

A NOVENA FOR EPIPHANY

It is a tradition to begin a [novena in anticipation of the Feast of the Epiphany](#) on this day, December 28. Like all sacramentals, a novena is an outward, tangible sign intended to remind us of God's presence. The nine days of prayer represent the nine days between Jesus' Ascension into heaven and Pentecost when the Apostles and Mary waited and prayed intensely for the coming of the Holy Spirit. An Epiphany novena is a wonderful way of marking the Christmas season with prayer that is inspired by the Scriptural images of the season, in this case, the journey of the Magi. This year, I offer you a ***Journaling Novena to the Magi***—an opportunity to reflect on our own spiritual journey as we walk prayerfully with the Magi on their journey. Enjoy!

December 28: The Magi lived in constant expectation of the coming of God's presence. What prevents me from living in constant expectation? Who brings me hope? To whom do I bring hope? To whom am I being called to bring hope?

December 29: At the first appearance of the star, the Magi left their countries to begin their urgent search for the newborn king. What am I putting off that could bring me closer to Christ? In what area(s) of my life do I need a greater sense of urgency?

December 30: The Magi faced many challenges on their journey, not the least of which was the severity of the terrain they traversed. What challenges and inconveniences am I facing on my spiritual journey that I need to face up to with greater courage and perseverance?

December 31: The Magi stopped to ask for directions after they had lost sight of the star. To whom do I turn to for guidance on my spiritual journey? In what areas of my life is my pride preventing me from seeking guidance?

January 1: The Magi were heartened by the reappearance of the star that led them to Bethlehem. Who or what has brought light to my path and heartened me along my spiritual journey? In what ways can I hearten others on their journey and bring light in the midst of their darkness?

January 2: The Magi, upon entering the stable at Bethlehem, humbled themselves before the newborn king who was surrounded by poverty. In what situations and in whose company do I need to humble myself? How can I develop a greater spirit of poverty?

January 3: Upon greeting the child, the Magi offered gifts, thus recognizing him as their king. How am I offering the "gold" of charity to God and others? How am I offering the "incense" of prayer? How am I offering the "myrrh" of sacrifice?

January 4: An angel warned the Magi to take another route on their journey home. How has my journey changed since encountering Christ? What "different routes" do I need to take on my continuing journey with Christ?

January 5: The Magi were privileged to have the presence of God in Christ revealed to them. Who reveals/has revealed the presence of God to me? To whom am I called to reveal God's presence?