The Church has a custom of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany and the week following. Family and friends gather to ask God’s blessing on their homes and those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk blessed during the Epiphany liturgy and write above the home’s entryway:

\[ 20 + C + M + B + 18 \]

The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, “May Christ bless the house.”

“Chalking the door” is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God’s blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the symbols sink into the depths of our hearts and be manifest in our words and actions.
Blessing of Chalk

V. Our help is the name of the Lord:
R. The maker of heaven and earth.

V. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:
R. From this time forth for evermore.

V. The Lord be with you.
R. And also with you.

Let us pray.

Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name all who use it in faith to write upon the doors of their homes the names of your saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit their home; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.
Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit their home; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.