

Blessed Trinity Catholic Community † Spirit of Christ Mission

BLESSING OF THE DOOR AT HOME TO BEGIN THE NEW YEAR 2025

As you leave church today pick up some **CHALK** and **INCENSE** at the church doors. When the family returns from Mass on the Feast of Epiphany they gather at the main door of the family home. The mother, father or member of the household prays, while another or others have the chalk ready to inscribe on the top of the doorway.

† **The sign of the Cross.** *Then someone reads this Scripture passage from Isaiah:*
“Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears God’s glory.” Isaiah 60:1

Then someone prays this prayer: (or it can be divided into as many as 5 parts)

BLESSING

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you guide our footsteps.
You bless our coming in and our going out,
from birth to death, you hold us in your care.

Bless this doorway, O Lord. Each day we pass this place,
draw us more deeply into your presence
and the wonders of your love for us.

You are the door to the Kingdom of God,
the sheep-gate to life eternal.

O portal of eternal peace, our new and living way,
loose our sins and open for us the door to salvation.

O God, protect our going out and our coming in;
let us share the hospitality of this home with all who visit us.

May the poor find rest within these walls
and all who hunger find refreshment in our home.

Lead us home through you, to you, and with you,
one God, forever and ever. AMEN



Then, using the CHALK, the TOP of the doorway is marked with three crosses, the first letter of the names of the three astrologers or “wise men” and the year 2025. This is done after the following is said by someone in the family or household.

In the year we are beginning, 2025, we seal these doors with the cross of eternal life. We mark these doors with the legendary names of the dreamers and stargazers of the world, who crossed the threshold into the new age of Christ, the Magi, who trusted and followed the light:

Casper, Melchior, Bathasar

With chalk on the upper frame of the doorway the inscription is written in the following way (this can be done by one or as many as 10 persons!):

20 + C + M + B 25

Then all sing: ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA

DURING YOUR EPIPHANY DINNER burn some of the incense you received from church. Carefully heat some in an old pan—place the incense in some foil—and you will fill your home with sweet aromas. Frankincense and myrrh are resins, gooey liquids that drip from plants and quickly harden. When burned the fragrant smoke rises to God like our prayer, surrounding us as God’s abiding love.

*An alternative to this Prayer, **A BLESSING OF THE HOME AND HOUSEHOLD ON EPIPHANY**, can be found on the parish website: blessedtrinitymissoula.org Click to go to the **ADVENT-CHRISTMASTIME AT HOME** page.*