



*Magi from the east came
bearing gifts of gold,
frankincense and myrrh*

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF HOMES

One popular religious tradition since the Middle Ages has been associated with the feast of the Epiphany: the blessing of homes with *holy water* (to remind us of our baptism) and *chalk* (an incarnational image because it reminds us of the dust of the earth from which we were made). The ritual calls for the inside of the main door to be marked, with blessed chalk, the initials of the Magi and the numerals of the new year connected with crosses: 20 + C + M + B + 10. The initials remind us of the legendary names of the Magi -- Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar -- and also stand for the Latin motto: *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless this house."

The following can be used to bless your home:

The three wisemen,
Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar
followed the star of God's Son
who became man 2000 years ago.

May Christ bless our dwelling
and remain with us throughout the
new year.

Mark over the inside of the door with
the blessed chalk: 20 + C + M + B + 10,
and say "May Christ bless this house."

*May this Epiphany Blessing be a reminder
that Christ is incarnate in the love and care
we manifest to each other in our ordinary
daily lives together.*