

The priest then inscribes with blessed chalk the initials of the three kings over the lintel of the doors, denoting the century and year on either side, for example:

20 + C + M + B + 20

The following prayer may then be said:

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 this house. I call upon Thy saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, to protect this family and this home from every harm and danger, and I place the marks of their holy names over the doors of this home to remain there as a constant reminder to us and to all who enter here that this house is truly a house of the Lord.

O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need charity 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 this house the gateway to Thy eternal Kingdom, I ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Our Lord, Amen.



Rite for the Blessing of a Home



During Epiphanytide

BLESSING OF HOMES

During Epiphanytide

The priest upon entering the home begins:

℣. Pax huic dómui.

℞. Et omnibus habitántibus in ea.

℣. Peace be to this home.

℞. And to all who dwell herein.

Antiphona. Ab Oriénte venérunt Magi in Bétlehem, adoráre Dóminum: et, apertis thesáuris suis, pretiósá múnera obtulérunt, aurum Regi magno, thus Deo vero, myrrham sepultúræ ejus. Alleluja.

Canticum Beatæ Mariæ Virginis

Magnificat * anima mea Dominum; Et exsultavit spiritus meus * in Deo salutari meo.

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ: * ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.

Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est: * et sanctum nomen ejus,

Et misericordia ejus a progenie in progenies * timentibus eum.

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo, * dispersit superbos mente cordis sui,

Deposuit potentes de sede, * et exaltavit humiles,

Esurientes implevit bonis, * et divites dimisit inanes.

Suscepit Israël puerum suum, * recordatus misericordiæ suæ,

Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, * Abraham et semini ejus in sæcula.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, * et Spirítui Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc et semper, * et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

The priest then sprinkles holy water throughout the home and then incenses the home. After he is finished he repeats the antiphon: Ab Oriénte venérunt, etc.

He then says, "Pater Noster" and recites the rest secretly until...

Antiphon. From the East came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures, they offered costly gifts: gold to the great King, incense to the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial. Alleluia.

Canticle of the Blessed Virgin Mary

My soul doth magnify the Lord * And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaid; * henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For He that is mighty hath done great things for me, * and holy is His name.

And His mercy is from generation to generation, * to them that fear Him.

He hath shown strength with His arm, * He hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their hearts.

He hath deposed the mighty, * and exalted the humble.

The hungry He hath filled with good things, * and the rich he hath sent away empty.

He hath received Israel, His servant, * being mindful of His mercy.

As he hath promised our fathers, * Abraham and to his seed forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit. *Etc.* Amen.

℣. Et ne nos indúcas in tentatiónem.

℞. Sed libera nos a malo.

℣. Omnes de Saba vénient.

℞. Aurum et thus deferéntes.

℣. Dómine, exáudi oratiónem meam.

℞. Et clamor meus ad te véniat.

℣. Dóminus vobiscum.

℞. Et cum spírítu tuo.

Orémus.

Deus qui hodiérna die Unigénitum tuum géntibus stella duce revelásti: concéde propítius; ut qui jam te ex fide cognóvimus, usque ad contemplándam spéciem tuæ celsitúdinis perducámur. Per eúmdem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum: Qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum. ℞. Amen.

Responsorium. Illumináre, illumináre, Jérusalem, quia vénit lux tua : et glória Dómini super te orta est, Jesus Christus ex María Vírgine.

℣. Et ambulábunt Gentes in lúmine tuo : et reges in splendóre ortus tui.

℞. Et glória Dómini super te orta est.

Oremus.

Béne ✠ dic, Dómine, Deus omnípotens, domum istam: ut sit in ea sánitas, cástitas, victóriæ virtus, humilitas, bónitas et mansuetúdo, plenitúdo legis et gratiárum áctio Deo Patri, et Filio, et Spirítui Sancto ; et hæc benedictio máneat super hanc domum, et super habitántes in ea. Per Christum Dóminum nostrum. ℞. Amen.

℣. And lead us not into temptation.

℞. But deliver us from evil.

℣. Many shall come from Saba.

℞. Bearing gold and incense.

℣. O Lord, hear my prayer.

℞. And let my cry come unto Thee.

℣. The Lord be with you.

℞. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O God, Who by the guidance of a star didst this day reveal thy Sole-Begotten Son to the Gentiles, grant that we who know Thee by faith may be brought to the contemplation of Thy heavenly majesty. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. ℞. Amen.

Responsory. Be enlightened and shine forth, O Jerusalem: for thy light is come, and upon thee is risen the glory of the Lord, Jesus Christ born of Mary Virgin.

℣. Nations shall walk in thy light, and kings in the brilliance of thy origin.

℞. And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Let us pray.

Bless, ✠ O Lord, almighty God this home that it be a shelter of health, chastity, self-conquest, humility, goodness, mildness, obedience to the commandments, and thanksgiving to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. May this blessing remain for all time upon this dwelling and to all those who live herein. Through Christ our Lord. ℞. Amen.