Here is a suggestion to keep the Christmas Celebration going. Some communities have a custom of blessing homes while recalling the visit of the Magi on Epiphany (The Sunday between January 2 and 8 - traditional day January 6). The old Roman Ritual provided an Epiphany blessing of incense, water and chalk in church to be distributed and taken home. While we did not distribute these items at Mass this Epiphany, with some adaptation, the custom might be preserved. At home, the current year and the initials of the legendary names of the Magi are marked above the doorway with chalk or perhaps the children of the household could color a strip a paper that is taped to the door frame.

\[20 + C + M + B + 21\]

A prayer is said by a member of the household as described on the reverse side of this sheet while the lettering is written or placed on the doorframe. The C-M-B are the initials of Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Another explanation of C-M-B is Christus mansionem bennedicat, May Christ bless this dwelling place. Incense is burned during a festive meal (some novelty shops sell inexpensive “incense”) or a potpourri could be used, and the rooms of the home sprinkled with holy water, a sign of the River Jordan, site of Christ’s baptism and another “epiphany” (that is, revelation) of the Lord. Another fun thing to do; place a coin secretly under a piece of cake that is served as dessert. The cake could be decorated with green, gold and purple icing or coloring - the Magi’s colors, the colors of Mardi Gras which also begins on the feast). The person who gets the coin is King or Queen of Epiphany in the household. Crown the person with a paper crown the children can make beforehand or fancy hat. But, the “royalty” has responsibility, for they must provide a treat to the family on the last day of Mardi Gras, the day before Ash Wednesday when Lent begins!

For those who desire a more detailed blessing of the home the ritual on the other side of this paper may be used.
A Ritual for Families to Use
For Blessing their Homes on Epiphany

The Household gathers at the manger scene and all make the sign of the Cross as the leader begins:

**Leader:** In the name of the Father...
Peace be with this house and with all who live here.
Blessed be the name of the Lord.

**ALL:** Now and forever

**Leader:** During these days of the Christmas season, we keep this feast of Epiphany, celebrating the manifestation of Christ to the Magi, to John in the River Jordan, and to the disciples at the wedding at Cana. Today Christ is manifest to us (as a family) and in this home which is a holy place!

**A member of the household reads one of these scriptures:**

**Reader:** A Reading from the Gospel of John/Matthew...

Gospel of John 1:1-3 and 14 OR Matthew 2:1-12

(at the conclusion) The Gospel of the Lord!

**ALL:** Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ!

The members of the house write with chalk or place above the front door the initials of the magi and year as described on the other side of this sheet while the leader says:

**Leader:** May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, Jesus who is Lord for ever and ever.

**ALL:** Amen!

Everyone then processes from one room to another. In each room, God’s blessing is asked on all that takes place in that room by a member of the household using his or her own words. Holy water, if available, may be sprinkled. When all return to the starting place, the Our Father may be said. Then the leader says:

**Leader:** Let us pray (pause for silent prayer)

Lord God, you revealed your Son to every nation by a star.
Bless this house and all who live here with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of your law.
Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect the light of your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**ALL:** Amen!

**Leader:** Let us bless the Lord.

**ALL:** Thanks be to God. (All make the sign of the cross.)

Then everyone might sing “We Three Kings” or “O Come, All Ye Faithful”