

Epiphany Home Blessing



The Epiphany “blessing of homes...expresses the blessing of Christ through the intercession of the three wise men, and is an occasion for gathering offerings for charitable and missionary purposes.”

Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy, #118

Chalking the Door at Epiphany

Since the Middle Ages there has been a tradition that on (or near) the feast of the Epiphany we pray for God’s blessing on our homes, marking the door post with chalk (an incarnational image reminding us of the dust of the earth from which we were made.) We mark the main door the home with the initials of the Magi and the minerals of the new year, connected with crosses: **20 + C + M + B + 10**

The initials remind of the legendary names of the Magi—Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar—and also stand for the Latin motto: *Christus mansionem benedicat*, “May Christ bless this house”. In the Book of Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the Lord would pass over their homes; but in this ritual, we mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God’s presence and blessing into our homes. The following prayer may be said while the lintel is marked:



C
M
B

20
10
++
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The three Wise Men

Caspar
Melchior
and Balthazar
followed the star of God’s Son, Who became man
two thousand years ago
and ten years ago.
May Christ bless this home
and remain with us throughout the new year.

May this Epiphany blessing be a reminder that Christ is incarnate in the love and care we manifest to each other in our ordinary daily lives together.

- Magnificat, Blessing of the Month, January 2006

Epiphany Blessing of a Home

ALL: make the sign of the Cross

Head of the Household: “Peace to this house and to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

READER: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through Him, and without Him nothing came to be...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, and the glory was of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3, 14)

(write the first half of the current year)
+20 Christus Mansionem Benedicat 10+
(write the other half of the year)

Those words mean, “May Christ Bless this house”.
(Each word could be written by a different member of the household.)

Or optionally you may use the names of the Magi

+ 20 Caspar Melchior Balthazar 10+

Each name could be written by a
different member
of the household.

ALL: Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen