



Chalk Inscription

&

Prayers for the Home

on

The Feast of the Epiphany

St. John's Episcopal Church – Saginaw, MI
January 6, 2021

Chalk is used to inscribe the year and the initials of the three Magi on the lintel (over the door) of your home in this fashion:

20 C + M + B 21

The inscription should remain over your door until Whitsunday (Pentecost). It is a pious custom when first crossing the threshold of the door, having written the inscription, to do so stepping first with your right foot (thus starting off the secular new year “on the right foot”).

Blessing of a Home

The priest, or head of the household, comes into the home and says:

Leader: Peace be to this house.

All: And to all who dwell herein.

Leader:

From the East came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial. Alleluia!

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Many shall come from Saba.

All: Bearing gold and incense.

Leader: O Lord, hear my prayer.

All: And let my cry come to you.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader:

Let us pray.

O God, who by the guidance of a star did on this day manifest your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles; mercifully grant that we who know you by faith may also attain the vision of your glorious majesty; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

All:

Be enlightened, be enlightened, O Jerusalem, for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you – Jesus Christ born of the Virgin Mary.

Leader:

And the Gentiles shall walk in your light and kings in the splendor of your rising.

All:

And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

Leader:

Let us pray.

Lord God Almighty, bless this home, and under its shelter let there be health, chastity, self-conquest, humility, goodness, mildness, obedience to your commandments, and thanksgiving to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. May your blessing remain always in this home and those who live herein; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*