# Epiphany Traditions

## Chalking the Door

Over 2000 years ago the Magi—Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar—travelled over a great distance. They followed a star the whole way and found baby Jesus. Chalking the door is an Epiphany house blessing ritual, a visible sign of our faith and a welcome to all who come through the door. It helps us to remember God is with us, always.

Mark your door with the initials of the three Magi, and the numerals of the new Year connected by a series of crosses: 20 + C + M + B + 22

The C M B also stands for the Latin prayer request, Christus Mansionem Benedicat, *May Christ bless this house.*

*Blessing*

 *Loving God, Bless all who come into our home*

 *May all who enter in come in peace*

 *May all who come in this door find welcome and love*

*May peace and love fill our home and spread out*

*into the community and the world.*

## Star Luminaries

Light shines brightest in deep darkness. Create a star luminary that will bring light.

### Paper Bag Luminary

Materials:

* paper lunch bag
* pencil
* darning needle
* sand
* LED tealight

Directions:

1. Draw a star onto the paper bag.
2. Use a darning needle to poke holes on outline of the star (and throughout star if you wish).
3. Put approximately 1 cup of sand in bottom of the bag.
4. Place the LED tealight into the center of the sand. Enjoy your luminary!

### Tin Can Luminary

Materials:

* tin can
* sharp, narrow nail
* hammer
* marker
* LED tealight

Directions:

1. Ensure the can has been carefully washed and dried before beginning. Remove any paper labels.
2. Draw a star pattern of your choosing onto the can with the marker.
3. Fill the can with water and freeze. This will prevent the can from bending when you hammer into it.
4. Lay the can on its side, and use the nail and hammer to poke holes along the outline of the star. You may need a towel to hold onto it. This part can be tricky!
5. Let the ice melt.
6. Place the tealight in bottom of can. Enjoy your luminary!