

## FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

**TOPIC:** Family Epiphany Blessing and Baptism of the Lord

### FAMILY AT-HOME MISSION ACTIVITY

**Your Family At-Home Mission is to (together as a family) mark the mantle of your front door with chalk (blessed, if possible) and pray the Family Epiphany Blessing. Be ready to share your Family Epiphany Blessing experience, as well as your front door mantle (take a picture) at Week 3's gathering of families.** (Family Mission Activities adapted from [Catholic Digest](#))

#### **Step 1: Read the story of the Magi**

You should take time this month of the Epiphany to read the Biblical account of the Magi visiting Jesus found in the Matthew 2:1-12

or watch

[Three Wise Men - Matthew 2](#) | [The Magi Christmas Bible Story for Kids](#) | [Sharefaithkids.com](#) (4:50)

**Step 2:** After learning about the Epiphany, use the Family Epiphany Blessing (see below) and chalk to ask God's blessing upon your home together as a family. Family Epiphany Blessing "The practice of writing a special code over the entrance to a home with blessed chalk is a centuries-old traditional blessing that takes place each January. It's a reminder of God's presence in our daily lives, and a dedication of the year and everything that will happen during it, to God. It's also a great witness for our guests, not to mention that it looks pretty cool!" (From CathFamily)

#### **How to do it...**

1. Take a stick of chalk that's been blessed by a priest or deacon, and write above your home's front entrance (inside or outside), 20 + C + M + B + 22.

2. A family member reads this explanation: "The letters C, M, and B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi who brought gifts to Jesus sometime soon after his birth: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which translates to "May Christ bless this house." The '+' signs represent the cross and the numbers, the year."

3. The head of the house leads the prayer: Dear God, we ask your blessings on our home and family and anyone who visits here. We invite your Son, Jesus, to be a part of our family and to always be with us in our home, in our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows. We thank you and we love you. We make the following words of Joshua our own: "As for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). Hail Mary... We ask all this in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



**Step 3:** As you finish the prayer of blessing, make the Sign of the Cross with holy water (if possible), as a reminder of your baptisms and of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan, which began His public ministry.

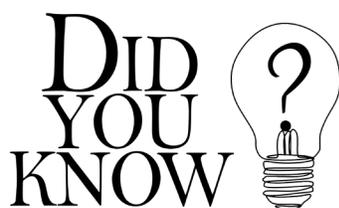
**Step 4:** Get ready to share about your Family Epiphany Blessing experience, as well as your front door mantle (bring a picture) at Week 3's gathering of families.

### Things to Consider (reflecting on what the Church recently celebrated):

Make a Three Kings Cake! [Recipe here!](#)

[All about Three Kings Day!](#)

Learn about this great Feast Day celebrated in different countries around the world.



- Baptism of the Lord: The Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord is the last day of the Christmas liturgical season. The season of Ordinary Time, where we follow Jesus in His public ministry, begins after this celebration.
- The Twelve Tribes of Israel: The Twelve Tribes of Israel came from the great-grandsons of Abraham (Jacob's sons), and Jesus chose Twelve Apostles who would lead His Church as the new Israel, embracing all the nations and fulfilling the promise made to Abraham.
- January includes the Memorial of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn. Let us pray for justice and for the protection and respect of all human life.

