

# THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Some people call this feast the Twelfth Day of Christmas and some say it is Three Kings Day. The Feast of the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles or Epiphany was traditionally celebrated on January 6. Now it is a moveable feast on the Church calendar. It is celebrated on the Sunday after New Year's in the USA. Select a day sometimes during the first week of the new year to bless your family and your home.

## Suggestions for Blessing Your Home

Prepare some incense to burn, a small sprig from an evergreen tree, some holy water and chalk.

Light the incense at the beginning of the ceremony. Use the evergreen to sprinkle holy water during the blessing of the house. Use the chalk to mark the following above the doors of your home:

**20 + C + M + B + 0 \_**

The numbers represent the new year. The crosses are reminders of the blessing of the home. C. M. and B. are the initials of the legendary names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Another explanation for using C.M.B. is "Christus Mansionem Benedicat—May Christ bless this dwelling place".



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## A SIMPLE BLESSING

God, You have manifested Yourself in our lives. We thank you for this past year and for the year to come.

Be with us as we fill our home with kindness, hospitality, and caring for others. Help us to dream the dream of a better world and to work towards justice and peace daily.

Hold us close to each other. Keep us close in spirit with those who have died and those who are far away. May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us.

May we seek Jesus, who is Lord and King, just as the Magi of old did. May we serve You, Lord, in everyone we meet.

- + Bless us as we burn this incense.
- + Bless us as we use this chalk to mark our door.
- + Bless us as we sprinkle our home with this water. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *(Everyone moves from room to room. One person sprinkles each room with holy water.)*
- + We bless this house with holy water as a sign of Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan.
- + We bless this house with holy water as a sign of the Jesus' miracle at Cana when He changed water into wine.
- + We bless this house as a manifestation of Christ in our lives. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Sing some Epiphany hymns, such as, "We Three Kings" or "O Come All Ye Faithful".*

When the blessing of the rooms is completed, say the Lord's Prayer, and finish with exchanging the sign of peace.