

January 10, 2021
PreSchool Lesson
Epiphany, Theophany

Gospel - Matthew 3:13-17

On January 6th, we celebrated a very important feast day!!! Do you know which one? We celebrated the feast of Theophany! (This is Jesus' baptism). Epiphany means "Manifest upon" & Theophany means "Manifestation of God". On this day, Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan, by St. John the Baptist (who was also Jesus' cousin). The Holy Trinity appeared and the Holy Spirit was seen in the form of a dove. A voice came from Heaven and God the Father spoke, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased."

Materials for the Lesson Plan:
Holy Water and Holy Water Font
The cross
Basil (if available)
The icon of Epiphany (can also print/use PDF)

Lesson Plan:

Begin by having the children rise and sing the hymn of Epiphany:

"When you were baptized in the river Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father bore witness to You by calling you Beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. O Christ God, who appeared and enlightened the world, glory to You!"

Note holy water and font, the cross, basil and the icon/printout of the Epiphany on the table.

Ask: "What is Epiphany?"

Answers include: The celebration of our Lord's baptism, the commemoration of His Theophany, the revelation of Who God is, the Trinity. (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)

Explain that the priest blesses water by asking for the Holy Spirit to descend upon it and sanctify/bless it.

Then we sprinkle this water on ourselves and in our homes.

We also can drink some of this water. Why?

Answers include: It is a like a yearly baptism; water is a symbol of life and a requirement for cleansing; and by sprinkling ourselves and by drinking the water we participate in the renewal of our nature that comes through Christ's baptism and subsequently our own baptism.

Describe what we do with holy water: Take it home and drink it throughout the year and even bless our homes by sprinkling holy water around the house.

Do we invite a priest to our home? Yes, each year. Ask your mom and dad to invite the parish priest to bless your home once each year.

Explain the icon of the Epiphany and the meaning contained within it.

Explain the cross and basil: The cross is lifted up just as the serpent was lifted up of old in the wilderness by Moses, and just as Christ was lifted up upon the cross. Basil means "King," and this herb was found on the hillside where St. Helen found the Cross; it was named for Christ, the herb of the King.

Explain the holy water font, it looks like a baptismal font: Today is like a renewal of our baptism and a re-participation in this event

Activities (can do one or more 😊)

Sing the hymn of Epiphany

Color the Picture of Theophany (see PDF)

Dove activity (see PDF)