



January 5, 2025
 The Epiphany of the Lord
 St. Norbert's Parish
 P.O. Box 101
 Long Lake, WI 54542



E-mail: stnorbertlonglake@yahoo.com
 Website: www.stnorbertlonglake.com

Weekly Mass ~ Sunday 10:30 am
 Administrator ~ Fr. Anil Polumari

Parish Support: December 22, 25, 29, 2024 - \$513.00

Mass Intentions: Jan 5th – Ann Lever Jan 12th – Marlene Halada Carmitchell

Announcements:

Fr. Polumari will be gone on Vacation to India starting from January 26 through February 26, 2025. He requests prayers for his sister's upcoming wedding on Feb. 6, 2025 and for the safety of his travels. Fr. John Cerkas will be doing the weekend masses.

Please join us for cake & coffee after Mass to celebrate Fr. Anil & Jerry's birthday!

Trustees & Parish Council Members

Rick Roberts 715-966-6112

John Touchett 715-674-5339

Darlene Gilligan 715- 889-6232

Francie Gilligan 715- 889-2151

Bonnie Lewis 715-889-1043 – Secretary/Bookkeeper

Servers, Lectors, Cantor, Greeters

Rick Roberts, John Rodaer, Francie Gilligan, Maline Enders & Mary Counard

Additional Area Masses

St. Leonard's Church (Laona) Mass Schedule

Sun 9:00am, Tues -Fri 7:30am, Sat 4:00pm

St. Hubert (Newald) Saturday 4:00pm

*****Mass Stipends as set by the Diocese of Green Bay*****

Wedding - \$100.00 Funeral - \$75.00 Mass - \$20.00

(Payable to St. Norbert's Church – Contact Parish Bookkeeper)

Baptism – By Appointment/Confessions – Every Sunday after Mass

Mass Hymns January 5th

Entrance Hymn:

#111

We Three Kings

Verses 1 & 5

Final Hymn:

#112

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

All Verses

The magi In the fifth century BC the Greek historian Herodotus wrote that the magi, originally from Medes, exercised a priestly role. They also prophesied and interpreted dreams. In truth, we don't know for sure who they were. Our uncertainty about the identity of the magi enhances the wonder and drama of their visit. **The star** Matthew presents the magi as being able to interpret celestial events. At the time of Jesus, many people believed that the appearance of a star, a comet, or a planet was a sign. In this case, the star signified that a future king had been born. Some biblical scholars also see a connection to the pagan prophet Balaam. He prophesied that the one who would defeat the enemies of Israel would be like a star advancing from Jacob (Numbers 24:17). **Kings** As current king of the Jews, Herod is shaken by the news that a potential usurper has been born. The negative reaction of all Jerusalem (v.3) points ahead to the ultimate rejection of Jesus, as does Herod's attempt to kill the child (v.16f). The magi, meanwhile, offer gifts to the child as was customary when visiting a monarch. These gifts recall the prophecy from the first reading. Because Matthew lists three specific gifts, Christians later assumed that there were three magi. **Homage** When entering the presence of a ruler, it was customary to prostrate oneself or bow down (v.11). The magi's obeisance foreshadows the worship of Jesus as Son of God (14:33, 28:17). The magi's homage also points ahead to Jesus' command to his followers to make disciples of all nations (28:19). The magi represent the Gentiles who will be receptive to the story of Jesus.

Paradigmatic attitudes to Jesus: From the very beginning of Jesus' life, and later throughout the entire Gospel, we see human beings exhibiting two basic attitudes towards him: they either accept him or reject him. Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men from the East (today's Gospel), Simeon and the prophetess Anna accept the reality and mystery that surround Jesus of Nazareth. King Herod, the priests and teachers of the Law (Gospel), and the Bethlehemites adopt an attitude of rejection. From the very outset, Jesus is a controversial flag: some, filled with joy, wish to always hold it up very high; others, who are hostile, wish to bring it down and destroy it. It is not obvious, although it is easily perceived, that already in the Old Testament these are the two attitudes of people before God, which in the New Testament become the attitudes of the individuals before Jesus Christ and the early Church; and that such attitudes have continued to exist in history until the present day. Whether or not people want him to, whether or not they know it, the person of Jesus has something to do with their life, and not in a merely accidental way. Jesus is the link between human life and history. The reason lies in the fact that all people, deep in their conscience, are seeking a Savior, and the only true Savior is Jesus Christ. This truth is not a philosophical axiom or a deduction of mathematical logic, but a loving revelation of God "to the apostles and prophets" and through them to all human beings (second reading). Human beings can make mistakes in their quest for the Savior, they may even think about and seek other saviors, but whomever they may think about, the target towards which they aim the arrow of their heart is Jesus of Nazareth, the world's Redeemer. **From attitudes to actions:** Attitudes logically lead to action. The Magi discover in the firmament the star of the Messiah, they diligently set out, they overcome quite a few obstacles, and before the child Jesus, they prostrate themselves, worship him and offer him their gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. These are concrete actions with which they manifest their joyful acceptance. They are the representatives of the Gentiles, prefigured in the first reading taken from Isaiah, "The nations will come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness." Herod is startled, investigates, hides his intentions, plots the death of this child. The high priests and scribes, in turn, show their knowledge of the Scripture, and confine themselves simply to providing information. Throughout Jesus' life and in the twenty-one centuries of Christianity, how many millions of actions have been undertaken for and against Jesus, rejecting him and accepting him! This is an extraordinarily valuable key to reading and understanding the history of the West, but also that of the East: universal history. The great upsets and falls of empires, the great changes in political, cultural or social realms, with all the related consequences, the great ideological movements: don't they receive their most powerful light from "Christ, the event," rejected by some, accepted by others? All must reflect upon this historical key. *P. Antonio Izquierdo, L.C., Copyright © Dicastery for the Clergy.*