

## The Blessing of Homes on Epiphany

On Epiphany, chalk is blessed by the priest in the church. The people take it home to use for the blessing of their house. The father of the family should trace the following with blessed chalk above the front door, on the doorframe:

20 + C + M + B + 23

This represents the year and the initials of the three Magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar). The following prayers are then said, with the father of the family leading if possible, inside the main entrance of the house.

**Father/leader:** Peace be to this house.

**All:** And to all that dwell herein.

**Father/leader:** From the east the Magi came to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures, they offered costly gifts: gold to the great King, incense to the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial. Alleluia.

**All:** (*sign yourself with the Cross and say together the Magnificat*)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children 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.

**All:** From the east the Magi came to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures, they offered costly gifts: gold to the great King, incense to the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial. Alleluia.

**Father/leader:** Our Father (then silent until) and lead us not into temptation

**All:** but deliver us from evil.

**Father/leader:** All they from Saba shall come . . .

**All:** bringing gold and frankincense.

**Father/leader:** O Lord, hear my prayer . . .

**All:** and let my cry come to Thee.

**Father/leader:** Let us pray. O God, Who by the guidance of a star did this day reveal thy Only-Begotten Son to the Gentiles, grant that we who now know thee by faith may be brought to the contemplation of thy heavenly majesty. Grant this through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

**Father/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.

**Father/leader:** Nations shall walk in thy light, and kings in the splendor of thy birth. . .

**All:** and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.

**Father/leader:** Let us pray. Bless, O Lord almighty God, this home, that it be the shelter of health, chastity, self-conquest, humility, goodness, mildness, obedience to the commandments, and thanksgiving to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. May blessing remain for all time upon this dwelling and all who live herein. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

*After the prayers of the blessing are recited, the father of the family should sprinkle each of the rooms with Epiphany water if available, or regular holy water. The same inscription may then be traced with chalk above the doors throughout the house as desired, especially above the children's rooms.*