

Celebrating the Epiphany

20+C+M+B+24



What is Chalking the Door?

It is a way to celebrate and mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. The letters we write have two meanings. They represent the initials of the magi - Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar - who came to visit Jesus in his first home in the manger in Bethlehem. They also represent the first letters of the words in the Latin phrase: *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means "May Christ bless this house." The + represents the cross and the 20 at the beginning and 24 at the end or for the year. The inscription is a request for Christ to bless the home and stay with those who dwell in it throughout the entire year.

Keep the chalk in a safe place to use again next year!

CHALKING THE DOOR

What do you need?

Blessed Chalk and the following Epiphany prayers.

Blessed chalk will be available in the gathering space and at the parish office.

How do you mark your door?

Using blessed chalk, the most senior family member writes on or above the entrance of your home:

20 + C + M + B + 24

While saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty-four years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then together the family offers the following prayer:

Visit, O blessed 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 manifest 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; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

Note: This can be done on more than one door, outside or inside the home. See more at sjascs.org/domestic-church.