

Christmastide
The Twelve Days
of
Christmas

DECEMBER 25TH - JANUARY 5TH

EVERY WOMAN A THEOLOGIAN

Christmastide begins on the 25th of December and ends on the January 6th, but we'll end our celebration in the evening on January 5th.

Commonly called the Twelve Days of Christmas, it has a deep, rich, history as far back as 567 A.D., when the Council of Tours proclaimed the twelve days from Christmas to Epiphany as a sacred and festive season.

I suggest that you use these cards for a moment with your family, perhaps around dinner, to remember this special time and beautiful tradition. Scan QR codes with your phone camera or a QR app. Alternately you can use a site like [qrscanner.org](https://www.qrscanner.org) to scan from your computer

Phyllicia





December 25th

The first day of Christmastide is better known as Christmas, but it's only the first day of our celebration. Today we embark on a journey to the 12th day of Christmas, what the church has traditionally called Epiphany!

Today we celebrate Jesus. The coming of the Messiah is not only foretold from the very first book of the Bible, but every book of the Bible points to Jesus as its central character. Jesus is not only the "reason for the season," He is the hope and promise of every story within scripture. See if you can find Him within the prophecies of these liturgical readings:

Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98 (3), Hebrews 1:1-4, and John 1:1-14.

Family



Activity

Show me the
wonders
of your
great love,
you who
save by your
right hand
those who take
refuge in you
from their foes.

December 26th

The second day of Christmastide is also known as the Feast of Stephen, a man that many would consider the first martyr of the Christian church. However, if we look deeper into scripture, we see that there have always been martyrs. From the story of Cain and Abel to modern day violence against Christians, we know that God sees these things and will hold people accountable for their actions.

Liturgical reading:

2 Chronicles 24:17–22, Psalm 17:1–9, 15, Acts 6:8—7:2, 51–60, Matthew 23:34–39

John
2:1-2

We
have an
Advocate
with the Father
Jesus Christ
the
Righteous One.
He alone is the
atoning sacrifice
for our sins and not only ours
but also for the sins of the
whole
world.

December 27th

The third day of Christmastide celebrates the Feast of John the Apostle– the beloved disciple. James and John were working class fishermen, called the "Sons of Thunder" you can just imagine them crashing through their home with their mom yelling, "Get out of here, go fishing!" But when Jesus calls, you answer. John went on to write the fourth Gospel, three Epistles and possibly the book of Revelation.

Take this time to read the following family liturgy together:

Leader: Almighty God, loving Father, is there any heart of stone You cannot turn to flesh?

All: We are Yours.

Leader: Use our weaknesses for your glory. Heal this stony ground and in the fertile soil, grow Gospel fruit. Amen.

Liturgical reading:

Genesis 1:1–5, 26–31, Psalm 116:12–19, 1 John 1:1--2:2, John 21:20–25.