

MCA Prayer Activity All Ages



Epiphany Door Blessing 20+C+M+B+24

This ancient blessing in the Catholic tradition crosses cultures and continents. Legend says that the “chalked” letters correspond to the initials of the 3 Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. More importantly, they abbreviate the Latin phrase “Christus Mansionus Benedictat” - Christ Bless This House. The year 2024 is divided by the letters to show that we must keep Jesus at the center of our lives wherever we go when we cross the threshold of the marked door. The 4 crosses signify the 4 corners of the world to which we are called to proclaim the Gospel.

Materials needed: chalk to mark the doorway **or** a pre-made, lettered sign at the end of the prayer service.

Opening Song: O Come All Ye Faithful

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Leader: May Christ dwell in this place and give peace to all who enter.

All: Amen.

Leader: A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew
When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star’s appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage.” After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way. The Word of the Lord.



All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us Pray: The Son of God made His home among us. With thanks and praise let us call upon Him. Lord Jesus Christ, with Mary and Joseph you formed the Holy Family: remain in our home that we may share You with our families. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you had no place to lay your head, but in the spirit of poverty accepted the hospitality of your friends; grant that through our help the homeless of the world may obtain proper housing. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, the three kings presented their gifts to you in praise and adoration: grant that those present in this place may use their talents and abilities to spread Your Good News to others, even to the ends of the earth. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Oh God, You once used a star to lead wise ones to Your Son. May the light of Christ guide us to see Him in each other every day. As we cross this threshold for work, study, or play, remind us of our true purpose in life—to love Your people, to do Your will, and to lead others to You. May all who enter through this door find Your love and hospitality in us. May we search for You in the face of every guest.

All: Amen

Leader chalks or places the sign of letters (20+C+M+B+24) above the doorway.

Leader: May Christ dwell with us, keep us from harm and make us one in mind and heart, now and forever. We pray for this and all good things in the name of Jesus Christ, true king of our home.

All: Amen.

Closing Song: We Three Kings