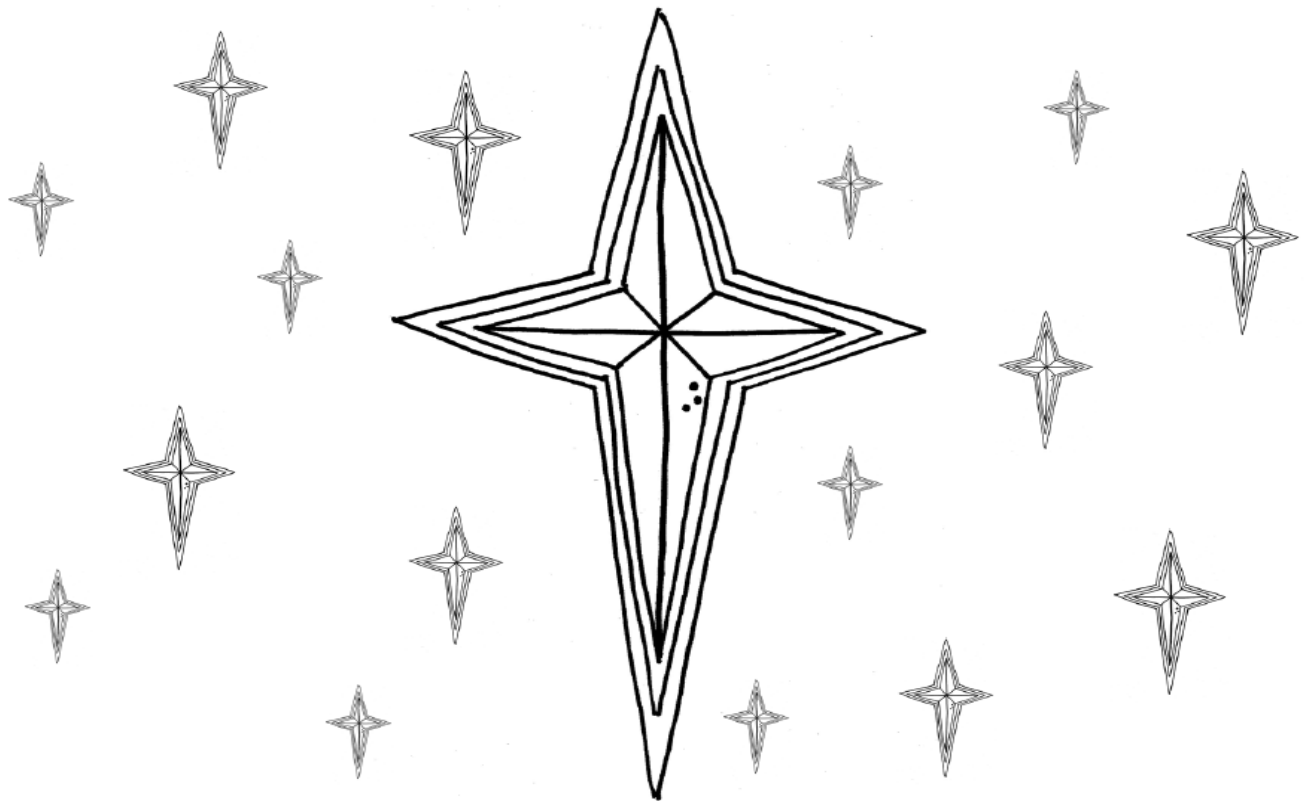


Epiphany Home Blessing



20 + C + M + B + 22

Epiphany Home Blessing

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

~Matthew 2:2

After Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, the Holy Family was visited by three Magi from the east. They came to worship Christ and bring him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The Feast of Epiphany is celebrated on the 12th Day of Christmas, January 6th, but in the United States is moved to the Sunday between January 2nd-8th.

On Epiphany, it is traditional for families to bless their homes, remembering the hospitality of the Holy Family to the Wise Men and asking for protection and blessing on the home and all who enter.

The home blessing is done by writing on the door or door frame with chalk the symbols 20+C+M+B+22. The 20 and 22 represent the current year. The + reminds us of the cross on which our Savior died. The C, M, and B stand for the traditional names of the Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, as well as an abbreviation for the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" which means "Christ bless this house." Writing on the door also brings to mind the Passover of the Jews during the final plague in Exodus, when the blood of the lamb protected the inhabitants within.

Your family can join in this tradition using the prayer ideas on the next page.

"Nations shall walk by your light."

~Isaiah 60:3

Pray Together

- Make the Sign of the Cross.
- Read an Epiphany Scripture passage.
(suggestions on next page)
- 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.”
(from usccb.org)
- Chalk the door, door frame, or plaque with
20+C+M+B+22 (or current year)
- Pray the Our Father.
- Sing an Epiphany Song. (suggestions on
next page)
- Make the Sign of the Cross.

Scripture for Epiphany:

- Isaiah 60: 1-6
- Psalm 72
- Ephesians 3: 2-6
- Matthew 2: 1-12
- Revelation 21:22-26

Songs for Epiphany:

- We Three Kings of Orient Are
- Come All Ye Faithful
- God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen
- Go, Tell it on the Mountain
- Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come

"In the magi, representatives of the neighboring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. The magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations." ~CCC 528