

## Epiphany Chalk Blessing

It is an ancient tradition that every year, on the Feast of the Epiphany, Christians around the world bless their homes.

We invite you to adopt this custom 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 entrance, 20 + C + M + B + 21. 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 2021 is the year.

# Instructions for Blessing the Home

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

21 + C + M + B + 21 while saying:

The Magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son

who became human two thousand (21) and twenty-one (21) years ago.

May Christ bless (+) our home and remain with us throughout the New Year.

Amen.

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