and Christmas carols.

The Christmas season ends at sundown January 5. Look back upon our journey since the beginning of Advent. From waiting for the coming of Christ, to welcoming him anew into our lives, and then making a permanent home for him in our hearts, we also traveled far. What new insights did you uncover along the way about the in-breaking of God into humanity? How will your faith journey bring you closer to Christ in the coming year? The Sundays to come will continue to reveal who it is we have welcomed into our lives this Christmas.



Art by / Ilustración de Mike Jaroszko © LTP

# This Week at Home

## Monday, January 1

### Name of Jesus

The Church reserves today as an optional memorial dedicated to the Name of Jesus. The name Jesus, (in Hebrew, Yeshua or Joshua) means “Savior.” Paul urges all Christians to keep holy the name of Jesus, “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth” (Philippians 2:10). *Today’s readings: Philippians 2:1–11; Psalm 8:4–9; Luke 2:21–22.*

## Tuesday, January 2

### Basil and Gregory

Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen were fourth-century contemporaries, both born to parents who are remembered as saints and both blessed with siblings who became saints. Through their writings, they made important contributions to how the Church understands the mystery of the Trinity. Their articulation of Jesus as fully human and fully divine shaped the language of the Nicene Creed we profess in Sunday worship. *Today’s readings: 1 John 2:22–28; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 1:19–28.*

## Wednesday, January 3

### What was Mary thinking?

According to the Scriptures, Mary reflects in her heart on all the amazing events surrounding the birth of her child. As we move from one calendar year to the next, we are invited to reflect with gratitude on the gifts given to us as well as look forward to the new year with hope, faith, and trust in the abiding presence of Emmanuel. This time of the year, when traditionally New Year’s resolutions are made, is also the perfect time to make spiritual promises. Ponder how you hope to grow in your relationship with the living Christ in the coming year. *Today’s readings: Numbers 6:22–27; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4:4–7; Luke 2:16–21.*

## Thursday, January 4

### Holy family life

By sending Jesus to enter the world through a human family, God takes on all the messiness that comes with family life. God shows us tangibly that God desires to be close to us in our everyday living, in our closest relationships, and in the life in our homes. Families are called the hearth of the domestic church because it is within our families that we are first formed in faith and nurtured in love. In both the trials and joys of family life, we learn how to strive for holiness. Reflect upon the holiness in our primary relationships. Colossians gives us a blueprint for household living. Read it with loved ones and together prayerfully discern some resolutions for the new year. *Today’s readings: Genesis 15:1–6; 21:1–3; Psalm 105:1–9; or Psalm 128:1–5; Colossians 3:12–21; Luke 2:22–40.*

## Friday, January 5

### Twelfth night

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with Christmas eve and concludes on Epiphany, twelve days later. Throughout the season we celebrate the birth of Christ into our hearts, our lives and our world, and commemorate that Jesus comes to save us and lead us to eternal light. Listen to the Christmas carol “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” originally written to convey the essential elements of the Christian faith during centuries of religious persecution. *Today’s readings: 1 John 5:5–13; Psalm 147:12–15, 19–20; Mark 1:7–11.*

## Friday, January 6

### From Epiphany to the Baptism of Our Lord

We observed Epiphany last Sunday because by Sunday the Twelve Days of Christmas are past and with them Jesus’ childhood. We will suddenly find ourselves at the scene of Jesus’ baptism on Sunday. The scriptures will turn from Christ’s infancy to his initiation, mission and the inauguration of his ministry. At his baptism the Holy Spirit anointed and revealed Jesus as the Son of God. We are invited to ponder our baptism, which welcomed us into the community of the children of God. Pull out baptismal pictures, garments, and mementos, and recall the stories of baptisms in your family. Reach out to godparents and godchildren with a note or a call. Remember our baptismal commitment to keep the light of Christ burning brightly in our lives. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 42:1–7; Psalm 29:1–10; Acts 10:34–38; Mark 1:7–11.*