

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:



These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Matthew 2:1-12	The visit of the wise men
Monday	1 Kings 10:1-13	The queen of Sheba visits Solomon
Tuesday	Isaiah 60:1-6	Nations will come to your light
Wednesday	Matthew 2:13-18	The escape to Egypt
Thursday	Matthew 2:19-23	The return to Nazareth
Friday	John 19:38-42	Nicodemus brings myrrh
Saturday	Psalms 72	Kings will present him gifts
Sunday	Mark 1:4-11	Jesus is baptized

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

Jerusalem, stand up! Shine! Your new day is dawning. The glory of the LORD shines brightly on you. **Isaiah 60:1 (CEV)**

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, thank you for the gift of Jesus. Help us to become giving people. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you light our path and make bright our days; receive our gifts of thanks and praise. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God guide you with light, and shepherd you like a lamb. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a memorable trip you have had.
- Wise men travelled from the Far East to visit the child, Jesus, guided by a star. What can you remember about their adventure?
- The wise men brought special gifts to give to Jesus. What gifts you offer to Jesus in your lives. To finish, sing together the carol, "We Three Kings."

DEVOTIONS:

January 6 is the festival day of Epiphany in the church. The word epiphany means to show, make known, or reveal. It is linked to the visit of the wise men who brought royal gifts to the Christ child, revealing him to the world as Lord and King. Light is a key image or symbol associated with Epiphany. As part of your home devotional times this week, read the story of the wise men's visit from a Bible or Bible storybook (Matthew 2:1-12). If possible, act out the story as a household. Discuss what gifts you offer to Jesus in your lives. To finish, sing together the carol, "We Three Kings."

SERVICE:

A bright star guided the wise men to the home of Jesus. Bake or prepare star-shaped cookies to give away as gifts to people in your church or local community. Write the "Scripture Verse for this Week" onto small labels to attach to your gift packages.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

There are many wonderful household traditions associated with Epiphany. Choose one or more of the following ideas to introduce into your home:

1. Have a home candlelight evening – turn off all lights and use only candles to guide you. If it is a clear night, take a few minutes to look at the stars.
2. Have an Epiphany treasure hunt – "hide" a baby Jesus figure somewhere in your home and have household members search for it.
3. Make stars out of cardboard and paint them gold or yellow. Hang them throughout your home.
4. An old Epiphany tradition involves hiding small items in a cake. On the night before the feast of Epiphany, a special cake would be served with three beans hidden within. Whoever found the beans would be the Kings at the Epiphany feast. In line with this tradition, bake a cake with coins inside. Give those who find the coins a paper crown to wear.