

Epiphany House Blessing

The traditional date of Epiphany is January 6, but in the United States it is celebrated on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. Some communities have the custom of blessing homes while recalling the visit of the Magi. If the household has a nativity scene, all gather nearby the scene for the prayer service.

Greeting

All make the sign of the cross, as the leader begins:

Leader: Peace be with this house and all who live here. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

All: Now and forever.

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing:

Leader: During these days of the Christmas season, we keep this feast of Epiphany, celebrating the manifestation of Christ to the Magi, to John in the River Jordan, and to the disciples at the wedding at Cana. Today Christ is manifest to us! Today this home is a holy place because Christ is made manifest to us!

Then the following scripture is read, or an alternative such as the account of the three Magi, Matthew 2:1-11:

Reader: Listen to the words of the holy gospel according to John:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through Him, and without Him nothing came to be. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory and the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Inscription:

A member of the household traces the inscription (MM + CMB + X) –or– (20 + CMB + 10) above the main entry door, while another proclaims the corresponding words. The inscription may simply be traced with a finger or with chalk, charcoal or other substance.

The three wise men,

Caspar,

Melchior, and

Balthasar

followed the star of God's Son who became one like us

two thousand, and

ten years ago.

May Christ bless our dwelling and

remain with us throughout the new year.

[write the "C"]

[write the "M"]

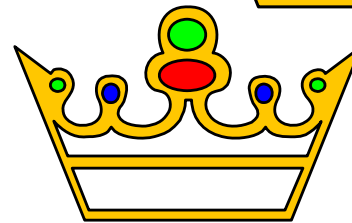
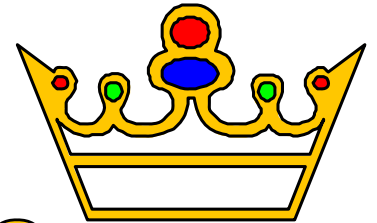
[write the "B"]

[write the "MM" or "20"]

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Acclamation

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates!

All: That the King of glory may come in.

Leader: Who is the King of Glory?

All: The Lord of hosts. He is the King of glory!

Blessing

Everyone processes from one room to another. In each room God's blessing is asked on all that takes place in that room. Blessed (holy) water may be carried and sprinkled. When all return to the starting place, they join in the Lord's Prayer.

Leader: Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us:

All: Our Father...

Concluding Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

After a brief silence, the leader continues:

Leader: Lord God of heaven and earth,

You revealed you only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star.

Bless this house and all who visit and 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.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Leader: May almighty God bless us, protect us, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Thanks be to God.

[This Catholic household blessing service may be followed by Christmas carols, refreshments and/or other forms of celebration.]

