

Epiphany House Blessing

The people gather at the front door.

- *Leader:* The Lord be with you.
- Response: And also with you.
- *Leader:* Arise, shine, for your light has come and the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed.
- *Response:* And all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.
- *Leader:* Let us pray.

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live here with the gift of your love; and grant that they may manifest your love [to each other and] to all whose lives they touch. May they grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen them in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. *Amen*. At this time you may use chalk to draw the symbols and date on the door or door step:

20 + C + M + B + 22

Leader: May God the Father, who by Baptism adopts us as his children, grant us grace. May God the Son, who sanctified a home at Nazareth, fill us with love. May God the Holy Spirit, who has made the Church one family, keep us in peace.

Response: Amen!

It is a tradition in many Christian households to offer an **Epiphany House Blessing** using chalk to mark the current year and the initials of the Magi above the outside doorways of homes. A cross is placed between each of the letters; this year the marking would be **20+C+M+B+22** (each year the last two digits would change). The legendary names of the three Magi are: Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar. The initials C+M+B also stand for the Latin words, "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which means: **"May Christ bless this dwelling."**