

The Three Gifts



In one sense the three wise men, kings who came bearing gifts from afar, were the first gift-givers at Christmas. They serve as models of the generosity found in the human heart.



Their example of sharing the wealth with a poor, homeless family offers guidance to us.

Like the Magi, we have three gifts to offer—if only we look deep within ourselves to find them. Our gifts are more valuable than gold, because they come from within.



Respect: Showing respect to others is a gift to ourselves and to everyone we meet. It's a skill all people, from the very young to the very old, can practice.

The gift of time. Spending an afternoon with a grandparent, an elderly aunt or uncle or a neighbor can lift the human spirit.



Kindness: It's the easiest gift to give, simply greeting people on the street, looking into their eyes, sharing a smile and saying hello.

There are other virtues, but offering our respect, treating others with kindness, and giving time are good places to start. They can be our modern version of the three gifts presented by the Magi to our Lord at Bethlehem.

