

Christus Mansionem Benedicat
“May Christ bless this house”

Dear Families,

The new year is upon us and we can participate in the Epiphany tradition of blessing our homes.

In this tradition, you write “**20 † C † M † B † 23**” above your home’s entrance. It can be written directly on your door with chalk, or written on a sign that hangs near your front entrance. The letters C, M, and B have two meanings: they are the initials of the traditional names of the three Magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar), upon whom this tradition is based, and they also abbreviate the Latin words for “May Christ bless the house” (*Christus mansionem benedicat*).

The † signs represent the cross and 2023 is the year. The custom is a way to visibly mark the invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows. As we come and go, we are reminded of God’s blessing in our lives and homes and that we carry that blessing into the world in all that we do.

The following symbols can be written on your front door with chalk or made onto a sign that can be placed on or near the door.

20 † C † M † B † 23

While saying:

The three Magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, followed the star of God’s Son to his home two thousand and twenty years ago. We place this mark over our door to remain as a constant reminder to us and to all who enter here that this house is truly a house of the Lord. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year.

Then we offer the following prayer:

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 we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you. Guide, comfort and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen