



“Chalking the Door” - An Epiphany Blessing

An Epiphany blessing is a way of marking our homes, usually at the main entrance, with sacred signs and symbols as we ask God’s blessing upon those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year. On the Twelfth-Night after Christmas, many families gather in their homes to celebrate this Epiphany feast with friends, food, singing, and gifts. It is at these Twelfth-Night celebrations that “Chalking the Door” with this blessing is most often observed.

What you will need: a piece of chalk and holy water.

All: Make the Sign of the Cross.

Head of Household: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Head of Household: Peace be to this house!

All: And to all who live here!

Head of Household: Let us pray: O God, you once used a star to show to all the world that Jesus is your Son. May the light of that star that once guided wise men to his birth, now guide us to recognize him in the epiphanies of the daily experiences of our lives. As we go about our work, our study, our play, keep us in its light and in your love. May all who enter here find your gracious hospitality, for Christ has come to dwell in this house and in these hearts.

All: May Christ bless this home! Amen

Each person present take turns writing the following blessing over the doorway of the house with chalk

20 + C + M + B + 19

The letters have two meanings. They are the initials of the customary names of the Three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also abbreviate the Latin words “Christus Mansionem Benedicat”, “May Christ bless this house”. The year is divided before and after these letters because it is 2019 years since the Incarnation. The crosses (+) represent the protection of Christ.)