

## Blessing of the Home on Epiphany

Using the blessed chalk, mark the lintel of your front door as follows:

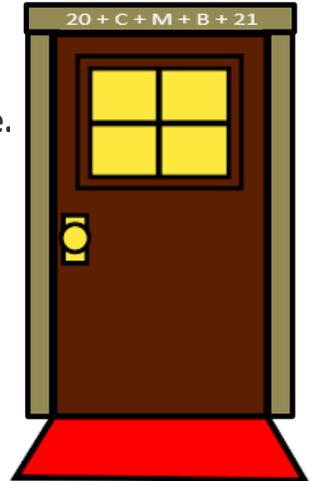
**20 + C + M + B + 21** saying:

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



Then say 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 for ever. Amen.**



-----

Why do we write **20 + C + M + B + 21** ?

- The numbers represent the New Year
- C M B stands for "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which is Latin for "May Christ bless this house"
- C M B also stands for the traditional names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, & Balthasar
- The "+" signs represent the cross, and the four seasons of the year

*The feast of Epiphany is traditionally celebrated the 12th day after Christmas, January 6th. In the dioceses of the United States this feast has been moved to the Sunday between January 2 and January 8.*

This Christian custom of chalking the door has a biblical precedent as the Israelites in the Old Testament marked their doors in order to be saved from death; likewise, the Epiphanytide practice serves to protect Christian homes from evil spirits until the next Epiphany Day, at which time the custom is repeated.

Families also perform this act because it represents the hospitality of the Holy Family to the Magi (and all Gentiles); it thus serves as a house blessing to invite the presence of God in one's home.