

20 + G + M + B + 05

(20 + Gaspar + Melchior + Balthazar + 05)



THE CEREMONY FOR THE BLESSING OF EPIPHANY CHALK



(Epiphany Chalk is used to write the inscription over all the doors of one's house. Soft classroom chalk of any color is best for writing on varnished or painted surfaces. A priest should bless the chalk on Epiphany Day, before the celebration of the main Mass of the day, using the following Blessing, which is taken from the Roman Ritual.)

- ✧. Behold, the Lord, the ruler is come; and the kingdom is in His hand, and power, and dominion.
O God, with Your judgment endow the king, and with Your justice, the king's son.
- ✧. Glory be to the Father ... ℟. *As it was in the beginning ...* (Repeat the above: Behold, the Lord ...)
- ✧. All nations shall serve Him. ℟. *All nations shall serve Him.*
- ✧. Nations shall walk by Your light, and kings by Your shining radiance. ℟. *All nations shall serve Him.*
- ✧. All from Saba shall come, bringing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord. ℟. *All nations...*
- ✧. Rise up in splendor, O Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord shines upon you. ℟. *All nations shall serve Him.*
- ✧. We have seen His star in the East, and have come with gifts to worship the Lord. ℟. *All nations shall serve Him.*
- ✧. 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. ℟. *All nations shall serve Him.*

Priest: LET US PRAY:

O Lord God, bless ✧ this chalk which Thou hast created, that it may be helpful to mankind; and grant that through the invocation of Thy most holy Name all those who use this chalk or with it write over the doors of their houses the names of Thy Saints, Gaspar, Melchoir, and Balthazar, may by their merits and intercession receive health of body and protection of soul. Through Christ Our Lord. *Amen.* *(Priest now sprinkles chalk with Holy Water.)*

(Later that day - or any day within the Octave of the Feast of the Epiphany - at home, the ceremony is completed by a priest or the father or senior member of the family. The following prayer is said once and at the main entrance of the house. All the family members should be present, and should accompany the priest or the head of the family as he or she goes from door to door - everyone keeping a respectful silence, or better yet, reciting the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.)



THE CEREMONY FOR THE EPIPHANY BLESSING OF THE HOME



- ✧. Peace to my house. ℟. *And to all who live here.*
- ✧. The father of the just will exult with glee; let your father and mother have joy. ℟. *All nations shall serve Him.*
- ✧. Happy they who dwell in Your House, O Lord! Continually they praise You. ℟. *All nations shall serve Him.*
- ✧. Blessed is the man who hears me and who watches daily at my gates and at the post of my doors. ℟. *All nations ...*
- ✧. O Lord, hear my prayer. ℟. *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, Melchoir, and Balthazar, to protect my family and my home from every harm and danger, and I place the marks of their holy names over the doors of my home 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 tempter's power.

O God, make the door of my house the gateway to Thy eternal Kingdom. I ask these things in the Name of Jesus Christ Thy Son. *Amen.*

All nations shall serve Him