

Stewardship Devotion Calendar

January

Epiphany is celebrated 12 days after Christmas, January 6th.

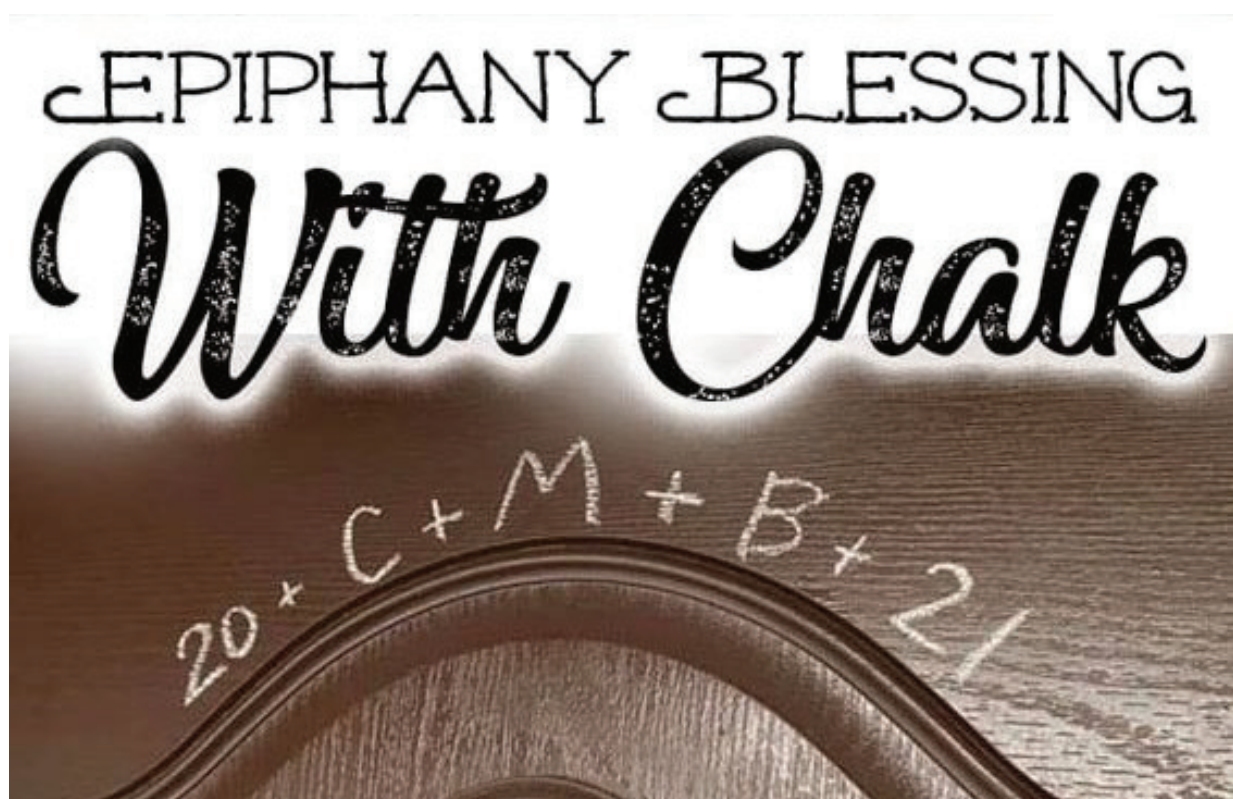
Epiphany (also known as Twelfth Night, Theophany, or Three Kings Day) marks the occasion of a time-honored Christian tradition of “chalking the doors.”

The formula for the ritual — adapted for 2023 — is simple: take chalk of any color and write the following above the entrance of your home: **20 + C + M + B + 23**.

The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Malchior, and Balthazar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: “May Christ bless the house.” The “+” signs represent the cross, and the “20” at the beginning and the “23” at the end mark the year. Taken together, this inscription is performed as we dedicate our year to God from its very outset, *asking His blessing on our home and on all who live, work, or visit them*.

The traditional Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on the Twelfth Day of Christmas. Most often the chalking takes place after Epiphany Mass and can be done at any church, home, or dwelling. Traditionally the blessing is done by either a priest or a family member. This blessing can be performed simply by just writing the inscription with blessed chalk, offering a prayer, or more elaborately, including songs, prayers, processions, the burning of incense, and the sprinkling of holy water.

Develop little bags of blessed chalk, holy water, Frankincense & Myrrh (incense), and a prayer.



February

February is dedicated to the Holy Family.

Develop a prayer card for the Holy Family and ask the families to pray this each night together. Or pass out a small cross with the holy family on it.

Saint Blaise's Feast Day February 3, 2023 Blessing of throats. The miraculous cure of the boy suffering from the fish bone — and because Blaise had been a physician — created the belief that St. Blaise could cure most illnesses but especially those of the throat. As early as the ninth century in the Western Church, he was invoked for throat ailments, and by the 15th century, the blessing of the throat ritual had begun. He was one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, whom Christians believed could cure a variety of personal medical problems

Lent starts end of February this year, ask the families at the beginning of Lent to Prayer about something that has been troubling them, an illness, an addiction, a divorce, finance, school, etc... Let them know the last weekend of March you will a small ceremony during Mass release those worries.

March

Remind Everyone: Lent starts end of February this year, ask the families at the beginning of Lent to Prayer about something that has been troubling them, an illness, an addiction, a divorce, finance, school, etc... Let them know the **last weekend of March** you will a small ceremony during Mass release those worries.

In front of the altar place a large clear vase half filled with water. Provide purple pouch with description, pencil, and dissolving piece of paper. Ask everyone to write down what they have been praying for all month on the dissolving piece of paper and come to the front and place it in the water. First, Father, you should do yours, this way they will see it dissolve. This is a powerful moment to watch everyone release something that has been burdening them. Then Father says a prayer over all the dissolved worries, something powerful that releases all their struggles and worries to God. This will help lead us to Easter.

March is also the **Feast of St. Joseph** you could develop a prayer card and pass it out to everyone. Or you can celebrate St. Joseph as a role model father on Father's Day.

April

April is dedicated both to the devotion of the Eucharist and the devotion of the Holy Spirit. In essence, April is a month of Easter and during the Easter celebration, we remember the Eucharistic sacrifice Christ gave us and the baptism in the Holy Spirit, which would come after Jesus's resurrection.



May

May is the month of Mary.

Devotion to the Blessed Mother throughout May originated in Rome in the 18th century to counter immorality and infidelity among students at college there.

Mother's Day falls in May, we take this time to recall and try to emulate Mary's role as a mother. We focus on Mary as a role model for mothers.

A gift to mothers in your parish, something of Mary to remind them to call upon Mary when they need her help.



June

June is the month of the Sacred Heart.

A devotion long practiced, it was officially approved in the 1800s. A Devotion to the Sacred Heart encourages participation in Adoration and receiving Holy Communion on the first Friday of every month.

June is also **Father's Day**, this would be a good time to recognize St. Joseph as a role model for all Fathers.

Something of St. Joseph would be nice to give to fathers as role model. Someone they can also pray to if they are needing guidance with their children.

July

The Holy Father said, "The elderly must not be forgotten."

Pope Francis has dedicated a Church-wide celebration of a "**World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**". This day each year is held on the fourth Sunday of July, close to the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.

You can have a special Mass or after a Mass have a Reception or hand out something nice that day, offer a special Blessing, etc.

August

Back to School Blessing

August is **Make a Will month**, ask parishioners to remember your parish in their Will.

Get a group together to **make rosaries** for Rosary Month in October. This can be family nights or senior men and women groups.

September

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October

Month of the Rosary

Pass out Rosary booklet and a rosary if you made them in August & September

National Estate Planning Awareness week is always the 3rd week in October. The parish can host this event, invite an Estate Planning Attorneys from your parish and a Financial Advisor. Send out invitations to ages 55+, include RSVP, and have the event catered.

Make this a special event, because word of mouth travels and you want each Seminar to grow. The next day, send thank you notes to those who attended.



November

Give Stock Month

Design a brochure or flyers with instructions on how to give stock to your parish. Make your flyers and advertise this in October.

November & December

Year in Giving

These two months have plenty of Church Devotions so we don't need to add to it, but will be a good time to talk about Year in Giving:

This can be the largest months of the year for giving, so let's help parishioners know more ways to give.

Prepare bulletin inserts on Ways to Give:

Appreciated Assets – Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)

Create QR Codes and place next to your Sunday Collection Figures in the bulletin and in the **Heading** above the collection figures name it:

"Generosity: Stewardship in Action".

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