



March 20, 2022

Bulletin #12

# Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

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Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



## Sunday of the Prodigal Son

### \*Weekend Masses:

**Saturday at 4:00 p.m.** [Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass]

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

### \*Weekday Masses:

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

**Thursday at 12:00 Noon** [Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass]

**Friday during Lent: 5:30 p.m. Mass followed by Stations of the Cross & Reflection**

### \*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, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad

### \*Choir Members:

Lou Kourey, Robert Harris, Joe Simon, Shelly Hancher, Holly Stahl

### \*Bulletin Coordinator:

Thomasina Geimer

### \*Altar Server:

Earl Duffy and Joe Roxby

### \*Altar Boy:

Christopher AlKhoury

### \*Cedar Club:

Linda Duffy, President

### \*Women's Society:

Jeannette Wakim, 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

## *Sunday of the Prodigal Son*

Readings: 2 Cor 13:5-13 and Lk 15:11-32

A preacher showed his congregation a crisp \$20 bill and asked who wants it. All hands went up. Then he crumpled it in his palms and asked who still wanted it. Again, all hands went up. Lastly, he threw it on the ground, marched on it and repeated his question. Still the hands went up. Then he explained to them that the difference between a new, crisp \$20 bill and a rumpled and soiled \$20 in our eyes is the difference between a good person and a bad person in the sight of God. Both are equally acceptable. Basically, both stand equal before God.

In the story that we heard today, both sons were equal in the eye of the loving father. Although the younger one transgressed his rules and went away to live a filthy life. His father never stopped loving him.

His older brother was not much better than him and that was revealed when he raged his anger and refused to come into the house and celebrate the return of his brother who was dead and is back to life now.

A teacher was going through the story of the Prodigal Son with the young children. At the end of the story she asked, "Who do you think is the one that ended up in the worst situation?" One of the kids shot up her hands and answered, "The fatted cow." The animal-loving child was certainly correct, but the answer the teacher properly expected was "The elder son." He was the looser.

We don't know what happened to the older son, but he was not in the best positions. Instead of rejoicing that his brother who was presumed dead has come back to life, he is angered by the fact that their father has received him back with a celebration.

We so often act like the elder son. We say "this is unfair, we need justice. He or she is a sinner and deserves punishment." We act as if we were gods or superior to others. Jesus told the hypocrites in the Gospel, "*Whoever of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw the stone.*"

We are all sinners my brothers and sisters and need constantly God's mercy and love. If you are a saint, please don't come to church next week, or better yet come and show us the way to heaven.

Whether your sins are more visible like those of the younger son or more hidden like those of the elder son, the message of the Gospel today is that we all need to repent and return to the father's house.

God's love is far greater than our capacity to love. We often want to punish, God wishes to reconcile, we want to hurt others, God wishes to heal, we want to retaliate, God wishes to forgive. God can forgive what we refuse to forgive. He will always welcome back and rejoices with his angels at the repentance and return of any sinner. Yes, God patiently seeks and awaits the conversion of every person. God will do everything that He can do to save us. He loved us even to the point of dying for us.

Two things I want you to take as a lesson from today's Gospel:

First, that we have a Sacrament in the Church that we call "Reconciliation, or Penance or Confession," that has been forgotten by so many. I urge you to approach it, especially during this season of Holy Lent. As we humbly kneel and recognize our sins, God celebrates our repentance and dresses us with the finest robe, a beautiful ring, and lovely sandals. It is through our union with God, that we experience true joy and peace.

The second thing that I want you to learn and remember from today's Gospel is that we are all called to act like the father in today's Gospel. We are called to forgive and create peace with everyone around us. To love our neighbor as Jesus loved us and even to love our enemies and pray for them.

Jesus said that before you approach the Altar and present your offering, you must reconcile yourself first with anyone that has a problem with you or you have a problem with them. When time comes for Holy Communion, everyone lines up in the aisle, but are we ready to receive the Eucharist worthily? Do we have any grudges, hatred or sinfulness toward anyone? If yes, I should go and reconcile myself with them first and then come and offer my sacrifice and receive Christ into my heart.

If you have a problem with a sibling or an old friend or any person, I urge you to reconcile with them today. Go knock at their doors, pick up the phone and call them, write them a letter of peace and love. Do whatever you have in your power. The choice is yours! Do it today, for tomorrow may be too late for you or them.

The power of Christianity is in love and forgiveness. Even if you do not like someone or get along with them, you must love them.

This is the heart of our Lenten journey, to be forgiven and to forgive. However, if we do not forgive others, we will not be forgiven. Our Father who are in heaven... Forgive us as we forgive those who trespass against us.

I hope and pray that this Holy Season will bring a deeper love and appreciation of the gift of forgiveness that God bought for us with the blood of His Son, and I hope that we will all make true peace with everyone around us.

It is at that time that Easter would mean anything to me. It is at that time that I am a child of a Loving Father who loves me and calls me to love so that His kingdom may come and His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

## ***This Weekend, Mar 19-20: Sunday of the Prodigal Son***

### **Saturday March 19 at 4:00 p.m.: Saint Joseph Feast Day**

✠ Bob Sengewalt by his wife Sally

✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will

### **Sunday, March 20 at 10:30 a.m.:**

✠ John T. John & Cecilia John by Ron & Susan (John) Burns

✠ Khalil & Sadie & Maria Harb & Annette & Al Togliatti by Jamil Harb (Troy, MI)

## ***Next Week Mass Schedule***

**Monday, March 21:** No Mass. Clergy Retreat

**Tuesday, March 22:** No Mass. Clergy Retreat

**Wednesday, March 23:** No Mass. Clergy Retreat

**Thursday, March 24:** No Mass. Clergy Retreat

**Friday, March 25:** No Mass. No Stations of the Cross today. Clergy Retreat

## ***Next Weekend, Mar 26-27: Sunday of the Paralytic***

### **Saturday March 26 at 4:00 p.m.:**

✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, and her son Mark by her last will

✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will

### **Sunday, March 27 at 10:30 a.m.:**

✠ Bess Ferris Garcia (Birthday by Mary Zaid Stees and Libby G. Magnone

✠ Michael & Annette Howard (Anniversary) by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena and Louie Khourey

## ***Schedule of coming events***

Sat. & Sun. March 26-27 2 <sup>nd</sup> collection for Ukraine	Our Eparchy (Diocese) is scheduled for March 26 & 27, 2022, to have a second collection drive for Ukraine. The funds collected will be forwarded to the church in Central and Eastern Europe which will provide humanitarian aid and assistance to the victims of war in Ukraine.
Bishop's visit to our parish	Saturday and Sunday, April 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Palm Sunday	April 10
Good Friday	April 15
Easter Sunday	April 17
May Queen	Sunday, May 1 <sup>st</sup> following Mass. Isabella AlKhouri will be the 2022 May Queen. All Families having children willing to share in the procession, please call 304-233-1688 so that we can prepare flowers for everyone.

## ***Easter Lilies in Memory of:***

These generous parishioners sponsored the Easter Lilies to decorate the church and the tomb of Christ at Easter in memory of their beloved ones:

✠ Gladys Howard and Louise N. & Louis H. Khourey, Sr., by Lou & Charlotte Khourey and Family

✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt

✠ Ralph & Mary Joseph Shipley by Thomasina Geimer

✠ Robert Hunter Jr. & Robby Hunter III by Thomasina Geimer

- ✘ Deceased Family members of Thomasina Geimer by Thomasina Geimer
- ✘ Phillip Geimer by Thomasina Geimer
- ✘ Deceased members of Danny & Milly Manners by NiNi Miller
- ✘ Deceased Family Members of Chris & Jeannette Wakim
- ✘ In Honor of Robert Harris
- ✘ In Honor of Jean Weisner & her Family
- ✘ In Honor of Frank & Anna Marie & Michael Duymich
- ✘ In Memory of the McLaughlin & Joseph & Miller Families by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- ✘ In Honor of the Frenn Family by Dr. Adel & Diane Frenn
- ✘ In Honor of Fran Saseen & her Family Members
- ✘ In Loving Memory of John T. John & Cecilia John by Susan John Burns
- ✘ Deceased Family members of Jerry McLumphy especially Leslie
- ✘ In Honor of Tammy Strong
- ✘ In Honor of Kenny & Nancy Joseph
- ✘ In Momory of Bill Dougherty by his wife Carol Dougherty (OK)
- ✘ In Momory of The Habdo Family by Carol Dougherty (OK)
- ✘ In Loving memory of grandparents Tom & Sadie John, David & Tamamie Joseph by Susan John
- ✘ In Loving memory of Aunts & Uncles: Louis & Cecilia Ammar, Fred & Rota John, Sister Mary Thomasina John and Roland & Julia Tappe by Susan John
- ✘ In Loving Memory of Helen Rohana, Mike Rohana and all Deceased Family Members of the Rohana and Rahi Families by Chamse Rahi
- ✘ In Loving Memory and Honor of the entire Saseen Family by George & Susan Saseen and Family

### ***Easter Obligation fulfilled***

Many Thanks to those who fulfilled their Easter Obligation this year.

Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Susan (John) Burns, Ron & kim Gibbons, Millet L. Fadoul & Family, Cathy Goodson, Pat & Caroline Popicg, Mark & Barb McLaughlin, Joe & Nikki Popovich, Frank & Anna Marie Duymich, Jean Weisner, Ron Weisner, Mark Schroeder, Earl & Linda Duffy, Bill & Mary Stees, Tammy Strong, Kenny & nancy Joseph, Veronica Mushet, Shirley Bine, Mary Beth Weisner, John & Dee Shiben, John & Opal Ritts, GiGi & Robert Rice, Dr. Jack & Rose Palmer, Jim Moses, Myron & Cynthia Law, Mary Rose Kukula, Dave & Greg John, Marge John, Rosalie Conti, Bill & Tricia Committee, The Frenn Family, Randy P. Weisner, George & Patty Fahey, Angele C. Mansor, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sofka, Carol Dougherty, Maryann Carl, Larry & Becky Ferrera, Garry & Pauline Ferrell, Linda Hostutler, Paula Perilli, Rex & Rita Strawn, Dave & Debbie Sengewalt, Larry & Lillian Siebieda, NiNi Miller, Denny Albaugh, Debbie & Mark Huffman, Jane Palmer, Dr. Dianna M. Vargo, Elsie Renzella, Sue Jochum,

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

- March 21: Caroline Stees McDowell
- March 22: Jennifer Imer
- March 26: Joseph John
- March 30: Greg John
- April 1: Patrick Sengewalt
- April 6: Ronald Weisner
- April 8: Jesse John
- April 11: Randy Weisner
- April 12: Justin Frenn
- April 13: Adel Frenn
- April 14: Mark McLaughlin
- April 20: Angela Petros

## ***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)*

Thomasina Geimer, Mary Stees, Rex & Rita Strawn, Viola J. Yeater (mother of Jeannette Wakim), Mary Thomas, Jack Hogan (infant son of Mark & Michaela Hogan & great nephew of Lou Khourey), Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, John Shiben, Patty Fahey, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter), Ted Olinski, Patricia Corder,

<b><i>Your Church Support Last Week</i></b>	
\$640.00	Sunday Collection
1600.00	Diocesan Appeal
178.00	2 <sup>nd</sup> collection for Caritas
48.00	Candles
50.00	Donations to the church
50.00	Donation in Memory of Jean Chaiban by Dr. Frenn & family
150.00	Mahrajan. Donation by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
45.00	Easter Lillies
\$2761.00	Total Deposits: <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i> Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Mary Stees, Linda Duffy, Susan Burns, Liz Murad

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

### ***Our Bishop Will Visit Our Parish***

Dear parishioners and friends,

Our beloved Bishop Elias Zaidan will have an eparchial visit to our parish to celebrate the weekend Masses with us on Saturday and Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. You are all invited to attend Mass and listen to him and to share in the luncheon at the Cedar Hall on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> after the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

In the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, there are 42 parishes and missions across 18 of the 34 states in our diocese. The Eparchy does not have sufficient resources to fund all the vital programs and ministries that are necessary for a vibrant faith community. Without your generosity, ministries would suffer. We could not afford to educate future priests or care for our retired ones. Thousands of underserved Maronites in areas without a local church will remain without a priest and place to gather and worship. Your gifts to the Eparchy, and in particular to the ***Vision for the Future– Mission for Today Capital Campaign***, ensure all the people and local churches within our Eparchy receive equal access to the sacraments and ministries today, tomorrow and for generations to come. --Msgr. Bakhos

### ***A Children Book***

Our parishioner Lillian Siebieda, the wife of our church's architect Larry, wrote a children book titled: "Jason finds happiness." The proceeds from this book are going to the Saint Jude Children Hospital to help cover family cost for about 15 chemotherapy treatments. The book sells for \$15.00. If parents and grandparents want to order this book to offer it for their children and grandchildren or any other children and at the same time help St. Jude children hospital for a right cause, please call Msgr Bakhos at 304-233-1688. Lillian is coming in March from Florida and she will bring your orders with her. Thanks for your cooperation.

### ***Rummage Sale Information***

Dear Parishioners and Friends, while you are sitting still during winter time, we have something for you to do. Please collect the items you want to donate to our church Rummage Sale and bring them with you on Saturdays and Sundays. Let Msgr Bakhos know that you have things, so the basement door can be opened for you. Please remember that NO CLOTHING. For any questions, call Linda at 304-242-6853

### ***2022 Mahrajan (Festival)*** *(Sunday, August 14, 2022)*

Our beloved Mahrajan is back!

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, Aug 14, 2022 and plan on spending the day with us celebrating the Lebanese Mahrajan (Festival) at Oglebay Park!

The Mahrajan Committee began preliminary planning last October. We feel confident that we can resume the Mahrajan safely outdoors in the wide-open space at Oglebay Park, Site #1. The festival will be one day only this year. The day will begin with an outdoor Mass at 10:30 a.m. followed by the Mahrajan which will begin at 12:00 noon (after mass) and close at 7:00 p.m. The committee will keep you updated on planning progress in the weekly bulletin. We also ask that you please feel free to make any suggestions or share your thoughts with any committee member.

#### **Mahrajan Update:**

- Band & singer have been booked and contract signed.
- Contracts for dancers and vendors have been mailed.
- 50/50 Raffle will take place. Details regarding 50/50 Raffle will follow in a few weeks.
- Menu items: All your favorite Lebanese food items are planned. More details to follow.
- Volunteers: We love and need our volunteers! No event can be successful without our volunteers. We will be meeting with the Women Club and Cedar Club in the following weeks to discuss the Mahrajan menu and volunteers. Also, all parishioners who are willing to help, please contact any committee member.

#### **Mahrajan Committee:**

Liz Murad, Mahrajan Committee Chairperson

Monsignor Bakhos, Lou Khourey, Susan John-Burns, Nick John, Ryan Storm, Ava Murad

### ***Spirituality: Original Sin and Redemption***

Then on Easter Sunday, by the power of God, He rises from the dead with His glorious sinless human nature, becoming the first note in the new creation, the beginning of the new symphony that will be played again by the Divine Conductor through all who freely will to produce harmonies in the new harmony of a Christian world. And how are new notes added to this first note? By the Sacrament of Baptism, by which each person dies to the old Adam and rises again with Christ. This unity of notes in measures and movements constitutes the new symphony. To use the language of Saint Paul, each person who freely, as Mary did, gives himself to Christ becomes as a cell in His new Body, which is the Church.

To be a Christian then, means to be lifted out of the old humanity of Adam to the new humanity of Christ. As one cannot lead a physical life unless one is born to it, so one cannot lead a spiritual life unless one is born to it. No one is forced to accept that Christ Life any more than Mary was. It is free and consultive. Since that Divine Life in our souls is a pure gift of God, since it is not caused by any human effort or merited in the strict sense by anything we do, it, too, may be said to have had a Virgin Birth. As Saint John tells the story: *“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, he gave them power to be made the sons of God, to them that believe in his name: Who are born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God”* (Jn 1:10-13) --Bishop Fulton Sheen, *Peace of Soul*, p.41.

### ***Wisdom: Friends***

I have a list of folks I know.....all written in a book,  
and every now and then.....I go and take a look.  
That is when I realize these names.....they are a part,  
not of the book they're written in.....but taken from the heart.  
For each name stands for someone.....who has crossed my path sometime,  
and in that meeting they have become.....the reason and the rhyme.  
Although it sounds fantastic.....for me to make this claim,  
I really am composed.....of each remembered name.  
Although you're not aware.....of any special link,  
just knowing you, has shaped my life.....more than you could think.

So please don't think my greeting.....as just a mere routine,  
your name was not.....forgotten in between.  
For when I send a greeting.....that is addressed to you,  
it is because you're on the list.....of folks I'm indebted to.  
So whether I have known you.....for many days or few,  
in some ways you have a part.....in shaping things I do.  
I am but a total.....of many folks I've met,  
you are a friend I would prefer.....never to forget.  
Thank you for being my friend !!

## *Story*

One day, when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class was walking home from school. His name was Keven. It looked like he was carrying all of his books. I thought to myself, why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a nerd.

I had quite a weekend planned (parties and a football game with my friends tomorrow afternoon), so I shrugged my shoulders and went on.

As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward him. They ran at him, knocking all his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him. He looked up and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes.

My heart went out to him. So, I jogged over to him and as he crawled around looking for his glasses, and I saw a tear in his eye. As I handed him his glasses, I said, those guys are jerks. They really should get lives. He looked at me and said, Hey thanks! There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude. I helped him pick up his books, and asked him where he lived. As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before.

He said he had gone to private school before now. I would have never hung out with a private school kid before. We talked all the way home, and I carried some of his books. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid. I asked him if he wanted to play a little football with my friends He said yes. We hung out all weekend and the more I got to know Keven, the more I liked him, and my friends thought the same of him.

Monday morning came, and there was Keven with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, Boy, you are gonna really build some serious muscles with this pile of books everyday! He just laughed and handed me half the books. Over the next four years, Keven and I became best friends. When we were seniors, we began to think about college.

Keven decided on Georgetown, and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends, that the miles would never be a problem. He was going to be a doctor, and I was going for business on a football scholarship. Keven was valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd. He had to prepare a speech for graduation. I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak on graduation day, I saw Keven. He looked great. He was one of those guys that really found himself during high school. He filled out and actually looked good in glasses. He had more dates than I had and all the girls loved him. Boy, sometimes I was jealous.

Today was one of those days. I could see that he was nervous about his speech. So, I smacked him on the back and said, Hey big guy, you'll be great! He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled. Thanks, he said. As he started his speech, he cleared his throat, and began Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years. Your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach ... but mostly your friends ... I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I am going to tell you a story.

Just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the story of the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying his stuff home. He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile. Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable.

I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment I saw his mom and dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile.

Not until that moment did I realize it's depth. Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture you can change a person's life. For better or for worse. God puts us all in each other's lives to impact one another in some way. Look for God in others.

## *A Time to Laugh (2)*

### ***Religion***

A parachutist jumped out of a plane on a windy day and was blown a hundred miles off course by a powerful gale. Then his parachute caught on a tree, so he hung there for hours in the middle of nowhere, shouting for help.

Finally, someone passed by. *"How did you get up there on that tree?"* he asked.

The parachutist told him. Then asked, *"Where am I?"* *"On a tree,"* was the reply.

*"Hey! You must be a cleric!"* The stranger was stunned. *"Yes, I am. How did you know?"* *"Because what you said is certainly true and just as certainly useless."*

### ***Awareness***

A little old Jewish lady sits down in a plane next to a big Swede and keeps staring at him. Finally she turns to him and says, *"Pardon me, are you Jewish?"*

He says, *"No."*

A few minutes later she turns to him again and says, *"You can tell me, you know, you are Jewish, aren't you?"*

He says, *"Most certainly not."*

She keeps studying him for some minutes, then says again, *"I can tell you are Jewish."*

In order to get rid of the annoyance the man says, *"O.K., I am Jewish!"*

She looks at him again, shakes her head and says, *"You certainly don't look it."*

### ***Love***

A friend came to the famous essayist Charles LAMB and said, *"I want to introduce you to Mr. SO-AND-SO".*

*"No, thank you,"* said LAMB. *"I don't like the man."*

*"But you don't even know him!"* said LAMB.

### ***Money will buy...***

*A Bed,* but not sleep.

*A book,* but not brains.

*Food,* but not an appetite.

*A house,* but not a home.

*Medicine,* but not health.

*Luxuries,* but not culture.

*Amusement,* but not happiness.

## *Famous Quotes (002)*

Actor:

--An actor is a guy who takes a girl in his arms, looks tenderly into her eyes, and tells her how great he is.

--The only thing an actor fears more than losing his mind is regaining it.

--The one nice thing about actors—they don't go around talking about other people.

Admiration:

--Admiration is the daughter of ignorance. (Benjamin Franklin)

--Distance is a great promoter of admiration! (Denis Diderot)

Adolescence:

--Adolescence is that period when a young man can show you the best crop of hair he'll ever own.

--Adolescence is the awkward age in the life of a youngster. They're too old for an allowance and too young for a credit card.