

Epiphany Home Blessing

(The blessing is to be done by either a priest or the father of the house on the Feast of Epiphany (this part is marked as "leader" below). Epiphany falls (in the USA) on the first Sunday following January 1.)

Blessing the Chalk:

(You may ask your priest to bless the chalk or, alternatively, use the following prayer. Omit the following prayer if your chalk has been blessed.)

Leader: Our help is the name of the Lord:

All: The maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

All: From this time forth for evermore. Let us pray. Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Home Blessing:

Sign of the Cross

Leader: Peace be to this house.

All: And to all who dwell herein.

Leader: From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

All:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever. Amen.

All: From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

Leader:

Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.

Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

All: But deliver us from evil.

Leader: All they from Saba shall come

All: Bringing gold and frankincense.

Leader: O Lord, hear my prayer.

All: And let my cry come to You.

Leader: Let us pray. O God, who by the guidance of a star didst on this day manifest Thine only-begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we who know Thee by faith may also attain the vision of Thy glorious majesty. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Be enlightened, be enlightened, O Jerusalem, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee—Jesus Christ born of the Virgin Mary.

All: And the Gentiles shall walk in thy light and kings in the splendor of thy rising, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.

Leader: Let us pray. Bless, O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

(After the prayers, sprinkle the home with holy water.)

Making the Inscription:

Write first the initials "C" then "M" then "B". Then, in front of the "C" write "20", and after the "B" write "17" (or whatever the last digits of the year are). Finally, place a "+" between each letter and set of numbers (ex. 20 + C + M + B + 17). While C, M, B, can represent the 3 Kings (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar), they can also be interpreted "Christus mansionem benedicat", translated "Christ bless this house".)