

CELEBRATING THE FEASTS and SEASONS

EPIPHANY

The word “EPIPHANY” means manifestation or revealing- Epiphany is the heart of the Christmas celebration, revealing Christ as the Light of the World!

on entering the house, they saw the child with mary his mother...opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11

Here are two customs associated with the observance of Epiphany: From the Gospel reading, an invitation to imitate the “gifts” of the three visitors from the East:

In place of GOLD- make a gift of money to Parish Outreach for the care of the poor

In place of FRANKINCENSE- through a letter or visit someone in local or other level of government- call attention to the needs of the poor and the importance of respecting the dignity of every person

*In place of MYRRH-*remember a person who is homebound or ill through prayer, visit or gesture of outreach.

Another Epiphany tradition is the blessing of the home.

The members of the household gather near the front door for the following prayer:

May Christ bless this house!

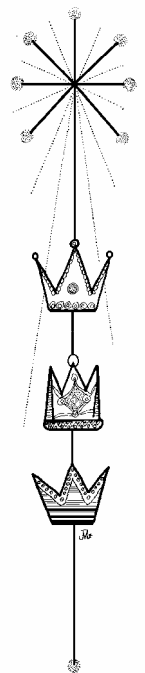
During these days of the Christmas season, we keep this feast of Epiphany, celebrating the manifestation of Christ-to the Magi, to John in the River Jordan and to the disciples at the wedding of Cana. Today Christ is manifest to us! Today this home is a holy place!

We read in the Gospel of John: [1:1-3, 3: 14]

*In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with God, and the WORD was God!
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be.*

And the WORD became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Let us pray:

Lord our God, bless this household.

**May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart,
gentleness and the keeping of your law.**

**We give thanks to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now
and forever.**

Amen.

*At the front door of the home a family member uses a piece of
chalk to inscribe the lintel:*

20 + C + M + B + 06

Here is the number of the New Year- 2006; the three letters
C-M-B are the first letters of the Latin words: “Christus
mansionem benedicat” which means “May Christ bless this
home.”

We pray that throughout the year, those who come and go
through the door will enjoy the blessing of Christ.

