

“Where it is customary to invite the parish priest to the homes of parishioners on the Feast of the Epiphany or during the week(s) following, this blessing may be used.”

The Book of Occasional Services



Dear friends,

A new year is here! I always look forward to what a new year can bring, and this year is no exception. I imagine we have all been waiting for the calendar to roll over into 2021, praying that this is the year we will get a handle on this virus and recapture some semblance of normalcy.

What a year it has been. I am anticipating that our Annual Parish Report will be very different from most, for the pandemic has challenged and changed just about everything we do around here at Christ Church. And with the coming of Epiphany, I am ready for another challenge and another change. In other words, I am thinking *House Blessings*.

Epiphany has always been the traditional time for homes to be blessed, putting in mind the Holy Family and how they were blessed by those first visitors, the Magi. Girls Friendly Society has taken advantage of this tradition for several years; it has become our custom to have a House Blessing in the home of one of our girls – along with a festive party, of course!

I don't know about you, but I am more than ready for some festive time with each of you. This year, I have decided to offer an Epiphany Season of House Blessings. I may still not be able to come inside your home, but I would be honored and delighted to stop by and bless your home from your porch, yard, or even a hallway (if you are in an apartment or condo). There are so many of you that I have not seen in such a long time; even a face (even a masked face) from a window would be a welcome blessing to me.

Here is what you need to do: take a look at your calendar, then call or email the church office with your name, address, and a proposed date for a blessing. We will try to work everyone into the schedule who would like to participate. I would love to come and visit you this Epiphany Season. Only do not mistake me for magi or anyone wise; I will not be bringing incense, frankincense, or myrrh. What I will bring are holy water, a smile, and prayers for a new year for a new time.

I am already practicing the opening words we so need to hear, *Peace be to this house, and to all who dwell in it.*

Peace,

Mother Lisa+