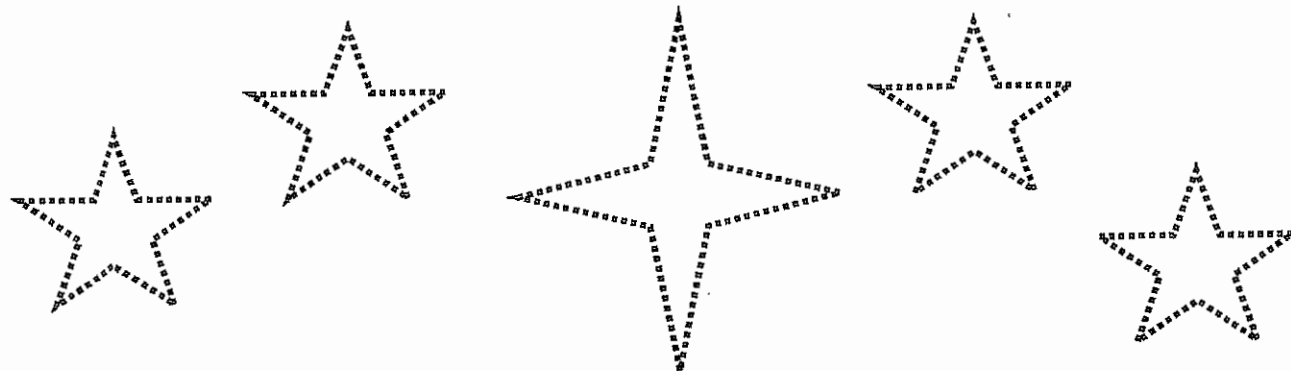


THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

The Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on January 6. This feast commemorates the visit of the wise men to worship the baby Jesus. Tradition tells us that their names were Caspar, Melchior and Balthassar. The men were astrologers who were looking for the star that would lead them to the promised Messiah. This was prophesied in the Book of Micah. According to the Gospel narratives, the wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh with them. These gifts were very meaningful. Gold was a precious and expensive gift, and showed how important Jesus was. Frankincense is a sweet perfume which was often burned in the temple to worship God. It was a sign that Jesus should be worshipped. Myrrh was used to keep things fresh, and it was used by the women to anoint Jesus' body when he died. By bringing it as a gift to Jesus, the wise men foretold his suffering and death.

As today's feast is a holy day of obligation, all Catholics should participate in Mass. If your school is planning to celebrate a Mass in the school, you will find suitable Readings, songs/hymns and prayers on pages 2-5 of this booklet. If your school is planning to mark the day with a Prayer Service, suggestions for this are offered on pages 6-8 of this booklet. Some activities for children are also provided as part of this booklet (pages 9-12). These can be done in preparation for the Mass/prayer service, or as a follow-up activity.



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Activity for First/Second Classes

THE THREE WISE MEN

Use the key below to help you to tell the story of the how the three wise men came to worship Jesus.



At the time  was born, three  saw a . The  knew that the  would lead them to a new king, so the  followed the . When the  came to Jerusalem, they asked  where to find the new king,   told the  to go to Bethlehem where the new king would be born, but  began to worry.  didn't want a new king to take his place, so  told the  to come back and tell him about   didn't want  to be more powerful than him. When the  found  they knelt down and offered their gifts to him. That night, God spoke to the  in a dream and told them not to return to  so the  went home another way.