

**St. James Episcopal Church**  
**A Moment for Kids—of All Ages!**  
**JANUARY 3, 2016—THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
**THE THREE KINGS**



When Jesus was born, wise men came from far away to bring Jesus gifts. They brought gold, frankincense and myrrh. What gift would you give to the baby Jesus?

**BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME:  
THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS**

The Three Kings (maybe?)

*Wise men from the east came seeking a child who was born to be king, whose birth in Bethlehem had been foretold in the stars and prophecies. They followed the star which led them to where Jesus was with Mary in Bethlehem. They paid Jesus homage and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, and then they went back to their own country. This is a summary of what we learn in Matthew, chapter 2, which is the only gospel account that mentions these visitors to Jesus.*

**What we know:** a group of wise men or *magi* came from the east to seek this new king whose birth had been foretold in the stars and offered gold, frankincense and myrrh.

**What we don't know:** Where they kings, scholars or astrologers? Did they travel on camel? How many people came? What country or countries were their homes? How long did they travel? When did they arrive? Was Jesus still living in the stable or had they moved to a house by that time? Some scholarly thinking says that it was that Jesus was actually about a year old when the wise men arrived.

**The Three Gifts:** Each of the three gifts had a practical value as well as symbolism for who and what Jesus is.

<b>Gift</b>	<b>Practical Use</b>	<b>Symbolism</b>
<b>Gold</b>	very valuable currency	kingship on earth or virtue
<b>Frankincense</b>	incense and perfume	God, deity or prayer
<b>Myrrh</b>	anointing and embalming oil	Death or suffering

These gifts tell us that Jesus is King, Jesus is God and that Jesus will suffer and die for us. Matthew wanted to be sure that through his story we understand the wonderful gift that God has given to us in the birth of Jesus.

***Dinner Table Conversation:***

*If you could give anything thing in the world as a gift to someone, what would you give?*

*What is the best gift you have ever received?*

*Why do you think the wise men traveled so far to find Jesus?*

*What do you think they expected to find?*

*Do you think they were surprised by what they did find?*

This insert is prepared by Mother Bonnie. If you have any questions about it, please let me know.  
It is posted weekly on [www.stjamesbatavia.org](http://www.stjamesbatavia.org)