

# Epiphany Blessing of the Home & Household - 2015

The traditional date of Epiphany is January 6, but in the United States it is celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas, between January 2 and January 8. The whole of the Christmas season, especially on the feast of the Epiphany, is a traditional time to bless homes, including passageways and doorways.

Often related to these blessings is a ritual of “chalking” the doors of the home with the numbers of the year separated by the initials, CMB. The letters traditionally refer to the legendary names of the three kings: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar (Scripture neither names them nor says there were three of them). Another tradition refers to it as the abbreviation of the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, translated as “May Christ bless this house.”

## Here is one form of an Epiphany House Blessing:

**V.** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**A.** Amen

**V.** Peace be to this house and: to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord.

**A.** Blessed be God forever.

**V.** A reading from the holy gospel according to St. John

**A.** Glory to You, O Lord.

*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be..... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3.14)*

**A.** Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

After the prayers of the blessing are recited, each room of the home is sprinkled with holy water. The year and initials of the Magi are inscribed above the doors with the blessed chalk (Casper, Melchior and Balthasar with the first two numerals of the year preceding the C and the last two numerals of the year placed after the B).

**20 + C + M + B + 15**

As you inscribe the initials say: “Christus **M**ansionem **B**enedicat” which means “May Christ bless this house”.)

**V.** Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**A.** Amen.