

# Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

## CATECHUMENATE SESSION: SALVATION

The Epiphany of the Lord • Year A • January 4, 2026

### We Three Kings of Orient Are

We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading,  
Still proceeding,  
Guide us to the perfect Light.

Text: Matthew 2:1-11; John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

Tune: KINGS OF ORIENT, 88 4 4 6 with refrain;

John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891



### Sunday Word

**Isaiah 60:1-6**

**Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13**

**Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

The above readings are available at  
[usccb.org/bible/readings](http://usccb.org/bible/readings).

### To Help You Remember



1. We are still in the liturgical season of Christmas! Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.
2. The glory of the Lord shines upon Jerusalem, and God's people are encouraged to raise their eyes and see the good things the Lord is doing.
3. The Magi followed a star to the place where Jesus was, and they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

## Key Teachings



### The Epiphany of the Lord

As the Magi traveled to Bethlehem, the star that had guided them stopped over the place where the infant Jesus was. The Magi knew that their journey had concluded.

Upon seeing Jesus, “[t]hey prostrated themselves and did him homage” (Matthew 2:11). The Magi worshiped the infant as their Lord and God. They were the first non-Jewish people to recognize Jesus for who he is. They are the first of a great harvest of believers.

## Faith Words



### Epiphany

The word *epiphany* means “to show.” On this day, we remember that Jesus showed himself to be the Savior of all people.

### Magi

*Magi* is the term used to describe the wise men who came from the East searching for the newborn King of the Jews.

## Gifts for a King

The three gifts the Magi offered to Jesus have a meaning.

**Gold** stands for royalty. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is King of kings and Lord of lords.

**Frankincense** represents the worship of God. Jesus Christ is the Son of God and worthy of our praise.

**Myrrh** represents death. Jesus died on the Cross so that we might be saved.

## With My Family



### We Listen

The three wise men came searching for the newborn king, Jesus. Notice that they did not search on their own. They came together and they stuck together the entire journey, even after they received a warning. As we search for and celebrate Jesus in our lives, we do so together, as a community of faith.

### We Believe

Jesus is our Savior. He is our source of Salvation. The word *salvation* means “to save.” It is the saving of all people from the power of sin and death through Jesus Christ.

### We Live As Disciples

Jesus showed himself to be the Savior of all peoples, but not everyone knows that Jesus is the Savior. By kind words and loving actions, Christians show others that Jesus is the Savior. Share with your family the name of one person who showed you the way to Jesus.

### We Pray

Pray with your family the prayer you prayed at this week’s OCIA session. Invite your family to gather around the Nativity set. Remind them that the Magi brought gifts to Jesus. Use this handout to tell your family about each of those gifts. Then invite each family member to think about the gift he or she can bring to Jesus. Invite each person to pray, “**Lord, this week I will give you the gift of \_\_\_\_\_.**” End by singing together “We Three Kings of Orient Are.”