

Blessing the Home on Epiphany

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The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (celebrated on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8) commemorates the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles through the visit of the Magi. Among various traditions associated with this day, the blessing of homes stands out as a cherished ritual in many Christian communities. This custom reflects a desire to sanctify one's home, asking God for protection and grace for the household in the coming year.

The practice of blessing homes on Epiphany can be traced back to the Middle Ages as the faithful sought to extend the blessings of Christmas to their daily lives. The ritual involves writing with chalk *C*, *M*, and *B* along with the current year above the main entrance to the home. The letters *C*, *M*, and *B* stand for the traditional names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. These initials also represent the Latin phrase “Christus mansionem benedicat,” which means “Christ bless this house.” The inscription for 2025 would read *20 + C + M + B + 25*.



Marking the doorway with blessed chalk is a traditional practice associated with the blessing of the home on Epiphany.

WHY DO WE WRITE THIS SIGN OF BLESSING OVER THE DOORWAY?

The doorway is a place of significant blessings in every home. It is the threshold over which family members come and go, taking the blessings of the domestic Church out into the world and bringing back the challenges, joys, and blessings of the day. It is also the place of entry for visitors—family, friends, and even unexpected guests, making it a prime location of blessings. Jesus tells his disciples how to bless the homes they enter, saying, “Into whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this household.’ If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you” (Luke 10:5–6).

BLESSING OF THE HOME AND HOUSEHOLD ON EPIPHANY

The *Book of Blessings* includes an Order for The Blessing of a New Home and an Order for The Blessing of Homes During the Christmas and Easter Seasons. Both may be carried out by a priest, a deacon, or a layperson. All who live in the house

should be present for these blessings. The following is an outline of the blessing for a home during Christmas Time, which can be adapted to suit individual circumstances.

Gathering

- When all have gathered, a suitable song such as “Joy to the World” or “Angels We Have Heard on High” may be sung.
- The leader makes the sign of the cross and then offers a brief greeting.

Scripture

- A Scripture reading such as Luke 19:1–9 or John 20:19–21 is proclaimed.
- Psalmody such as one of the following is said or sung with these refrains:
- Psalm 72: “Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.”
- Psalm 127: 1, 2, 3–4, 5: “May the Lord build us a home.”

Intercessions

- Prayers for peace and for those who live in the house are offered.

Blessing

The blessing is then spoken by the minister or lay leader:

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.
Fill them with the light of Christ,
that their concern for others may reflect your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
(*Book of Blessings*, 1612)

Closing

- The leader concludes the blessing by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross.
- End the celebration with a suitable song like “O Come, All Ye Faithful” or “We Three Kings.”