

Ephiphany Home Blessing Ritual

Begin with the Hymn "We Three Kings"

Start somewhere in the home

Leader (Priest or Deacon, if present, or Father or Mother of the Family): Peace be to this home

All: And to all who dwell herein

Leader: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. It is Christ who enlightens our hearts and homes.

All: May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love

One of those present or the leader reads from the Gospel of Luke (19:1-10)

He came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."*

Walk through the home blessing every room. Sprinkle holy water if you have it while saying the following:

Leader: We bless our home and all who live here in the name of God the Father, Jesus our Lord and Savior, and the Holy Spirit.

Try to end in the room you started

Leader: The response is "Stay with us Lord, live within this home"

Leader: Jesus Christ, son of God, with Mary and Joseph you formed the Holy Family: remain in our home, that we may know you as our guest and honor you as head.

We pray...

All: Stay with us Lord, live within this home

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, you had no place to lay your head, but in the spirit of poverty accepted hospitality of your friends: grant that through our help the homeless and the needy, be them family, friends, or unknown, they see the face of Christ in us

We pray...

All: Stay with us Lord, live within this home

All: Our Father who art in Heaven....

In conclusion, go to any door in your home you have chosen to be the main entrance. If you like, you may perform the inscription above all entrances into your home.

Using the blest chalk above the doorway write:

20 + C + M + B + 21

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.

Leader: O, Lord God, almighty Father, Bless this home. May there be health, purity, humility, goodness, mercy, and love. O, Lord Jesus the Christ, bless this home. May you always dwell here in our home and in our hearts. May we always bring you out to the world when we leave in our words and works. O, Lord Holy Spirit, Bless this home. May the devil never enter its doors, may your gifts fall upon it, and may our frequent prayers rise to your altar in heaven.

All: AMEN

End with the hymn " O Come, All Ye Faithful"

<http://www.carmelites.net/news/chalking-door-epiphany-house-blessing-2015/>

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=48>

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/sacramentals-blessings/objects/blessing-of-the-home-and-household-on-epiphany.cfm>

WE THREE KINGS

**We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star**

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to rein

O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light

Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Pray'r and praising, all men raising
Worship Him, God most high

O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes of life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia
Earth to heav'n replies

O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light .

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8mjRxkMBkE>

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold him
Born the king of angels

O come, let us adore him
O come, let us adore him
O come, let us adore him
Christ the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God
All glory in the highest

O come, let us adore him
O come, let us adore him
O come, let us adore him
Christ the Lord

O come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold him
Born the king of angels

O come, let us adore him
O come, let us adore him
O come, let us adore him
Christ the Lord

O come let us adore him
Christ the Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3egGjeiWEA>