

Advent greetings!

To bring encouragement and blessings to families for 2025, we would like to share a special European Catholic tradition to bless homes in the new year using blessed chalk, on the Feast of the Epiphany. The feast of manifestation, or Epiphany, is traditionally celebrated the 12th day after Christmas, January 6th.

The tradition of Catholics marking their homes with chalk for the Epiphany dates back centuries and signifies that their homes are homes where Christ lives. With the blessing of chalk, we are asking the Lord to bless our home, all inhabitants of our home, as well as any guests who may pass through our door throughout the year.

This ceremony of blessing the home and inscribing the initials of the three Magi above each door (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar) can be performed by the members of the family (or a priest) and can become a beautiful annual family tradition. The characters "20+C+M+B+25" are for the Latin *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (Christ bless this house).

Additional information on this tradition can be found [here](#).

We would like to encourage you to consider offering this beautiful tradition to your parishioners this year for the Feast of the Epiphany.

Here are the simple steps:

1. Purchase chalk (can be white or coloured). One per family.
2. Print out prayer cards. [Click here](#) for a PDF template.
3. Wrap a small piece of chalk with a prayer card (in snack baggies, or with ribbon).
4. Chalk is blessed by the priest.
5. Distribute chalk & encourage families to pick up blessed chalk from the church in the new year, preferably before the Epiphany.
6. Families take the chalk home, pray the included prayer, and use the blessed chalk for their front doors. [Click here](#) for an example from 2022.