

News Story Summary

On the morning of November 23, Jose Moran, janitor at Holy Child Jesus Church in Queens, New York, set up the church's nativity display, just to the left of the altar. Then he took a lunch break. When he returned, he heard a baby crying. He looked around and didn't see anyone else in the church, so he went to investigate. In the manger, swaddled in towels, was a tiny, newborn baby. The child had been abandoned by his mother. Moran summoned other church staff and they called 911. The baby was rushed to the hospital and determined to be in good health.

Since this story was initially reported, the church staff members report that they have received too many phone calls to count. They reported receiving e-mails from people all over the country, all wanting to adopt the child. On the eve of Thanksgiving, people young and old poured into the church for worship. They couldn't keep their eyes off the manger where the tiny baby had lain. Many thanked God for the wonder of creating a beautiful child, protecting him, and keeping him healthy with the hope of a good future.

(For more information on this story, search the internet using the phrase "child abandoned in Queens church.")

Focus Attention

Relay the story above to the class. Ask: *Why do you think so many people expressed joy and love at the arrival of this baby?*

Point out that today's lesson focuses on the arrival of the first baby boy to occupy the manger, who, by the way, was the Savior of the World! We will examine the response of the wise men to His birth. Challenge them to look for how the wise men learned of Jesus' birth, why they so desperately want to find Him, what hardships they endured in their pursuit, the emotions they expressed, what did they do when they found Jesus, and how they protected Him.

Challenge

Remind the group of the response of people to the baby found in the church in Queens, NY. Encourage the group to examine their responses to Jesus' birth as they approach His birthday. *Is your heart filled with joy and love as you remember Jesus' arrival on earth? Are you compelled to worship Him and to give Him gifts? What gifts can you give Him for His birthday this year?* Lead the group in prayer asking God to fill each one present with awe, joy, and love, and a desire to give Jesus our best this Christmas!