



Epiphany House Blessing

It is an ancient custom to bless your home on the Feast of the Epiphany, which is this Sunday, and we invite you to adopt this Catholic tradition in your family.

The family gathers to ask God's blessing on their home and on those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's main entrance (either inside or outside) or another entrance:

20 + C + M + B + 25

The letters C, M, B have two meanings:

- They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, & Balthazar.
- They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*,

"May Christ bless the house."

The "+" signs represent the cross and 2020 is the year.

As you chalk "20 + C + M + B + 25" above the entrance to your home, you can pray the following prayer from the "Book of Blessings":

Lord God of heaven and earth,
you revealed your only-begotten Son
to every nation by the guidance of a star.

Bless this house
and all who inhabit it.
Fill them with the light of Christ,
that their concern for others may reflect your love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Blessings copyright 1989. Liturgical Press. 610. USCCB, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved. Permission is hereby granted to duplicate this work without adaptation for non-commercial use.

For other formats of Epiphany House Blessings see:
https://cdn.catholic.com/wp-content/uploads/Epiphany-Chalk-Blessing-Prayer.pdf?_gl=1*1davhfg*_up*MQ..*_ga*MTQ4MTI4MDg2My4xNm0NDg0NTI5*_ga_C1P2JNZ1YB*MTczNDQ4NDUyOC4xLjAuMTczNDQ4NDUyOC4wLjAuMA..

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A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's main entrance (either inside or outside) or another entrance:

20 + C + M + B + 24

The letters C, M, B have two meanings:

- They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, & Balthazar.
- They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*,
"May Christ bless the house."

The "+" signs represent the cross and 2020 is the year.

As you chalk "20 + C + M + B + 24" above the entrance to your home, you can pray the following prayer found in the "Book of Blessings" page 610:

Lord God of heaven and earth,
You revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation
By the guidance of a star.

Bless this house
And all who inhabit it.
Fill them with the light of Christ,
That their concern for others may reflect your love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For other formats of Epiphany House Blessings see:

<http://www.carmelites.net/news/chalking-door-2017-epiphany-house-blessing/> and/or
<http://aleteia.org/blogs/deacon-greg-kandra/chalking-the-door-blessing-your-home-for-epiphany/>

Chalking the Door 2017: An Epiphany House Blessing



Every year the Carmelite Pre-novitiate Community at Carith House in Chicago on the Feast of the Epiphany blesses their home. We invite you to adopt this custom in your family.

On the Feast of the Epiphany, the family gathers to ask God's blessing on their home and on those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance. It can also be written somewhere inside the home.

+20 C M B 17+

The letters C, M, B have two meanings:

- They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.
- They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house."

The "+" signs represent the cross and 2017 is the year.

Here's a suggested format for the blessing:

All make the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: "Peace be to this house and to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

*Reader: When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,
in the days of King Herod,
behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,
"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising*

*and have come to do him homage.”
After their audience with the king they set out.
And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them,
until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.
They were overjoyed at seeing the star,
and on entering the house
they saw the child with Mary his mother.
They prostrated themselves and did him homage.
Then they opened their treasures
and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod,
they departed for their country by another way.*

The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God

Using chalk, write on the outside of your house or inside above the front main entrance, above or next to an entrance:

+20 Christus Mansionem Benedicat 17+ or +20 C M B 17+

These words mean. “May Christ bless this house” or you may use the names of the Magi

+20 Caspar Melchior Balthazar 17+ or +20 C M B 17+

All: Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who live here and all who visit. May we be blessed with health, kindness 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.

<http://www.carmelites.net/news/chalking-door-2017-epiphany-house-blessing/> Accessed 1/5/17.



Chalking the Door: Blessing Your Home for Epiphany

[Deacon Greg Kandra](#)

January 3, 2016

A beautiful Epiphany tradition will continue at my parish this morning, as a priest will bless chalk and scrawl markings over the door of the church at the start of our 10 a.m. Mass, carrying forth an ancient custom practiced in many homes around the world.

Some background:

The family gathers to ask God's blessing on their home and on those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance, 20 + C + M + B + 16. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2016 is the year.

Blessing the Chalk

V. Our help is the name of the Lord:

R. The maker of heaven and earth.

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

R. 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.

Instructions for Blessing the Home

Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 16 while saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and fifteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then offer the following prayer: *Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen*

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the symbols written sink

into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions the Latin words, *Christus mansionem benedictat*, “May Christ bless the house.”

UPDATE: Below is the chalk inscription added to our church doorframe this morning.



Pictures: Deacon Greg Kandra

- See more at: <http://aleteia.org/blogs/deacon-greg-kandra/chalking-the-door-blessing-your-home-for-epiphany/#sthash.N0p6buxO.dpuf>

<http://aleteia.org/blogs/deacon-greg-kandra/chalking-the-door-blessing-your-home-for-epiphany/> / Accessed 1/6/17.