

Sweethearts Dance

St. Mary's Knights of Columbus will be hosting their annual Sweethearts Dance on Saturday, February 7, 2009. Come and join in the fun with dancing and a five-piece band, buffet dinner, beer, soda, mixers and many door prizes. Seating is limited to 125 people. The cost is only \$17.50 a person or \$35.00 a couple. Make your reservations early by contacting Marc Mickowski at 868-8566 or see a brother Knight.

Parent Confirmation Meeting

There will be a parent Confirmation meeting immediately following 8:30 A.M. Mass on Sunday January 11, 2009.

The Giving Tree

Thank you to all who donated gifts for our Christmas giving tree. The presents were delivered to Catholic Social Services to be distributed to the needy. Our parish has been placed on the list to help out each Christmas for this worthy cause. God Bless you for your kindness.

Mission Delicious

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all of the cookie donations for Mission Delicious. The generosity of our parishioners was so overwhelming that we were able to send cookies abroad and also to our Veterans who are now in the VA hospital in Wilkes-Barre.

We received a thank you letter from the hospital and wanted to share with you what they had to say:

Dear Ladies,

On behalf of the Wilkes-Barre Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of five boxes of cookies for our patients. Your thoughtfulness reflects the concern that you feel for our veterans and for the sacrifices they made for all of us while in service to our country.

Without your support, we could not provide for the extra comforts that make hospitalization more bearable. Your thoughtfulness also reflects the concern and compassion that our community feels for our veterans.

Thank you for your kind support,

Sincerely,
Brenda Devine

FOCA

Today we are facing the most serious and unprecedented threat to the sanctity of human life. This threat is the "Freedom of Choice Act, or FOCA. FOCA is a sweeping anti-life bill that creates a "fundamental right" to abortion throughout nine months of pregnancy. If FOCA becomes law, it will put at risk all the widely-supported laws that for 35 years have promoted women's health, ensured informed consent, protected minors, ensured parental involvement, safeguarded rights of conscience, and respected the desire of most citizens not to support abortion with their tax dollars. What you can do! Sign the postcards, write a letter to Congress, call your Senators and Representatives and meet with them, send an e-mail message, write a letter-to-the-editor, call a radio talk show, speak at a public event, place an ad in the local paper. Visit www.nchla.org and uscba.org/prolife/issues/FOCA.

THE HOLY FAMILY DECEMBER 28, 2008

"Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. Over all these virtues put on love which binds the rest together and makes them perfect..." "The child grew in size and strength, filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him."

Three days remain in the current year. How many times will people hear discussions about 'new year's resolutions'. Some are serious about change; others will forget pledges and promises within a few days. As we approach a new year let's create a plan.

Because of the richness of St. Paul's letter today, why not revisit the gifts and virtues which he wished others to have, and search out whether they are found in our own lives. I wonder if they are Christmas gifts we forgot to open.

On this family day please reflect for a moment. Of the seven virtues mentioned above, who in my family seems to have mercy or kindness? Who is it who possesses patience and meekness?

Where is humility or forgiveness found? These are essential elements in family life. How blessed I am to find them manifest in others.

The next questions may be more difficult. Of the seven virtues mentioned which ones do I reflect in my dealings with others? Do I see that I can heal through mercy, bring others together through kindness, lead by being a person of the beatitudes, and share serenity and tranquility through my patience. Before the year runs out, at least in my prayer, who do I wish to forgive or from whom to seek forgiveness. Am I ready to build 2009 based on these virtues and the love which is the mortar to unite these bricks as one?

As I consider my family and family relationships I too, like the Christ child, -the gift - will grow in strength, wisdom and grace. Thanks be to God for the graces of 2008. Lord I ask your abundant life in 2009.

