

Epiphany @ Home: Chalking the Door

Adapted from <https://buildfaith.org/chalking-the-door/>

An Epiphany tradition that is common in many Christian homes is to “chalk the door” and bless a living space at the start of the new year. People mark the doors of their spaces with chalk as a sign that their household has invited God’s blessing and presence into their home.

Some people do this on Epiphany (January 6th), but you can also do this on the night of January 5th (the Eve of Epiphany) or any time during the weeks following Epiphany! Follow the instructions below to chalk your door and bless your home.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Bible
- Chalk (any kind or color will do!)
- Ladder or stepladder (if you need it to reach the top of your door)

BEGIN BY SHARING OR JOURNALING:

- For what are you most excited this year?
- For what are you most nervous this year?
- How can you share the light and love of Christ in the coming year?

READ:

Matthew 2:1-12 *(For younger children, you may wish to read the story of the Magi visiting baby Jesus from a story Bible.)*

DO THE BLESSING:

1. Epiphany house blessings traditionally mark main or front entrances. Gather your household around the door(s) that people use to enter and leave your home. If you live alone, you can invite people to join you for this blessing, even virtually.
2. Use the chalk to write the following symbol of blessing above the door:

20 + C + M + B + 24

If you can, have each member of your household write a part of the inscription.

3. **Explain the meaning of the inscription:** The first and last numbers of the inscription refer to the current year. The “C, M, B” in the middle come from the traditional names of the magi who visited baby Jesus: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The

letters "C, M, B" are also the first three letters of the phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means "May Christ bless this house."

PRAY:

God of light, bless this home.

Bless all who come and go through this door, both those who live here and those who visit.

May all who enter through this door come in peace and find love and light.

May the love and joy in this home overflow and spread.

Christ has come to dwell in this home and in these hearts. Amen!