**Christian Formation Ideas for January, 2019**

*Welcome to my new resource! If you are in a small congregation or do not have someone in charge of Christian Formation, these resource sheets will provide you with information about the various holidays during the month and some ideas to celebrate.*

*If you have any questions or ideas, please share with me at* *sevans@epiok.org*

**January 6** **Feast of the Epiphany**

Epiphany Pageant – The below link will connect you to a pageant.

<https://www.churchpublishing.org/contentassets/f0dfdca5fb554d14aeaa03ebcc63786e/skitmagi.pdf>

Twelfth Night/Burning of the Greens

https://tinyurl.com/y974dfcv

**January 13** **Baptism of our Lord**

Liturgy Connection – Invite everyone to the church to see the different items used during a baptism. Add anything your church does that may not be included in the information below, such as the oil, Baptismal Candle, etc. A page at the end of these lesson ideas should be copied and shared.

In talking about the items/symbols, gifts, and gestures of Baptism, it is important to talk about the following things:

1. The Paschal Candle, the Baptismal candle, white garments of the person being baptized and the priest
2. That Jesus is the light of the world. He overcomes the darkness.
3. Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, we are born into a new and expanded life with our baptism.
4. In our baptism, we receive the light.
5. The Paschal candle is lighted on Easter and used for one year. It is lit at Feasts of the Resurrection (Easter, baptisms, and funerals.)
6. Scripture, water, and chrism
7. Through scripture, we are called by name to follow Jesus and the light is spread.
8. That the water is a sign of life in Christ and cleansing/purity.
9. That the chrism (oil) is a symbol of joy and strength received at Baptism.
10. In the sacrament of Baptism, we are welcomed into an abundant life in Christ. That life is symbolized by the following gestures:
11. The gesture of epiclesis when the Celebrant touches the water, asking that the water through the power of the Holy Spirit be sanctified (made holy.) (Page 307 of the Book of Common Prayer).

The gesture of the epiclesis is also found in the Eucharist when the priest says these words: “Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your son”

1. The pouring of the water on the forehead transfer the Holy Spirit into the person being baptized, feeding, cleansing, and bringing new and abundant life.
2. Through the tracing of the cross on the forehead of the newly baptized with blessed Chrism (oil), they are sealed and marked as Christ’s own and one of his sheep forever.
3. The priest makes the Sign of the Cross as a shield of the Holy Spirit to bless and protect the entire congregation, as well as the newly baptized and to give them strength and guidance.

**Godparents Sunday**

Schedule this day as an invitation to all Godparents to come and be with their Godchild. Ask them to

bring a remembrance from the child’s baptism to share. Or if they can’t be there, ask them to write a

note to the child about the events of the day. Children can ask their parents to “stand in” for the

Godparents the they are not available and read any letters or notes from them.

**January 20 Martin Luther King Day**

<https://dioceseofnewark.org/liturgical/martin-luther-king-day-resources> has a link to a Litany of Call

Buildingfaith has resources and prayers: <https://www.buildfaith.org/martin-luther-king-day/#gref>

