

# Saint Boniface Parish

## Faith Formation Handout – Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Epiphany of the Lord

#### Matthew 2:2-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

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## How do I continue to celebrate the divine presence in my life?

### First Grade

What were your favorite memories from this past Christmas? When were some of the times that you experienced love and joy? When did you experience God during this past Christmas? Although the twelve days of Christmas are over, God is still present in our lives. How can you experience love and joy all year?

### Second Grade

We continue to celebrate God's presence in our life when we continue to love others around us. How can you keep sharing the joy of Christmas with people every day? What are the ways that you don't love that you should avoid? How can you ask God to help you to be more aware of His presence in your life every day?

### Third and Fourth Grades

In today's Gospel, the three wise men are told to go and search diligently for Jesus. If we are going to continue to celebrate Jesus' presence in our lives, we need to keep looking for Him. Where do you see God working in the world? Where are places that you see love and joy? What do you need to do to look more for God in your life?

### Fifth and Sixth Grades

To celebrate means to do more than just know something. What are things in your life that you celebrate? Who are people in your life that you celebrate knowing and loving? What are at least three reasons that God's presence in your life is worth celebrating? How can you celebrate God's presence in your life?

### Seventh and Eighth Grades

In today's Gospel we hear how the wise men were 'overjoyed' when they found Mary and Jesus. What types of things make you overjoyed? What was something during Christmas that made you overjoyed? When was a time that God caused you to be overjoyed? How can you carry that joy with you throughout the year?

### High School and Adults

It can be very easy to move from one thing to the next, and with Christmas over, you may be looking ahead to the next thing. Don't! We are a Christmas people! How would you describe what 'Christmas Joy' is? How can you continue to have that type of joy throughout the year? What are the things that can limit that joy?

# For this Week...

We are Catholic always and in everything we do. Throughout the week bring your faith into your school, your work, your play and your family. Here are some ideas for you.

## Monday

The best way to keep God present in your life is to continue to talk with Him every day. Today, choose a time that will work for you to begin praying every day. Do you have five minutes in the morning, in the evening or at some time during the day? Maybe during lunch or when you are commuting. You may need to put a note somewhere to remind yourself.

## Tuesday

Having a set time to pray every day is good and important, but it shouldn't be the only time that we talk with God. We should also be thinking about Him and talking with Him throughout the day. Today, talk with God whenever you think about it. This means saying a quick thank you to Him or asking Him for help. Don't be shy, be bold!

## Wednesday

The magi had to work hard and travel far to find Christ. What are you doing to keep God present in your life? It takes work to keep a relationship with God, but He helps us with it. Today, list the three things that are holding you back from having God be more present in your life. Then choose to remove them as obstacles. What will it take to do this?

## Thursday

Giving gifts on Christmas reminds us what a gift Christ is to us. Christmas also reminds us about all of the gifts we have been given by God. Today, celebrate God's presence in your life by being thankful. Say 'thank you' to God and the people around you as much as possible today! Say thank you for every small thing you notice.

## Friday

God has placed us in a community – first our family, and then the larger faith community. We can keep God present in our lives by praying with the community at Mass. Today, make a plan on when you are going to be at Mass and who you will go with. Don't pencil it into your calendar. Make it permanent so that you will be sure to go!

## Saturday

God is love! The more that we have love in our life, the more God is present. Sometimes it can be difficult to find love in situations, but we can always bring love into any situation by serving others, including those we don't like. Today, bring more love into the world by serving others as much as you can. Even your enemies!



## FROM THE CATECHISM...

The Word became flesh so that thus we might know God's love: "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him." "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 458

## Next Week's Readings

Here are the readings for next Sunday so that on Saturday you can read through them. If you take a few minutes to read them and prepare, you will get a lot more from Mass. They are available online at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

**Isaiah 49:3,5-6   Psalm 40:2,4,7-8,8-9,10   1 Corinthians 1:1-3   John 1:29-34**