

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What is “The Epiphany of Our Lord”?

The word “epiphany” (pronounced ee-PIF-uh-nee) comes from the Greek word meaning “manifestation.” Jesus was made known to all people simply by being born. If we had been alive back then, we could have actually reached out and touched Jesus! He was real, and the evidence was in His birth!

Why do we celebrate Epiphany?

Epiphany is the third part of the Christmas season. During this special season in the Church Year, we remember the visit of the Wise Men. Traditionally, this visit is celebrated on Jan. 6.



Epiphany also brings to mind many other important events in Jesus’ life. For example, we remember Jesus’ Baptism, the star that guided the Wise Men, and most importantly, His birth! Wow! There sure is a lot happening after Christmas!



Parents: “God in flesh made manifest” is a hard statement for children to understand. Be sure to remind them that Jesus is real, alive and once walked on the earth for all to see. When Holy Communion is offered, be sure to let your children attend with you. Instruct them that this is where Christ manifests and gives His true body and blood for us.

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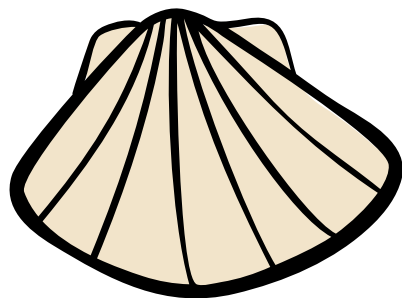
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What is “The Baptism of Our Lord”?

Today is the First Sunday after the Epiphany. Today we celebrate the day that our Lord Jesus was baptized by John the Baptizer. That’s right, Jesus was baptized just like you!

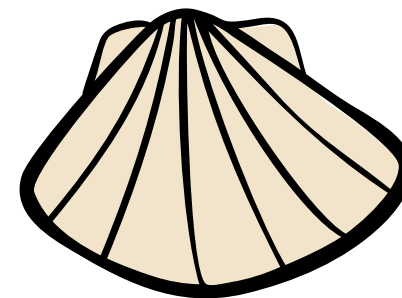
Why was Jesus baptized?

Jesus’ Baptism is very important. When Jesus was baptized, it marked the beginning of His mission to save the world from sin through His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. As Scripture says, Jesus’ Baptism was one of the many things He did to “fulfill all righteousness.” Because of Jesus and all He has done for us, our Baptism is now a source of forgiveness, life and salvation.



Parents: Before or after the service, allow your children to approach the baptismal font in the sanctuary. Remind them that this is where our life in Jesus begins. Because of God’s gifts in Baptism, we have been washed clean, and now we are His children.

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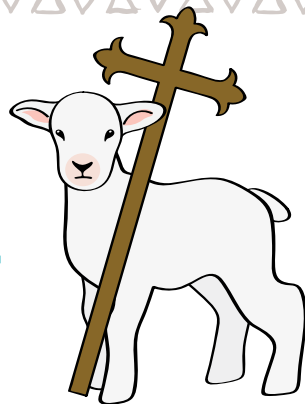
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Why was it so important for Jesus to be born as a man?

Jesus had a big job ahead of Him when He was born! If you really think about it, Jesus was born to die on the cross to pay for the sins of the whole world. But before He died, He lived a perfect life under God's Law. That means that during His entire life, Jesus never sinned. Not even once! As a man, Jesus took the place of mankind under the Law and fulfilled it. That means that for every time we failed to keep the Law, Christ succeeded!

Why was it important for Jesus to be true God?

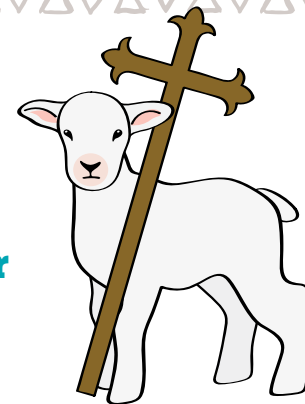
It would take more than an ordinary man to suffer and die on the cross to pay for the sins of the whole world. Jesus had to be true God so that He could live a perfect life and fulfill the requirements of the Law, die a perfect death on the cross, and rise from the dead victorious over sin, death and the devil! All of this He did in obedience to the Father and out of complete and total love for us. Through faith, the Holy Spirit delivers all of the great things Jesus won for us in His death and resurrection!



Parents: Review the Ten Commandments with your child (Ex. 20:1–17). Discuss the commandments and be sure to point out just how often we fail to keep them. Remind your child that because of Christ's perfect sacrifice on the cross, in faith we have the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.



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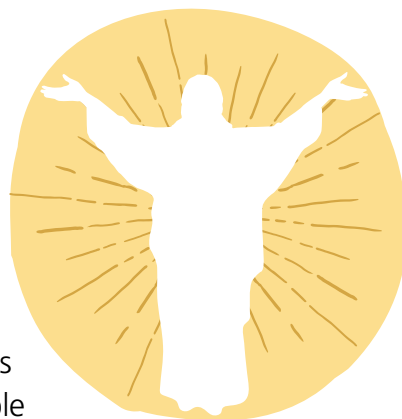
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What is “The Transfiguration of our Lord”?

Have you ever wondered what Jesus might look like in His glory? The Bible gives us a glimpse in the story of Jesus’ transfiguration (pronounced trans-fig-yer-A-shun) in Matthew 17. The word “transfigure” means “to change form or appearance.” Scripture tells us that Jesus led Peter, James and John up a high mountain. When they got up there, Jesus’ appearance changed right before their eyes. His face became as bright as the sun, and His clothes became as white as light.

Why didn’t Jesus always appear like this while He was on earth?

If Jesus would have been on earth in His state of glory, He wouldn’t have been able to take our place under the Law and then they wouldn’t have crucified Him. It was very important for Jesus to die on the cross as a man to pay for our sins. We too will see Jesus as He is in glory on the Last Day! Until then, we see Him: as our crucified and risen Savior revealed to us in the Word and Sacraments!



Parents: Read the story of Jesus’ transfiguration in Matt. 17:1–13 with your children. Remind them that we will see Him in glory when we die just as the disciples saw Him on the mountain!



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