

# EPIPHANY



ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHAPEL

# WHAT IS EPIPHANY?

On January 6 we celebrate Epiphany, a day where we celebrate the arrival of the three Wise Men who traveled to see the Christ child in Bethlehem. During the season of Epiphany, we celebrate the various manifestations, or "epiphanies," of Jesus' divinity. It is a time to reflect on the many ways that God's Love and Light, born into the world at Christmas, continues to manifest in our lives—in both the ordinary moments and the extraordinary moments.





## RITUALS FOR EPIPHANY

God used the light of a star to guide the three Wise Men to Bethlehem.

We invite you to light the **candle** included in this bag to remind us of the light that shown forth that night, and to explore how we can be a light in in our world today.

### Epiphany candle lighting ritual . . . pg. 3

When the Wise Men came to see the Christ child, they brought gifts of gold, frankincense and Myrrh. To remind us of the lavish gifts they brought, we included **gold chocolate** and incense made of **frankincense and Myrrh**.

To burn the incense, use the **coal briquette** included—but be careful because the coal is messy once unwrapped!

### Directions on how to burn incense . . . pg. 4

To celebrate Epiphany, we can participate in an ancient tradition known as "Chalking the Door." This practice consists of marking a blessing in **chalk** in a specific pattern of letters and numbers to invite God's blessing on a home or other entryway, and on all who enter its doors during the year.

### Instructions on how to chalk your door . . . pg. 5



# EPIPHANY CANDLE LIGHTING

"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' When King Herod heard this he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him....

Herod sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.' After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route."

- Matthew 2:1-3, 8-12

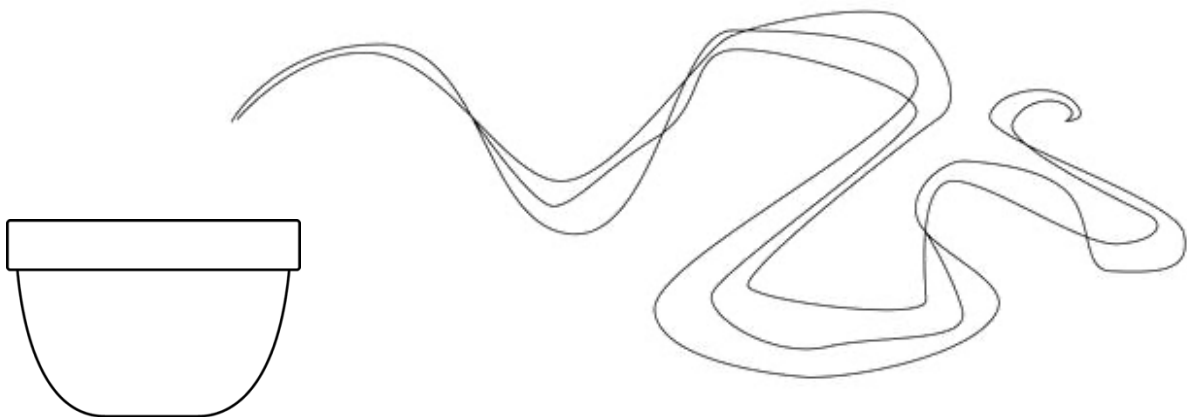
## **\*\*Light the Candle\*\***

O God Among Us,

Might we trust in you as we learn to walk in the dark. Might we step out in faith and follow stars. Might we use our gifts to love you and serve our community. Might we embrace the journey and travel in love. Amen.

# HOW TO BURN INCENSE

1. Fill a heat proof incense bowl or censer with at least 2" of sand, or natural ash. This will provide some much-needed insulation for your burner. Charcoal can burn at up to 1500 degrees F.
2. Place a charcoal tablet on the ash/sand and light the edge. If it's self-igniting charcoal (contains potassium nitrate) you will see tiny sparks as you light it and it will ignite quickly so never hold it in your hand! If you need to hold the charcoal over an open flame to ignite it, use tweezers or tongs to hold it.
3. Place your charcoal in the bowl. The charcoal tablet has an indentation on one side; have the charcoal indentation face up, creating a small "bowl" to hold your incense ingredients.
4. Wait until the charcoal is glowing red hot and is covered with grayish-white ash. This could take about 5 minutes or so. If you like you can fan or blow on the charcoal to help get the whole tablet started.
5. When ready, sprinkle a pinch or two (about 1/4 -1/2 teaspoon) of incense directly on top of the hot charcoal. The incense will begin to smolder. Be careful not to place too much incense on the charcoal or you may smother it and you'll have to start over.
6. When the smoke begins to thin out, add more incense. The charcoal will stay hot enough to burn incense for about 45 minutes to an hour.



# CHALKING YOUR DOOR

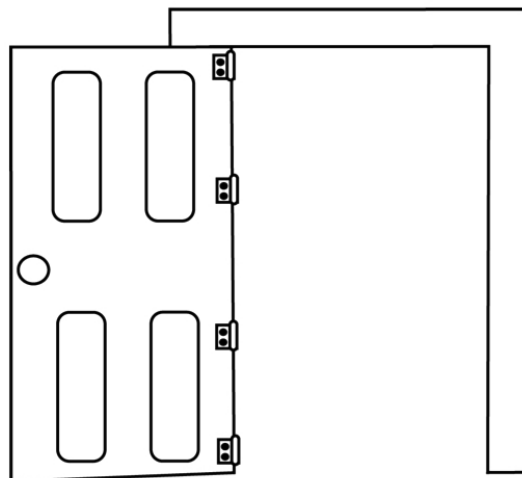
To celebrate Epiphany, you can use chalk to mark a blessing over your door. Seeing the symbols over our door reminds us, even as life goes back to a regular routine after Christmas, that our homes and all those who dwell in it belong to Christ. They are also reminders of how the Magi welcomed Jesus. Who might we show love and welcome to this year?

The markings that are usually made above the front door follow this pattern:

$$20 + C + M + B + 21$$

The numbers change each year to reflect the new calendar year. The letters C, M, and B are given two meanings: the initials of the traditional names of the three magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, and the initials of the Latin phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which means, "Christ bless this dwelling." The + signs are for the Cross of Christ. Before, during, or after the chalking of the door, the following prayer might be offered:

O God of Stars and Journeys,  
we ask your blessing on this threshold. May all whose journeys lead them through these doors be blessed with health, generosity of spirit, a joyful heart, and deep peace. O God of Welcome, may all who enter this doorway rejoice to find Christ living among us, and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is the incarnate Word, now and forever. Amen.





- Who has been the light of Christ to you this week?
- What is one way this week that you can shine the light of Christ into the world?