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Taking a piece of blessed chalk, the following prayer is said by a priest, or by the head of the home or senior member of the family, at the main entrance to the house. All family members should be present.

*Let us Pray:*

*Hear us, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Eternal God, and send Thy Holy Angel from heaven to watch over, cherish, protect, be with, and defend all who live in this house. We call upon Thy Saints: Casper (Gaspar), Melchior and Balthazar, to protect this family and this home from every harm and danger, and we place the marks of their holy names on the doors of this home to remain there as a constant reminder to us and to all who enter here that this house is truly a house of the Lord.*

(now write with the blessed chalk over the door)

**20 + C + M + B + 26**

*O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and companionship, narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the Tempter's power. O God, make the door of this house the gateway to Thy Eternal Kingdom. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Thy Son. Amen.*

The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi; **Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar**.

They also abbreviate the Latin words **Christus mansionem benedicat**, "May Christ bless the house."