**How to bless your home on the Feast of Epiphany 2024**

Traditionally on the feast of Epiphany, Catholics bless their homes by writing the letters C, M and B and the numbers of the year, for example 2024, at the top of their doors, using blessed chalk. The letters stand for the names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also represent the Latin blessing *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means “May Christ bless this house.”

**How do you bless your home?**

Begin by having all family members gather outside the front door. All make the sign of the cross. The head of the family will then read this prayer:

*Priest/Leader: Peace be to this house.*

*All: And to all who dwell herein.*

*Leader: From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.*

Enter your home and all recite the Magnificat (Lk. 1:46-55), the hymn of praise sung by the Blessed Virgin Mary in Luke’s Gospel after being greeted by Elizabeth. During this, sprinkle the area you are in with holy water.

***The Magnificat***

*All: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: from this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up to lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.*

After sprinkling the area.

*All: From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.*

*Leader: Our Father Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead and lead us not into temptation,*

*All: But deliver us from evil.*

*Leader: All they from Saba shall come*

*All: Bringing gold and frankincense.*

*Leader: O Lord, hear my prayer.*

*All: And let my cry come unto Thee.*

*Leader: Let us pray. O God, who by the guidance of a star didst on this day manifest Thine only-begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we who know Thee by faith may also attain the vision of Thy glorious majesty. Through Christ our Lord.*

*All: Amen.*

*Leader: Be enlightened, be enlightened, O Jerusalem, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee– Jesus Christ born of the Virgin Mary.*

*All: And the Gentiles shall walk in thy light and kings in the splendor of thy rising, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.*

*Leader: Let us pray. Bless, O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord.*

*All: Amen.*

Bottom of Form

After the prayers are recited, walk throughout your home sprinkling each room with holy water. Then, using blessed chalk, write the initials of the Magi connected with crosses at the top of your front door (it can be on the outside or on the inside of your door). Then the numbers of the year. The numbers will be split so that they are on each side of the initials.

Here’s an example: **20 + C + M + B + 24**

This tradition is done at the beginning of each year so that you can invite God into your homes and place your family under his protection.