

# An Epiphany blessing for your home

For centuries, Christians throughout the world have had a tradition of “chalking doors” on the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (January 3 this year), which celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the nations.

Inspired by the Magi, the family uses chalk (some parishes bless chalk for the purpose) to mark the lintel or doorpost with the following symbols:

20 + C + M + B + 21

The numbers are for the year. The crosses symbolize Christ’s cross. The letters are the initials of the traditional names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which means “May Christ bless this house.”

This offers everyone from the home a reminder that Christ has blessed the home and all those who live in it. It also reminds everyone that the household is dedicated to Christ.

You can find several suggested formats for blessing ceremonies online, with Scripture readings, intercessions and hymns. Here’s a simple blessing from the U.S. bishops’ book *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*:

*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.  
Amen.*

Sources: Deacon Eric Paige, [usccb.org](http://usccb.org), [vatican.va](http://vatican.va)

For more ways to celebrate your faith at home, visit [marriagefamilylife.seattlearchdiocese.org/athomewithfaith](http://marriagefamilylife.seattlearchdiocese.org/athomewithfaith).