



The Mustard Seed

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The Season of Epiphany

In western Christian tradition, January 6 is celebrated as Epiphany. It goes by other names in various church traditions. In Hispanic and Latin culture, as well as some places in Europe, it is known as Three Kings' Day.

Epiphany is the climax of the Advent/Christmas Season and the Twelve Days of Christmas, which are usually counted from the evening of Dec 25th until the morning of Jan 6th, which is the Twelfth Day. In following this older custom of counting the days beginning at sundown, the evening of Jan 5th is the Twelfth Night. This is an occasion for feasting in some cultures, including the baking of a special King's Cake as part of the festivities of Epiphany.

The term epiphany means "to show" or "to make known" or even "to reveal." In Western churches, it remembers the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child, who by so doing "reveal" Jesus to the world as Lord and King. In some Central and South American countries influenced by Catholic tradition, Three Kings' Day, or the night before, is the time for opening Christmas presents. In some Eastern churches, Epiphany or the Theophany commemorates Jesus' baptism, with the visit of the Magi linked to Christmas. In some churches the day is celebrated as Christmas, with Epiphany/Theophany occurring on Jan 19th.

The colors of Epiphany are usually the colors of Christmas, white and gold, the colors of celebration, newness, and hope that mark the most sacred days of the church year. In traditions that only observe a single day for Epiphany, the colors are often changed after Epiphany to colors of Ordinary Time, usually green or thematic sanctuary colors, until Transfiguration Sunday, the last Sunday before the beginning of Lent. The colors for Transfiguration Sunday are usually the colors of Holy Days, white and gold.

The day is now observed as a time of focusing on the mission of the church in reaching others by "showing" Jesus as the Savior of all people.

This message was taken in part written by Dennis Bratcher



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An Epiphany Prayer

Father, we thank you for revealing yourself to us in Jesus the Christ, we who once were not your people but whom you chose to adopt as your people. As ancient Israel confessed long ago, we realize that it was not because of our own righteousness, or our own superior wisdom, or strength, or power, or numbers. It was simply because you loved us, and

chose to show us that love in Jesus.

As you have accepted us when we did not deserve your love, will you help us to accept those whom we find it hard to love? Forgive us, O Lord, for any attitude that we harbor that on any level sees ourselves as better or more righteous than others. Will you help us to remove the

barriers of prejudice?

Will you fill us so full of your love that there is no more room for intolerance. As you have forgiven us much, will you enable us with your strength to forgive others even more?

We thank you for your love, praise you for your Gift, ask for your continued Presence with us. Amen

Special points of interest:

- Epiphany
- Flowers
- Beads
- Annual Meeting
- Pledge Cards

Tid Bits

Wednesday Gathering— Join us at 5:30 for Church Service, 6:00 for a pot luck dinner and lots of fellowship. Bring a friend and remember all students EAT FREE so spread the word.

Recycling at All Saints'— All members are welcome to bring in your recyclables, guide lines are posted in the kitchen and pick-up is every Monday morning. All #1 and #2 plastic accepted. Please rinse and crush!

Baptism &/or Confirmation See Fr. Mike or call him at 256-2215 (Office) or 417-505-0702 (Cell)

Welcome to our Church Family— Barbara Bentkowski!

Thanks— to all who put gloves and hats on the tree during advent. They were taken area schools!

Flowers— Check out our new flower chart, sign up for a special Sunday in Thanksgiving for Blessings or in Memory of a loved one. The cost is \$30 per Sunday. Flowers will stay on the altar until faded or be taken to shut-ins if possible.

Prayer Beads— Dianne Ivie has/will make prayer beads if you would like more information call Dianne at 257-1407



Happy Happy January Birthday

Kathy McPherson- 5
Mollie Plocher- 16
David Moon- 19
Danielle Mapes- 24
William Hass- 28
Cole Jett- 29
Dwayne Mortenson-29



If we missed your Day, Please let us know!

Do you have any news, pictures or a story you would like to share? If so contact Shirley Figley at msfig@yahoo.com or call 660-4480

Celebration

During 2009 All Saints celebrates 120 years holding services in our "little white church with the bright red doors".

Church Season-

Christmas (White);

Epiphany (Green)

Vestry News

Annual Meeting for All Saints' Episcopal Church will be held on Sunday, Jan 18, 2009 following the 10:30 service.

Nominees for Vestry are:

Etta Jett (3 year term)

Hinton Stokes (1 year unexpired term of Terry Howard)

Wayne Plocher (3 year

term) Wayne has agreed if elected, to serve one year as Senior Warden

Nominees for delegates to the Diocesan Convention are:

Dianne Ivie (1 year)

Bonnie Plocher (1 year)

Nominations from the floor will be welcomed during the Annual Meeting.

Note

We are seeking 2 persons to serve as alternate delegates to the convention

Plan for a pot luck lunch during the meeting. Child Care will be provided.

Pledge Cards— Have you turned in your pledge; our new budget is waiting!



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A Newsletter for All Saints' Episcopal

