

Liturgical Living: Epiphany

The Solemnity of Epiphany is celebrated on January 4 this year. It is traditionally celebrated on January 6 around the world. However, the Church in the United States celebrates it on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8.

Epiphany is the feast that celebrates the arrival of the three Magi who came to worship the Child Jesus after His birth. The Church also gathers together to recognize the “revelation” of Jesus and His mission.

Epiphany comes from the Greek *epiphania*, which means “revelation” or “manifestation.” That’s the core of this celebration: the manifestation of the Son of God in the flesh.

It is a long-held Catholic tradition to bless your home on the Solemnity of Epiphany by using chalk to write a special inscription above your home’s entrance. You can pick up the blessed chalk and prayers at all parish locations this weekend.

The inscription written over the door changes to reflect the new year. For this year, you should write: “20 + C + M + B + 26.” The Letters C, M, and B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They are also the first letters of the Latin words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, “May Christ bless this house.”

Here are some ideas for celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany in your domestic church:

- Make [this cute “gifts of the Magi” snack](#)
- Watch [this video](#) to learn more about the chalking of the door
- Go on a journey to follow the star with [this fun scavenger hunt](#)
- Read [a story about the Three Kings](#)
- Make a [Three Kings art project](#)
- Bake a loaf of [Gift of the Magi bread](#)
- Pick from [this long list](#) of Epiphany crafts and activities

“Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord. And these words which I command thee this day shall be in thy heart: And thou shalt write them in the entry, and on the doors of thy house.”

~ Deuteronomy 6:4, 6, 9