

Bible Verse: Matthew 3:17 (NIV)

“And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

On Epiphany Sunday, we celebrate showing the world that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. We celebrate at least two Epiphany stories today. God announces the birth of his own baby son to the world, and God declares the grown up Jesus is His Son when Jesus is baptized.

Epiphany is a particularly special Church Season for us, because we are here at Epiphany Parish. Reminders of Epiphany are all around us.

We still have our star hanging, like the star that leads the Wise Men to visit the baby Jesus, and the Wise Men figures that have been moving from the back window toward our manger have finally arrived. God leads these visitors from foreign lands to bring gifts to Jesus, and then they return to their foreign lands with the message that an important new King has been born. God uses the Epiphany star to show the whole world that His Son is born on Earth.

If you turn to the back of the church, you can see this story in stained glass. This window came to us when St. Paul’s in Millis closed, and we are so lucky now to have an Epiphany window at Epiphany Parish.

We remember Jesus’ baptism on Epiphany too. When Jesus is grown up, he asks his cousin John to baptize Jesus in the water of the Jordan River.

As Jesus is being baptized, God sends signs to show that Jesus is His Son. A dove of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, comes down from Heaven to Jesus. A voice speaks, saying “This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” Men and women begin to follow Jesus, and to spread the word that the Messiah has come.

We have reminders of this Epiphany story here too.

We have a special water-holder, called a font, for baptisms, and we have moved it out to use it today.

One of our altar kneeling cushions is a bright dove.

Now our Sunday School “lessons” will come from the New Testament of the Bible. There will be other Epiphany stories about the Son of God, and we have reminders of them in our church too.

Epiphany is everywhere.

Wonder Question: What does the word “Epiphany” mean?

