



January - Messy Church at Home

Epiphany

The Discovery of the King of Kings

Twelve days after Christmas, Christians celebrate the Season of Epiphany! During this season we remember the Magi, or Wise Men, as visitors who travelled for two long years to find the Messiah. These famed astrologers were men of God who recognized the greatness of Jesus. Their faith in God allowed them to understand God's enduring love for all people.



Our special video story about the visit from the Wise Men to the home of Jesus is truly an adventure! Click on the star to watch the video.

Two Great Ways to Celebrate Epiphany - Yes, we are still celebrating!

1. *An Epiphany Greeting - Chalking the Door*

We can celebrate Epiphany when the Wise Men arrived in joy to Jesus' home, by '*Chalking The Door*' of our home. This old tradition is a special coded message that you print in chalk over the front door to your home. The message is a blessing for your home, for all who live there and for those who visit your home. See if you can figure out what the message means.

20 + C + M + B + 21

The numbers at the beginning and end represent the present year. The letters in between have two meanings. One meaning is that the letters represent the first initial of each of the wise men who were named Casper, Melchior and Balthazar. The other meaning is that each letter stands for a phrase in Latin, meaning '*May Christ Bless This Home*'. The numbers and letters are linked with crosses.

The code can be chalked boldly on a black strip of cardboard and taped to your door, or chalked directly above your door if there is a horizontal cement or wooden beam (a lintel). We use chalk for this tradition because chalk is a natural material from the earth. Through the year, the chalk may fade but as we freshen it up when the old year fades, we can think of the new chalking as a time of renewal and hope for the New Year.



After placing the placard or chalked symbols over your door, this prayer may be said by a parent/caregiver, by one of the children or as a family.

Dear God, we thank You for Your everlasting Love. Please bless our home. May our dwelling be filled with warmth, and the light of Your Word as we welcome our family and others in peace and joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



2. An Epiphany Cake

Often called *The King Cake*, this cake hides surprise treasures that represent the gifts of the Wise Men to Jesus. The cake is often made with cinnamon and covered with a sugary icing. Decorated with sugar sprinkles, the purple sprinkles represent spiritual, the green, faith and the yellow/gold, riches.

Below is an easy recipe for an *Epiphany Cake* - but any recipe or store-bought cake (even cupcakes) will do, as long as there are treasures to find! The first person to find a treasure is crowned 'King of the Feast' with a homemade crown and must help to make the cake next year!

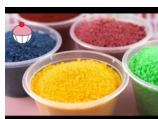


TIP: TO PREVENT CHOKING, LOONIES, SANITIZED BY BOILING WATER AND THEN WRAPPED IN FOIL, WOULD WORK, BUT CHILDREN SHOULD BE WARNED TO LOOK FOR THEIR TREASURE BEFORE EATING THEIR PIECE OF CAKE.

You will need:



2 tubes of jumbo cinnamon rolls (17.5 oz. each)
with the icing from tubes of rolls



purple, green and gold/yellow
sugar sprinkles

...and a Bundt pan



Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease the bundt pan with a nonstick cooking spray.
2. Press cinnamon rolls firmly into the pan. (You may want to add your treasures before flattening the rolls.) The rolls will want to pop up so squeeze them together so they are as level as possible. You can easily flatten them with your palms or a spatula.
3. Bake for 30-35 minutes; cool for 10 min. and then invert cake onto a plate; cool completely before adding icing and sprinkles.

Enjoy finding your treasure and eating your cake anytime during Epiphany.

Warning: It might be a Messy Experience searching for the treasure!



Please stay safe and well THIS NEW YEAR and join us beginning Friday, February 12th online, when we discover some family ways to actively 'Celebrate God's Love'!