

## *The Wandering Wise Ones*

From Matthew 2:1-12 we learn about the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus at some point after his birth. It was not part of the day of like our Nativity scenes often like to show us but happened after much travel, searching, and wandering.

While traditionally there are three Wise Men, the Gospel of Matthew does not actually specify a number, and some traditions have as many as twelve. The gifts these Magi brought were: Gold, a precious metal, which was a symbol of wealth and kingship; Frankincense, an incense or perfume, which was used symbolically for a deity or god; Myrrh, used to create an embalming oil, and a symbol for death. They are gifts from the Three Kings, another name used, for the newborn King. These three do have names that are traditionally know in the church and are Balthasar, who is often represented as a king of Arabia, Melchior, as a king of Persia, and Gaspar, as a king of India.

As part of the Advent and Christmas season we want to wander with the Wise Ones as we seek the Light of Jesus Christ in the world. So you are encouraged to take the Wise Ones and go wandering as you seek Jesus Christ in others and to be Jesus Christ like in others' lives. Have them wander your home, your car, outside, inside, have them seek Jesus, even as we do. The reason they are Wise Ones is that you too are part of the journey seeking Jesus Christ throughout this season, and all of us who seek Jesus Christ in our lives can seek the wisdom that comes from His teachings and the grace found in His love.

January 6<sup>th</sup> is traditionally the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas and the Day of the Three Kings. It also known as Epiphany, when the revelation has been made known to us all. So as it gets closer to the 6<sup>th</sup> have the Wise Ones draw closer to the Nativity Scene and on January 6<sup>th</sup> celebrate them finding Jesus Christ and coming to understand the gift He is to us from God. Celebrate too your own journey throughout as you too have sought Jesus Christ's Light that shines in the darkness throughout this season.