

St. James Family Newsletter for January 2022

Dear St. James Families,

Can it be almost 12 months ago (last February) that we began these family newsletters at a time when we were not able to meet in our sanctuary in person? We continued with them into a roller coaster of a year in which we enjoyed the respite the vaccines gave us. We began to focus the last Sunday of each month on activities for our children, had two youth services, and were even able to share a joyous Christmas pageant in our beloved sanctuary.

Unfortunately, the latest variant of the virus may have us returning to virtual worship yet again—until we are able to safely gather and still protect the most vulnerable among us.

We will keep you posted on whether or not we will be able to gather for children's activities on the last Sunday in January, but until then, try some of the fabulous activities from this link at home to celebrate Epiphany with your children.

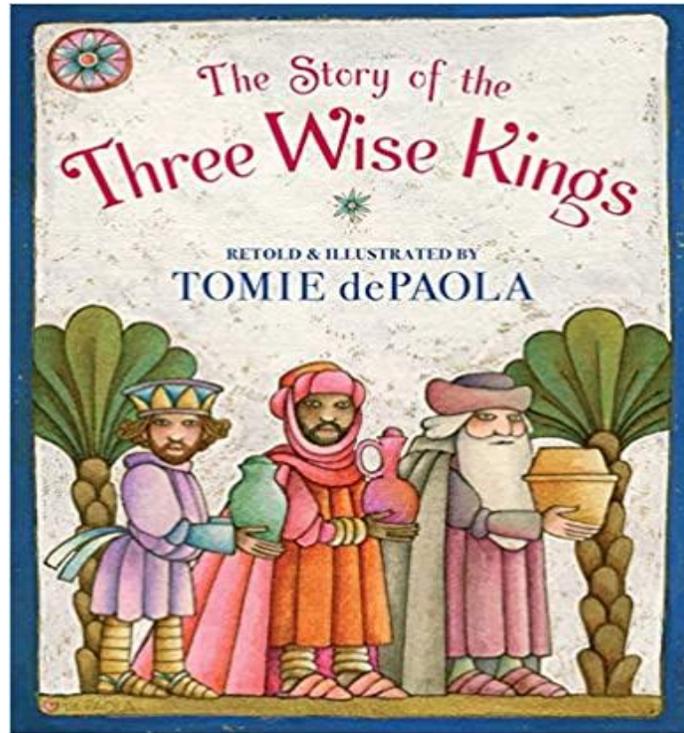
<https://wunder-mom.com/15-ways-celebrate-epiphany-children/>



And please contact Debbie Wesley at 540-894-3458 or drwesley63@gmail.com with any feedback or ideas for children's and youth activities in the coming year.

Enjoy this lovely online read along of Tomie de Paola's *The Three Wise Kings*, suitable for preschoolers and elementary aged children:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7KOE9PFcdk>



Check out this link that combines two of my very favorite things: desserts and children's books! You may associate the tradition of the King's cake only with Shrove Tuesday, which falls in late February or early March, but the King's cake is used at celebrations of Epiphany (January 6) as well, and a recipe this yummy looking should definitely be created more than once a year ;) Plus, take a look now, and get a jump on your Mardi Gras preparations! I have ordered the children's book mentioned in the link, *Mimi's First Mardi Gras*, for our St. James' children's library, and I will let you know what I think of it next month 😊.

<https://littlecooksreadingbooks.com/recipe-for-king-cake/>

