



The church has a custom of blessing homes on the Feast of The Epiphany. Families gather to ask God’s blessing on their homes and upon those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, in our comings and goings, in our conversations, in our work and play, and in our joys and sorrows. A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk that has been blessed during the Epiphany liturgy, which families may take home and use to write on the doorstep or above their home’s entryway:

20 † C †M † B † 23

The letters C, M, and B are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi according to church legend, (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar), but these letters also abbreviate the Latin words, *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which means, “May Christ bless this house.” The “†” signs represent the cross, and 2023 is the year. “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.

A Blessing of The Home for Epiphany

Using a piece of chalk, write on your doorstep or on the frame above the entryway:

20 † C †M † B † 23

Next, read the following:

Peace be to this house and to all who live here.

Through the guidance of a star, the coming of Jesus was made known to the Magi.

Today, Christ is made known to us!

“They went into the house and when they saw the child with his mother, they knelt down and worshipped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and presented them to him” (Matthew 2:11).

Let us pray: Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Visit this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love. Guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace. Fill us with the light of Christ, that all might see your love shining through us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen