

EPIPHANY BLESSING FOR THE HOME, SCHOOL, ETC. Write above doors with blessed Chalk:

20 + C + M + B + 25

There is a custom in the Catholic Christian Church of blessing the entrances of homes. I, Fr. Charbel invite you to adopt this custom in your family. The family gathers to ask God's blessing on their home and on those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows. Exodus 12:7,13: "And the blood shall be unto you for a sign in the houses where you shall be: and I shall see the blood, and shall pass over you: and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I shall strike the land of Egypt."

A traditional way of doing this is to use **BLESSED CHALK** to write above the home's entrance, **20 + C + M + B + 25**. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi/kings: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2025 is the year.

"All three of the Magi were martyred for the Catholic Faith. Their names are now, and should always be called, Saint Gaspar, Saint Melchior and Saint Balthasar. The bodies of Saint Gaspar, Saint Melchior and Saint Balthasar were first brought to Constantinople, and then to Milan, and in the twelfth century they were placed in the Cathedral of Cologne, in Germany, where they are venerated with much love by the Christians who worship there" (<http://catholicism.org/saint-gaspar-saint-melchior-and-saint-balthasar-first-century.html>).

Edward Burne Jones The Adoration of the Kings (1887):



Instructions for Blessing the Home: Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows: 20 + C + M + B + 25 while saying: *The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and nineteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.*

Then offer the following prayer: *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*

"Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions the Latin words, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." *If you have questions you can contact:*

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Taken from: <http://www.carmelites.net/news/chalking-door-epiphany-house-blessing-2015/>