

JANUARY 2026

| GRATITUDE |

KOLBE

LITURGICAL

Living

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

Happy New Year! This month we are celebrating the monthly virtue: **GRATITUDE**. Seeing everything as a gift and being thankful. *"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him"* (Colossians 3:17).

Throughout January Kolbe students will learn about gratitude through these inspiring exemplars: **St. Francis of Assisi, St. Julie Billiart, and St. Josemaría Escrivá**

We are called as parents and teachers to instill these virtues into our homes and community as well. Here are a few creative ideas to help you, your family, and community celebrate and live the mystery of Christ throughout the Liturgical Year.

Ad maiorem Dei gloriam!

LITURGICAL LIVING AT HOME

Elementary

- **Gratitude** is recognizing everything as a wonderful gift from God! This month, try practicing gratitude by going on a fun nature hunt and discovering as many things as you can, big or small, to thank God for. You can even keep this thankful spirit alive on your next car ride.
- Think about someone special you'd love to write a **thank-you card** to. Maybe a grandparent, parent, teacher, or your priest. Share with them why they are so special and how much they mean to you!

Middle School

- Try practicing gratitude by starting a **gratitude journal**. Each day this month, take a moment before bed to write down all the things you're thankful for—like sunshine, finishing an exam, a cozy meal, or a comfortable bed! You can share this list with your parent when you say your evening prayers.
- Consider **someone you might be taking for granted**—perhaps a parent, teacher, coach, or sibling. Surprise them with a special treat or a heartfelt card to show how much their love and support mean to you!



JANUARY feast days

Solemnity of Mary
(January 1)

St. Agnes
(January 21)

Epiphany of the
Lord
(January 4)

St. Thomas Aquinas
(January 28)

St. John Newman
(January 5)

For a complete list see the
**January Feast Day
Calendar** below.

LET US Pray

Epiphany Blessing of Your Home

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with
the gladness of your presence.

Bless all who live or visit here with the
gift of your love; and grant that we may
manifest your love to each other and to
all whose lives we touch.

May we grow in grace and in the
knowledge and love of you; guide,
comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O
Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Amen.

"May Christ bless this home,
20 + C + M + B + 26"

(See page 3 of this guide for a complete
blessing and helpful instructions to enjoy
together as a family.)

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JANUARY FEAST DAY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God	2 St. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen	3 The Most Holy Name of Jesus
4 The Epiphany of the Lord	5 St. John Newman, Bishop	6	7	8	9	10
11 The Baptism of the Lord	12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Anthony, Abbot
18	19	20	21 St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr	22 Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children	23	24 St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
25	26 Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops	27	28 St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church	29	30	31 St. John Bosco



St. Francis of Assisi, St. Julie Billiart, and St. Josemaría Escrivá,

Pray for us!

Traditional Epiphany Blessing of the Home



This year, in the United States, the **Epiphany of the Lord** is celebrated on January 4th.

It is a long-held Catholic tradition to bless one's home on (or near) the celebration of the Epiphany by using chalk to write a special inscription above the home's entrance. Here is the blessing to do with your family in your own home.

The inscription written over the door changes every year. For this year, you should write: **"20 + C + M + B + 26."**

The Letters C, M, and B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They are also the first letters of the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The + signs represent the cross, and 2026 is the year.

Here is a very family-friendly Epiphany home blessing.

Blessing the Chalk:

Priest/Adult: Our help is the name of the Lord:

All: The maker of heaven and earth.

Priest/Adult: The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

All: From this time forth for evermore.

Priest/Adult: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest/Adult: Let us pray.

All: 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 all who use it in faith to write upon the doors of their homes the names of your saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit their home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(You may sprinkle the chalk with holy water.)

Instructions for Blessing the Home:

Optional Scripture Reading: *Matthew 2:1-16*.

Also optional, you can sprinkle holy water in each room of your house while singing hymns or praying the rosary. Then gather at the front door of your home.

Using the blessed chalk, mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step, or a wall within your home) as follows:
"20 + C + M + B + 26" saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty-six years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then say the following prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Amen.

Read more about this ancient tradition:

[How to bless your home with Epiphany chalk - Aleiteia](#)

[Epiphany House Blessing with Chalk - Catholic Icing](#)

[Resource from www.OurLadygc.org](http://www.OurLadygc.org)

