

# Father Dave's Weekly Homily

**01/08/12 ..... Epiphany**

-- When the Son of God comes into the world as a human being, we can't do the celebration of this event justice in just one day or even one weekend. It's an event that requires our contemplation over a period of time.

-- We all remember the song *The twelve days of Christmas*. In earlier times gifts were exchanged each day from December 25 to January 6, the traditional date of Epiphany. Now we celebrate this feast on the Sunday after the first of January.

-- The world around us has pretty well finished celebrating Christmas, and is gearing up for the new year, primaries, an election and all that goes with it. But the Church tells us that Christmas needs yet to be completed.

-- In this feast Jesus, the Son of God, is shown to all the nations of the world. The Magi represent those nations, as they sincerely seek God's special presence in this child. Though they are not a part of the Chosen People, they see the Savior of the world and give him the worship he is due.

-- Herod, on the other hand, is only interested in worshipping himself. He is on guard for anything which might challenge his power, and seeks to destroy it. He represents those in our world who make themselves gods.

-- Those Magi, or wise men, recognized Herod's insincerity and left for their land by another way. But the "other way" was not just a route home. It was a change in them. Because of that change, they would bring news of this child to their people.

-- And later traditions tell us that they were among the first followers of Christ as the Church moved out into the world.

-- Many years ago, our parish was given the name traditionally ascribed to one of these Magi. Early on, our ancestors in faith recognized that

they were disciples carrying on the faith that was carried to others centuries before by these men, including the one we name Caspar.

-- Instead of the East, they carried it west, to this corner of 19<sup>th</sup> century Northwest Ohio. We started as a small community but have grown over the years.

-- And so we gather together now over 160 years since our community first began to gather, and over 92 years after we formally became an independent parish.

-- The question which confronted Herod, his people, the Magi and eventually all people of the world still is relevant to us: Who will we worship? Will we worship the One who came to suffer, die and rise for us? Or will we worship ourselves, serving our own needs, even in the so-called religious things we do?

-- Our call is to give the things of the Lord priority in our lives, to give the worship of God and our love of God and neighbor the place it deserves.

-- We don't come together as a parish community simply to serve our social needs, or our desire for importance. We come together to worship God and serve him in our neighbor, especially our neighbor in need.

-- As the present members of St. Caspar's, we stand on the shoulders of many people who have carried out this calling over more than a century and a half of faith building.

-- May we continue their tradition, by using our energy, time, talent and treasure to give due worship to our Lord, and to serve him in our neighbors around us. May we leave here by another and better way, the way of Christ Jesus.