

## Blessing of the Home with Blessed Epiphany Chalk and Water

**20 + C + M + B + 20**

*A tradition among Catholics is to bless our lintel and homes from the Feast of the Epiphany. The letters have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the Three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar who were sanctified by their adoration of the infant Jesus. They also abbreviate the Latin words "Christus mansionem benedicat." "May Christ bless the house." The letters recall the day on which the inscription is made, as well as the purpose of blessing. The inscription is made above the main front door, so that all who enter and depart this year may enjoy God's blessing. There are several ways to do this blessing, one of those is below. The house blessing is led by a priest, the husband, or head of the household with the rest of the family and household gathered together with him with Epiphany Water and Epiphany Chalk.*

**Leader:** Peace be to this house.

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

**Leader:** The beginning of the Holy Gospel according to John:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him: and without him was made nothing that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to give testimony of the light, that all men might believe through him. He was not the light, but was to give testimony of the light. That was the true light, which enlighteneth every man that cometh into this world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, he gave them power to be made the sons of God, to them that believe in his name. Who are born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US, and we saw his glory, the glory as it were of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**All:** Our Father...

**Leader:** O God, Who on this day by the leading of a star didst manifest Thine only-begotten Son to the Gentiles; mercifully grant that we who know Thee now by faith, may be brought to the contemplation of the beauty of Thy majesty. This we ask of You through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord and your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** *While reciting the following prayer the leader writes with the blessed chalk above the main door of the house:*

**20 + C + M + B + 20**

The Three Wise Men, Caspar **C** (*write the letter*), Melchior **M** and Balthazar **B** followed the star of God's Son Who became man, Two Thousand **20** and Twenty years ago **20**. May Christ bless our home **++** (*inscribe the first two crosses*), and remain with us through the new year **++** (*then the last two crosses*).

**Leader:** Almighty God, incline your ear. Bless us and all who are gathered here. Send your holy angel who will defend us and fill with grace all who dwell here.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** *The leader of the home then sprinkles Blessed Epiphany Water throughout the home.*