



Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

JANUARY 2025

Where are the Wise Men?

Happy New Year. I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas. We are now in January, when many Christians celebrate Epiphany, also known as Three Kings Day, which is the feast day commemorating the visit of the Magi, or Wise Men, to the Christ Child.

The wise men are a part of our Christmas story as they hold a prominent place in our nativity scenes and pictures, even though we know that they most likely arrived sometimes later. The timing doesn't matter as much as the fact that they did come. We don't know how many there were in their entourage. What we do know is that they were people very interested in when a king would be born who would change the world. They were sometimes considered to be "king makers". Identifying and proclaiming a new king. So, just like the shepherds in Bethlehem—who were tasked with approving the lambs used for the Passover Sacrifice in the Temple—and were used to fulfill the requirements of proving the newborn Jesus met the requirements to be our sacrifice, these magi served a role in proclaiming their approval of the Christ child as the true king.

When these men saw the star and connected it with the prophecies they had studied, they decided to make the journey to find this newborn king. For them, this child represented hope and a better future. He represented life to them and hope that he would rule with justice. He would be a wise counselor and—as Isaiah said—a Prince of Peace.

When you think about it, we are like the wise men. We have a need and a longing for hope; to know that the future can be better and brighter than today. We need to know that we are never really alone, and that there is light in the midst of the darkness. What people need today is to know that what Jesus said is true: that "I am the way, the truth and the life." Isn't that the reason Jesus was born?

Sometimes, we are the magi who are in the darkness and need to find the light, and other times, we are the star to lead people to Bethlehem. We become the light that shines in the darkness that helps other people find Jesus. Jesus said, "**You are the light of the world, a city set on a hill cannot be hidden, so let your light so shine before others that they might see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**"

Sometimes it's a simple act of blessing someone, sharing the Good News with them, seeing how you can serve others or help to meet a need in their lives. Or just sharing your own story with them. This is what it means to be followers of Jesus.

Christmas was last month, but when we put Christ first, then we can capture the true meaning of Christmas and make it a year-round practice in our lives. When we say, "Lord, here am I, send me." God can use us to change the world around us.

The wise men came seeking Jesus. Today, wise men still seek Jesus.

So, where are the wise men?

Look in the mirror. If you are a child of Christ, then you are called to be a wise man in the world today.

Always and All Ways in Christ
Rick Saunders
Grand Prelate