

A BLESSING ON EPIPHANY

Adapted by St. Margaret's in Bellevue, WA from the book *To Dance with God: Family Ritual and Community Celebration* by Gertrud Mueller Nelson

Epiphany is a traditional day to bless your home, inviting Jesus to be revealed in our daily lives. The prayers ask God's blessing on your home and all who live and visit there. As part of the prayers, we mark the doorways with the initials of the legendary names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They are marked in chalk and framed by the numbers of the new year, 2010, as shown below. It has also been said that "CMB" stands for Christus, Mansionem, Benedicat. This means "may Christ bless this dwelling".

The prayers ask God's blessing on your home and all who live and visit there.

Leader: Peace be with this house and with all who live here.

All: Blessed be God forever.

The following is said as each character is marked on the door:

20 + CMB + 10

"The three Wise Men..." C "Caspar..." M "Melchior..." and B "Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became man..." 20 "two thousand..." 10 "and ten years ago."

"May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year."

Leader: Gracious God, you sent your son, Jesus, to become like us, so that we might become like him. Let us now pray that Jesus will enter our home and bless it with his presence. May he always be here among us; may he nurture our love for each other, share in our joys, and comfort us in our sorrows. Inspired by his teachings and example, let us make our home a dwelling place of love, which spreads far and wide the goodness of Christ. It is in his name that we pray. Amen



Adoration of the Magi, Zanobi Strozzi, 1433
National Gallery, London