

Chalking

A tradition of blessing a home and a church at the beginning of each year

A Blessing of the Home

Leader: The Lord is with you;

Answer: And also with you.

Reading: Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. – Matthew 2:7-11

Prayer: Almighty Father,

You led the wise men to Jesus in His first home. We thank You for the gift of this place where we can make our home. We come to ask Your blessing upon this place. May this be place be a place where Jesus can be found. Amen.

Leader: Although not found in scripture, the tradition names the magi Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. The magi were from Persia. They were not Jewish, they did not know God. Yet God revealed His Son to them in a way they understood. My God reveal Himself to us so that we may come to know Him, love Him, and take Him as our Lord and King.

Petition: O God of Light, bless this (our) house and this (our) family. May this be a place filled with Your peace, joy, and love. Watch over each member of this family throughout this year, teaching us Your ways and guiding us in Your will.

Make this house a shelter in the storm, a haven of rest for all in need of Your warmth and care, and a home where Your presence is found.

Leader: Lord Jesus, through Your Incarnation and birth in human form, you have redeemed all of creation. We now ask your blessing upon this simple gift of your creation — chalk. Use it to teach us as we use it to teach our children. With Your blessing, may it mark the doors of our home with the traditional initials of the Magi who You guided to worship and adore You in Your first home.

The door is marked with 2 digits for the century, the letters CMB, and two digits for the year

For the year 2024, the mark would be 20 CMB 24

As the door is marked, say: Christus Mansionem Benedicat - May Christ bless this dwelling

Leader: May we, in this house, and all who come to visit, to work, and to play, remember these things throughout the coming year. May all who come and go here find peace, comfort, joy, hope, love, and salvation, for Christ has come to dwell in this house and in our hearts.

All: May we be Christ's light in the world. Amen

Chalking

A tradition of blessing a home and a church at the beginning of each year

A Blessing of the Church

Leader: The Lord is with you;

Answer: And also with you.

Reading: “All who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to My covenant— these I will bring to My holy mountain and give them joy in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.” – Isaiah 56:6-7

Leader: Through the ages, Almighty God has moved His people to build houses of prayer and praise, and to set apart places for the ministry of His holy Word and Sacraments. With gratitude for those who built and maintained this church, we are now gathered to recommit this place to the building of His Kingdom and ask His blessing on its ministry in this, the year of our Lord, the 2024th.

Prayer: O God of Light, bless this church and this congregation. May this be a place filled with Your peace, joy, and love. Watch over each member of this household of faith throughout this year, teaching us Your ways and guiding us in Your will. Make this church a shelter in the storm, a sanctuary for all in need of Your warmth and care, and a temple where Your presence is found. Instill within each member’s heart the compassion of Christ

A Blessing of the Chalk for Marking the Door

Leader: Lord Jesus, through Your Incarnation and birth in human form, you have redeemed all of creation. We now ask your blessing upon this simple gift of your creation — chalk. Use it to teach us as we use it to teach our children. With Your blessing, may it mark the doors of Your house of prayer for all people with the traditional initials of the Magi who You guided to worship and adore You in Your first home.

The door is marked with 2 digits for the century, the letters CMB, and two digits for the year

For the year 2024, the mark would be 20 CMB 24

As the door is marked, say: Christus Mansionem Benedicat - May Christ bless this dwelling

Leader: May all who come to worship and to pray, remember these things throughout the coming year. May all who come and go here find Your peace, comfort, joy, hope, love, You have entrusted to Your Church. May Your Gospel of salvation be faithfully proclaimed as Your people are sent from here to make disciples for You and for Your Kingdom.

All: Give us courage to be Your light in the world this year and forevermore. Amen.