

EPIPHANY BLESSING—Marking our homes with blessed chalk for the New Year

This ancient custom of marking the home with blessed chalk on the Feast of the Epiphany is a special house blessing. With the blessed chalk, mark the lintel of your home with:

20 C+M+B 25

The letters C, M & B stand for the traditional names of the Wise Men who came seeking Jesus: Caspar, Melchio and Balthasar. The letters also represent the words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (*May Christ Bless this Abode*)

Words to be said at home:

Peace be upon our (this) house and to all who live here. **Amen.**

Matthew 2:1-2,10-11

The wise men from the East came to Jerusalem asking: "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage.

*The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

Say:

1. **"The Three Wise Men"** and then mark with chalk **C M B** (Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar)
2. **"Followed the light of the star to find Jesus, the Son of God, who came to live among us"**
3. **"Two thousand and twenty five years ago"** and then mark **20** before the 'C' and **25** after the 'B'
4. **"May Christ bless our home today and"** and then mark **+** between the 'C' and 'M'
5. **"Remain with us throughout the year"** and then mark **+** between the 'M' and 'B'

Let us pray: God of mercy, fill our home with the light and love of Christ that it may be place of hospitality and welcome. May Christ be our shelter when we are at home, our companion when we are away, and our welcome guest when we return. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.