

Dear Friends,

I wish to use this week's bulletin article to pay homage to the Women's Club who, after over 70 years of faithful service, have decided to disband. They have done A LOT for the parish over the years and their contributions cannot be underestimated. There is some sadness in this but there's also a realization: nothing, even the best of things, cannot last forever. The following excerpt was composed by a member of the club. It offers tribute and brings to light a group that did so much for the parish for so many years.

All Saints Women's Club

The All Saints Women's Club was started in 1947 at a meeting in the American Legion Hall at the Erwin Town Hall. Its goal was to promote friendship and activities among Catholic women living in the community.

When it was organized, the club dedicated itself to Our Lady of Good Counsel. Quickly, it became a source of welcome to Catholic women who came to reside in the community. Their gatherings included a variety of programs reflecting educational, charitable, religious and social aspects.

With the building of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in 1951, it became the Immaculate Heart of Mary Women's Club (IHM). The Club grew when Father Harold Rogers was pastor (1951-1981) and greatly expanded under Father Walter Wainwright's leadership (1981-1990). Sister Rita Heberle was our inspiration and guide during the 1980's. Craft and bake sales, Christmas teas, Harvest dinners and other dinners, opened to the whole parish during the years, were enjoyable endeavors. From various fundraisers, such as the very successful cookbook sale, the club was able to donate stained glass windows and in a large way, provide financial help toward the purchase of a new statue of Mary which Fr. Wainwright had commissioned in Italy and had sent to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

After the consolidation of our four churches the club was opened to women of St. Mary's, St. Vincent's, St. Patrick's and Immaculate Heart of Mary and became All Saints Women's Club. All Saints Women's Club of 73 years will no longer be in existence this year because of all the changes in our community and our lives. What fond memories and delightful friendships we have enjoyed while making our "light shine" in our community.

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:12-17

