

# A Blessing of a Home on the Feast of Epiphany

*An epiphany home blessing is a Christian tradition of blessing one's house and household on the feast of Epiphany, which commemorates the visit of the Magi to Jesus. The blessing involves writing the letters C, M and B and the numbers of the year on the door or door frame with chalk, and praying for God's protection and grace. The letters stand for the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which mean "May Christ bless this house", or for the names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. The blessing is a way of inviting Jesus to be a guest and a head of the household, and of expressing hospitality to all who enter the home.*

## GREETING

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Peace be with this household and all who visit here. Blessed be the name of the Lord:

**All:** Now and forever.

**Leader:** During these days of the Christmas season, we keep this feast of Epiphany, celebrating the manifestation of Christ to the Magi, to the Shepherds, to John in the River Jordan, and to the disciples at the wedding at Cana. Today we celebrate that Christ is manifest to us! Because of our faith, this home is a holy place because Christ has been made known to us and we have chosen to follow him.

**Reader:** A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (John 1:1-3, 14)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through Him, and without Him nothing came to be. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory and the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## INSCRIPTION

A member of the household traces the inscription ( MM + CMB + XXII ) –or– ( 20 + CMB + 22 ) above the main entry door, while another proclaims the corresponding words. The inscription may simply be traced with a finger or more permanently, with chalk, charcoal, or other substance.

**Leader:** The three wise men,

Caspar, [write the "C"]

Melchior, and [write the "M"]

Balthasar, [write the "B"]

followed the star of God's Son who became one like us

two thousand, and [write the "MM" or "20"]

twenty-two years ago. [write the "XXII" or "22"]

May our home be blessed to be a place where Christ's name is praised [write the first "+"]

And may Christ dwell in our hearts and minds throughout the year. [write the second "+"]

## ACCLAMATION (Psalm 24:7-8)

**Leader:** Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted, you ancient portals,

**All:** -that the king of glory may enter.

**Leader:** Who is the King of Glory?

**All:** -The Lord strong and mighty!

## BLESSING

Everyone processes from one room to another. In each room God's blessing is asked on all that takes place in that room.

Blessed (holy) water may be carried and sprinkled. When all return to the starting place, they join in the Lord's Prayer.

**Leader:** Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us:

**All:** Our Father...

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

**Leader:** Let us pray. 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 visit and 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.

**All:** Amen.

All make the sign of the cross over themselves as the leader says:

**Leader:** May almighty God bless us, protect us, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

After the service concludes, it is good to continue the celebration with Christmas carols, refreshments and/or other forms of celebration.

