

The Epiphany Blessing of a Home

(For the blessing, you will need a piece of chalk and Holy Water. There is Holy Water in the at the church.)

(Weather permitting, all gather outside the front door or at least within the doorway, while the Leader inscribes the outside of the lintel with chalk. (Space above the door.)

L: Peace to this house!

All: And to all who live or enter here!

(The house is now blessed with Holy Water.)

L: Wise men came from the East to pay homage to the Lord.

All: They opened their treasures and offered precious gifts.

L: Gold for his kingship, incense to proclaim him God.

All: Myrrh for the day of his burial.

L: All from Sheba shall come.

All: Bearing gold and frankincense.

L: O Lord, hear our prayer.

All: And let our cry come to you.

L: Let us pray. Almighty God, you revealed your Son to the nations by the guidance of a star. Lead us by faith to your glory and to our eternal home through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Chalking the Door

L: Since the Middle Ages, there has been a tradition that on 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 of our home with the initials of the Magi and the numeral of the new year, connected with crosses.

(With chalk, this inscription is made above the door using the following words.)

20 + C + M + B + 24

L: The three Wise Men,

C Caspar

M Melchior

B Balthasar followed the star of God's Son who became man.

L: The letters represent the Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar.) They also stand for the Latin phrase dating back to Cyril of Alexandria (3rd Century) Christus Mansionem Benedicat, meaning May Christ bless this house. The year stands for our timeless God; the crosses, like compass points, are meant to indicate "all nations."

L: Rise up, Jerusalem, your light has come!

All: The glory of the Lord shines upon you!

L: Nations shall walk by your light.

All: Kings by your shining radiance.

L: Eternal God, bless this home. Let health and goodness, humility and faith, reside and abide here always. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen!