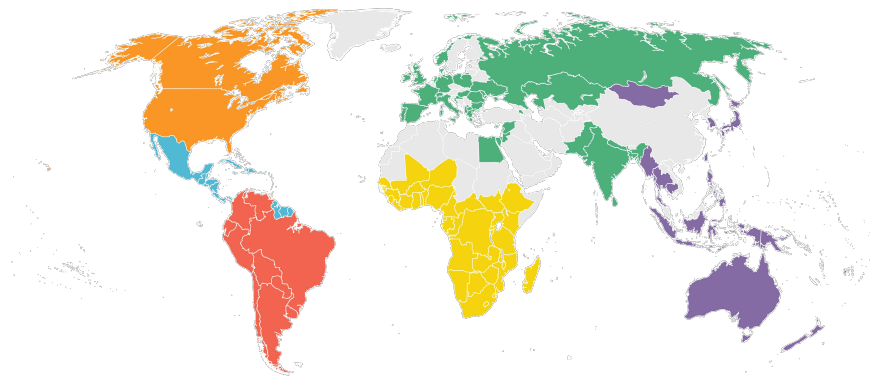


# NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

1 January 2025

## EPIPHANY AROUND THE WORLD



## WORSHIP

Happy New Year! This is the last week of our special series, the last four weeks, we have focused on Advent. Today we look forward to Epiphany. NMI Central and Kids Kaleidoscope will introduce you to some of the unique traditions that are kept during Epiphany across the global Church of the Nazarene.

Epiphany is a “revelation” or an “awakening.” While the Western Church celebrates Christmas on December 25th, the Eastern Church, the Orthodox Church, celebrates Christmas on January 6th. It commemorates the visitation of the magi who came from the East to worship the Christ child, God’s revelation of Himself in human form. It is an awakening to the reality of God’s eternal purposes being enacted in the person of His Son. The gifts of the magi were symbols of worship and adoration, given at the end of a long journey of seeking, and at the beginning of a new reality: Emmanuel is with us!

Let your worshipping heart allow the long journey of the past year to fade, and a new realization to dawn. God is with us! Epiphany also marks the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptizer, and the revelation from heaven that “This is My Son, in Whom I am well pleased.” John’s response was one of humility and recognition: “He must increase, and I must decrease.”

To learn how Epiphany is celebrated in some areas of the world, check out this week’s Kids Kaleidoscope. This week we learn about a special treat called Three Kings Cake that is shared on this day including the similarities and differences around the world. Kids Kaleidoscope is a special NMI Central supplement created to help children, youth, and adults learn more about our Nazarene family around the world.



### Kid's Kaleidoscope Epiphany

**What is the best gift you have ever given?**

January 6th celebrates Epiphany or Three Kings Day. In some regions this is the day Christmas is celebrated. Many around the world spend this day sharing food as a family and gift giving. Two popular customs around the world on this day are Epiphany singing and eating three kings cake.

Epiphany singing, also known as the star singers and the star boys, involves groups of children and young people often wearing crowns and dressed in clothes to resemble the three wise men. The singers carry a star on a rod and walk from house to house, singing songs that tell the Christmas story.

Three Kings cake is typically a round or oval cake that represents a crown or even comes with a paper crown on top as decoration. It has a special treat hidden inside. The treat is different around the world, but two of the most common treats are a dried bean or a small figurine.

Have a friend or family member read you the information about the Three Kings cakes, then try to match the picture with the correct name. If you get them all correct you deserve a special treat!



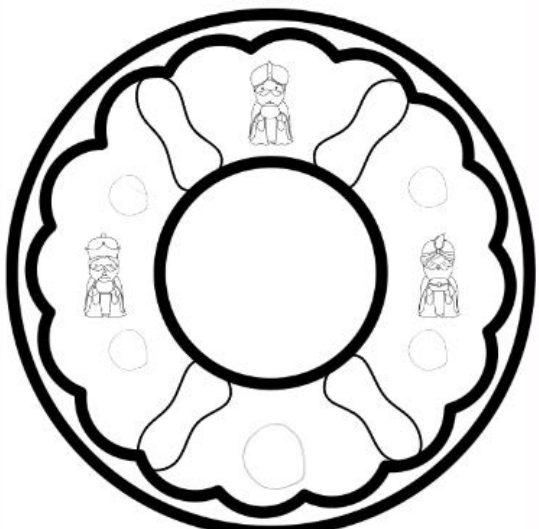
Galette des rois  
Gâteau des rois  
Dreikönigskuchen  
Bolo do Rei  
Roscón de Reyes  
Rosca de Reyes

### EPIPHANY KALEIDOSCOPE

Epiphany is a time to remember the wise men and the gifts they brought to Jesus. These gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh were special gifts, not because of their value, but because it was the best gift the wise men could offer the King of Kings, it was a way to worship him.

When you give a gift to someone you love and they get excited about it, it makes you feel good inside. Think about giving a gift to Jesus, do you have anything good enough, something that will make him excited? At first you might think you don't have anything to give to Jesus, but you do. You can give him your heart. You can worship him in your everyday activities, how you treat others, how to show kindness, how you love those around you.

As you color the Three Kings cake below, notice the three wise men who gave their best gift in worship to Jesus. Think of ways you can give God your best gift, your heart. Write down some of those things in the cake as a reminder.



What can I give him? I can give Him my heart.  
From the Christmas Hymn "In the Bleak Mid-Winter"

We hope you enjoyed these special editions of NMI Central and Kids Kaleidoscope. Next week, we will return to our regular NMI Central focus on where the Church of the Nazarene is at work around the world. Kids Kaleidoscope will return to its regular schedule of the first Wednesday of each month.



Click [here](#) to download the rest of Kids Kaleidoscope for Epiphany as we learn more about Christmas around the world.

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## PRAYER



- Pray for a fresh awakening in the Church around the world, bringing a new awareness of Christ's call to join Him in mission, fueled by worship.
  - Pray for those who have not yet encountered Christ, the revelation of God's love and purpose for all of humankind, that 2025 may bring that encounter.
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## PRAISE



- Praise God for the gifts He has given you, and let your praise take action in sharing those gifts with others.
- Praise the Lord for every opportunity to point others to Him, and pause and give thanks for the one who pointed you to Him.

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### Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to participate in His mission?  
For more information, click [here](#).

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NMI Central is available in a curated PDF archive.  
To read previous editions, click [here](#).

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