

BLESSING OF THE HOME AT EPIPHANY

This blessing may be led and given by a priest --- the father or the head of the household.

PRAYER: BLESSING OF THE CHALK

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Leader: Bless, + O Lord God, this creature, chalk, and let it be a help to mankind. Grant that those who will use it with faith in your most holy name, and with it inscribe on the doors of their homes the names of your saints, Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar, may through their merits and intercession enjoy health in body and protection of soul; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The chalk may be sprinkled with holy water.

PRAYER: BLESSING OF THE HOME

On entering the home,

Leader: *(Priest, if present, or father of the family, or head of the household)* Peace be to this house.

All: And to all who dwell herein.

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.

All Pray: *The Magnificat.*

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
Because He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid,
for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
Because He who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is His Name;
And His mercy is from generation to generation
toward those who fear Him.
He has shown might with His arm;
He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.
He has put down the mighty from their thrones
and has exalted the lowly.
The hungry He has filled with good things
and the rich He has sent empty away.
He has given help to Israel His servant,
mindful of His mercy--
As He promised our fathers--



toward Abraham and his descendants forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen Alleluia.

During the Magnificat, the room may be sprinkled with holy water (and optionally incensed). After this is completed,

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: 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 splendour of thy rising, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.

With blessed chalk the lintels above the door are marked with the initials of the three kings and with crosses, starting with the first two digits of the year and ending with the last two, thus for 2021 -

20 + C + M + B + 21

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 fulfilment 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.

The initials CMB also stand for the words 'Christus Mansionem Benedicat' which means 'May Christ bless this house'.