

Epiphany Door Blessing for Missionary Children & Families

January 6 is the traditional date of the Epiphany, the 12th Day of Christmas [as counted from December 26th]. In many countries of the world today Missionary Children celebrate the Epiphany by going from house to house, supervised by adults, singing carols. Three children dress up as the wise men and follow a child carrying the star, who knocks on the door of the house. In this way the children proclaim the “Good News” of Jesus birth and at the same time raise much needed funds to send to the poor through the **Missionary Childhood Association** . . . one of the **Pontifical Mission Societies**. In Germany, they are known as the “Star Singers.” There are many other customs surrounding this special Feast Day. *Perhaps it would be fun to explore some of these as a family.*

Epiphany Door Blessing Tradition 20+C+M+B+18

This is an ancient blessing in the Catholic tradition that transcends cultures and continents. Legend says that the “chalked” letters correspond to the initials of the 3 Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar [German spelling]. More importantly, they abbreviate the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat* -- “Christ bless this house.” The year 2018 is divided by the letters to show that we must keep Jesus at the center of our lives daily, wherever we go when we cross the marked door’s threshold. The four crosses signify the four corners of the world to which we, the baptized, are to proclaim the Gospel. Write the letters on the main doorway in your home with chalk or make a sign. Share this idea with your relatives and family—*could be a start of a new tradition.*

Display the photos on the next page in your home as a reminder of this special Feast Day.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And with you spirit.

Leader: May Christ dwell in this home and give peace to all who enter.

All: Amen.

Leader: A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew
[Mt 2:1-12]

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: *Let us Pray:*

The Son of God made his home among us. With thanks and praise let us call upon Him. Lord Jesus Christ, with Mary and Joseph you formed the Holy Family: Remain in our home, that we may share You with our families.

We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you had no place to lay your head, but in the spirit of poverty accepted the hospitality of your friends; grant that through our help the homeless of the world may obtain proper housing.

We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, the three kings presented their gifts to you in praise and adoration: grant that those living in this house may use their talents and abilities to spread Your Good News to others, even to the ends of the earth. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Oh God, You once used a star to lead wise ones to Your Son. May the light of Christ guide us to recognize Him in each other each and every day. As we cross this threshold for work, study or play, remind us of our true purpose in life—to love Your people, to do Your will and to lead others to You. May all who enter through this door find Your love and hospitality in us and may we continue to search for You in the face of every guest.

All: Amen

Leader chalks/places the sign of letters above the doorway.

Leader: May Christ dwell with us, keep us from harm and make us one in mind and heart, now and forever. We pray for this and all good things in the name of Jesus Christ, true King of our home.

All: Amen

Consider with your Family and your Celebration of the Epiphany donating to help a Mission Child

Missionary Childhood Association, Archdiocese of Philadelphia * 222 N. 17th Street * Philadelphia, PA 19103

www.phillymissions.org

215-587-3945

mca@archphila.org

Feast of the Epiphany 20+C+M+B+18 for Missionary Children



Missionary Children in Poland visit families in their parishes.

The "Star Singers" of Germany.

