

Blessing of the Doors



Each year on the Feast of the Epiphany, many Christians around the world bless their homes by writing an inscription with chalk on the inside lintel above the front door so that all who enter and depart through the door during this year may enjoy God's blessing.

This year's inscription will read **20 † C † M † B † 21**. (*At the † say: "and a cross"*)

The numbers in the inscription designate the New Year and represent an annual renewal of God's blessing. The letters in the middle have two meanings:

- They are the initials of the traditional names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchoir, and Balthazar.)
- They also abbreviate the Latin words, **Christus mansionem benedicat**, that is, **May Christ bless this house.**

The crosses represent Christ. The inscription is written in chalk, because chalk is a product of clay and it recalls the human nature taken by God in this holy season.

Mark:

20 † C † M † B † 21

and say:

Shepherds and Magi, the meek and the mighty – all were welcome in Bethlehem. Each came from different places, following a star and seeking Christ born in a manger. As Christ welcomed all who came to the manger, we welcome all who enter here.

PRAYER

Radiant God,
we come to you seeking to be wise women and wise men.
May our gifts be a sign,
as were the gifts of the travelers of old,
that wisdom is marked by offering of self
and the continued search for Christ among us.
Bless all who enter this holy place in search of you.
Grant that we may shine with the light and wisdom of Christ,
in whose name we pray now and forever.
Amen.