

STATE COUNCIL SERVICE PROGRAM AWARDS

ENTRY FORM



Faith

Council Information:

Council Number: 11606

Total Council Members: 37

Grand Knight: Tom Bosiak

Email: TBosiak@gmail.com

Program Information:

Program Title: Epiphany Home Blessing

Project Date:

01/04/2026

Participation: $\frac{6}{\text{Members}} + \frac{4}{\text{Non-members}} = \frac{10}{\text{Total Participants}} \times \frac{16}{\text{Participant Hours}} = \frac{24}{\text{Total Volunteer Hours}}$

Program Planning: $\frac{25}{\text{Cost}} \& \frac{8}{\text{Time}}$ **Members Recruited** 0 **Donations:** $\frac{\$0}{\text{Local Currency}}$

Describe the program in full detail using the space below and on page 2. Programs must be organized by the council or involve significant participation by council members to qualify. Programs must also engage members by enhancing faith and spirituality, serving a charitable purpose, or a combination of the two. Program descriptions should reference how they meet these criteria. *Along with the description of the program, provide the program's purpose, goals, accomplishments and why it deserves to win the award.*

Supplementary material may be submitted along with the nomination. Accompanying materials can include letters, testimonials, news clippings, photographs, pamphlets, etc. Do not submit tapes, videocassettes, DVD's, display materials, films, etc., as they will not be considered in judging the nomination.

In order to enhance the quality of faith in the parish families, Council 11606 decided to promote the tradition of the families blessing their homes with the tradition of saying prayers as a family while inscribing the main entrance to the home with the inscription 20+C+M+B+26 using chalk, representing the year 2026 and the three magi who visited Jesus at his birth; Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.

The Council procured the chalk and provided the parish with the explanation and instructions for blessing their home.

We recruited the pastor to bless the chalk during mass, and he went further and not only explain the tradition during his homily, but used Jubilee Holy Water he recently received from a parishioner's trip to the Holyland to bless the chalk. Father explained that the marking of the door was akin the Israelites marking their doorposts with **the lamb's blood** inviting God's protection into their homes, ensuring their safety on the first Passover.

The Knights along with family members distributed the chalk after Mass and many of the Parishioners commented they never heard of the tradition while others stated they participated in the past at other locations and were glad to see the parish participating this year. The Pastor was not only glad to participate but requested the Knights carry on the tradition in future years.

The benefits of this tradition include:

1. Blessing and Protection: The chalk is a sacramental, symbolizing God's blessing and protection upon the home and its inhabitants.
2. Faith Formation: It is an opportunity for families to come together in prayer and deepen their faith.
3. Evangelization: The marked door serves as a witness to the Christian faith to neighbors and passersby.
4. Reminder of Christ's Presence: The chalk mark reminds residents that Christ is present in their homes and lives.
5. Unity with the Church: Participating in this tradition connects individuals and families to the universal Church and its liturgical calendar.
6. Continuity with Tradition: It is a way to maintain a connection with ancient Christian practices and customs.
7. Prayer for Blessings: The ritual includes prayers for blessings on the home, family, and all who enter.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Schaefer, Lecturer
Council 11606

Files Attached: [6998a05bdf098-Epiphany Home Blessing - details.docx](#)