

Blessing of the Home and Household on Epiphany

When all have gathered, sing O Come All Ye Faithful:

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!	Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!	O come, let us adore him,
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.	O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The leader makes the sign of the cross, and all reply, "Amen."

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace. Blessed be God forever.

R/. Blessed be God forever.

Leader: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. It is Christ who enlightens our hearts and homes with his love. May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love.

Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name all who use it in faith to write upon the doors of their homes the names of your saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit their home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Instructions for Blessing the Home

The initials of the Magi are inscribed upon the doors with the blessed chalk. (The initials, C, M, B, can also be interpreted as the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" which means "Christ bless this house".) Using the blessed chalk, mark the lintel (top of the frame) of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 23 while saying:

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

All: Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

Leader: The Son of God made his home among us. With thanks and praise let us call upon him.

R/. Stay with us, Lord.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, with Mary and Joseph you formed the Holy Family: remain in our home, that we may know you as our guest and honor you as our Head.

We pray:

R/. Stay with us, Lord.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, you had no place to lay your head, but in the spirit of poverty accepted the hospitality of your friends: grant that through our help the homeless may obtain proper housing.

We pray:

R/. Stay with us, Lord.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, the three kings presented their gifts to you in praise and adoration: grant that those living in this house may use their talents and abilities to your greater glory.

We pray:

R/. Stay with us, Lord.

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 us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. 3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;

R/. Amen.

1 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.

End by singing "We Three Kings."
2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [Refrain]

prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshipping God on high. [Refrain]
4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]
5 Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:

Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

COR
heart



St. Augustine
St. Edward