

Blessing of Homes

This is an extended blessing from that which is normally provided each year. It is in line with the formula of prayers used to assist in the deliverance of any evils which may have been brought into the home in the past. Never should the blessing of a home be considered as a sufficient means for God's protection. We must do our part in how we live, especially as guardians of our lives from any form of sinfulness and evil, in thought, word, and action.

It is desirable, if possible, to have all windows and doors, inside and out, and all drawers and cupboard doors open slightly for this blessing.

The shorter version which has been provided in the past, is on the reverse side of this insert.

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Upon entering:

V. Peace be unto this home.

R. And unto all that dwell herein.

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.

The following is prayed as the family blesses each room of the house with holy water, beginning in the attic and proceeding to the basement.

Canticle of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Luke 1:46-55)

My soul magnifies the Lord.
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
For he has regarded the low estate of His handmaid;
hence-forth all generations will call me blessed.
For He who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is His name.
He has shown strength with His arm;
He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their hearts.
He has put down the mighty from their seats,
and exalted them of low degree.
The hungry He has filled with good things;
the rich He has sent away empty.
He has helped Israel, His servant,
being mindful of His mercy.
As he has promised our fathers,
Abraham and his descendants forever.



All: Glory be to the Father...

All: 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.

All pray the Our Father inaudibly until:

V. And lead us not into temptation.
R. But deliver us from evil.
V. Many shall come from Saba.
R. Bearing gold and incense.
V. O Lord, hear my prayer.
R. And let my cry come unto you.
V. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.

Finish at the door used most often by the family and others.

Let us Pray:

O God, who by the guidance of a star did this day reveal
your Only-Begotten Son to the Gentiles,
grant that we who now know you by faith
may be brought to the contemplation
of your heavenly majesty.

Through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever.

R. Amen.

Responsory: Be enlightened and shine forth,
O Jerusalem, for your light is come, and
upon you is risen the glory of the Lord,
Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary.

V. Nations shall walk in your light, and kings in the
brilliance of your origin.
R. And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

Let us pray:

Bless, + O Lord, Almighty God, this home,
that it be a shelter of health, chastity,
self-conquest, humility, goodness, mildness,
obedience to the commandments,
and thanksgiving to God the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit.
May blessings remain for all time upon this
dwelling and they who live within.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

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The Threshold of the house is now blessed.

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
(*holy water 3X*) and the left (*holy water 3X*)
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 always be 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 knowing 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
(*draw four crosses*)

and peace of and grace of the All-Holy-One
(*write C, M, B*)
surround this threshold

and rest upon all who shall pass across it
(*write the 20 and 12*)

Amen.

20 + C + M + B + 12

*This blessing may be done above all doors of the house,
although blessing the main entrance used by the family
seems sufficient in keeping unwanted evil from entering the
home, the reason for blessing a home.*