

Home Blessing Instructions

Optional Opening Song: We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect Light.

Opening Prayer: Make the Sign of the Cross and say the following:

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace. Blessed be God forever.

All Respond: Blessed be God forever.

Leader: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love.

Scripture Reading

Reader: A reading from the 2nd Book of Chronicles (2 Chronicles 7:15-16)

Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place. For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Intercessory Prayers

Leader: The Son of God made his home among us. With thanks and praise let us call upon him.

All: Stay with us, Lord.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, with Mary and Joseph you formed the Holy Family: remain in our home, that we may know you as our guest and honor you as our Lord. We pray.

All: Stay with us, Lord.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, you had no place to lay your head, but in the spirit of poverty accepted the hospitality of your friends: grant that the homeless may obtain proper housing. We pray.

All: Stay with us, Lord.

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 your greater glory. We pray.

All: Stay with us, Lord.

Chalking the Front Door

Leader: Peace be to this house and to all who enter here.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray: Gracious God, help those who live here to be a light in the world. 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 these hearts. In Jesus's name we pray.

All: Amen.

Write the following inscription on the lintel (frame above the door) of your home:

20 + C + M + B + 18

(The numbers represent the year and the letters stand for the traditional 9th century names of the 3 kings, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. It is also thought that the letters represent the phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* which means "May Christ bless this dwelling.")

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The Blessing of Each Room with Holy Water

At the Front Door, *Sprinkle Holy Water*

Leader: Be our shelter Lord when we are at home, our companion when we are away and our welcome guest every day. Grant this through Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

In the Living Room, *Sprinkle Holy Water*

Leader: Lord, give your blessings to all who share this room, that this may be a place of peace, love and joy. Grant this through Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

In the Kitchen, *Sprinkle Holy Water*

Leader: Lord, you fill the hungry with good things. Send your blessings on us as we work in this kitchen and make us thankful for our daily bread. Grant this through Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

In the bedrooms, *Sprinkle Holy Water*

Leader: Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake. Watch over us as we sleep, that awake we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in his peace. Grant this through Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

In the bathrooms, *Sprinkle Holy Water*

Leader: Refresh us Lord in body and spirit, and keep us in good health that we might serve you. Grant this through Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

In Other Rooms, *Sprinkle Holy Water*

Leader: Lord, send your spirit upon this place and protect us from all evil.

All: Amen.

Say the Lord's Prayer together.

All: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Closing Prayer

Leader: Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: *(Make Sign of the Cross)* May Christ Jesus dwell with us, keep us from all harm, and make us one in mind and heart, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Optional Closing Song: O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem

Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.