

Blessing of a Home

For the Year



Blessing may be done by a priest or by the head of the household
A lit candle may be carried from room to room
as part of the procession

Together: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Leader: May the peace of the Lord rest upon this house and upon all who dwell therein.

Together: And with your spirit.

Leader: Let us pray: All powerful God, living fountain and source of all life, bless this water which we will use with faith, begging the pardon of our sins and the granting of Your grace, that we might be protected this day against sickness and disease, all pestilence and fevers and every malignancy of the devil.

Grant us O Lord, by Your infinite mercies, that these waters might cleanse us from all sin, and thus with clean hearts draw close to You and avoid every danger to body and soul. Amen.

Then taking a little salt in his hand he prays:

All-powerful God, we beseech You: bless this salt which You created and gave for the use of mankind, so that it may become for us a source of health for the minds and bodies of all who make use of it. May it rid whatever it touches or sprinkles of all uncleanness, and protect it from every assault of evil. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pouring the salt in the water in the shape of the cross, he says:

Grant us, O Lord, that wherever this salt and water are sprinkled, that the power of evil might be allayed and the threats of the evil one put to flight. Protect us always with the presence of Your Holy Spirit. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Going then to the front, or principal door, the priest or head of the household, carrying the blessed water, prays:

O Lord, our God, You Who live in highest heaven and yet deign to dwell within the heart of man, come and bless this house. Surround this family (person) with Your love and fortify these walls with Your providential care. Do not allow the devil to come near, but banish him and command an Angel of Light to guard this family (person) and protect them from evil.

Then he uses the blessed water to trace the cross on the front door with the letter A above the vertical beam and the letter Ω below it. In each of the 90 degree angles formed by the two beams he traces the appropriate number as explained below:

Christ yesterday and today

as he traces the vertical beam of the cross

the beginning and the end!

as he traces the horizontal beam of the cross

Alpha

as he traces the A above the cross

and Omega;

as he traces the Ω below the cross

all time belongs to Him

as he traces the first digit of the current year in the upper left quadrant

and all the ages;

as he traces the second digit of the current year in the upper right quadrant

to Him be glory and power

as he traces the third digit of the current year in the bottom left quadrant

through every age for ever. Amen.

as he traces the final number of the current year in the bottom right quadrant

Then he continues:

Bless this threshold, O Lord, and all who cross over it. May all our comings and goings be under the seal of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Everyone passes into the house, the candle first, then whoever is leading the prayers and finally the family and neighbors. Depending upon the layout of the house, the order of these prayers may be changed.

...in the Living Room or Den

sprinkling the blessed water around the confines of the room:

O Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd of the Sheep, bless this living room/den. May all who spend time here find their days filled with peace and joy. Allow no discord to disturb them, never permit evil to molest those who hope in Your mercy.

...in each Bedroom

O Lord, protect those who sleep in this room, incline their heart to obedience and give them peaceful rest. Grant that one day they may enjoy the eternal rest which You have promised us in heaven.

...in each Bathroom

Bless, O Lord, this bathroom. As You have taught us to honor the body as the Temple of Your Holy Spirit, grant us the knowledge of how best to serve You in humility and charity.

...in the Kitchen

Bless O Lord, this kitchen and the labors that are done in this room. Bless the herbs and the spices, the plates and utensils, and grant that all these may be sanctified by the hidden life of Jesus in His home in Nazareth. Never allow anger or bitterness to poison the meals taken by this family (person).

...at the Back Door

May the doors of this house be ever open to the poor and the needy, offering refuge to the lost and protection to the fearful. May the blessed Light of Your glory shine constantly here and upon all who live in peace with Jesus Christ. Amen.

And may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with each and every one of us here present, and upon all our loved ones near and far, on this day and always.



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Magnificat August 2000 - used with permission



Tapestry - Adoration of the Magi

Edward Burne-Jones with details by William Morris and John Henry Dearle

Inscription: This tapestry the work of William Morris was designed by Sir E. Burne-Jones bart and made at Merton Abbey in the year 1894. It is given by a citizen of Manchester in loving memory of his mother.

This magnificent tapestry commemorates the Feast of the Epiphany, the traditional date for the blessing of the home. The richly colored background and foreground depicts many flowers typical of the millefleur “thousand flowers” style of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Many species identifiable such as Roses, Madonna Lily, Star of Bethlehem, Pansy and Viola, Felicia, Borage, Anemone, English Daisy, Iris, Tulip, Rhodophiala, Primula, Campanula