

It Seemed Irrational

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Isaiah 60:1-6 • Glory of the new Zion
- ▶ Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 • Commission to preach God's plan
- ▶ Matthew 2:1-12 • The visit of the magi

The story of the magi following the star to Bethlehem to find the baby Jesus is one of the most heartwarming parts of the Christmas story. The Greek word for the foreign visitors is best translated “magi” although in popular understanding they are sometimes called the “Three Kings” or the “Three Wise Men.” Whoever they were, they are an example to us of great courage and trust. They willingly left their home countries to travel for an unknown distance in search of a newborn child they knew nothing about. They packed expensive gifts (a dangerous/courageous act when traveling overland in those days) and met with the most powerful man in the country, King Herod, on their quest to find the baby.

When they found the baby in an unassuming little town in an ordinary family, their hearts told them they were in the right place and they were overjoyed. The humble surroundings didn't stop them from worshiping the little child and then offering their lavish gifts to him. After that, they dared to listen to their dreams and defy the King, thereby protecting the vulnerable child. Probably none of what they did seemed rational to those around them, but because they followed an inner guidance, we still celebrate their journey today.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Do you know someone who has done something to follow his/her heart which



© Jean Denton flock.pastoralcenter.com

“They were overjoyed at seeing the star... they opened their treasures and offered him gifts.”

Sheepish Question:

Instead of wishing, how can I put my faith in Jesus—the true light of the world—into action?

seemed completely irrational at the time but turned out for good? Please share.

- 2 When have you followed your intuition/inner guidance/Holy Spirit even though it went against cultural or family norms? How did it bear fruit?

*Word of the Week • Copyright © Ann Naffziger.
Published by the Pastoral Center /
PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved.*

