

**Blessing Of The Home And Household On Epiphany** The traditional date of Epiphany is January 6, but in the United States it is celebrated on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8 \_\_\_\_\_when all have gathered, a suitable song may be sung. The leader (parent or guardian) makes the sign of the cross, and all reply, "Amen."

The leader greets those present in the following words:

Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace.

Blessed be God forever.

**R/.** Blessed be God forever.

In the following or similar words, **the leader** prepares those present for the blessing:

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. It is Christ who enlightens our hearts and homes with his love. May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love.

One of those present or **the leader** reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, *Luke 19:1-9*:

Listen to the words of the holy Gospel according to Luke:

Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way.> When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham."

The intercessions are then said:

**Leader:** The Son of God made his home among us. With thanks and praise let us call upon him.

**R/.** Stay with us, Lord.

**Leader:** Lord Jesus Christ, with Mary and Joseph you formed the Holy Family: remain in our home, that we may know you as our guest and honor you as our Head.

We pray:

**R/.** Stay with us, Lord.

**Leader:** Lord Jesus Christ, you had no place to lay your head, but in the spirit of poverty accepted the hospitality of your friends: grant that through our help the homeless may obtain proper housing.

We pray:

**R/.** Stay with us, Lord.

**Leader:** Lord Jesus Christ, the three kings presented their gifts to you in praise and adoration: grant that those living in this house may use their talents and abilities to your greater glory.

We pray:

**R/.** Stay with us, Lord.

After the intercessions the leader invites all present to say the Lord's Prayer.

The leader says the prayer of blessing with hands joined:

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 them (us) with the light of Christ,  
that their (our) concern for others may reflect your love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R/.** Amen.

*The leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:*

May Christ Jesus dwell with us,  
keep us from all harm,  
and make us one in mind and heart,  
now and forever.

**R/.** Amen.

*It is preferable to end the celebration with a suitable song, for example, "O Come, All Ye Faithful" or "We Three Kings."*

—From "[Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers](#)"

**Epiphany Blessing of the Home** Another type of blessing with chalk and holy water. The holy water you may retrieve from the back of St. James Church, there is a silver holy water dispenser, you need a container, it doesn't need to be a special container, although, you may purchase one from the religious store or online.

The custom of blessing the home on the feast of Epiphany is found in many cultures. This custom has us mark the front doorway with C-M-B, the initials of the magi's traditional names (Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar) and the year. C-M-B also stands for Christus mansionem benedicat, "May Christ bless this house." You will need a piece of chalk and a small container of holy water, sign of our baptism and consecration to the Lord, to sprinkle each room in the house.

**Leader:** In the (+) name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let the Light of the World shine on this place! Legend gives these names to the Lord's visitors: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Their initials sign this doorway along with four crosses and the numerals of the new year.

20 + C + M + B + xx where xx is the last 2 digits of the year

Let us pray: Christus mansionem benedicat. May Christ bless this house! May Christ bless us all, now and forever.

**Leader or another Reader:**

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Galatians: So, then we should not lose heart in doing what is good, for if we do not grow weary, we shall receive our reward in due time. So then, let us do good for others while we may, especially to those who belong to the household of faith. The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

In each room of the house, the leader prays for God's blessing and invites someone to sprinkle the room with holy water.

Living Room:

**Leader:** Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Resurrection and the Life. Bless this room, we pray.

**All:** Amen!

Kitchen:

**Leader:** Lord Jesus Christ, you give us our daily bread. Bless this room, we pray.

**All:** Amen!

Dining Room:

**Leader:** Lord Jesus Christ, bring us to the feast of heaven. Bless this room, we pray.

**All:** Amen!

Bedrooms:

**Leader:** Lord Jesus Christ, stay with us when evening comes. Bless this room, we pray.

**All:** Amen!

Bathroom:

**Leader:** Lord Jesus Christ, you cleanse us with living waters. Bless this room, we pray.

**All:** Amen!

All return to the front door to pray together.

**Leader:** Let us pray as Jesus taught us: Our Father, who...deliver us from evil. Amen.

All those present are sprinkled with holy water.

**Leader:** Lord our God, we ask you to bless this household through all the days to come. We praise you and thank you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**All:** Amen!

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