



Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

1303 E. Reelfoot Ave. Union City, TN 38261

www.icuctn.org

731-885-0963

icuctnmaster@gmail.com



Sunday, January 7:
PRE Classes Resume 9:15 am
La clase para adultos en español 9:15am
Monday, January 8:
No Daily Mass
Friday, January 12:
No Daily Mass
Sunday, January 14:
PRE Classes Resume 9:15 am
La clase para adultos en español 9:15am
Monday, January 15:
Church office is closed (Martin Luther King)
Saturday, January 20:
Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Meeting
Snappy Tomato at 5pm
Sunday, January 21:
PRE Classes Resume 9:15 am
La clase para adultos en español 9:15am
Knights of Columbus Meeting 5pm

January 13 & 14: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lector:

4:00 pm: Mike Vallee
8:00 am: Julie Cunningham

Eucharistic Minister:

4:00 pm: Joanie Boucher
8:00 am: Paul Cunningham

Masses Intentions

Saturday, January 6: 4:00 pm:

The People of the Parish

Sunday, January 7: 8:00 am:

Repose of the Soul of Gerald Harris
(Richard & Joan Chmielewski)

Monday, January 8: 8:00 am No Mass

Friday, January 12: 8:00 am No Mass

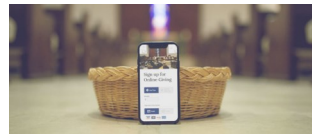
Saturday, January 13: 4:00 pm:

Mike & Teresa Vallee (Adam Vallee Family)

Sunday, January 14: 8:00 am:

People of the Parish

Parish Offertory Weekly Budget: \$5,400



Collection from December 17, 2023
Regular Collection: \$ 2,084
Special Projects: \$ 542

Collection from 4th Sunday of Advent
Regular Collection: \$ 2,724

Collection from Christmas
Christmas Collection: \$ 2,546

Collection from Feast of Holy Family
Regular Collection: \$ 3,082

Collection from Mary, Mother of God Holy Day
Holy Day Collection: \$ 2,625

Thank you for your generosity & support!



ENVELOPE
Mail or drop off a
your offering

WAYS
TO **GIVE**



ONLINE

Drop your envelope in the basket or mail to the church. For each family of the 185 families that receives envelopes, the church pays \$4.27.

You can help alleviate the cost of envelopes & give online. This can be set up very easily. You can set up where your offering is automatically withdrawn from your method of payment.



Immaculate Conception Parish Staff:

Office Hours:

8:30am—3:00pm

Pastor:

Fr. Carl Gregorich

Secretary/Bookkeeper:

Isabel Avalos

Religious Education Director:

Teresa Vallee

Communications/Technology:

Lillie Vallee

Choir Rehearsal:

Wednesdays 5pm

Knights of Columbus:

3rd Degree: Jason Batchlor
4th Degree: David Piazza

Ladies Guild:

Maria Reedy

Meal Ministry:

Brenda Piazza

Rosary Prayer Group:

Sundays 7:30am Lillie Vallee

Sick Card Ministry:

Sue Holnzer 731-335-0502

Flocknote:

flocknote.com/find

FORMED.org:

Sign up as a parishioner
& use the church zip code

Catechetical Institute

franciscanathome.com
Sign up under the
Memphis Diocese

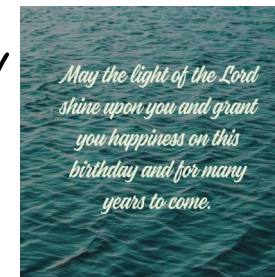
Facebook:

facebook.com/icuctn

Bulletin Deadline:

Noon on Monday

*Wishing all of you a Happy and
BLESSED
January Birthday!*



Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Assumption Memorial Garden Cemetery

Columbarium Niches for Cremains \$1,600.00 per Niche
contact parish office (731) 885-0963 Niche Face Plate
Engraving Compliments of Edmaiston-Mosley Funeral
Home (731) 885-1033 Curtis Monument Company
(731) 352-5769 & The Wall Family

*The Altar Candles are dedicated
to the living & deceased
members of the Berner Family.*

**Altar Linens Month of
January: Kathy Davis**

Thank you for your service to our parish!

Holy Sacraments Offered

Baptism: Arrange by appointment three (3) months before the desired date of baptism with the Office.

First Eucharist: Arrangements made with the Religious Education Director.

Confirmation: Arrangements made with the Religious Education Director.

Confession: Saturdays 3:15pm—3:45pm

Matrimony: Arrangements must be made six (6) months before the wedding date with the Parish Office.

Marriage Blessing: Contact the parish Priest.

Marriage Annulment: Contact the parish Priest.

Anointing of the Sick: Contact the Parish Office.

Holy Orders: Contact the Parish Priest.

Sagrados Sacramentos Ofrecidos

Bautismo: Organizarlo por medio de una cita con la oficina parroquial tres (3) meses antes de la fecha deseada de bautismo.

Primera Comunión: Arreglos hechos con el Director de Educación Religiosa.

Confirmación: Arreglos hechos con el Director de Educación Religiosa.

Confesión: Sábados 3:15pm—3:45pm

Matrimonio: Los arreglos deben hacerse seis (6) meses antes de la fecha de la boda con la Oficina Parroquial.

Bendición Matrimonial: Comuníquese con el párroco.

Anulación de Matrimonio: Póngase en contacto con el párroco.

Unción de los Enfermos: Comuníquese con la Oficina Parroquial.

Órdenes Sagradas: Póngase en contacto con el párroco.



Names on the prayer list for family and friends will be removed on monthly basis. They will not be put back on until requested. Please notify church office to remove or add a person or email: icuctnmaster@gmail.com

Parishioners:

Lupita Berner
Sherri Ferrell
Hank Gill
Anabel Gracia
Mary Hale
Mary Harris
Pamela Jenkins
Martha Lattus
Wy Lattus
Pat Martinek
Barbara Pituch
Tom Pituch
Paul Werner Sr.
Jon & Rosa Wright

Friends & Family:

Q. Amos
Ann Barnes
Joe Byrd
Pat Cooley
Logan Crump
Helen Cuvelier
Savannah DeLee
Marsha Donnell
Roberto Felix
Mary Gardy
Allen Geerdes
Judy Guillory
Amilcar Godinez
Stevie Gossett
Kim Hall
Mai Hays
Mayci Hogg
Frank Hutchinson
Nadine Killion
Steve Kreis
Andrew Krueger
Bobby Lafever

Mary Jo Lattus

Jack McKeown
Belena Moreno
Kenneth Northam
Ginger Odle
Evelise Oliver
Margarita Perales
Nick Piazza
Fr. Robert Ponticello
Rita Reedy
Dana Rodriguez
Joe Young

The Parish Community of
St. Augustine Catholic Church
Cordially Invite You to the 2024
"Faith Filled Hearts"
Lifetime Achievement Awards Gala

Saturday, February 24, 2024
The Great Hall & Conference Center
1900 S. Germantown Rd.
Germantown, TN 38138

Honorees: The Most Reverend J. Terry Staib, SVD
The Honorable A.C. and Mrs. Ruby Wharton
Rev. Mr. Curtiss Talley
Mrs. Bartharene Young and the Late Sullivan Young,
Mrs. Grace Meacham

Rejoicing from the Heart

Mass
Sat. 4PM Vigil Mass

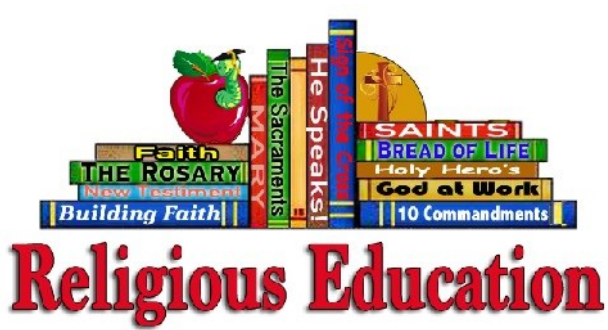
Gala
6PM Cocktails & Silent Auction
7-10PM Dinner-Awards-Dancing

Scan



Catholic Diocese of Memphis
Anniversary books are still available. \$35
The Illustrated book is also available. \$15
Immaculate Conception is featured in both books.
Come by the office or ask after Mass.

Mardi Gras Party
Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024
at 6:00PM
St. Francis of Assisi Church -
Parish Life Center
8151 Chimney Rock Blvd. -
Cordova
Dinner - Crawfish Etouffee,
Red Beans & Rice, Caesar
Salad, and King Cake.
Music provided by Memphis
Funk & Horns.
\$45 per person /
\$320 for table of 8.
Proceeds to benefit St. Fran-
cis of Assisi and St. Benedict
at Auburndale Schools.
Admission includes dinner
and two adult beverages per
person.
Payment method:
Check or cash dropped off at
church office or
PayPal - @KofC9317 /
Knights of Columbus Cordova
Council 9317.
Questions? Call 605.376.3334



PRE classes will resume Sunday,
January 7, 2024 at 9:15 am!

I want to wish everyone a very
Happy, safe, and health filled New Year
in 2024!
Additionally, I want to thank all of you for
your generosity in providing so many gifts
of deserts, cookies, cakes, fruit, cheese and
sausage, pickles, gift cards, scented
products, and monetary gifts as well!
This has been truly overwhelming!
Also, Thank you all so very much for all of
your prayers, thoughts, warm wishes and
your participation in our liturgies during
this most wonderful season!
May God Bless You One and All!

Fr. Carl



Address for Nick Piazza:
523 3rd Ave. Harvey, LA 70058
Continued prayers for Nick, David &
Brenda Piazza's son, in his
recovery & upcoming surgeries after
being accidently tackled by a
New Orleans Saints football player.

Our 2024 Mass Intention
Book has several openings
for this new year. Please
stop by the church office to
reserve your intention for
your loved ones, both living & deceased.



Nuestro Libro de Intenciones de Misa 2024
tiene varios días disponibles para el próximo
año. Pase por la oficina de la iglesia para
reservar su intención para sus seres queridos,
tanto vivos como fallecidos.



Please update the prayer list!

If you or you have a
loved one is in need of
prayers, call the office or
send an email to
icuctnmaster@gmail.com

add them to the prayer list. If your loved
ones have recovered and can be removed,
please, let us know. **Let your church family
pray for you and your loved ones.**

¡Por favor actualice la lista de oración! Si sus
seres queridos se han recuperado y pueden
ser retirados, infórmenos. Si tiene un ser
querido que necesita oraciones, llame a la
oficina o envíe un correo electrónico para
agregarlo a la lista de oración. ***Deje que
la familia de su iglesia ore por usted y sus seres
queridos.***

*If you would like a card sent to your loved one, please provide an
address when you email or call the office or text Sue Holzner
(731)335-0502. Cards are sent on behalf of the Ladies Guild of the
parish. **If you, as a parishioner, are going to have surgery,
please let us know for the prayer list and a card also!***

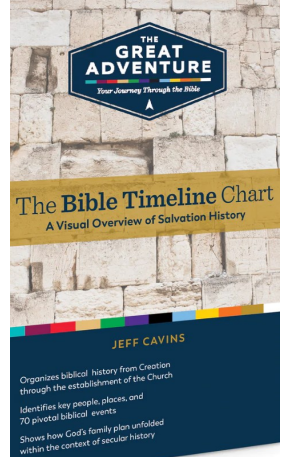
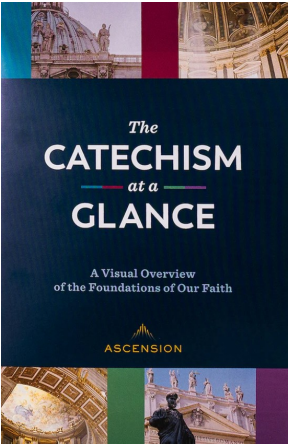
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"As cradle Catholics, we hear Scripture at Mass
and occasionally in self study but never like this.
The Bible in a Year brings it all together."
—Ignacio G.

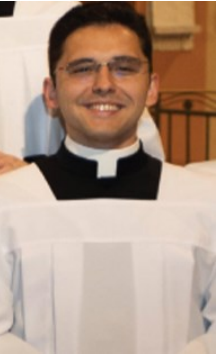
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Our current Seminarian is
Luiz Dutra. He is in his 2nd
year of Pre-Theology.
Notre Dame Seminary
2901 S. Carrollton Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118



Who are the Three Kings?

FATHER DWIGHT LONGENECKER

The three kings are classic figures in every Nativity set — one king on a camel, one kneeling at the manger and one standing ready to offer his gifts. But who were the Wise Men, and what do we know about them?

We're not exactly sure who they were. The evidence from the Gospels is found in the first 12 verses of St. Matthew's account. All we can glean from that passage is that they are called Magi, or "magicians," that they came from the East to Jerusalem, and that they had seen a star announcing the birth of the King of the Jews. The Gospel doesn't say there were three Wise Men. That idea comes from the three gifts they brought.

To track down who the Wise Men were, we must first look East. The obvious choice is the Parthian Empire. During the time of Jesus, the Parthian Empire was the name of what was formerly the Persian Empire. It was centered on present day Iran and Iraq. In the Parthian Empire there was a caste of astrologer priests based in the ancient religion of Zoroastrianism. Most scholars think the Magi were Zoroastrian priest-astrologers from Persia. However, none of this is recorded in Matthew's Gospel. Neither is there a mention that the Wise Men were kings — nor are there camels in Matthew's account. So, where did the idea come from that the Wise Men were camel-riding kings? The idea of three kings and the presence of camels is linked with two Old Testament prophecies. Psalm 72:10-11 reads: "May the kings of Tarshish and the islands bring tribute, the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts. May all kings bow before him, all nations serve him."

Isaiah 60 is also read in the liturgy on the feast of the Epiphany, and, like Psalm 72, Isaiah highlights the double meaning of the visit of the Wise Men: that the light of Christ has come into the world and is for all people — not only the Jews. The prophecy reads:

"Arise! Shine, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you
... Nations shall walk by your light,
kings by the radiance of your dawning
Raise your eyes and look about;
they all gather and come to you —
Your sons from afar

... Then you shall see and be radiant
... For the riches of the sea shall be poured out before you,
the wealth of nations shall come to you.

Caravans of camels shall cover you,
dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
All from Sheba shall come
bearing gold and frankincense
and heralding the praises of the Lord" (vv. 1-6).

Now we can see where the idea of kings and camels comes from. Matthew says the kings came from the East, and Persia seems the obvious choice, but the passage from Isaiah predicts that the kings come from Ephah, Midian and Sheba. Where are Ephah, Midian and Sheba?

Midian is the Old Testament name for what was, in Jesus' time, the

Kingdom of the Nabateans. It lies directly east and south of Jerusalem — in present-day Jordan — and Ephah was a city of Midian further south in the Arabian peninsula. The ancient Kingdom of Sheba was centered in what is present-day Yemen, also to the east and south. If we are looking to the Scriptures for evidence, the prophecy from Isaiah suggests that the Wise Men came from what is now Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. If so, they probably did come on camels, since Midian especially was known for its abundance of camels.

Can we use an Old Testament prophecy to determine where the Wise Men came from? Those who believe in the accuracy of biblical prophecy will not have a problem doing so. However, there are other indicators to suggest the Arabian peninsula rather than Persia. The three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh are overlooked as clues to solve the riddle.

Gifts of the Magi

Where did the gold come from? As mentioned, Yemen is the present-day location of the ancient civilization of Sheba. The kingdom's fabulous wealth was based on gold mines in Ethiopia. Archaeologists have recently discovered what they believe to be the mines of the queen of Sheba.

The story of the queen of Sheba (see 1 Kgs 10), who came in procession with great royal gifts of wealth establishes a prophetic precedent. Just as the queen of Sheba came to bear gifts to the Jewish king Solomon, so it could be that the king of Sheba during Jesus' time came, like his illustrious ancestor, to bear rich gifts to the king of the Jews.

Furthermore, the kings of Yemen during the time of Jesus were Jewish. They would have had a keen interest in the goings-on in Herod's court and the arrival of a new king of the Jews. Finally, Jesus himself mentions this link in Matthew 12:42 when he refers to the queen of Sheba's visit to Solomon and, referring to himself, says, "there is something greater than Solomon here."

There are more intriguing clues based on three gifts. The Arabian peninsula — especially the area of Midian and Sheba — is the only place in the world where the specific plants grow from which are harvested the resin to make both incense and myrrh. These two rich gifts — used for their aroma and for medicinal purposes — were the cash crops of this part of the world.

The origin of the three gifts would indicate that the Wise Men came from the Arabian peninsula. And the gifts were not simply rich gifts offered to Christ, but were symbolic gifts from the kingdoms of their origin. The gifts had diplomatic significance and suggest that the Magi were indeed either kings or ambassadors from the court of Nabatea and Sheba. Even more intriguing, there was constant traffic along the "incense route," which came north from the southern tip of Arabia up to what is now Jordan and across Judea to Gaza. If the Magi were from southern Arabia and the Kingdom of Nabatea (present-day Jordan), their trade route ran right past Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

Were They Priests?

But were they astrologer priests? While we know there was a sect of astrologer-magicians in Persia, it is also true that Persian wise men were dispersed across the Parthian Empire, which stretched down into the Arabian peninsula and beyond. It is also true that the Persian Zoroastrians were not the only astrologers and wise men. The

knowledge and wisdom of ancient astrology and prophecy were practiced across the ancient world. We do not know for certain who the Wise Men mentioned in the Nativity story were, and theories and explanations will continue. But if we put all the evidence together, it seems that the Wise Men were probably Zoroastrian influenced astrologers in the court of the Kingdoms of Nabatea and Sheba who brought rich gifts of diplomatic significance to the newborn King of the Jews.

Father Dwight Longenecker is a priest of the Diocese of Charleston, SC. Contact him at dwightlongenecker.com.



No Daily Mass on Monday, January 8 or on Friday, January 12. Father Carl will be completing his training to be a Spiritual Director. Safe travels & prayers for his final week of study,

Welcome to our parish Fr. Ernie DeBlasio! Thank you for being our priest for this weekend, January 4 & 5.



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5 minute (daily) episodes

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catholicsprouts.com

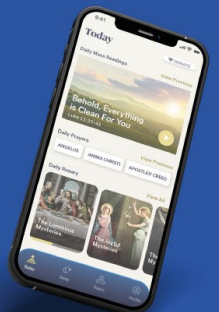
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An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE



Epiphany Home Blessing (*The blessing is to be done by either a priest or the father of the house on the Feast of Epiphany (this part is marked as “leader” below).*) Epiphany falls (in the USA) on the first Sunday following January 1.)

Blessing the Chalk: (You may ask your priest to bless the chalk or, alternatively, use the following prayer. Omit the following prayer if your chalk has been blessed.)

Leader. Our help is the name of the Lord:

All: The maker of heaven and earth.

Leader. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

All: From this time forth for evermore.

Let us pray. Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Home Blessing:

Sign of the Cross

Leader: Peace be to this house.

All: And to all who dwell herein.

Leader. From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

All: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever. Amen.

All: From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense

for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

Leader. Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation,

All: But deliver us from evil. *Leader:* All they from Saba shall come

All: Bringing gold and frankincense.

Leader. O Lord, hear my prayer.

All: And let my cry come to You.

Leader. Let us pray. O God, who by the guidance of a star didst on this day manifest Thine only-begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we who know Thee by faith may also attain the vision of Thy glorious majesty. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader. Be enlightened, be enlightened, O Jerusalem, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee—Jesus Christ born of the Virgin Mary.

All: And the Gentiles shall walk in thy light and kings in the splendor of thy rising, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.

Leader. Let us pray. Bless, O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

(After the prayers, sprinkle the home with holy water.)

Making the Inscription:

Write first the initials “C” then “M” then “B”. Then, in front of the “C” write “20”, and after the “B: write “24”(or whatever the last digits of the year are). Finally, place a “+” between each letter and set of numbers (ex. 20 + C + M + B + 24). While C, M, B, can represent the 3 Kings (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar), they can also be interpreted "Christus mansionem benedicat", translated "Christ bless this house".)



¿Cómo hacer la bendición?

Los miembros de la familia se reúnen ante la puerta principal y hacen la señal de la cruz. Luego se lee esta oración:

Monitor: Paz a esta casa. **Todos:** Y a todos los que la habitan.

Monitor: Desde Oriente llegaron los Reyes Magos a Belén a adorar al Señor, y abriendo sus tesoros ofrecieron dones preciosos: oro para el gran Rey, incienso para el verdadero Dios, y mirra como símbolo de su sepultura.

Todos ingresan a la casa y leen el Magnificat. En ese momento se asperja la puerta con agua bendita, y se continúa:

Todos: Desde Oriente llegaron los Reyes Magos a Belén a adorar al Señor, y abriendo sus tesoros ofrecieron dones preciosos: oro para el gran Rey, incienso para el verdadero Dios, y mirra como símbolo de su sepultura.

Monitor: Padre nuestro, . . . no nos dejes caer en tentación **Todos:** Y libranos del mal.

Monitor: Todos los de Saba vendrán. **Todos:** Trayendo oro e incienso.

Monitor: Oh Señor, escucha mi oración. **Todos:** Y que mi clamor llegue a Ti.

Monitor: Oh Dios, que con la guía de una estrella manifestaste en este día a tu Hijo unigénito a los gentiles, concede que los que te conocemos por la fe alcancemos también la visión de tu gloriosa majestad. Por Cristo, nuestro Señor. **Amén.**

Monitor: Ilumínate, ilumínate, oh Jerusalén, porque ha venido tu luz, y la gloria del Señor ha surgido sobre ti: Jesucristo, nacido de la Virgen María.

Todos: Los gentiles caminarán en tu luz y los reyes en el esplendor de tu ascenso, y la gloria del Señor brilla sobre ti.

Monitor: Bendice, Dios Todopoderoso, este hogar, para que en él haya salud, pureza, la fuerza de tu victoria, humildad, bondad y misericordia, el cumplimiento de tu ley, la acción de gracias a Dios Padre y al Hijo y al Espíritu Santo. Y que esta bendición permanezca sobre este hogar y todos los que habitan en él. Por Cristo, nuestro Señor. **Todos:** **Amén.**

Luego se camina por la casa asperjando agua bendita en cada habitación y se escriben las letras C, M, B unidas por cruces, en la puerta principal, flanqueadas por los números del año.

20 + C + M + B + 24

Esto se hace al inicio del año para invitar a Dios a los hogares y poner a las familias bajo su protección.