



Epiphany House Blessing

Traditionally Catholics have had their home blessed on or soon after the Epiphany using special Holy Water—that was exorcised and blessed on the Vigil of Epiphany—and chalk (to mark your door as above) that was blessed on the Epiphany. Ordinarily this is done by a priest, and some will do this blessing up until the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary on February 2nd... so invite him for dinner and get on his schedule now!

But it can be led by the father (or other senior member) of a family. Below is an example of prayers that families can use themselves without a priest:

Father/leader: Peace be in this home.

All: And to all who dwell herein.

Father: Magi from the East came to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasure chests they presented Him with precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial. Alleluia.

All now recite or sing the Magnificat (Lk 1:46-55).

All: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, because He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid, for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed, because He Who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His Name.

And His mercy is from generation to generation toward those who fear Him.

He has shown might with His arm, He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.

He has put down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.

The hungry He has filled with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.

He has given help to Israel His servant, mindful of His mercy as He promised our fathers toward Abraham and his descendants forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

All: Magi from the East came to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasure chests they presented Him with precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial. Alleluia.

The Father/Leader then sprinkles the home with the Epiphany holy water. During it, you may want to all sing hymns such as *We Three Kings* or *What Child Is This?* At the conclusion all recite the *Our Father*.

Father: All they from Saba shall come. **All:** Bringing gold and frankincense.

Father: Let us pray. O God, who by the guidance of a star didst on this day manifest Thine only begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we who know thee by faith may also arrive at the vision of Thy glorious majesty. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

All: Be enlightened, be enlightened, O Jerusalem, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee, Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary. And the Gentiles shall walk in thy light and kings in the splendor of thy rising, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee. (Is 60:1,3)

Father: Let us pray. Bless, O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Now, inscribe with blessed chalk the initials of the three kings over the lintel of the doors, denoting the century and year on either side, for example: 20 + C + M + B + 21, which signifies 2021 A.D., Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar and Christus Mansionem Benedicat, which means "May Christ bless this dwelling"!

Father: Let us pray. Hear us. O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Eternal God, and send Thy Holy Angel from Heaven to watch over, cherish, protect, be with, and defend all who live in this house. I call upon Thy saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, to protect our family and this home from every harm and danger, and I place the marks of their holy names over the doors of this home to remain there as a constant reminder to us and to all who enter here that this house is truly a house of the Lord.

O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need charity and companionship, narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride, and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the Tempter's power.

O God, make the door of this house the gateway to Thy eternal Kingdom, I ask these things in the Holy Name of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Our Lord, Amen.