

Epiphany Blessing, Explained

Epiphany has several meanings, including “manifestation” or “sudden insight.” In the context of the feast, it means that the God-man Jesus Christ was manifested to the world, as represented by the Magi and the different peoples from whom they came.

Epiphany marks the occasion of a time-honored Christian tradition of “chalking the doors.”

All you need for an Epiphany blessing is chalk. Some churches will provide parishioners with blessed chalk after the Epiphany Masses. Otherwise, the faithful can bring chalk to their parish and ask the priest to bless it.

There are a few different formulas for blessings out there. Still, the essence of the ritual is always the same: a priest, or usually the head of the household, calls down God’s blessing on the house and everyone who enters it, sprinkles holy water in each room of the house, and says a blessing prayer and an inscription is made above the door in chalk.

The inscription reads: the first two digits of the year + C + M + B + the last two digits of the year:

20 + C + M + B + 25



The initials C, M, and B represent the Magi’s names (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar). Spiritually, they refer to the blessing itself, represented by the Latin prayer: “*Christus mansionem benedicat*” (May Christ bless this house); the crosses recall our salvation in Christ.

Adapted from:

<https://missions.ewtn.com/seasonsandfeastdays/epiphany/>

Epiphany Chalk Blessing

Leader

Peace be to this house and to all who dwell here.

All

And may all who enter experience Christ’s blessing.

Leader

Let us pray

O Lord, grant that your blessing may rest on this home and all who dwell within it. May Christ, who was made manifest to the nations through the star of Bethlehem, dwell with us always. Bless this chalk that it may be used as a sign of your protection. May this home be filled with the light of Christ, and may our comings and goings be guided by his love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

The leader then writes the Epiphany inscription over the main door using the blessed chalk: 20 + C + M + B + 25.

Leader

May Christ bless this house and remain with us throughout the new year.

All

Amen.

<https://www.catholic.com/tract/epiphany-2025-catholic-answers-guide>

