



Christ the King Parish

The Home of Catholic Campus Ministry

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Bless Your Home on Epiphany

The gospel tells us that the magi found Christ “on entering the house.” The door to your home is a holy threshold. You can bless those who come in and go out by inscribing above the door in chalk the first two numbers of the year + C + M + B + the last two numbers of the year. Tradition tells us that the letters stand for the names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Adolph Adam points out that it may also mean “*Christus mansionem benedicat*” or “May Christ bless this dwelling.” It’s appropriate to bless

your door in January—janua means “door” and the first month is the door to the new year.

After inscribing the doorway, pray this prayer:

God of Bethlehem and Cana,
God of Jordan’s leaping waters,
in baptism you bring us into your family.
You wed us and embrace us as your beloved.

May we fill this place
with kindness to one another,
with hospitality to guests,
and with abundant care for every stranger.

By the gentle light of a star,
guide home all who seek you
on paths of faith, hope and love.

Then we will join the angels in
proclaiming your praise:

Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and for ever. Amen.

Then sing a Christmas carol.

BLESSING FOR YOUR HOME

Adapted from Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, Bishop's Committee on the Liturgy, National Conference of Catholic Bishops © 1988, pp. 297-301.

Gather as a family (roommates, friends, relatives) in any room you desire. All make the sign of the cross. The leader, which the Bishops encourage to be a layperson, begins:

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

All respond: Amen.

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

When Christ took flesh through the Blessed Virgin Mary, he made his home with us. Let us now pray that he will enter this home and bless it with his presence. May he always be here among us; may he nurture our love for each other, share in our joys, comfort us in our sorrows. Inspired by his teachings and example, let us seek to make our home before all else a dwelling place of love, diffusing far and wide the goodness of Christ.

Then a Scripture is read by another family member: perhaps, Matthew 2:1-12.

After the scripture reading, all go from room to room, offering prayers of intercession and sprinkling holy water, if desired. Some of the following prayers may be used.

At the entrance: O God, protect our going out and our coming in; Let us share the hospitality of this home with all who visit us, that those who enter here may know your love and peace. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

In the living room: O God, give your blessings to all who share this room, that we may be knit together in companionship. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

In the kitchen: O God, you fill the hungry with good things. Send your blessing on us, as we work in this kitchen, and make us ever thankful for our daily bread. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

In the dining room: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad. Help us to be grateful for all your mercies, and mindful of the needs of others. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

In the bathroom: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. You formed us in wisdom and love. Refresh us in body and in spirit, and keep us in good health that we might serve you. Grant this through Christ our Lord

Amen.

In the bedrooms: Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, we may rest in God's peace. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

All recite the Lord's Prayer.

Be our shelter, Lord, when we are at home, our companion when we are away, and our welcome guest when we return. And at last receive us into the dwelling place you have prepared for us in your Father's house, where you live for ever and ever.

Amen.

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

May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, and may the word of Christ in all its richness dwell in us, so that whatever we do in word and in work, we will do in the name of the Lord.

Amen.

The blessing may conclude with a song or Christmas Carol.