

BLESSING OF THRESHOLDS WITH BLESSED CHALK

Performed by the head of the household with blessed chalk on Epiphany or any time of the year.

As you are writing the symbols 20 + C + M + B + 17 the following prayer is said:

In the year of our Lord, two thousand *(write the 20 at the front)* and seventeen *(write the 17 at the end)*,

Christus *(write the C)*, Mansionem *(write the M)* Benedicat *(write the B)*, may Christ bless this home,

Through the intercession *(write the first +)* of Caspar *(write the second +)* Melchior *(write third cross)* and Balthasar *(write the fourth cross)*.

Then the following is prayed:

Sacred is this threshold of our home and holy is this door.

This is the meeting place of friend, neighbor, and stranger.

May it be a bridge for our comings and goings.

Whenever we stand in its sacred circle, may our eyes be granted new vision,
so that we can see in friend or stranger the God of ten thousand disguises.

May this threshold be a sacred space where we come to celebrate the Sacrament of Hospitality.

May the spirits of evil never cross this threshold,

and may the Name of the All-Holy-One protect our home from harm.

May God's angels stand guard at the right and the left of this opening
to grace our comings and goings.

May we who live in this home guard the sacredness of this doorway.

May our hearts be always alert to the danger of falseness and pretense
as we greet those who come to our door.

Let our affection be graced with honesty and reverence,
and may the oil of truth burn in the lamp of our eyes.

Help us to remember that our ancestors were strangers and exiles in Egypt,
that Joseph and Mary came knocking at a door like this, weary and in search of kindness.

May we receive all at this door as Godly guests.

May the blessing of God, and peace and grace of the All-Holy-One,
surround this threshold and rest upon all who shall pass across it. R. Amen.

Holy Water is then sprinkled in every room of the house while praying the rosary or singing a hymn. The inscription written with blessed chalk should not be removed until the next year when a new threshold blessing is performed.