

LITURGY BYTES

Epiphany Blessing

20 + C + M + B + 22



This weekend we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany when the three Kings visited Jesus after His birth. The door blessing is somewhat an old tradition that is done in some churches and by people in their homes.

The blessing consists of marking the front door either in chalk or using a printed strip (see above) with the initials of the Magi and the present year. The purpose is to bless your house and everyone who enters it. It is a centuries-old tradition that started shortly around the end of the Middle Ages (was never as popular in the US). Priests would visit the homes of their parishioners on the feast of the Epiphany and bless their homes. As parishes grew, the responsibility was transferred over to household members.

The first two digits are the beginning numbers of the year and the last two digits the ending numbers for the current year. The C M B has two meanings. CMB represents the names of the Magi: Casper, Melchior and Baltzaar, and the other meaning is in Latin and says: *Christus mansionem benedicat* (May Christ bless the house).

Blessing Prayer

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 live here and all who visit. May we be blessed with health, kindness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Have a safe, healthy, and blessed Christmas season! ~*Michele Hahn*