

TALKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS >>>

As a family, you can celebrate the season of Christmas in your home in many ways. The Christmas season is a festive one. It lasts from the Christmas Eve Vigil until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord in January. In today's culture, the meaning of Christmas may get lost. The Feast of Epiphany in January helps shift the focus from material gifts to the gift that is Jesus. *Epiphany* means "showing forth." The visit of the Magi on Epiphany is a symbol and a prophecy that God sent Jesus for the salvation of all peoples.

Scripture



Read **Titus 3:1-8**. Paul describes to Titus how a Christian should live as we await Jesus' second coming. How do you try to live the Christian life that Paul describes?

HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND >>>

Epiphany

- Most children love the drama of the Feast of Epiphany. The following of the star, the visit to Herod, the presentation of gifts, and the secret return of the Magi enthrall them.
- Children this age often enjoy learning how other cultures celebrate Epiphany. In families with Spanish heritage, children put hay or grass and water under their beds. This is meant to be food for the Magi's camels. During the night, the Magi exchange the food for presents.
- Give your child the example of the municipality of Juana Díaz, in Puerto Rico, which holds a festival to honor the Magi. Hundreds of people dress as shepherds to welcome the Magi, who are dressed in fancy costumes.



CATHOLIC FAMILY CUSTOMS >>>

One way to celebrate the Feast of Epiphany is by marking the home's doorway with the initials of the Magi. While the names of the Magi are not found in Scripture, our tradition has handed on the names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.

Obtain a piece of chalk and gather your family around the front door of your home. Then pray: "Lord, bless this doorway and all who enter here. Help us to be generous and welcoming to those who cross this threshold." Use the chalk to mark the doorway with the initials of the Magi (C, M, B). This tradition reminds family members to bring Christ to all whom they encounter.

FAMILY PRAYER >>>



Don't put away that manger scene until the end of the Christmas season. Each Sunday of the Christmas season, before a family meal, gather as a family around the scene. Light a candle or a lamp and sing a favorite family Christmas hymn as your prayer.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.