

EPIPHANY BLESSING OVER A HOME

℟. Peace be to this house.

℟. **And to all who dwell herein.**

℟. From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

During the Magnificat, the room is sprinkled with Epiphany holy water and may be incensed.

℟. My soul doth magnify the Lord.

℟. **And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior * Because He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaid; * for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. * For He that is mighty hath done great things to me: * and holy is His Name. * And His mercy is from generation unto generation, * to them that fear Him. * He hath shown might with His arm: * He hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart. * He hath put down the mighty from their seat, * and hath exalted the lowly. * He hath filled the hungry with good things: * and the rich He hath sent away empty. * He hath received Israel His servant, * being mindful of His mercy. * As He spoke to our fathers, * to Abraham, and to his seed forever.**

℟. Glory be to the Father... (†)

℟. **As it was in the beginning....**

℟. From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord;

℟. **And opening their treasures * they offered precious gifts: * gold for the great King, * incense for the true God, * and myrrh in symbol of His burial.**

Once the blessing of the room is completed, the Our Father is prayed in Latin or the common tongue.

℟. Pater Noster ... inducas in tentationem.

℟. **Sed libera nos a malo.**

℟. All they from Saba shall come,

℟. **Bringing gold and frankincense.**

℟. The kings of Tharsis and the islands shall offer presents,

℟. **The kings of Arabia and Saba shall bring gifts**

℟. And all kings of the earth shall adore Him

℟. **All Nations shall serve Him.**

℟. O Lord, hear my prayer.

℟. **And let my cry come unto Thee.**

℟. *Let us pray.* O God who by the guidance of the Star didst on this day manifest Thine only-begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we who know Thee by faith, may also attain the vision of Thy glorious majesty. Through Christ our Lord.

℟. **Amen.**

℟. Be enlightened, be enlightened, O Jerusalem, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee - Jesus (†) Christ born of the Virgin Mary.

℟. **And the Gentiles shall walk in the light * and kings in the splendor of thy rising, * and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.**

℟. *Let us pray.* Bless, O Lord God Almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father (†) and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell therein. Through Christ our Lord.

℟. **Amen.**

After the prayers of the blessing are recited, walk through the house and bless each room by sprinkling with Epiphany water (and incensing it). Then take the blessed chalk and first write the initials of the three Kings, connected with Crosses, over the inside of your front door (on the lintel, if possible). Then write the year, breaking up the numbers and the year so that they fall on both sides of the initials. It should look like this:

20 ✠ C ✠ M ✠ B ✠ 22

with the "20" being the millennium and century, the "C" standing for King, Caspar; the "M" standing for King Melchior; the "B" standing for King Balthasar; and the "20...20" standing for the year. The Kings' initials also stand for "Christus mansionem benedicat" (which in Latin means "Christ bless this house").

Note: After Holy Mass on January 5, the priest blesses the epiphany holy water. This blessing takes nearly an hour and is only permitted to be prayed once a year. You should take some of this epiphany water home with you. The chalk is often blessed at this time as well. When you get home, you may bless your home with the Epiphany water (otherwise and afterwards used as regular Holy Water). Sprinkle the water in all the rooms of your house to protect it and bring blessings. This Holy Water recalls the waters of the Jordan, and is a visible reminder of Christ's Divinity, of Jesus's revealing Himself as God at His Baptism, when were heard the words from the Father: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased." This rite of blessing the home is led by a priest, if possible, or else the father of the house if no priest is available.