

Bless the Chalk:

Bless, + O Lord God, this creature, chalk, and let it be a help to mankind. Grant that those who will use it with faith in your most holy name, and with it inscribe on the doors of their homes the names of your saints, Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar, may through their merits and intercession enjoy health in body and protection of soul; through Christ our Lord.

Epiphany (which means “revealing”) commemorates the Magi who came from the East following a star and bearing gifts to meet the child who would become king. We celebrate Epiphany to remember that Christ has revealed himself to us, too.

“Chalking the door” is a centuries-old way to celebrate and to mark the occasion of the Epiphany with God’s blessing of our lives and homes. Using blessed chalk, people mark the doorpost of their home with an inscription signifying the new year (2023), along with the marks C+M+B, which stands for the Latin words:

Christus Mansionem Benedictat, - “May Christ bless this house.”

They also stand for the traditional names of the Magi who visited Christ: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.

Chalking the Door

Leader: At the end of these days of Christmastide, we keep the Feast of Epiphany. We celebrate Christ being made known to the Magi, to John in the River Jordan, and to the disciples at the wedding in Cana. Today Christ is made known to us! Today this home is a holy place!

Leader: Peace be to this house and all who enter here.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: Let us pray: O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you -- Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary.

People: Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

¶ Using blessed chalk, mark your lintel or doorpost (inside or out) as you read:

Leader: The Magi, Caspar (C), Melchior (M), and Balthazar (B)... came from the East to Bethlehem to adore the Lord.

C M B

¶ Now add the year as written below as you read the next section:

Leader: “On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh” two thousand (20) and twenty three (23) years ago.

20 C M B 22

¶ Then add the crosses as you pray the blessing:

“May Christ”

20 C + M B 22

“Bless”

20 C + M + B 22

“Our Home”

20 C + M + B + 22

“And remain with us throughout the year.”

20 + C + M + B + 22

People: **Amen.**

Leader: 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.

People: **Amen.**