

CATHOLIC CORNER



Sandwiched between Sunday January 3rd The Epiphany of the Lord and Sunday January 10th The Baptism of the Lord in the Roman Catholic Calendar is the January 6th The Feast of the Epiphany when the wise men (Magi) visit Jesus and the Holy Family. This date of January 6th is also Christmas Eve for the Eastern Church and the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

The Epiphany of the wise men encountering Jesus is the end of an epic journey for these men who have been seeking the Messiah by following a bright star they had seen rising which had eventually stopped over Bethlehem. All over the world there are many wonderful Christian traditions that have been maintained for generations celebrating this event of overwhelming joy experienced by the wise men as they pay Jesus, the Messiah, homage.

Some Christians focus their celebrations on the visit of the wise men to Jesus and the Holy Family. Other Christians celebrate the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan by John the Baptist as we read in this Sunday's Gospel. For many though it is a celebration of both events, as epiphany means "revelation." Both the visit of the Wise Men and his baptism "revealed" Jesus to be very important.

Some of the celebrations that take place around the world include: In Italy, "La Befana" a national holiday so public offices and schools are closed. In Spain they throw a big festival called "Fiesta de Los Tres Reyes Magos", Carol singing is a popular Epiphany tradition in both Poland and Portugal and Belgium, In Greek and Eastern Orthodox traditions, a priest will bless the waters by throwing a cross into the sea — whoever recovers it receives a special blessing from the church. In Spain, Mexico and France you might go to the local bakers and buy a



special cake with a figure of a king, Baby Jesus or a toy crown baked inside. More information can be found here: <https://www.cbc.ca/kidscbc2/the-feed/what-is-epiphany>



In the readings from this weekend, the Gospel tells of the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the Jordan. In the attached readings the author reflects on Baptism as “Baptism is like the ropes that bind our legs together in a three legged race. It binds God to us.” During Baptism “God promised to ALWAYS love us.” , “God tells us that we are God’s children; “We promise to work together with God to be good people and to help others know how much God loves us all.” We Notice too, that no matter what we did, the other person was still there, tied to us, just like God. Whenever we do something that is not good or stop doing what God wants us to do, God is still there, waiting for us to figure out how to walk with God again.” See attached file for more information.



Take Care.
Be Safe.
God Bless.

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