

## CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY

### CHALKING DOORS

*Fr. Wayne McNamara wrote the following introduction to the "Chalking of the Doors" tradition.*

The chalking of the Door is typically done on January 6th on the Feast of the Epiphany and celebrates the revealing of Christ to the world in three events: The visit of the Magi when Jesus is revealed to the Gentles, the baptism of Christ by John, and the changing of water to wine at the Cana wedding.

God revealed Himself to us and dwells with us and we desire the life in our homes to reveal Christ to others. This short liturgy is a way of yearly marking our homes, usually at the front or main entrance, with sacred signs and symbols to intentionally set our homes apart as places of Christian hospitality, as safe and peaceful outposts of the Kingdom of God in the world, as habitations of healing and rest. We again invite God's presence into our homes and ask His blessing upon all those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year.

Chalk is used in this service as an ordinary substance of the earth, dust put to holy use. It reminds us that we are of the dust of the ground, the most ordinary of substances, and yet are fashioned as holy beings for most holy purposes. Chalk will not permanently mark the dwelling. Weather will likely cause the marking to fade over time, but each time we view it upon entering our homes we will remember the reason for it and rededicate ourselves to that purpose. Typically the markings are intended to remain at least until the Feast of Pentecost but need not be removed at all. Another year passes and a new Epiphany arrives, and will again dedicate ourselves to be Lights of the World.

#### The Inscription

Each year, the inscription is the new year separated by C+M+B. For instance, in 2021, the inscription will be 20+C+M+B+21.

Church tradition names three of the Magi - Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar - and on Epiphany we celebrate these three saints and their gift-bringing. The + symbol represents the cross. The numbers of the year are the bookends of the inscription.

"C M B" above the door, also stands for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, Latin for "May Christ bless this house."



Prayers to Bless your Home

*Trinity San Antonio Church*

## AN EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

### GREETING

*Leader: In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

*Leader: Peace be to this house, and to all who enter here.*

**ALL: Peace be to this House from God our heavenly Father.  
Peace be to this House from his Son who is our Peace.  
Peace be to this House from the Holy Spirit, the  
Comforter.**

*Leader: The Lord be with you.*

**ALL: And also with you**

### THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

*Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew 5:14-16*

*“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

*Reader: The word of the Lord.*

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

*Leader: Let us pray: Gracious God, as a shining star once guided the magi to the birthplace of the infant Jesus, so enable those who dwell here to be your light in the world; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.*

### CHALKING THE DOOR

*Using chalk mark the top of your doorpost with 20 + C + M + B + 21 saying:*

**ALL: The three Wise Men, followed the star of God’s Son who became human two thousand and twenty one years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

*Leader: When Christ took flesh through the Blessed Virgin Mary, he made his home with us. Let us now pray that he will abide in this home and bless it with his presence.*

*Let the mighty power of the Holy God be present in this place to banish from it every unclean spirit, to cleanse it from every residue of evil, and to make it a secure habitation for those who dwell in it; in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that they may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives they touch. May they grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen them in peace; O Jesus Christ, now and for ever.*

**ALL: Amen**

*Leader: Let us bless the Lord!*

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

*A special treat or drinks may be shared by all present.*