

## **The Epiphany House Blessing?**

It's a specific blessing for the home that is traditionally done each year on the Epiphany (also known as 3 Kings Day or Twelfth Night) that is done on the front door of the house and uses symbols drawn with any piece of chalk (it does not require blessing). This is called the chalking of the door, and is practiced by many Christians including Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, and more!

**For 2022 this is what you will write on your door in chalk:**

***20 + C + M + B + 22***

### **Where Do I Put The Chalk Symbols?**

The "lintel" of the door is where this is the most traditional, which was historically the horizontal piece above the door.

This tradition has biblical roots going back to the story of Moses in the Bible when the Israelites were asked to put the blood of a lamb or goat on the doorposts and above the doors of the houses.

*"The blood on the doorposts will be a sign to mark the houses in which you live. When I see the blood, I will pass over you and will not harm you when I punish the Egyptians." Exodus 12:13*

Anywhere around the front door of the home, inside or outside, is a great choice!

### **What Do The Epiphany Door Symbols Mean?**

**The chalked numbers on the door mean:** The first number "20" is for the first 2 numbers of the year, and the last number "22" is for the last 2 numbers of the year.

**The chalked letters on the door mean:**

The 3 letters are the first Initial of each of the kings (**Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar**).

The "C, M, B also stands for the Latin blessing *Christius Mansionem Benedicat* which means "May Christ Bless this House".

### **When do we do the blessing?**

**Epiphany is January 6, 2022.**

## **Liturgy & Prayers for Chalking the Door**

**From: Building Faith: A ministry of Virginia Theological Seminary, adapted.**

One Voice: Peace be to this house, and to all who enter here.

**ALL Voices: Amen.**

### **Prayer**

One Voice: Let us pray, *offer one or more of the following prayers...*

May ALL who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is Your incarnate Word, now and forever. Amen.

God of heaven and earth, You revealed Your only-begotten One 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 Savior. Amen.

Loving God, bless this household. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and abiding in Your will. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

*As participants take turns making the inscription:*

One Voice: The three Wise Men, [C] Caspar, + [M] Melchior, + [B] and Balthasar + followed the star to Bethlehem and to the child Jesus [20] two thousand, + [22] and twenty two + years ago. May Christ bless our home, and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

***ALL say the Lord's Prayer.***

**Amen.**