

## *I've heard of Christmas, but What is Epiphany?*

*So, CHRISTMAS is December 25th, right?*

*Indeed. Christmas is celebrated on December the 25th. Christmas is an abbreviation of the term "Christ's Mass" which is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. While there were three days that were considered for the celebration, December 25th won out. Additionally, in many liturgical churches, this time of feasting and celebration was extended to include the 12 days between December 25th and January 6th, otherwise known as "the Twelve Days of Christmas."*

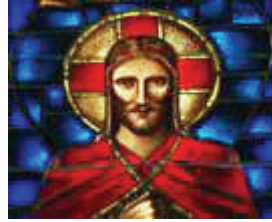


*So, "Christmas" can last 12 days, but What is Epiphany?*

*Epiphany comes from the Greek word meaning "to reveal." It is the section of the church year that starts with the end of the 12 days of Christmas on January 6th with the "Festival of Epiphany." The idea is that the season of Epiphany "reveals" Jesus as being both True God and True Man. While, most churches only now celebrate the gifts given to Jesus by the "Magi" or "wise men" mentioned in St Matthew's Gospel, the festival used to include the two Sundays following January 6th. On the first is remembered the Baptism of Jesus, but the teaching of the second would vary. Nowadays, most liturgical churches emphasize the visit of the Magi on January 6th and celebrate Christ's baptism on the first Sunday after the 6th, but don't place much emphasis on the following two Sundays. In the Eastern Church, January 6th is treated much like December 25th is in the west, with the giving of gifts to friends and loved ones much as the Magi gave to Jesus. The season of Epiphany continues to emphasize the dual nature of Christ until Ash Wednesday when Lent begins.*



*It's great to know what Epiphany is,  
but why do I care? I mean, what  
does Epiphany mean to me?*



Remember that "Epiphany" is all about revealing who Jesus really is. He is the Holy God who came to earth as a man. He is the "King of Kings" whom the wise men worshipped. He is revealed as God's Son at his Baptism. Often His first miracle at the wedding at Cana is mentioned, revealing Jesus Christ as the True Messiah. The final Sunday in the season is that of the Transfiguration. Here Christ is shown in His Godly glory alongside Moses and Elijah. All these weeks of the church year teach how the God of Heaven has revealed Himself in the God-Man, Jesus Christ, and recall the earthly ministry of our Lord, the Savior of the world.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ had a very special and miraculous birth. He came to earth as "God Incarnate" or as "God in Human Flesh." He lived a Holy life that was completely without sin — the only person to ever do this. He offered Himself up of His own free will to die for our sins—our breaking of God's laws. On the third day, He rose again from the dead and will one day come again in glory and every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is the One True Lord of heaven and earth at that "ultimate Epiphany."

It is our desire and hope that you would declare Him your Savior and Lord in the present. If you would like more information or have more questions, please contact us at:

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