

### Chalking the Door- an ancient Epiphany custom.

On The Epiphany of Our Lord, January 6, Christians traditionally ask God's blessing on their dwellings and on all who live or visit there. By chalking the initials of the traditional ninth century names of the kings, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, the custom is linked with welcoming into our homes and hearts all others who seek the light of Christ as we do. Some suggest the letters mean

Christus Mansionem Benedicat (Latin) – May Christ bless this dwelling.

The chalk marks to be made over or beside the door are  
20 C+M+B 17

Peace be to this house and all who dwell here.

*The doorway is now chalked as above.*

By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. *Proverbs 24.2*

The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places. *Isaiah 32.17-18*

**Prayer.** Gracious God, as a shining star once guided the magi to your birthplace, enable all who dwell here to seek you and offer themselves to you. Bless this house, and all who live here, with your presence, that your love may be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light and your peace upon all, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May the Lord + watch over our going out and our coming in, from this time forth and forever more. **Amen.**

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