

Epiphany of the Lord **IN THE AMAZON**

- CELEBRATIONS GUIDE -



CEAMA

ECCLESIAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMAZON

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INTRODUCTION

The celebration of the Epiphany, every January 6th, invites us to reflect on the constant search for Jesus in our lives and communities. In the Amazonian context, this feast can be reinterpreted as a space for communion, solidarity, and care for creation, valuing the cultural richness and spirituality of the region's peoples.

The Ecclesial Conference of the Amazon (CEAMA) proposes establishing this date as an annual activity, that began in a simple way by 2025, to strengthen faith and pastoral mission. This guide includes two proposals: one for celebrating at home and another with community visits.

GUIDE TO CELEBRATING EPIPHANY AT HOME

ROLES

- **Animator:** Welcome and lead the celebration.
- **Reader:** Read the biblical texts and the reflections.
- **Representative:** It outlines the thematic axes and guides the specific action.

NECESSARY ELEMENTS

- A Bible.
- A space prepared with Amazonian symbols (leaves, water, candles).
- Traditional music or recordings to create atmosphere.

DEVELOPMENT

1. Start

- **Animator:** Welcome, invites a moment of silence and offers a brief opening prayer.
- Sing a hymn related to the Epiphany.

2. Reflection on the thematic axes

- Reader reads Matthew 2:1-12 (the visit of the Magi).
- Representing Each thematic axis is presented, accompanied by a brief reflection:

1 | SEARCH FOR GOD

The visit of the Three Wise Men symbolizes the constant search for the divine. This first theme invites us to reflect on how the peoples of the Amazon express their spirituality through local practices that are deeply connected to nature and the mystery of God. Communities can organize moments of prayer, Bible readings, and songs, such as Psalm 72, that extol justice and peace.

Reflection

Just as the Magi sought Jesus, we are invited to find God in nature and in our communities

Where do we recognize God in our daily lives?

2 | SOLIDARITY AND HOSPITALITY

The Feast of the Epiphany highlights the importance of mutual acceptance. This theme seeks to promote concrete acts of solidarity, such as visiting the elderly, sharing traditional foods, or supporting families in need. These simple acts, inspired by the Gospel of Luke 10:25-37, will strengthen community bonds and foster a spirituality of service.

Reflection

"The hospitality of the Three Wise Men teaches us to open our doors and hearts to those who need support.

How can we be more supportive and welcoming?

3

CARE FOR CREATION

In the Amazon, caring for creation is essential. This principle encourages communities to take concrete steps to preserve biodiversity, such as planting native trees or reducing the use of products that harm the environment. Readings like Genesis 1:1-31 and Psalm 24:1-2 can guide reflection on our responsibility to protect God's creation.

Reflection

The Amazon reminds us of the beauty and fragility of creation.

What everyday actions can we take to care for our common home?

- **Animator:** Facilitate a brief dialogue about these reflections.

3. Concrete gesture

- **Representative:** Invite people to perform one of the following specific gestures:
 - Prepare and share a traditional Amazonian meal.
 - Bring a coffee or visit someone special.
 - Support a family or person in need.
 - Sailing along the rivers to contemplate divine creation.
 - Participants are encouraged to record their gestures by taking photographs and sending them to comunicaciones@ceama.org or WhatsApp +57 313 2755978.

4. Closing prayer

- They all pray Psalm 72.
- They share a personal commitment to living the values of the Epiphany.

GUIDE TO CELEBRATING EPIPHANY WITH VISITS

ROLES

- **Animator:** Coordinates the activities.
- **Reader:** Read the biblical texts and the reflections.
- **Representative:** It outlines the thematic axes and guides the specific action.
- **Visitor's Guide:** Organizes and leads visits.

NECESSARY ELEMENTS

- A Bible.
- A space prepared with Amazonian symbols (leaves, water, candles).
- Traditional music or recordings to create atmosphere.
- Symbolic gifts (fruits, local crafts).

DEVELOPMENT

1. Home in the community

- **Animator:** Welcome, invites a moment of silence and offers a brief opening prayer.
- They prepare a song or a short message to share during the visits.

2. Reflection on the thematic axes

- **Reader** Matthew 2:1-12
- **Representing** Present the thematic axes and reflect:

1

SEARCH FOR GOD

The visit of the Three Wise Men symbolizes the constant search for the divine. This first theme invites us to reflect on how the peoples of the Amazon express their spirituality through local practices that are deeply connected to nature and the mystery of God. Communities can organize moments of prayer, Bible readings, and songs, such as Psalm 72, that extol justice and peace.

Reflection

Like the Three Wise Men, we are pilgrims in search of the divine.

In our Amazon region, what practices connect us with God and his creation?

2

SOLIDARITY AND HOSPITALITY

The Feast of the Epiphany highlights the importance of mutual acceptance. This theme seeks to promote concrete acts of solidarity, such as visiting the elderly, sharing traditional foods, or supporting families in need. These simple acts, inspired by the Gospel of Luke 10:25-37, will strengthen community bonds and foster a spirituality of service.

Reflection

Hospitality is experienced by sharing our lives with others.

What concrete actions can we take to strengthen our solidarity with the most vulnerable?

3

CARE FOR CREATION

In the Amazon, caring for creation is essential. This principle encourages communities to take concrete steps to preserve biodiversity, such as planting native trees or reducing the use of products that harm the environment. Readings like Genesis 1:1-31 and Psalm 24:1-2 can guide reflection on our responsibility to protect God's creation.

Reflection

Every river and tree is a testament to God's love.

How can we commit to protecting this wealth for future generations?

3. Epiphany visits: At each stop, the following is done

- A brief reading of Matthew 2:11.
- Reflection on one of the axes.
- Prayer for the family visited.
- Delivery of a symbolic gift.

4. Community closure

- They return to the meeting point, share testimonies, and offer a prayer of thanksgiving.
- Participants are invited to record the visits with photos and send them to comunicaciones@ceama.org or WhatsApp +57 313 2755978.

5. Specific gesture: Perform one or more of the proposed gestures

- Visiting a neighbor or relative you haven't seen in a long time.
- Supporting a vulnerable family with a resource or business.
- Sailing along the rivers to contemplate divine creation.
- Record the gestures by taking photographs and send them to CEAMA contacts.



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