

January Family Faith Activity #1

Epiphany house blessing ~ "chalking the door"

Epiphany (or Feast of the 3 Kings) is 12 days after Christmas Day on January 6. In the United States, Epiphany is celebrated on the closest Sunday to January 6th.

There is a Catholic tradition at Epiphany of "chalking the door." It is a house blessing that you can do as a family. All you need is a piece of chalk! Or you could use a pencil or even write the symbols on paper and tape it above your front door (inside or outside). As you write the inscription, pray the house blessing below. For 2021 this is what you will write this above your front door:

20 + C + M + B + 21

Here's what the chalked markings on the door mean: The "20" is for the first 2 numbers of the year we are in, the 3 letters are the first Initial of each of the kings (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar) and the last 2 numbers are the last half of the year. The plus signs are crosses. The "C, M, B also stands for the Latin blessing *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* which means "May Christ Bless this House".

As your family and any visitors pass through your door, be reminded of taking Christ's light out with you in the way you act towards others. And when you come back in, you should think of how you can bring Christ's light in to your family at home. The magi (3 kings) went out seeking the Messiah, who was Jesus. We, too, should seek Jesus everyday in our lives. And look for ways to bring the light of Christ to others.



Epiphany House Blessing



O, blessed Lord, visit this home
with your holy presence.

Bless all who live or visit here
with the gift of your love;

And help us to show your love
to each other and to all
whose lives we touch.

May we grow in grace,
knowledge and love of You;
please guide, comfort and
strengthen us in peace,



O Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Wise men still
SEEK HIM



Take a picture of your family with your blessing inscription above your door and email it to either ceisenbarth@blessedtrinitypgh.net or egarfold@blessedtrinitypgh.net

We wish your family a blessed and healthy New Year!