**Prayers for Missionary Families**

***Epiphany Door Blessing 20+C+M+B+16***

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 (German spelling): Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. More importantly, they abbreviate the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat* --“Christ bless this house.” The year 2016 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 doorway with chalk or make a sign.

**Opening Song: *O Come All Ye Faithful***

**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 using 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

**Closing Song: *We Three Kings***

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