



Adoration
Jan Gossaert (c. 1478-1532)

20 C+M+B 26

**Blessing the Home on Epiphany:
Claiming the Home for Christ**

One of the Church’s most beautiful and quietly powerful customs connected to the Feast of the Epiphany is the blessing of homes. It is simple, easily overlooked, and yet deeply biblical and profoundly pastoral. At its heart, the Epiphany house blessing is about one thing: claiming a home for Christ and asking Him to dwell there anew.

The practice usually includes prayer and the marking of the doorway with blessed chalk, traditionally inscribing the year along with the letters C-M-B, which stand for *Christus mansionem benedicat*—“May Christ bless this dwelling.” Many people also associate the letters with the traditional names of the Magi, whose journey we celebrate at Epiphany. The meaning is not magical, nor is it decorative. It is a visible act of faith, a way of saying that this home belongs to Christ and is placed under His lordship. As Scripture reminds us, “*Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build*” (Psalm 127:1).

This instinct—to mark the entrance of a home as a place of God’s presence and protection—is not new. It goes back to the very foundations of biblical faith. In the Book of Exodus, on the night of the Passover, the Israelites were commanded to mark the doorposts of their homes with the blood of the lamb. That marking was not a charm, but a sign of obedience and trust. It declared that the household belonged to the Lord and stood under His saving protection. “*The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; when I see the blood, I will pass over you*” (Exodus 12:13). The doorway became a threshold between danger and safety, between death and life.

In Jewish tradition, this biblical instinct continues in the practice of affixing a *mezuzah* to the doorframe of a home. Inside the mezuzah is a small scroll containing passages from Scripture, including the command: “*You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates*” (Deuteronomy 6:9; cf. 11:20). Each time the door is passed through, the household is reminded that daily life unfolds beneath the Word of God. The home is not neutral space; it is entrusted space.

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The Epiphany of the Lord
4 January 2026

Sacred Heart, Ronan
Immaculate Conception, Polson
St. Joseph Mission, Charlo

Fr. Kevin Christofferson, Pastor
Katie Devlin, Office Manager

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This week’s office hours:
Tuesday & Thursday 2-5 pm, Wednesday & Friday 9 am-12 pm

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday at 6:00 pm
Confessions are available at 5:00 pm
Rosary is prayed at 5:30 pm
Sunday at 11:00 am
Rosary is prayed at 10:30 am

No weekday Mass this week

SACRED HEART MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9:00 am

No Mass this Friday

Mass is offered at St. Joseph Mission in Charlo the **third Saturday** of each month at 4:00 pm.

Coffee and Donuts

Served in the Ronan Parish Hall following 9:00 Mass on January 4. All are welcome!



Knights of Columbus®

Polson Knights of Columbus
Monthly meeting: Sunday, January 4th
Next breakfast served January 18th after the 11:00 Mass

**Religious education classes
resume this week!**

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Christians inherited and deepened this understanding. From the earliest centuries, the Church has spoken of the family as a “domestic church.” One of the early Fathers wrote that believers should make their homes places where Christ is known and honored, for “*where Christ is, there is the household of God*” (cf. St. John Chrysostom, *Homilies on Ephesians*). The Epiphany house blessing flows directly from this vision. Just as the Magi entered a house and there encountered Christ, so Christian families ask that Christ may continue to enter their homes, dwell there, and reign there.

This matters because homes are not static or spiritually neutral. They absorb the habits, words, conflicts, anxieties, distractions, and sins of those who live in them. Over time, every home needs cleansing—not only of dust and clutter, but of resentment, impatience, harsh speech, and forgetfulness of God. The Epiphany blessing is a humble acknowledgment of that truth. It does not presume that a home is already holy; it asks that it may become so. As Scripture says, “*Let peace be upon this house*” (Luke 10:5), and where that peace is welcomed, Christ Himself abides.

To bless the home is to say: *Lord, come again. Cleanse this place. Protect those who live here. Make this a house of peace, forgiveness, prayer, and hospitality.* One of the Fathers of the Church observed that the Christian home should be a place where prayer rises as naturally as conversation, and where Christ is treated not as a guest, but as the true head of the household (cf. St. John Chrysostom, *Homily 20 on Ephesians*).

The Epiphany house blessing also carries a quiet boldness. In a culture that often treats faith as private and invisible, marking the doorway is a gentle but firm declaration that Christ is not confined to the church building alone. He is welcomed into daily life—into meals and conversations, into joys and trials. “*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord*” (Joshua 24:15).

The Epiphany house blessing reminds us that faith must cross the threshold of our doors. It must be lived where we argue and forgive, where we rest and worry, where we raise children and care for the elderly, where we begin each day and return at night. To claim the home for Christ is to ask Him to be Lord not only of our hearts, but of our habits.

In that sense, chalking the door on Epiphany is not a quaint tradition from another age. It is a deeply relevant act of renewal. It proclaims that Christ has been revealed, that He seeks entry, and that this home—imperfect, ordinary, and in need of mercy—is open to Him.

Epiphany home blessing kits are available at the entrance of the church. The home should be blessed by the head of the household with the family members and others taking part. The home may be blessed on the Solemnity of the Epiphany itself or at least within the first eight days, which in this case means the following Sunday. Please bring your own Holy Water bottle since very few are available at the church. Also, be sparing with taking the Holy Water so that there is enough for everyone who wants some; very little is needed, and only the amount necessary to sprinkle each room of the house.

How much I love You, O my Jesus! I wish to love You with my whole heart; yet I do not love You enough. My lack of devotion and my negligence still haunt me. I have one desire, that of being near You in the Blessed Sacrament. You are the sweet bridegroom of my soul. My Jesus, my love, my all, gladly would I endure hunger, thirst, heat and cold to remain always with You in the Blessed Sacrament.

-Saint John Neumann

Parish Offertory Progress Report

Fiscal Year beginning July 1st

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Immaculate Conception | I.C. Building Fund Progress: |
| \$96,633 of \$183,150 (53%) | \$1,350 of \$12,000 (11%) |
| Sacred Heart/St. Joseph | S.H. Building Fund Progress: |
| \$24,159 of \$48,393 (50%) | \$1,920 of \$1,349 (142%) |

Thank you for your generosity!

“Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, and one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body.”

— St. Leo the Great, Sermon 31 on the Epiphany

Liturgy Calendar & Mass Intentions

Sacred Heart & St. Joseph Mission

Sunday, January 4th *Epiphany of the Lord*
Sick & Shut-Ins of the Parish

Immaculate Conception

Saturday, January 3rd *Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord*
Repose of the Soul of Teri Hughes, rb Pat Hughes
Sunday, January 4th *Epiphany*
Intentions of the Parish Faithful

PRAYER CORNER

Humbly asking for your prayers...

Maryalice Rouselle, The Clay Family, Virginia Rubel, Michael Conrad, Kaylee Martin, Dave Evertz, Steve Ducharme, Bill Nash, Donna Jacobs, Derrie Edge, Heather Stocki, Betty Bjork, Jason Avison, Nash Niemeyer, Bud Cheff, Jr, Bill Rueth, Monte Jenkins, Chris Skinner, Ryan Johnson, Vicki Whalen, Laurel Cheff, Zane Kelly, Rod Clairmont, David Jenkins, Bruce Simpson, Debbie Tschida, Carolyn Fyant, Diana Cote, Shawna Lehner, Bill Efinger, Bruce Basler.



Please help to keep the list current by contacting the Parish Office. Also, out of respect for a person's privacy, please make sure that all individuals wish to be publicly identified.

The Holy Father's prayer intention for January

For prayer with the Word of God: Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

Please pray for our seminarians!

Dcn. Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Jamie Severson, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Matt Keck, Carson Gorton, Jake Smith, Ryan Frampton, Liam Aippersbach, Mason Yochum.