

# Celebrating the Season of Epiphany

Celebrants of the Christian faith and Eastern orthodox Christian religion may want to wait a few days after Christmas to start packing away their decorations and cease celebrating the holiday season. That's because it is customary to commemorate the Epiphany, which marks the day that Jesus Christ was revealed as the Son of God.

Epiphany is known by a few different names. In addition to Epiphany, the holiday is sometimes called Little Christmas and the Feast of the Three Kings. Spanish-speaking individuals refer to

it as El Dia de Los Tres Reyes, which essentially translates to Day of the Three Kings.

In Western faiths, Epiphany takes place on January 6. However, in Catholic dioceses in the U.S., it is observed on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. Eastern Christians follow the Julian calendar rather than the Gregorian calendar. Therefore, Epiphany occurs a few days later for them, on January 19.

According to Christian tradition, Epiphany marks the day the traveling magi arrived from afar to bid welcome to the Baby Jesus. They presented three different gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

"And they came into the house and saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell down and worshiped Him; and opening their treasures they presented to Him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh." Matthew 2:11

Although the Bible doesn't specifically mention that there were three wise men, biblical historians interpret that there were only three due to the number of gifts that were presented. The names of the magi were Gaspar, Melchior and

Balthasar, but this is something learned post-Bible as well.

Gold represented a gift worthy of a king. Frankincense was an expensive gift valued for its wonderful fragrance and medicinal values and worship. It is thought Frankincense spoke to the worship of God. Myrrh was

used as an anesthetic and in burial embalming. It is also used to anoint one in faith.

The meaning of the word "epiphany" is a revealing or an opening of one's eyes. Although Epiphany is much known for the three wise men, the significance of the day is that God revealed Himself to everyone through

the human person who was His Son, Jesus. God reveals that the true God is Jesus, the Messiah, and Savior of the world, who was sent to the people for this express purpose.

The day of the Epiphany actually marks the first day of the Epiphany season, which lasts until the Lenten

season on Ash Wednesday. Through the Epiphany season, God reveals many intricacies of His Word through scripture in the Bible.

Although many Christians celebrate the better-known holiday of Christmas, Epiphany may have even more spiritual meaning during this holiday season.

# Film classics to rev up holiday spirit

Families often have their own unique traditions when it comes to the holidays. Lately, families have begun to include films in many of those traditions. That's thanks largely to the array of classic holiday films that have consistently put people in the holiday mood. Among those classics are any of the following films.

- “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation” (1989) – Led by an all-star cast including Chevy Chase and Beverly D’Angelo, the Griswold family Christmas should be merry, but naturally turns into a hilarious disaster. Look for appearances by “Seinfeld” veteran Julia Louis-Dreyfus and legendary comedienne Doris Roberts in supporting roles.

- A Christmas Story (1983)
  - Growing up in 1940s America, young Ralphie has his heart set on a Red Rider BB gun for Christmas, but it seems like Mom, teacher and even Santa are certain he'll "shoot his eye out" with such a gift. Will Ralphie find his heart's desire under the tree? Watch to find out.

• “It’s a Wonderful Life” (1946) – When distraught George Baily (Jimmy Stewart) meets a compassionate angel, he learns what life would have been like if he’d never existed. Holiday magic wins out in the end.

- “Miracle on 34th Street” (1947) – Another classic that can’t be missed! When a man claiming to be Santa Claus is deemed insane, a young lawyer and a headstrong young girl come to his rescue.

• “A Christmas Carol” (1951) – Yet another movie that has spawned a series of more recent remakes. This one stars Alastair Sim as Mr. Scrooge, a bitter, miserly man who doesn’t give a bah humbug about the holiday season. But will a haunting by three ghosts change his mind and ill will?

- “A Charlie Brown Christmas” (1965) – Charlie Brown is depressed and can’t find the Christmas spirit. When he is put in charge of the school’s holiday pageant and comes in with a meager Christmas tree, the schoolkids ultimately learn about the true meaning of Christmas.

It keeps  
more than  
memories  
alive.



AMERICAN HEART  
ASSOCIATION  
MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES



This space provided as a public service.  
©1994, American Heart Association



## Apartment Available | ASSISTED LIVING



**Jen Oyster** | Director

**Tabetha Boe | RN**

\*Elderly Waiver/GRH | \*Veterans

**218-632-3610**

**Visit us at: [www.meadowsofwadena.org](http://www.meadowsofwadena.org)**  
110 Hemlock Ave NW, Wadena, MN 56482

**We're sending our best wishes to the many  
good friends and neighbors we've had  
the pleasure of serving this year.**



We look forward to your continued business in the year ahead.

The logo for Community First Bank. It features a large, stylized 'CFB' monogram in red and grey on the left. To the right of the monogram, the word 'COMMUNITY' is written in a large, red, serif font, and 'FIRST BANK' is written below it in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, the website address 'www.communityfirstbankmn.com' is displayed in a blue, sans-serif font.

COMMUNITY  
FIRST BANK  
[www.communityfirstbankmn.com](http://www.communityfirstbankmn.com)

PO Box 250  
Menahga, MN 56477

**218-564-4171**

PO Box 311  
Sebeka, MN 56477

**218-837-5171**

