

October 4, 2020  
Bulletin #40

## ***Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church***

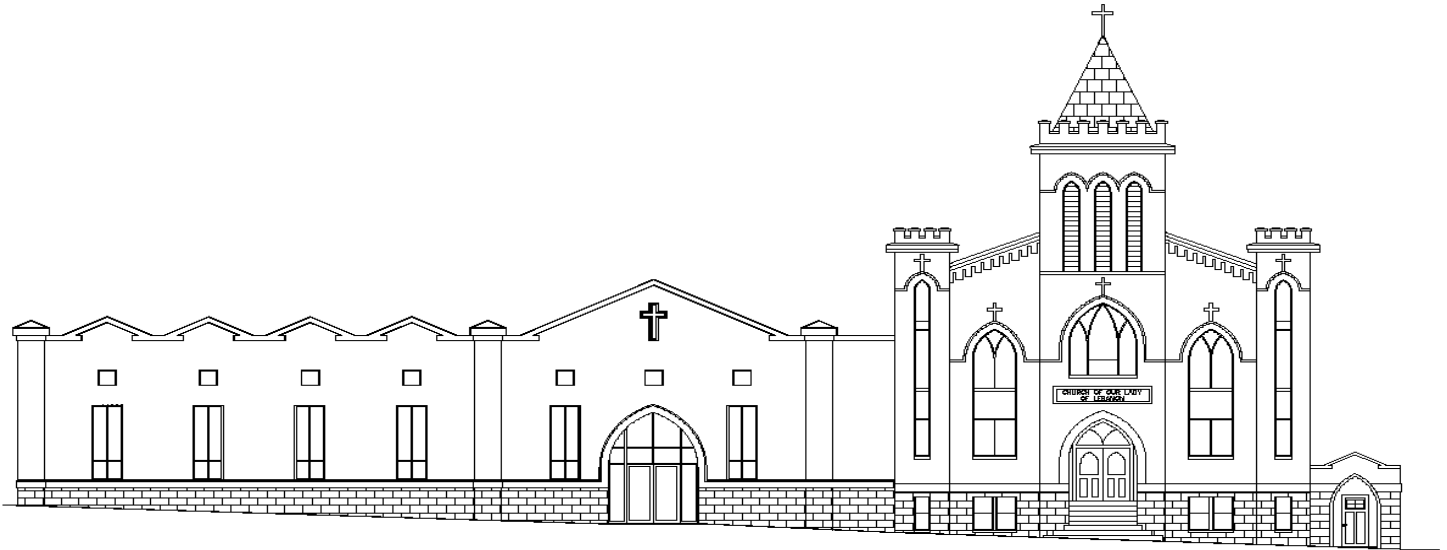
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Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Organist



### ***3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Holy Cross***

**\*Weekend Masses:**

**Saturday at 4:00 p.m.** *(For Senior Citizen 65 years & older)*

**Sunday at 10:30 a.m.** *[Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass]*

**\*Weekday Masses:**

**Tuesday and Thursday at 12:05 p.m.** *[Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass]*

**Monday, Wednesday, and Friday No Mass. Pastor's office work.**

**\*Confession:**

Saturday: 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. or any other time by appointment

**\*Baptism:**

Please call the Pastor as soon as baby is born; at least one Godparent must be Catholic

**\*Weddings:**

Please make arrangements at least **six** months in advance before any other plans are made

**\*Sick Calls & Anointing of the Sick:** Please notify the Pastor at 304-233-1688

**\*Parish Council:** Lou Kourey, Rita Strawn, Mary Stees, Susan (John) Burns

**\*Choir Members:** Lou Kourey, Robert Harris, Joe Simon, Shelly Hancher, Ted Olinski

**\*Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer

**\*Altar Servers:** Earl Duffy, Dalton Haas

**\*Altar Boys:** Shaun Hancher, Christopher AlKhouri

**\*Cedar Club:** Linda Duffy, President

**\*Women's Society:** Carol Dougherty, President



**\*Bulletin Announcements:** Submit all Bulletin Information to Msgr. Bakhos by Noon on Tuesday every week

**\*New Parishioners:** We welcome you with great joy & invite you to officially register as one of our parishioners

**\*Remember the Church in your Last Will & Testament:** Her prayers will accompany you to heaven

## *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Holy Cross*

Readings: Phil 3:17-4:1 and Mt 24:23-31

If the day and the hour of the coming of Christ are known to none save God, then all life must be a constant preparation for that coming. And, if that is so, there are certain basic sins.

- 1- To live without watchfulness invites disaster. A thief does not send a letter saying when he is going to burgle a house; his principal weapon in his nefarious undertakings is surprise; therefore a householder who has valuables in his house must maintain a constant guard. But to get this picture right, we must remember that the watching of the Christian for the coming of Christ is not that of terror-stricken fear and shivering apprehension; it is the watching of eager expectation for the coming of glory and joy.
- 2- The spirit which leads to disaster is the spirit which says there is plenty of time. It is the comfortable delusion of the servant that he will have plenty of time to put things to rights before his master returns. There is a fable which tells of three apprentice devils who were coming to this earth to finish their apprenticeship. They were talking to Satan, the chief of the devils, about their plans -to tempt and ruin men. The first said, "I will tell them there is no God." Satan said, "That will not delude many, for they know that there is a God." The second said, "I will tell them there is no hell." Satan answered, "You will deceive no one that way; men know even now that there is a hell for sin." The third said, "I will tell men there is no hurry." "Go," said Satan, "and you will ruin them by the thousand." The most dangerous of all delusions is that there is plenty of time. The most dangerous day in a man's life is when he learns that there is such a word as *tomorrow*. There are things which must not be put off, for no man knows if for him tomorrow will ever come.
- 3- Rejection is based on failure in duty, and reward is based on fidelity. The servant who fulfilled his duty faithfully was given a still greater place; and the servant who failed was dealt with in severity. The inevitable conclusion is that, when he comes, Jesus Christ can find us employed in no better and greater task than in doing our duty.

### ***This Weekend, October 3-4: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Cross***

#### **Saturday, October 3 at 4:00 p.m.:**

- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her Will
- ✠ George Weisner by Dick & Ann Marie Serafin & Family
- ✠ Living & Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock Jr.

#### **Sunday, October 4 at 10:30 a.m.:**

- ✠ Living & Deceased members of the Nicholas & Nimnoom Ghaphery Family and the David Abraham Ghaphery Family
- ✠ Camille Rohanna (father) & Louis Rohanna (brother) by Mary Seabright Lish & Family
- ✠ Bill Dougherty by his wife Carol

### ***Weekdays Masses***

#### **Monday, October 5: No Mass. Pastor's day off**

#### **Tuesday, October 6 at 12:05 p.m.:**

- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will
- ✠ Khalil & Sadie & Maria Harb & Annette & Al Togliatti by Jamil Harb (MI) & GiGi
- ✠ Deceased of the Thomas, Splatt & Nutter Families by John & Kathy Thomas (MN)

#### **Wednesday, October 7: No Mass**

#### **Thursday, October 8 at 12:05 p.m.:**

- ✠ Nancy Ferris Coffield (Birthday) by Mary Zaid Stees and Libby G. Magnone
- ✠ Kathleen Olinski by Anne Foreman
- ✠ Martha Thomas by her husband Latif Thomas

#### **Friday, October 9: No Mass**

## *Next Weekend, October 10-11: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Cross*

### **Saturday, October 10 at 4:00 p.m.:**

- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her Will
- ✠ George Weisner by Dick & Ann Marie Serafin & Family
- ✠ Living & Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock Jr.

### **Sunday, October 11 at 10:30 a.m.:**

- ✠ 40-Day Mass for Stanley Watch by Carol Dougherty
- ✠ Louis N. & Louis H. Khourey, Sr., by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena and Louie Khourey
- ✠ Bill Dougherty by his wife Carol

## *Calendar of Events*

Saturday, October 3 <sup>rd</sup> From 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.	Everything is half price in the Rummage Sale in the basement of the church
Sat. & Sun, October 17 & 18	Lebanese food festival pick up orders
October 31 until November 6	All Souls Masses

## *Lebanese Food Festival* – Order Pick-up Dates October 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

The Lebanese Festival Committee is proud to announce that preparations for the Our Lady of Lebanon Church **LEBANESE FOOD FESTIVAL** are underway! Although we were very disappointed that the Lebanese Festival – *Mahrajan* had to be cancelled this year due to the pandemic, we are enthusiastic about the opportunity to offer a Food Festival to our church family and community.

The Lebanese Food Festival will be different from anything we have ever done before because of current guidelines for social distancing. Our Lebanese Food Festival will be **PRE-ORDERS ONLY, & PRE-PAYMENT ONLY. PICK-UP** will be on either Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> OR Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Orders must be Paid-in-Advance. Order forms should have been received at your homes by now.

When you received the order form, you will see a wonderful selection of food items including: Kibbee, Grape Leaves, Meat Pies, Spinach Pies, Hummus, Lebanese Rice, Baklawa, Lebanese Mix of Cookies, Zaatar, Pita Bread and many Market Place items.

Please complete your order form and mail back to the church with your payment.

**Reminder: Deadline for orders is absolutely Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Please understand that orders received after September 28<sup>th</sup> will NOT be accepted and will be returned to sender.**

So please, get your orders in quickly! You don't want to miss out on the chance to purchase GREAT Lebanese Food and support our church. If you need extra order forms please contact Susan at 304-242-5706. We look forward to seeing you on Pick-up Day! Thank you for your support and understanding.

**These are the generous Sponsors of the Lebanese Food Festival:**

Amt.	Last Name	First Name	Donation in Memory of
\$10,000			From Anonymous
\$1,000			Wheeling Convention Center
\$1,000			Wheeling Heritage
\$500	Harb	Jamil	Sadie Harb
\$100	McLaughlin	Mark & Barb	
\$100	McLaughlin	Mark & Barb	Sarah (Joseph) McLaughlin
\$100	Golebiewski	Michael & Terri	Samuel J. & Bernadine Elias
\$100	Golebiewski	Michael & Terri	Alphonse & Violet Golebiewski
\$100	Weisner	Randy	George Weisner
\$200	Palmer	Dr. Jack	Pete & Dr. Joe Palmer

\$100	Ferris	Denise	Thomas & Mary K. Ferris
\$500	Joseph	Vickie	Mike, Alphonse & Georgette Joseph
\$100	Depto	Al	Frank J. Depto Jr., & Susan Depto Frazier
\$100	Haddad	Simon	(Whitesville, WV)
\$100	Brock	Thomas	
\$100	Palmer	Peggy	
\$100	Committee	Bill & Tricia	
\$100	Myles	Timothy & Kathy	Ruth Byers
\$100	Peklinsky	Alicia	
\$100	Weisner	Mary Beth	George Alan Weisner
\$100	Mensore	John	Mensore Distribution, Inc
\$125	Gibbons	Ron & Kim & Kaitlin	
\$100	Porter	Dennis & Mary Lee	Porter & Schwizer Family
\$100	Khourey	Lou & Charlotte	The Khourey & Howard Families
\$100	Popovich	Joe & Nikki	George & Mary Popovich
\$100	Joseph	Kenneth & Nancy	
\$100	Fahey	George & Patricia	
\$100			The Habdo Family
\$100	Josephs	Larry	(Saint Paul, MN)
\$100	Maroon	Lula-Marie K.	Mary Ann Khoury
\$100	Kawas	Emilie	Joseph Kawas
\$100	Beatty	Tom & Sharon	
\$100	John	David & Greg	Deceased Loved Ones
\$100			Kepner Funeral Homes
\$100	Fadoul	Millet & Susie	
\$100	Steas	Bill & Mary	Zaid & Abdo Ferris Family
\$100	Oliver	Jim	
\$100	Thomas	Latif B.	
\$100	Saseen	George, Susan, Matthew & Luke	
\$100	Wetzel	William & Annette	Father Jim LaCrosse by Rusty & Annette
\$100	Jochum	Sue	Anna Shia Family
\$100	Kelly	Michael & Kathryn	
\$100	Joseph	Michael & Janet	Kareem & Alice Joseph
\$200	Schroeder	Mark A.	Al & Helen Schroeder
\$100	Comerci	James & Lynn	
\$100		Schmidt Bros. Sunoco/Tires & Service	
\$100	Renzella	Elsie	Nichola & Filomena Renzella & Deceased Members of the Family
\$100	John	Marjorie C.	Deceased of Victoria & Joseph J. John Family
\$100	Daniel	Eddie	Pete & Hasiba Daniel Family
\$50	Mansor	Angele C.	Raymond Mansor
\$100	Hankish	Rose	Paul N. Hankish
\$100	Hankish	Rose	Christopher Hankish
\$100	Hankish	Rose	Patricia Ross Hankish
\$100	Breiding	Lisa	Larry Breiding
\$100	Khoury	Drs. Rajai & Nahla	
\$100	Kazour	John & Kathleen	The Kazours
\$100	Hetzel	Robert W.	John & Lillian Hetzel
\$100	Abraham	Tom	

\$100	Goodson	Cathy	Evelyn Goodson
\$100	Gibbons	Bob & Paula & Scott	Lucy Gibbons
\$100	Chahine	Youssef & Jocelyne	Tita & Jeddo
\$100	Shia	Claire	Dr. George J. Shia
\$100	Hundley	Paula S.	George J. Shia
\$100	Fahey	Mike	Fahey-Leavitt Insurance Agency, Inc.
\$100	Saseen	Fran & Sons	Robert J. Saseen
\$100	Foreman	Ann	Roze Hazlett
\$100	Weisner	Jean	
\$200	Betras	Joe	Betras Family
\$200	Wakim	Chris & Jeannette	Blanche M. Wakim
\$100	David	Michael	
\$100	Duffy	Earl & Linda Fadoul Duffy	
\$200	Shutler	Janet	Deceased of the Shutler & Nolte Families
\$100	Joseph	Stephanie	Tessa Joseph
\$100	Vargo	Dr. Dianna M. Vargo	Ernest & Minnie Shia Vargo
\$100	Bowers	Claudia M. Khourey	Louise Nader Khourey
\$500	Ghaphery	Nick Jr. & Evelyn	Nicholas & Nimnoom Ghaphery
\$500	Ghaphery	Dr. & Mrs. A.D.	Living & Deceased of Ghaphery & Rydzak Families
\$100	Zambito	Al & Dana	
\$100	Altmeyer	Jim	Altmeyer Funeral Homes
\$100	Zdilla	Drs. Matthew & Christina & Family	
\$250	Carl	Maryann	Mr. & Mrs. John T. John
\$100	Abraham	Marc	Abraham & Company PLLC
\$100	John	Mark & Catherine	Michael John & Fred T. John, Jr. (brothers)
\$100	Albaugh	Dennis	Albaugh & Chidiac Family Members
\$100	Bine	Shirley	
\$100	Thomas	Latif	Martha Thomas
\$100	Kannan	Tom	Deceased of the Kannan Family
\$100	Kalkreuth	John & Sherri	The Kalkreuth Family
\$25	Mason	Linda	
\$50			Riesbeck Food Markets
\$100	Petros	Pat & Jackie	Petros & Fahey Families
\$100	Sofka	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sofka	
\$500	Weisner	David	
\$100	Weisner	Ron	Deceased Members of the Weisner & Joseph Families
\$650	Burns	Ron & Susan	Our loving parents John & Cecilia John and D. William Burns and our loving grandparents Tom & Sadie John, David & Tamamie Joseph, and Sarah Burns.
\$100	Geimer	Thomasina	
\$200	Seidler	Nettie	The George Family
\$100	Magnone	Libby G.	Deceased members of the Ferris Family: Elizabeth Ferris Magnone, Josephine Ferris & Thomas Ferris
\$150	Law	Myron & Cynthia	

\$100	Hostutler	Linda	
\$200	Weisner	Gary A.	
\$100	Coleman	Joe	Colemans Fish Market
\$100	Perilli	Paula	Lou Elias
\$100	Strong	Tammy	Shirley Elias Nickerson & Deceased Members of the Elias Family by their loving family
\$100	Abraham, Jr.	Josph N.	Abraham Families
\$100	McGlumphy	Jerry & Children	Leslie & Jerbear
\$100		Mountaineer Excavating	
\$100	Breit	Juliette A.	
\$100	Strawn	Rex & Rita	
\$100	Gompers	Matt & Vicky	Gompers Pharmacy, Inc.
\$100	Deeb	Bassam & Jodi	
\$100	Gain	Theresa, Don, Jenny, Jackie & Josalyn Mann	Uncles, Chorbishop Paul Abraham, Rev. Paul Coury & my mother Mounira Midlege
\$100	Strawn	Rex & Rita	
\$100	Baker	Joe	
\$100	Carroll	Jim & Rose Marie	In Memory of the beautiful friendship of Lucy Gibbons & Martha Ruggiero
\$100	Reasbeck	David & Cynthia	George & Ida Shia Lewis
\$100			Mitchell & Rachel Farrah
\$100	George	Kathleen	Thomas E. George
\$250	Joseph	Laura	The Nassief Lewis Family & Cater Joseph
\$200	Cater	MaryAnn & Vawter Robert	The Cater Family
\$100	Conti	Rosalie	Herman E. Conti Jr.
\$100	Murphy	Tom & Lori	Thomas George & Wilma Betras
\$100	Lish	Mary A. Seabright	
\$100	Sengewalt	David & Debbie	Bob Sengewalt
\$100	Bedway	Judy & Nick	The Nick Bedway Family
\$100	Bentz	Carolee	Reynolds & Bentz Families
\$100	Volk	Sarah	Marie Harb, Khalil & Sadie Harb & Al & Annette Togliatti
\$100	Misko	Diane	Peter & Emilia Misko
\$100	Duymich	Frank & Anna Marie	
\$100	Smith	Scott R.	
\$200	Carter	Orval & Clara	Clara Joseph Carter
\$100	Kazour	George	Aziz & Mahassen Kazour
\$100	Shiben	John & Dee	Joseph & Minnie Shiben
\$100	Storm	Adele & Bill	
\$100	Rice	GiGi & Rodney	Al & Annette Togliatti
\$28,850	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL

### ***All Souls Masses*** (October 31 until November 6)

✠ Anna Marie, Julian, Leslie & Jerry Jr. McGlumphy by Jerry McGlumphy & Children

✠ The Habdo Family by Carol Dougherty

✠ Bill Dougherty by his wife Carol

✠ Deceased of the Khourey & Howard Families by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Emmalena & Louie

✠ Virginia Khourey Bryan & Deceased of the Nabihah & Habib Khourey Family by the Khourey Family

✠ Jim Hengler, Marthann Rinehart, Elaine Cybulski, Joan Maroney, Darrell Burch by Millet & Susie Fadoul

- † Deceased of the Bentz, Fadoul, Sengewalt, Werner Families by Millet & Susie Fadoul
- † Robert L. Rose by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- † Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- † Cathy Sharp Howard by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- † George & Mary Popovich by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- † Helen Fielding & Augie Montalbano by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- † Deceased members of the Robert Shutler Family by Janet Shutler
- † Deceased members of the Pearl Nolte Family by Janet Shutler
- † Mary K. & Thomas Ferris by Denise Ferris
- † Sam & Bernadine Elias by Mike & Terri Golebiewski
- † Alphonse & Violet Golebiewski by Mike & Terri Golebiewski
- † William T. Breit by Michael & Nicole Breit
- † Mr. & Mrs. Walter Machel by Mr. & Mrs Michael Sofka
- † Mr. & Mrs. Leo Spyra by Mr. & Mrs Michael Sofka
- † Mr. & Mrs. Tim Stanton by Mr. & Mrs Michael Sofka
- † Ms. Violet Machel and Mr. William Sayre by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sofka
- † Jan Hendrickson by Josh & Ingrid Hendrickson
- † Dr. Stephen Ward by his granddaughter Ingrid Hendrickson
- † Al & Helen Schroeder by Mark Schroeder
- † Suzanne Bush by Mark Schroeder
- † Tom Jochum by his Family
- † Deceased of Anna Shia by her Family
- † Michael Josephs by Cyndi & Shawn Josephs Tobias
- † Will & Freda Josephs by Cyndi & Shawn Josephs Tobias
- † Thomas Josephs by Cyndi & Shawn Josephs Tobias
- † Deceased Members of the Josephs Family by Cyndi & Shawn Josephs Tobias
- † Deceased of the Thomas, Splatt & Nutter Families by John & Kathy Thomas (MN)
- † Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, and her son Mark by her last will
- † Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her Will
- † LaVerne Thomas, Siham & Elias Frenn and Evelyn Hall by Adel, Diane, Justin and Andreah & Zack Riedel
- † Walter Elwartoski by his son Richard Elwartoski
- † Lottie Elwartoski by her son Richard Elwartoski
- † George & Betty Joseph, Lawrence & Teresa Ferrera by Larry & Becky Ferrera
- † Selma & Elias Joseph, Edward & Edith Joseph, Sarah & Ray McLaughlin by Larry & Becky Ferrera
- † Our beloved parents John & Cecilia John and D. William Burns by Ron & Susan Burns
- † Our beloved grandparents Tom & Sadie John, David & Tamamie Joseph and Sarah Burns by Ron & Susan Burns
- † Our beloved Aunts & Uncles, Louis & Cecilia Ammar, Fred & Rita John, Sister Thomasina John and Julia Tappe by Ron & Susan Burns
- † Ralph & Mary Joseph Shipley by Thomasina Geimer
- † Robert L. Hunter, Jr. and Robby L. Hunter, III by Thomasina Geimer
- † Tony, Charlotte and Michael George by the George Family (MN)
- † Beloved husband Holly Bine by his wife Shirley
- † Beloved mother, father, sister and brother by Shirley Bine
- † Philip Petros by the Petros Family
- † Betty Lou Petros by the Petros Family
- † George A. Fahey by the Petros Family
- † Dolores Fahey by the Petros Family
- † Bert D. Fahey by the Petros Family
- †
- †

## ***Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:***

October 6:	Joe Popovich, Frank Duymich
October 9:	Susie Fadoul
October 10:	Linda Duffy
October 12:	Gina Haas
October 15:	Denise "Nini" Miller
October 16:	Karen John, Natalie DeMuth Mulvey
October 20:	Courtney Sengewalt
October 24:	Jonathan D. Fadoul
October 30:	Michael Duffy, Andreah Frenn
November 4:	Kenny Joseph, Libby G. Magnone, Dalton Haas

## ***Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List***

*(Note: Please call Msgr. Bakhos if you need your name added to our Prayer List. HIPPA regulations)*

Louis "Butch" Elias, Dennis Porter, Mary Thomas, Jack Hogan (infant son of Mark & Michaela Hogan & great nephew of Lou Khourey), Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, John Shiben, Laura Lee Hunter, Al Depto, Don Henning, Shirley & Jim George, Patty Fahey, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter), Mary Jo Terry, Barbara Hostage, Phil Geimer,

## ***Your Church Support Last Week***

\$924.00	Sunday Collection
4,116.00	Lebanese Food Festival
20.00	Candles
100.00	Donation to the church
10.00	Utilities
\$5,170.00	<b>Total Deposits:</b> <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i> The Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Mary Stees, Linda Duffy, Susan Burns

## ***What's New***

### ***Parishioners Emails Requested for Emergency Notices***

Dear parishioners, & visitors who attend Masses at OLOL: Please submit your email to Msgr. Bakhos so that he can email you if there is a message about changing dates or masses in case of sickness or snow emergency. Your emails will not be shared with anybody else because of privacy.

### ***Ma'amoul Cookies Available***

Delicious homemade Ma'amoul cookies made by the ladies of our church are available for sale. The cookies are prepacked, 2 cookies/package at \$3.00/package. Limited supply. Please call Mary Stees 304-242-2026 or Linda Duffy 304-242-6853

## ***Many Thanks***

--To the dedicated and responsible parishioners who sanitized the pews and every possible touched items on the way to Mass. May God reward you abundantly.



--To those of you who are wearing Masks properly at all times that you are inside Our Lady of Lebanon Church Building. This is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other flu & bacteria. Please note that **your Nose & Mouth are to be covered at ALL times** – especially when you are within 6 feet of another person.

## *News about Our Rummage Sale*

Dear parishioners and friends, Thank you everyone for all the wonderful sale merchandise. We are filled to capacity and can no longer accept donations.

The basement hall is open for shopping & drop-offs every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from noon to 3:00 p.m. We have many nice items for sale. Please pass the word around to your family, friends, & neighbors. Thank you.

--Linda & Luane

## *Spirituality*

The unity among the members of the Body of Christ (the Church) cannot be a vague and undetermined association that any member is free to change, any more than a human body can be changeable, sometimes having one eye and one ear or no heart and seven lungs. The unity of the faithful in Christ's Body is not organizational, although an organization is necessary, and although those who admire the Church for its unity of belief and faith and liturgy attribute this to its organization. The Church is, rather, an organism. As a human body is one because it has one soul, one visible head, and one invisible mind, so the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, is one because it has one soul -the Holy Spirit of God- one visible Head -Peter and his successors- and one invisible Head -Christ. As Christ took upon Himself a human nature from the womb of His Mother (overshadowed by the Holy Spirit), so He took from the womb of humanity (overshadowed by the Pentecostal Spirit) His Mystical Body, the Church. Christ teaches through His Body -therefore, His teaching is infallible. He governs through His Body -therefore, the authority is Divine. He sanctifies through His Body -therefore, the sanctification accomplished in the Sacraments does not depend on the personality or character of those who administer the Sacraments.

The Church is the Whole Christ, and it complements the individual Christ. In its physical aspect Christ's Body is perfect, but in its mystical aspect it is merely growing to perfection, for now it includes not only Him but us, with our imperfections. The prayers, sacrifices, and liturgy of the Church are offered not by the members alone -not by Christ, the Head alone- but by the *Head and members together* to the glory of God, the Everlasting Father. A new cell is added to the Mystical Body of Christ at every Baptism.

*Bishop Fulton Sheen, Peace of Soul, 1949, pp.262-263*

## *Wisdom*

The most popular book of devotion in the history of the Catholic Church is *The Imitation of Christ* written by Thomas KEMPIS. It was first published in 1471, and has gone through six thousand separate editions in dozens of languages. Thomas wrote this book as he watched his best friends and fellow members of his religious community suffer and die from the plague. Much of the book revolves around the issue of suffering.

Thomas wrote that it was not deep words that made a person holy and upright, but a good life, lived in God's presence. Thomas believed that God walked with the simple and revealed God's very self to the humble. For Thomas, there is no solution to suffering except to put your faith in the person of Jesus Christ.

The book of Job, in the Bible, explores the mystery of innocent people experiencing misery and evil. In this book, Job suffers great pains and hardships, but comes to the conclusion that faith in God must transcend personal pain and suffering.

Jesus advises his followers to take up their daily cross and follow him (Mt 10:38). Saint Paul reminds us that we suffer with Christ so that we may also be glorified with him (Rom 8:17). The Letter of James even goes so far as to challenge Christians to consider trials of any kind as a nothing but a great joy (1:2).

There is no doubt that we will all suffer. It is part of being alive. Our faith in Jesus is the bridge that can lead us over the chasm of suffering to the place of peace that so many of the early martyrs and great saints

found.

*Rev. Paul Coury.*

## *Story*

I envy Kevin. My brother Kevin thinks God lives under his bed. At least that's what I heard him say one night. He was praying out loud in his dark bedroom, and I stopped outside his closed door to listen. "Are you there, God?" he said. "Where are you? Oh, I see. Under the bed."

I giggled softly and tiptoed off to my own room. Kevin's unique perspectives are often a source of amusement. But that night something else lingered long after the humor. I realized for the first time the very different world Kevin lives in.

He was born 30 years ago, mentally disabled as a result of difficulties during labor. Apart from his size (6-foot-2), there are few ways in which he is an adult. He reasons and communicates with the capabilities of a 7-year-old, and he always will. He will probably always believe that God lives under his bed, that Santa Claus is the one who fills the space under our tree every Christmas and that airplanes stay up in the sky because angels carry them. I remember wondering if Kevin realizes he is different.

Is he ever dissatisfied with his monotonous life? Up before dawn each day, off to work at a workshop for the disabled, home to walk our cocker spaniel, return to eat his favorite macaroni-and-cheese for dinner, and later to bed. The only variation in the entire scheme are laundry, when he hovers excitedly over the washing machine like a mother with her newborn child.

He does not seem dissatisfied. He lopes out to the bus every morning at 7:05, eager for a day of simple work. He wrings his hands excitedly while the water boils on the stove before dinner, and he stays up late twice a week to gather our dirty laundry for his next day's laundry chores. And Saturdays-oh, the bliss of Saturdays! That's the day my Dad takes Kevin to the airport to have a soft drink, watch the planes land, and speculate loudly on the destination of each passenger inside. "That one's goin' to Chi-car-go!" Kevin shouts as he claps his hands. His anticipation is so great he can hardly sleep on Friday nights.

And so goes his world of daily rituals and weekend field trips. He doesn't know what it means to be discontent. His life is simple. He will never know the entanglements of wealth or power, and he does not care what brand of clothing he wears or what kind of food he eats. His needs have always been met, and he never worries that one day they may not be.

His hands are diligent. Kevin is never so happy as when he is working. When he unloads the dishwasher or vacuums the carpet, his heart is completely in it. He does not shrink from a job when it is begun, and he does not leave a job until it is finished. But when his tasks are done, Kevin knows how to relax.

He is not obsessed with his work or the work of others. His heart is pure. He still believes everyone tells the truth, promises must be kept, and when you are wrong, you apologize instead of argue. Free from pride and unconcerned with appearances, Kevin is not afraid to cry when he is hurt, angry or sorry ...

He is always transparent, always sincere. And he trusts God. Not confined by intellectual reasoning, when he comes to Christ, he comes as a child. Kevin seems to know God - to really be friends with Him in a way that is difficult for an "educated" person to grasp. God seems like his closest companion.

In my moments of doubt and frustrations with my Christianity, I envy the security Kevin has in his simple faith. It is then that I am most willing to admit that he has some divine knowledge that rises above my mortal questions.

It is then I realize that perhaps he is not the one with the handicap - I am. My obligations, my fear, my pride, my circumstances -they all! Become disabilities when I do not trust them to God's care. Who knows if Kevin comprehends things I can never learn? After all, he has spent his whole life in that kind of innocence, praying after dark and soaking up the goodness and love of God. And one day, when the mysteries of heaven are opened, and we are all amazed at how close God really is to our hearts, I'll realize that God heard the simple prayers of a boy who believed that God lived under his bed. Kevin won't be surprised at all!

*A Time to Laugh (472)*

## ***God versus Darwin***

One day, a group of Darwinian scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. So they picked out one Darwinian to go and tell God that they were done with Him.

The Darwinian walked up to God and said, “God, we’ve decided that we no longer need you. We’re to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things, so why don’t you just go and get lost.”

God listened very patiently and kindly to the man. After the Darwinian was done talking, God said, “Very well, how about this? Let’s say we have a man—making contest.” To which the Darwinian happily agreed.

God added, “Now, we are going to do this just like I did back in the old days with Adam.”

The Darwinian said, “Sure, no problem,” and bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt.

God looked at him and said, “No, no, no. Go and make your own dirt!”

## ***In the Beginning, There Was No Duct Tape***

God created the world before Home Depot existed. That’s a theological concept I cannot comprehend. I take at least five trips to Home Depot during every project. The first trip is to buy materials, the second to return what I purchased and get the correct items, the third is to ask questions, the fourth because I forgot the answers, and the fifth to ask if I can pay someone to do the project for me.

Obviously, God is a better creator than I am. God created the entire universe. I can barely assemble a gas grill.

Frankly, I have never completed a project and said, “it is good.”

There are thousands of ways my ability to create pales in comparison to God’s. For instance, during the creation of the world, God separated the light from the darkness. I have separated my children when they fight, but that’s about it. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. I called my neighbor to borrow a metric wrench to assemble the grill. God created “swarms of living creatures.” I paid an exterminator \$189 to get them out of my basement.

If I had created the world, my first words would have been, “Let there be duct tape to keep the stars from falling out of the sky and the leaves on the trees.” Not God. His project was free of artificial adhesives. In my view, that’s more miraculous than creating man from dust.

Not once during the six days did God have to go back and fix what he messed up the previous day. That raises the theological question, “Did God have instructions when creating the world?” Some Scripture scholars believe God had instructions but didn’t read them, proving God is a man. Other scholars argue that God cannot be a man because there were no leftover parts on the sixth day when the project was completed. I’m no Bible expert, but if God is a man, I doubt He would have started the project in the first place. God created the world “in the beginning.” Men never start a project in the beginning but rather wait for their wives to ask four or five times. I have discovered two ways that I resemble the Creator. First, it takes me the same amount of time to assemble a gas grill that it took God to create the world: six days. Second, God rested on the seventh day. My wife says when it comes to napping, not even God is better than me.