



Praying at Home

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF THE HOME

January 2014

It is an ancient Catholic custom to bless our homes on Epiphany, with special prayers that recall the journey of the wise men to the infant Christ. Whether you live with others or alone, you can use this special blessing at the beginning of this new year. You just need a piece of chalk!

All make the Sign of the Cross.

**Leader: Peace be to this house
and to all who dwell here.**

All: Amen.

Read a scripture passage from the family Bible. You might choose the beginning of John's Gospel (John 1:1-5,14), or the story of the wise men (Matthew 2:1-12).

Leader: The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and thirteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Using chalk, write the following inscription on the outside of your house, above or next to the primary entrance. Between the numerals of this new year are the letters C, M, B, the initials of the Magi – Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. They also stand for a simple prayer, Christus Mansionem Benedicat, "May Christ bless this house." Each part of the inscription could be written by a different member of the household.

20 + C + M + B + 14

Leader: Let us pray.

**May all who come to our home this year
rejoice to find Christ living among us.
May we be blessed with health,
goodness of heart, gentleness,
and faithfulness to your will.
And may we seek and serve,
in everyone we meet,
that same Jesus who is your incarnate Word,
now and forever. Amen.**

You may wish to conclude by singing verses of a familiar hymn.



**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Earth to heaven replies.**

Refrain