

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE RCIA

CATECHUMENATE SESSION: SALVATION

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord • Year B • January 7, 2024

**Jesus,
you came to earth
to save all people.**

**Bless all people
who are near to me
and all people who live
in the farthest corners of the world.**

**Bless all who travel
to share your Good News
with others.**

**Help me to share the Good News
everywhere I go,
and with everyone I meet.**

Amen.



Sunday Word

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

The above readings are available at
usccb.org/bible/readings.

To Help You Remember



The Magi followed a star to the place where the newborn king, Jesus, was. They gave to him three special gifts:

- Gold, a gift fit for a king
- Frankincense, a gift used to honor God
- Myrrh, an ointment used in burying the dead

These three gifts could be said to honor Jesus, the Son of God, who would one day die on the Cross to save all people from sin.

Key Teachings



The Magi Arrive

When the Magi arrived in Jerusalem, they created quite a stir because they asked about the “newborn king of the Jews” (see Matthew 2:2).

The Star Guides

When the star that had guided them stopped over the place where the infant Jesus was, the Magi knew that their journey had concluded.

What an Epiphany!

The solemnity we celebrate today proclaims that Salvation is meant for people of every race, language, and way of life—everywhere.

Faith Words



Epiphany

Epiphany is the solemnity on which the Church celebrates that God’s Salvation is for all people—poor shepherds, royal Magi, everyone, and us.

Magi

The Magi were the wise men who followed a star to Bethlehem, where the newborn king, Jesus, lay.

Catholics Believe



Frankincense was burned by ancient people who believed that it carried their prayers to Heaven. Today the Church burns incense to symbolize that our High Priest, Jesus, carries our prayers to Heaven too.

With My Family



We Listen

The star makes a brilliant appearance in the Gospel story. We hear about a bright light shining in the First Reading too. These bright lights are a biblical clue that something significant is happening: God is being made known. The star in the Gospel points to Jesus, God’s Son. And the Lord’s glory shines on God’s people, Israel. Where is God’s light shining in your life?

We Believe

Jesus came to bring Salvation to all people. The goal of the Church is to share the light of Jesus Christ with all the world. How can your family share the light of Jesus with others in the coming week?

We Live As Disciples

People from all over the world, of every race and language, come to Christ and follow as his disciples. Look around you and notice the beauty and diversity of your fellow disciples.

We Pray

Singing is praying twice! Sing together this last verse from “What Child Is This” (text by William Dix, 1837–1898).

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.