

EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

The custom of blessing homes on or near the Epiphany has come down to us from venerable tradition. In the absence of a priest or deacon, the Father of the family should lead his family in prayer; if he cannot the Mother should lead. In the case of roommates, the eldest should preside, if possible.

Leader: In the ✠ Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Leader: Peace be to this house.

All: And to all who dwell herein.

Antiphon: 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. Alleluia.

As the following is said the family should process around the home led by the leader. The rooms of the house are sprinkled with holy water

All:

My + soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, †my spirit rejoices in God my Savior * for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: † the Almighty has done great things for me, *and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him * in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, * he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, * and has lifted up the

lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, * and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel *for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, * to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit:as it was in the beginning, is now, * and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon: 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. Alleluia.

All: Our Father ...

Leader: All they from Saba shall come

All: Bringing gold and frankincense.

Leader: O Lord, hear my prayer.

All: And let my cry come unto Thee.

Leader: Let us pray. O God, who by the guidance of a 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.

All: Amen.

Leader: 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.

All: And the Gentiles shall walk in Thy light and kings in the splendor of Thy rising, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.

Leader: 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 your law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Take the blessed chalk and write the initials of the three Wise Men, connected with Crosses, over the inside of your front door. 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+24

with the “20” being the millennium and century, the “C” standing for the first Wise Man, Caspar, the “M” standing for Melchior, the “B” standing for Balthasar, and the “23” standing for the decade and year. The Kings’ initials also stand for “Christus mansionem benedicat” (“Christ bless this house”).

Leader:

Hear us, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty and Eternal God, and send Thy Holy Angel from Heaven to watch over, cherish, protect, be with, and defend all who live in this house.

We ask your saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, to protect our family and this home from every harm and danger, and we place the marks of their holy names over the doors of this home to remain there as a constant reminder to us and to all who enter here that this house is truly a house of the Lord.

O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need charity and companionship, narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride, and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the Tempter's power.

O God, make the door of this house the gateway to your eternal Kingdom, we ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Our Lord. Amen.

Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace. Blessed be God forever.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Leader: Listen to the words of the holy Gospel according to Luke:

Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham."

Leader: The Son of God made his home among us. With thanks and praise let us call upon him.

All: Stay with us, Lord.

This response is repeated after each intercession

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, with Mary and Joseph you formed the Holy Family: remain in our home, that we may know you as our guest and honor you as our Head. We pray....

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, you had no place to lay your head, but in the spirit of poverty accepted the hospitality of your friends: grant that through our help the homeless may obtain proper housing. We pray:...

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, the three kings presented their gifts to you in praise and adoration: grant that those living in this house may use their talents and abilities to your greater glory.

After the intercessions the leader invites all present to say the Lord's Prayer.

Leader says the prayer of blessing with hands joined:

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:

May Christ Jesus dwell with us, keep us from all harm, and make us one in mind and heart, now and forever.

All: Amen.

It is preferable to end the celebration with a suitable song, for example, "O Come, All Ye Faithful" or "We Three Kings."