

## CHALK BLESSING: YOUR HOME

*Chalking the front door of your house is a wonderful way to invite God's blessings into your home as we usher in the New Year. The chalking of your front door can be done on Epiphany itself or any day during the week following. You are encouraged to take some of the blessed chalk from our service home to perform the rite yourself, with other members of your household, using the suggested order of service below.*

### ORDER OF SERVICE FOR CHALKING THE DOOR:

1. Make the Sign of the Cross.
2. Read an Epiphany Scripture passage (such as one of those from the service – see pew sheet or below).
3. Pray: “Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.”
4. Chalk the door or door frame or lintel: 20 + C + M + B + 24
5. You may then like to sing an Epiphany Carol (such as one of suggestions below).
6. Pray the Our Father.
7. Make the Sign of the Cross.

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the gospel of the Lord,  
**praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

SUGGESTED CAROLS FOR EPIPHANY CHALK BLESSING AT HOME:

1. We Three Kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain,  
Moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

*Refrain:*

O Star of Wonder, Star of Night,  
Star with Royal Beauty bright,  
Westward leading,  
Still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

*Caspar*

2. Born a King on Bethlehem plain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King for ever,  
Ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign.

*Refrain*

*Melchior*

3. Frankincense to offer have I,  
Incense owns a Deity nigh,  
Prayer and praising  
All folk raising,  
Worship Him God on High.

*Refrain*

*Balthazar*

4. Myrr is mine; its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;-  
Sorrowing, sighing,  
Bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

*Refrain*

5. Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King, and God, and Sacrifice;  
Heav'n sings Hallelujah:  
Hallelujah the earth replies.

*Refrain.*

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and  
triumphant,  
come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him born the king  
of angels:

*Refrain:*

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

2 True God of true God, Light of light  
eternal,  
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not  
created:

*Refrain*

3 See how the shepherds summoned  
to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with  
holy fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful  
footsteps:

*Refrain*

4 Lo, star-led chieftains, wise folk,  
Christ adoring,  
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;  
we to the Christ- child bring our  
hearts' oblations:

*Refrain*

5 Child, for us sinners poor and in the  
manger,  
fain we embrace thee with love and  
awe;  
who would not love thee, loving us  
so dearly?

*Refrain*

6 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in  
exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,  
'Glory to God, glory in the highest':