



THE EPIPHANY BLESSING *Marking Homes with Blessed Chalk for the New Year*

The ancient custom of marking the door of the home with blessed chalk is a way of incorporating the liturgical feast of the Epiphany as a domestic ritual into the prayer life of the family. Chalk is first blessed in the parish church at Masses for Epiphany and then people are invited to take some home and to mark the lintel of their front door as follows:

20 C+M+B 25

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

Parish Blessing of Chalk

Introduction: *On this feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, we rejoice that the light of Christ has come into our world. Today, we invite families to take home a piece of this chalk to mark the front door of your homes as a blessing for the New Year.*

Prayer of Blessing: *Let us pray, Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the gift of Jesus, your Son, the Light of the World. May your blessing be upon us as we carry this chalk to our homes. May its mark on our doorposts be a sign of your protection and of the presence of the Light of Christ in our homes. In the name of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

CHALK MARK	WORDS TO BE SAID AT HOME
	<p>Peace be upon this house and with all of us who live here. Amen.</p> <p><i>Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11</i> The wise men from the East came to Jerusalem asking: <i>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.</i> 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.</p> <p>THE THREE WISE MEN C CASPAR M MELCHIOR B BALTHASAR</p> <p>FOLLOWED THE LIGHT OF THE STAR TO FIND JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, WHO CAME TO LIVE AMONG US</p> <p>20 TWO THOUSAND 25 AND TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO. + MAY CHRIST BLESS OUR HOME TODAY AND + REMAIN WITH US THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.</p> <p>Let us pray. God of mercy, fill our home with the light and love of Christ that it may be a 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, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.</p>