

Children's Christmas Pageant

The children's Christmas Pageant will take place at 7:30 P.M. on December 24, 2008. We are in need of musicians, readers, and children to join in the performance of this joyful event. Please call the rectory if interested (868-5855).

Altar and Rosary Society

The next meeting for Altar and Rosary Society will be on Monday, December 15 at 7:00 P.M. in the rectory meeting room. Communion Sunday will be on December 21st.

Altar and Rosary is offering a 6 x 6 magnetized decal saying "Keep Christ in Christmas". We are asking a donation of \$5.00 each. See members in back of the church or entrance of the social hall.

Toys for Tots

The Marine Corp. is collecting Toys for Tots for the holidays. There will be boxes placed in our church and also at the Chiverella garage located at 479 So. Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top. If you have any questions please call Carol Chiverella at 474-1331.

Pro-Life

Father Mark Honhart would like all of our Confirmation candidates to attend the March for Life event on Thursday, January 22, 2009.

If you would like to make a reservation for the bus, please call the rectory at 868-5855. Plans for fund raising and the bus are taking place at this time. Information regarding the event will be sent home with the students.

Weis Gift Certificates

Do you shop Mr. Z's or Weis Markets? Would you consider buying certificates? Use as cash. For information, please call Pat Osisek at 868-5479.

"Mission Delicious Thank You"

Dear Father Mark and Parish,

Thank you very much for the cookies and Christmas Cards. The boys are enjoying the cookies as I write this. It's nice to know that we are not forgotten about over here.

Thanks Again. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

MSgt. Michael Sanders

2008 Deanery Advent Penance Services

Sun., Dec. 14 - 3:00 PM - St. Jude, Mountain Top

Mon., Dec. 15 - 7:00 PM - Maternity of the Blessed Mother,
40 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre

Sun., Dec. 21 - 7:00 PM - St. Aloysius, 143 W. Division St.
Wilkes-Barre

Mon., Dec. 22 - 3:00 PM - St. Theresa, 35 Old River Rd.
Wilkes-Barre

Mon., Dec. 22 - 7:00 PM - St. Nicholas, 226 S. Washington St
Wilkes-Barre

In Today's second reading we hear St. Paul counsel us to "not quench the Spirit." St. Athanasius (4th century) says, "The only way we can continue to be partakers of Christ is to cling until the end to the Holy Spirit, who was given to us at the beginning. Paul said, 'Do not quench' not because the Spirit is under the power of men but because evil and unthankful men certainly do wish to quench the Spirit. Demonstrating their impurity, they drive the Spirit away by their unholy deeds."

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, To heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and release to the prisoners, To announce a year of favor from the Lord"... "Make straight the way of the Lord..." "May the God of peace make you perfect in holiness."

How familiar the words of Isaiah, which we probably remember because Jesus quoted them as He proclaimed His mission. He is the Christ, the Anointed One, filled with the Spirit and sent with a specific task.

The good news is the Person of Jesus Christ. He reaches every strata of society, the poor and humble, the shattered, scattered and hurting. He speaks a word of encouragement and freedom. Yes, this advent time is a period of special grace, to look for and forward to the promised Messiah.

Listening to the Jewish prophet or the cousin precursor, we seek what He has to offer. We make straight His way and look for the paths which lead to Him. "Tell us who you are so we can give some answer to those who sent us." I ask myself, which quality of Jesus touches me most deeply, the news itself, the healing I seek, and the freedom for which I long? As I search out the answer this advent week, I want to tell someone else how I come to recognize His coming and His presence.