

19 + G + M + B + 93

CEREMONY FOR THE BLESSING OF HOUSES AND ALL PLACES
FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF JESUS CHRIST.

BLESSING OF CHALK:

(Instruction: Chalk is blessed on the Altar, before Holy Mass begins. It will not be distributed by the priest, but can only be obtained by a member of the Family who must go up to the Altar, after Mass, and taking it. The Father of the Family will later use it to inscribe the initials of the Three Wise Men: Gaspar, Melchior and Balthazar, and the current year over the main door (and any other doors) of the home. This inscription should remain over the doors throughout the year.)

PASTOR: - Opening Antiphon: Behold, the Lord the ruler is come; and the kingdom is in His Hand, and power, and dominion.
O God, with your judgement endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son.
Glory be to the Father. Behold, the Lord.

Antiphonal Prayer:

- V. All nations shall serve Him.
- R. All nations shall serve Him.
- V. Nations shall walk by Your light, and kings by Your shining radiance.
- R. All nations shall serve Him.
- V. All from Saba shall come, bringing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord.
- R. All nations shall serve Him.
- V. Rise up in splendor, O Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord shines upon you.
- R. All nations shall serve Him.
- V. We have seen His star in the East; and have come with gifts to worship the Lord.
- R. All nations shall serve Him.
- V. The kings of Tharsis and the isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Saba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay Him homage, all nations shall serve Him.
- R. All nations shall serve Him.

PASTOR: - In Thy great mercy, have mercy on us, O God.
Let us pray: O Lord God, Bless + this chalk which You have created, that it may be helpful to mankind; and grant that through the invocation of Your most Holy Name, all those who use this chalk or with it write over the doors of their houses the names of Your Saints Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may by their merits and intercession receive health of body and protection of soul.

We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ Your Son. AMEN.

*** BLESSING OF THE HOME ***

(Conducted by the Father, or, in his absence, by the Mother).

- Father: Peace to my house.
- Family: And to all who live here.
- Father: The father of the just will exult with glee; let your father and mother have joy.
- Family: All nations shall serve Him.
- Father: Happy they who dwell in Your House, O Lord! Continually they praise You.
- Family: All nations shall serve Him.
- Father: Blessed is the man who hears me and who watches daily at my gates and at the post of my doors.
- Family: All nations shall serve Him.
- Father: O Lord, hear my Prayer.
- Family: And let my cry come unto You.
- Father: Let us Pray:

Hear us, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Eternal God, and send Thy Holy Angel from Heaven to watch over, cherish, protect, be with, and defend all who live in my house.
I call upon Your Saints, Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, to protect my Family and my home from every harm and danger, and I place their mark over my door to remain there as a constant reminder to us and to all who enter here that my house is truly a house of the Lord.

O God, make the door of my house wide enough to receive all who need human love and companionship; narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling-block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the temptor's power.

O God, make the door of my house the gateway to Thine Eternal Kingdom.

I ask these things in the Name of Jesus Christ Your Son.

Family: Amen.

(After the blessing, the Father inscribes on the main outside doors and any other doors in the house. Print with the blessed Chalk:

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All nations shall serve him.