

# Tridentine Rite

To give honor and glory  
to God and to sanctify and edify the souls of  
the faithful by preserving,  
protecting, fostering, and defending the  
Traditional Latin Mass and  
sacraments as contained in the  
Missale Romanum of 1962...

## The Epiphany ([www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com))

The observance had its origins in the Eastern Christian Churches, and was originally a general celebration of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, and included the commemoration of: his birth; the visit of the Magi, or "Wise Men," who arrived in Bethlehem; all of Jesus' childhood events, up to and including his baptism in the Jordan by John the Baptist; and even the miracle at the Wedding of Cana in Galilee. However, it seems fairly clear that the Baptism was the event predominantly commemorated.

The earliest reference to Epiphany as a Christian feast was in the year 361, by Ammianus Marcellinus St. Epiphanius says that the January 6 is *hemera genethlion toutestin epiphanon* (Christ's "Birthday; that is, His Epiphany"). He also asserts that the miracle at Cana occurred on the same calendar day.

In 385, the pilgrim Egeria (Silvia) describes a celebration in Jerusalem and Bethlehem on January 6 that obviously commemorates the Nativity of Christ. Even at this early date, there is already an octave associated with the feast.

In a sermon delivered on December 25, 380, St. Gregory of Nazianzus somewhat confusingly refers to the day as *ta theophania* ("the Theophany", an alternative name for Epiphany) saying expressly that it is a day commemorating *he hagia tou Christou genesis* ("the holy nativity of Christ") and tells his listeners that they will soon be celebrating the baptism of Christ. Then, on January 6 and 7, he preached two more sermons wherein he declared that the celebration of the birth of Christ and the visitation of the Magi had already



Intr. 2.  
C-ce \* advé- nit domi- nátor Dó- mi- nus :  
et ré- gnum in má- nu é- jus, et pot- éstas, et  
impé- ri- um. Ps. Dé- us, judí- ci- um tú- um Régi da : \*  
et justí- ti- am tú- am Fí- li- o Ré- gis. Gló- ri- a Pátri.  
E u o u a e.

taken place, and that they would now commemorate his Baptism. So at this point the two celebrations are beginning to be separated, at least in Cappadocia.

However, this was not the case everywhere. Saint John Cassian says that even in his time (beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century) the Egyptian monasteries still celebrated the Nativity and Baptism together on January 6. The Armenian Apostolic Church still continues to celebrate January 6 as the only commemoration of the Nativity.

## Liturgical Music

**Entrance Hymn:** "We Three Kings"

**Introit:** "Ecce adventit"

**Kyrie:** Polyphony

**Gloria:** Polyphony

**Creed:** III

**Offertory:** "Reges Tharsis"

**Sanctus:** Polyphony

**Agnus Dei:** Polyphony

**Communion:** "Vidimus stellam"

**Exit Hymn:** "The First Noel"

## Ordo of Pope Bl. John XXIII

6-12 January 2008

**Sunday,** "The Epiphany of the Lord"

**Monday,** "Ferial in Epiphanytide"

**Tuesday,** "Ferial in Epiphanytide"

**Wednesday,** "Ferial in Epiphanytide"

**Thursday,** "Ferial in Epiphanytide"

**Friday,** "St Hyginus"

**Saturday,** "Of Our Lady"