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EPIPHANY BLESSING OF HOMES

If there is no priest for the Epiphany House blessing, it is led by the head of the household. The blessing begins with all gathered in a central location of the house.

Leader: Peace be unto this home.

Response: And unto all that dwell herein.

The leader reads the antiphon below and prays the first line of the Canticle; then everyone joins in praying the rest of the Canticle.

Antiphon: From the East came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the LORD; and opening their treasures, they offered costly gifts: gold to the great King, incense to the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial. Alleluia.

Canticle of the Blessed Virgin Mary Luke 1, 46-55

My soul (*all make the Sign of the Cross*) doth magnify the LORD,

All: And my spirit doth rejoice in God my Savior.

For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaid:

lo, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For He that is mighty hath done great things for me, and holy is His Name.

And His mercy is from generation to generation to them that fear Him.

He hath shown strength with His arm;

He hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

The hungry He hath filled with good things;

the rich He hath sent away empty.

He hath helped Israel, His servants, being mindful of His mercy.

As He hath promised our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

All Repeat Antiphon: From the East, came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the LORD; and opening their treasures, they offered costly gifts: gold to the great King, incense to the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial. Alleluia.

Then the leader sprinkles the Epiphany Water throughout the house. All return to the beginning point and continue:

All: Our Father,....

Leader: And lead us not into temptation.

R . But deliver us from evil.

Leader: Many shall come from Saba.

R . Bearing gold and incense.

Leader: O LORD, hear my prayer.

R . And let my cry come unto thee.

Leader: The LORD be with you.

R . And with thy spirit.

Prayer (prayed by the Leader)

Let us pray.

O God, Who by the guidance of a star didst this day reveal thy Sole-Begotten Son to the Gentiles, grant that we who now know Thee by faith may be brought to the contemplation of Thy heavenly majesty. Through the same Jesus Christ, our LORD, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in unity of the Holy Ghost, God, forever and ever.

R . Amen

Leader: Be enlightened and shine forth, O Jerusalem, for thy light is come, and upon thee is risen the glory of the LORD, Jesus Christ born of Mary Virgin. Nations shall walk in Thy light, and kings in the brilliance of Thy origin.

R . And the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

Prayer (prayed by the Leader)

Let us pray.

Bless, O LORD, almighty God this home that it be the shelter of health, chastity, self-conquest, humility, goodness, mildness, obedience to the Commandments, and thanksgiving to God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. May blessing remain for all time upon this dwelling and them that live herein. Through Christ our LORD.

R . Amen.

Now, using the blessed chalk, the leader writes above the lintel on the outside of the main door of the house:

20+C+M+B+17

C-Caspar, M-Melchior, B-Balthazar (the Three Kings); 20 and 17 are the year; and the “+” reminds us of the Cross of our LORD.