

*Our Lady of the Fields Family Worship & Learning Guide -
Celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord.
January 7, 2018*



Dear Parents and Families, accept our support letter for your family's Family Worship & Learning Guide for the Feast of the Epiphany.

Our readings for this feast include: Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72; Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6, Matthew 2:1-12. The readings for this feast of "Manifestation" demonstrate the role of the Magi ("Wise Men") representing all of us as they received the message of hope and forgiveness which is God's "Christmas present" to us all. We are gathered together as the church to announce to one another and to the world that no one is excluded from the promise of hope which comes to us through the newborn Christ. We are the family of God gathered together in Jesus, the Lord!

Our "Prayer and Learning at Home" Celebrating epiphany means following the example of the "Wise Men" seeking and learning about the good things God has in store for us. We are not in session this week for faith formation but that does not mean we are not continuing our learning about God's gifts to us which we can discover in our family and friends and in our affiliations with others in our church and in our lives, all are gifts of God for us. **The questions of the week are:** What gifts has God shared with us in our family, friends and others who help us appreciate God's love for us? Also, ask one another, what does it mean for us to be an "Epiphany" of God among our family, friends, and fellow Christians? What must we do so others can see God's presence and care in our dealings with them?

The **Celebrating Sunday** theme suggests that you, parents and children, reflect on how we are light for one another. Gather together at home in a dark room and then light up the room with a single light. Together reflect on what it might have meant to the Magi to finally see the star that led them on their trip to "see" God's love shining in Jesus' manger. How did it fill them with faith.

Let us pray this special prayer for our family's Epiphany Feast this week:

Leader: Peace be to this house. **All:** And to all who live here.

Leader: Bless, O Lord, our family, and allow all of us who live in this home to find in it a shelter of peace and health. Inspire each of us to develop our individual talents and to contribute wisdom and good works for the benefit of the whole family. Make our house a haven for us all, and a place of warmth and caring for all our friends who come to visit us. Show us the brilliance of your Epiphany star, so that, as we go into the world, we might clearly see our way to You and discover You in our work, learning and play together. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory now and forever. **All:** Amen.

Then, bless the house with the sign of the cross. And write the initials of the Magi (Traditional names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar) with chalk over the main door way or in some prominent place in the house, like this: 20 + C + M + B + 18 (the + is a cross; the "18" stands for 2018).

Thank you for loving each other and learning to praise and follow God's way in your family life!
A blessed and happy 2018 to all!

*Dr. Tom Little and the Evangelization and Faith Formation
Ministry Team*