

# Epiphany

## Home Blessing 2022



“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” -  
Matthew 2.2

After Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, the Holy Family was visited by three Magi from the east. They came to worship Christ and bring him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on the 12th day of Christmas, January 6th but in the United States is moved to the Sunday between January 2nd-8th. On Epiphany, it is traditional for families to bless their homes, remembering the hospitality of the Holy Family to the Wise Men and Asking for protection and blessing on the home and all who enter. The home blessing is done by writing on the door or door frame with chalk the symbols 20+C+M+B+22. The 20 and 22 represent the current year. The + reminds us of the cross on which our Savior died. The C, M and B stand for the traditional names of the Wise men, Casper, Melchoir and Balthasar, as well as an abbreviation for the Latin phrase “Christus mansionem benedicat” which means “Christ bless this house.” Writing on the door also brings to mind Passover of the Jews during the final plague in Exodus, when the blood of the lamb protected the inhabitants within.

---

### Pray together

1. Make the sign of the cross

2. Read the Epiphany Scripture passage

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, \* behold magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star\* at its rising and have come to do him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. \* They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judah, for thus it has been written through the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel,’” Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star’s appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage.” After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising proceeded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, \* and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return Herod, they departed for their country by another way. *Matthew 2: 1-12*

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 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. Amen”

2. Chalk the door, door frame, or plaque with 20+C+M+B+22

3. Pray the Our Father

4. Sing the Epiphany song: Go, tell it on the mountain

5. Make the sign of the cross