

Now add the year as written below as you read the next section:

"And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh" (Mt. 2:11)... two thousand (20) and twenty-six (26) years ago.

**20 C M B 26**

Then add the crosses as you pray the blessing:

May Christ(+)  
**20 C + M B 26**

our home(+)  
**20 C + M + B 26**

bless(+)  
**20 C + M + B + 26**

and abide with us throughout the year(+)

**20 + C + M + B + 26**

People: Amen.

Leader: Visit, O Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may reveal your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; protect, comfort, lead, and strengthen us to worship you and do your will,

People: *May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is your incarnate Word, now and forever. Amen.*



## EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING & CHALKING THE DOOR

January 6 is celebrated as the Day of Epiphany and commemorates the Magi who came from the East bearing gifts, following a star to meet the Christ child. Epiphany means "revealing." And in this season, we remember and celebrate that Christ has revealed himself to us just as he did to the Magi.

The ancient practice of "chalking the doors" embodies this idea of Christ being revealed or "made known" as he began his incarnate life on Earth. It also reminds us that, as Christians, our day-to-day lives, so much of which centers around our homes, makes known Christ's presence to the world. At the beginning of the year, the year (2026) and the letters CMB are inscribed in chalk above the door frame of homes and houses of worship in the formula 20 + C + M + B + 26. The letters at the center of the year have a two-fold meaning. First, they represent the traditional names of the three Magi who sought Jesus in his first home – Caspar, Melchior, and Baltasar. But they also stand for the Latin words Christus Mansionem Benedictat, "May Christ bless this house."

We encourage you to begin your new year by dedicating it to God with this simple practice and by asking his blessing on your home and all who live, work, eat, sleep, play, or visit there. Here are some simple instructions to follow:

### WHAT YOU NEED:

- A piece of new chalk (if you pick up your liturgy on Sunday, All Saints will provide one)
- A step stool if you can't reach the doorframe or if a child is going to chalk the door
- A brief liturgy of prayer found on the next page.
- All the occupants of your home (roommates, children, and pets welcome)

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Gather just outside the door to your home.
2. When indicated in the liturgy, use the chalk to write the letters C M B with enough space between them for a small cross to be drawn later on.
3. Next, when indicated in the liturgy, add the first two numbers of the year (20) at the beginning before the C and the last two numbers of the year (26) at the end after the B. Leave room between the numbers and the letters for a small cross to be drawn.
4. Finally, add the crosses between each letter and between the numbers and letters saying as you do so, "May Christ... our home... bless... and abide with us throughout the year" as indicated in the liturgy.
5. The final chalk formula will read 20 + C + M + B + 26

## HELPING CHILDREN PARTICIPATE:

- Assign a child to write the letters and numbers. If multiple children are present, assign a different child for each part of the formula.
- Read the story of the wise men from Matthew 2:1-12 and explain that the letters you are writing are the first letter of each of their names. You hope that all those in your home seek Jesus just as the wise men did.
- Invite friends and neighbors to participate in the chalking of the door and even to practice the tradition at their own home if they want.

Epiphany (which means "revealing") commemorates the Magi who came from the East following a star and bearing gifts to meet the child who would become king. We celebrate Epiphany to remember that Christ has revealed himself to us, too.

## CHALKING THE DOOR LITURGY

Leader: At the end of Christmastide, we enter the Season of Epiphany. We celebrate Christ being made known to the Magi, to John in the River Jordan, and to the disciples at the wedding in Cana. Today, Christ is made known to us here! Today, this home is a holy place!

Leader: Peace be to this house and all who enter here.  
People: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray: O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you - Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary.

People: *Nations will stream to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawning.*

*Using a new piece of chalk, mark your lintel or doorpost (inside or out) as you read:*

Leader: The Magi, Caspar (C), Melchior (M), and Baltasar (B) ... came from the East to Bethlehem to worship the Lord.

**C M B**