

Chalking the Doors: An Epiphany Tradition

January 6 is the day we celebrate Epiphany, the day the wise men arrived with gifts for Jesus. A centuries old tradition of Epiphany practiced all over the world is chalking the doors, a ritual that asks God's blessing on a home, those who live there and those who will visit. It is also an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in the home and its daily routines.

The traditional way to chalk your door is to write **20+C+M+B+20** above an entrance to your home. The letters C,M and B have two meanings. They are initials of the traditional names of the three wise men: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat* or "May Christ bless this house." The + symbol represents the cross and the surrounding numbers are the current year.

Prayer

O God, please bless this house and all those who enter. Peace be to this house and all who live here. May all who come to our home this year find Jesus living among us. Holy Spirit, fill us with your love so that our concern for others reflects Your love. Amen.

From your friends at

FamilyMinistryTools.Org

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