



Epiphany Blessing of a Home



Friends, members of a small Christian community, or especially those who live in the same neighborhood are encouraged to join together for the blessing of each other's home by making a pilgrimage from one to the other and praying the blessing for all. Don't forget the elderly and shut-ins; this is a wonderful Christmas gift that can be given to someone who is lonely.

Every family is encouraged to adapt the blessing. For example, an entrance or closing song may be sung (perhaps a traditional Christmas hymn). The Scriptures may be proclaimed (check the parish web site for suggestions).

L= Leader, R = Response.

**L: The Lord be with you;
R: And with your spirit.**

L: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord, Jesus born of the Virgin Mary, shall be revealed.

R: And all flesh shall see the glory of the Lord.

All: Peace be to this house and to all who live and visit here.

L: The Three Wise Men came to Bethlehem in search of the Lord. They brought him precious gifts: gold to honor the newborn king, incense to worship the true God made flesh, and myrrh to anoint his body, which one day would die like our own. Let us pray to God, who once used a star to reveal to all the world that Jesus is his Son. May the light of the star that once guided wise men to honor his birth, now guide us to recognize him also, to see him in the epiphanies of the daily experiences of our lives, to know him by faith, and to love him above all else.

All: As the Wise Men once sought your brilliant light, O Lord, so may we seek to live and work in your splendor.

L: O God of Light, bless our house and our family. May our home be a place of faith and peace. May each member of our family welcome the other and cultivate the gifts and graces you have bestowed, dedicating our talents and works for the good of all.

R: Make this house a shelter in the storm and a haven of rest for all in need of your warmth and care. When we go out from this place, may we never lose sight of your Epiphany star.

L: Lord Jesus, through your Incarnation and birth in true human form, you have made all the earth holy. We now ask your blessing upon this simple gift of your creation — chalk — which reminds us of the dust of the earth from which you made us. With your blessing, may it mark the doors of our home with the symbols of your wise servants who so long ago came to worship and adore you in the stable of Bethlehem.

One or more of those present marks the lintel of the front doorway with these symbols:

20 + C + M + B + 12

This is followed by the sprinkling of the door with holy water, as a symbol of the waters of the Red Sea through which the chosen people were led from slavery to freedom, and a sprinkling of those present, as a symbol of our baptism.

L: May we, in this house, and all who come to visit, to work, and to play, remember these things throughout the coming year. May all who come and go here find peace, comfort, joy, hope, love, and salvation, for Christ has come to dwell in our house and in our hearts.

All: May we be Christ's light in the world. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*(The initials "C, M, and B" remind us of the legendary names of the Magi Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar—and also stand for the Latin motto *Christus mansionem benedicat* ("May Christ bless [this] house."))*