

Blessing of the Home and Household on Epiphany

The custom of blessing homes while recalling the visit of the Magi is celebrated in many Old World countries. The C, M, and B of the inscription refer to the traditional names of the three Wise Men: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The numbers are the date of the current year.

The family gathers. Candles are lit. It is most appropriate to gather around the Advent wreath, in which the purple candles have been replaced with white, but any white, non-scented candles may be lit.

The leader (preferably the father or eldest resident) begins by saying:

Peace be with this house and with all who live here. Blessed be the name of the Lord!

During these days of the Christmas season, we keep this feast of Epiphany, celebrating the manifestation of Christ to the Magi. Today, Christ is manifest to us! Today, this home is a holy place.

Let us pray:

Father, we give you special thanks on this festival of the Epiphany, for leading the Magi from afar to the home of Christ, who has given light and hope to all peoples.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, may his presence be renewed in our home. Make our home a place of human wholeness and divine holiness: a place of joy and laughter, a place of forgiveness and peace, a place of prayer, service, and discipleship.

The leader takes the blessed chalk and marks the lintel (the doorframe over the door) on the inside of the main entrance to the house as follows: 20+ C+M+ B+ 26

The prayer below is said during the marking by another family member, such as the other parent or a child.

Loving God, as we mark this lintel, send the angel of mercy to guard our home and repel all powers of darkness. Fill those of us living here with a love for each other and warm us with the fullness of your presence and love.

After the lintel has been marked, the leader finishes by saying:

Lord our God, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star.

Bless now this household with health, goodness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of your law of love.

May all who visit this dwelling find here:

the tender loving care of Mary, the God-bearer, the prayerful protection of Saint Joseph, the faithful perseverance of the magi, and the humble peace of the Christ Child,
the light of the nations, and thus praise you for all eternity in the unity of the Holy Spirit and the Church, now and forever.

All respond: Amen.

All join hands and pray together the Our Father. The leader then invites all to share a sign of peace.

Other doors may be marked by family members, especially children marking the doors of their own bedrooms. If possible, the family may continue the celebration by sharing a special meal together.