

## EPIPHANY

- Epiphany is a Holy Day of Obligation in the Catholic Church and is celebrated on January 6 (although the Holy Day is usually transferred to a Sunday).
- A traditional custom on this day invites Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows. Families use blessed chalk to write above the home's entrance the letters 20+C+M+B+20 the letters are the first letter of the names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar and they also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house". The + represent the cross and 2020 is the year.
- Be sure to watch the Sacred Heart bulletin for which weekend Masses to attend to receive your own blessed chalk and prayer.

## Q & A

- **Why do we celebrate Epiphany?**

*The word "Epiphany" means a "showing". An epiphany is a time that something is shown or displayed to an audience. The Epiphany we celebrate is a showing of Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God and Savior of the world. We remember the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East and we do the same.*

- **Who were the Wise Men?**

*The three Wise Men were members of an order of Persian priest-astrologers known as Magi that would study and interpret the stars. But they were truly wise men because they read and believed the Word of God and went to seek Jesus Christ, the King of Kings.*

- **What did the three gifts the Magi brought to Jesus mean?**

*The Magi brought gold, frankincense and myrrh to the newborn King and they had reasons for choosing those particular gifts.*

*Gold was associated with royalty and showed that the Magi believed in Jesus as the King of Kings. The gold may have been used to smuggle Jesus out of Bethlehem to escape King Herod who wanted to kill Him.*

*Frankincense was used for prayer as incense. In bringing this gift, the Magi declared their belief in Jesus as our great high priest.*

*Myrrh was used as an anointing oil when embalming a dead body. With this gift, the Magi showed their belief that Jesus came to suffer and die for us.*

### **Discussion Questions**

- If you could choose a gift to bring to Jesus today, what would you bring? The Magi had their reasons for giving the gifts they brought. What would your reason be?
- Do you think you have ever had an “epiphany” of Jesus in your life? How has He shown Himself to you?