



March 26, 2023

Bulletin #13

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

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Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



Healing of the Blind Man

- *Weekend Masses: Saturdays: Mass at 4:00 p.m.
Sundays: Mass at 10:30 a.m.
- *Weekday Masses: Mondays and Wednesdays: No Mass. Pastor's office work.
Tuesdays and Thursday: Mass at 12:00 Noon
Fridays during Lent: Mass at 5:30 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross and Benediction
Saturday: 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. or any other time by appointment
- *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, 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 AlKhouri
- *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

Healing of the Blind Man

Readings: Is 46:6-8, 16-18; 2Cor 10:1-7 and Mk 10:46-52

Let every man therefore cry out for the healing of his wounds, and call upon the physician of souls, and of bodies as the blind man called out: ***“Jesus Son of David, have mercy on me.”***

“And they that went before, rebuked him.” But his courage in speaking was not stayed by their rebuke. Faith renews in man the strength to withstand all things, to triumph over all. Men shouted at him to be silent, but the man of faith abated nothing of his eagerness, but sought the Lord, as one who well knows that honest presumption may serve the cause of righteousness. For if there be many who thrust themselves forward for the sake of gain, should a man not put bashfulness aside, when it is a question of his soul’s salvation?

“Jesus commanded him to be brought unto him.” He had brought it about that Jesus stood. The voice of the man who cried out in faith had caused Jesus saying: ***“What do you want me to do for you?”*** he does not ask idly: for he could have healed him as he sat by the way side. But because the Jews might say, as they said of the man born blind: ***“It is not this man but one like him.”*** He therefore calls the blind man into their midst, that he first might make evident to them the defect in his nature, and then show the power of his grace

“What do you want me to do for you?” He questions the man, and in this way instructs those about him. ***“But he said: Lord, that I may see.”*** Observe what testimony he requires of this man, to whom he gave health, so as to thwart the falsehoods of the evil-minded. He thereupon says to him: ***“Go, your faith has saved you.”***

Do you like to visit the Holy Land?

Dear Friends, Greetings and Peace! The Pilgrimage to the Holy Land will be taking place from August 28 to September 7, 2023. We will be visiting the lands where Jesus and the Apostles walked. The price for double occupancy is \$2,600 (there is an additional \$750 supplement for single occupancy per person). All land accommodations, meals, and tips are included with the price. Airfare must be booked separately. To reserve your space, a \$600 deposit is required per person (the deposit is non refundable, and we recommend purchasing traveler’s insurance). We will only take reservations until March 31, 2023. Full payment for the pilgrimage is due by June 15, 2023. We look forward to having you join us.

With best wishes and prayers, I remain Yours in Christ,

+A. Elias Zaidan Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

Jesus performed 37 Miracles.

We will publish them weekly in order to strengthen our faith that Jesus is indeed the Son of God who has divine power to heal and raise the dead by a Word from his mouth. Blessed are those who believe without seeing Him.

Fourth miracle of Jesus when he healed the mother-in-law of Peter

When Jesus came into Peter’s house, he saw Peter’s mother-in-law. She was lying in bed. She had a fever. Jesus touched her hand, and the fever left her. She got up and began to serve him. (Matthew 8:14-15)

This Weekend: Mar 25-26: Healing of the Blind Man

Saturday, March 25 at 4:00 p.m.: Feast of the Annunciation

✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

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

✠ Good health and speedy recovery of Julia Schness (daughter of Leo Bleifus)

Sunday, March 26 at 10:30 a.m.:

✠ Michael & Annette Howard by Lou & Charlotte Khourey and Family

✠ Mike & Sue Linton & their parents Joe & Frances Linton by Steve Linton

✠ Good health and speedy recovery of Julia Schness (daughter of Leo Bleifus)

Next Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, March 27: No Mass. Pastor's Day off.

Tuesday, March 28: Mass at Noon

- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- ✠ Good health and speedy recovery of Julia Schness (daughter of Leo Bleifus)
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

Wednesday, March 29: No Mass. Office work.

Thursday, March 30: Mass at Noon

- ✠ Good health and speedy recovery of Julia Schness (daughter of Leo Bleifus)
- ✠ Myron Law by Jeannine Thomas
- ✠ John Shiben by Lynne & Ben Exley

Friday, March 31 at 5:30 p.m.: Mass followed by Stations of the Cross and Benediction

- ✠ Intentions of George & Susan Saseen for sponsoring the Social Hour
- ✠ Myron Law by Betty Merry
- ✠ Mike & Sue Linton & their parents Joe & Frances Linton by Steve Linton

Next Weekend: April 1-2 Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 1 at 4:00 p.m.: Mass & Procession with Palms

- ✠ Myron Law by Betty Merry
- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- ✠ Special Intention

Sunday, April 2 at 10:30 a.m.: Mass & Procession with Palms

- ✠ Chamse Rahi (Birthday) by her daughter Alicia Peklinsky and family
- ✠ Mike & Sue Linton & their parents Joe & Frances Linton by Steve Linton
- ✠ Myron Law by William Merry

Stations of the Cross & Light Dinner *(Every Friday during Lent)*

Every Friday during Lent, we celebrate the Mass at 5:30 p.m. Mass will be followed by the Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Cross. The "Stations of the Cross" is a devotion which consists of following the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ by recalling the fourteen prominent events that took place from the time of the trial under Pontius Pilate until His death and burial on Mount Calvary. Many Thanks to these generous families who sponsored light meatless dinners after the Stations of the Cross. If any other family wants to participate in the social hour, please ask and join the families listed below.

Date:	Volunteers Who are sponsoring the Light Meals on Fridays during Lent:
6 th Friday, March 31	Light Meal Sponsor: George & Susan Saseen
Good Friday, April 7	Light Meal Sponsor: The Cedar Club & Parishioners

Easter Obligation Fulfilled

Many Thanks for all the generous parishioners who fulfilled their Easter Obligations so far. Our Quota is \$3,000 to be sent to our Diocese to help paying the cost of different projects mainly educating our seminarians. May your fasting and almsgiving be accepted and may your sins be forgiven.

Lee Bentz, Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Frank & Anna Marie Duymich, Ron & Kim Gibbons, Mark Schroeder, Fran Saseen, Randy Weisner, Jean Weisner, Gary Weisner, Joe & Nikki Popovich, Robert Harris, Chris & Jeannette Wakim, Mark & Barb McLaughlin, Millet L. Fadoul, Thomasina Geimer, Nettie Seidler, Bill & Tricia Committee, Mary Beth Weisner, Dolores Oser, Dee Shiben, Cathy Goodson, Al Depto, Denise Ferris, Linda Hostutler, Marge John, Dr. & Mrs. Al Ghaphery, Nick Ghaphery, Janet Shutler, George & Patty Fahey, Sue Jochum, Sharon & Tom Beatty, Kim & Jan Seabright, Caroline & Pat Popicg, Jamil Harb, Judy Bedway, Lou & Charlotte Khourey, David & Greg John, John & Kathleen Kazour (New Orleans), GiGi Rice (Ohio), Rosalie Conti, PJ, Nikki, Luke and Lindsey Lenz, Kenny & Nancy Joseph, Mary Stees, Debbie & Mark Huffman, Susan & Ron Burns, Rex Strawn, Tom & Judy Brock, Carol Dougherty, Michael & Judy Sofka, Patrick & Laurie Henry, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Breit, Jim Moses, Jane Palmer, Michael Duymich, Denny Albaugh, Earl &

Linda Duffy, Dave & Debbie Sengewalt, Angele Mansore, Dr. Dianna Vargo, Elsie Renzella, Larry & Lillian Siebieda, Carol Burkhart, Kathy & Mark Boehm, Ron Weisner,

Palm Sunday Program (Saturday & Sunday, April 1 & 2)

On Palm Sunday, we commemorate Christ's entry into Jerusalem where people came out to meet Him and shout, "Hosanna," "Save us, O Lord." On that day, we bless palm branches (symbol of victory), and we process inside the church to welcome Christ as the King of our life.

Processions: The palms will be blessed during both Masses and distributed. We will have a procession with the children inside the church in every Mass. Please bring your children and grandchildren and let us welcome Christ the King in our hearts with the shouts of "Hosannas."

Saturday, April 1 at 4:00 p.m.: Mass & Procession with Palms

Sunday, April 2 at 10:30 a.m.: Mass & Procession with Palms

Passion Week & Easter Schedule

Monday of Passion Week, April 3 at 5:30 p.m.:

Rite of the coming to the Harbor & Spiritual Reflection & Mass (No Stations of the Cross) Social Hour

Tuesday of Passion Week, April 4 at 5:30 p.m.:

Rite of the Coming to the Harbor & Spiritual Reflection & Mass (No Stations of the Cross) Social Hour

Wednesday of Passion Week, April 5 at 5:30 p.m.:

Rite of the Lamp & Spiritual Reflection & Mass (No Stations of the Cross) Social Hour

Thursday of the Mysteries, April 6 at 5:30 p.m.:

Mass of the Lord's Supper & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. No Social Hour

Great Friday of the Crucifixion, April 7:

No Morning or Evening Mass Today in All Catholic Churches

10:30 a.m.: Rite for the Signing of the Chalice (No Mass)

6:00 p.m.: Solemn Burial of the Lord followed by a complimentary Meatless Community Dinner sponsored by the Cedar Club.

Saturday of the Light, April 8:

10:30 a.m.: Rite of Forgiveness & Communal Reconciliation

4:00 p.m.: Easter Vigil Mass & "Rite of Peace"

Sunday of the Glorious Resurrection, April 9:

10:30 a.m.: Easter Day Mass & "Rite of Peace."

Coming Parish Events

2nd week of May	Spring Bake Sale
May 6 to May 14	Mother Day Masses
Sunday, May 7	May Queen Procession. Eva Murad will be the May Queen this year.
Saturday, June 17 after 4pm Mass	Parish Dinner on the occasion of Father Day. Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, August 13 until 7:00 pm	Mahrajan (Festival) at Oglebay Park, Levenson Shelter 10:00 a.m. Outdoor Mass at Oglebay (No Mass at the church)

Easter Lillies

Many Thanks to all who donated toward decorating the church during Easter. All donations small or great are appreciated, but only donations greater than \$20.00 are mentioned here. If you need to donate a flower in memory of a beloved family member, please write a note to Msgr. Bakhos

✂ In Memory of Gladys Howard and Louise N. & Louis H. Khourey, Sr., by Lou & Charlotte Khourey and Family

✂ In Memory of the Murad and Tatalovich Families by Liz & Jay & Eva Murad

✂ In Memory of our beloved parents John T. & Cecilia John and D. William Burns by Ron & Susan Burns

- ✦ In Memory of husband Phil and Deceased Family members of Thomasina Geimer
- ✦ In Memory of Danny & Milly Manners by their daughter NiNi Miller
- ✦ In Honor of Chris and Jeannette Wakim
- ✦ In Honor of Ron Weisner
- ✦ In Honor of Jean Weisner
- ✦ In Honor of Frank & Anna Marie Duymich
- ✦ In Honor of Fran Saseen
- ✦ In Honor of Jackie & Pat Petros
- ✦ In Honor of Dr. & Mrs. Adel Frenn
- ✦ In Honor of Denise Ferris
- ✦ In Honor of Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ✦ In Memory of Shirley Elias Nickerson and the Deceased of the Elias Family by Tammy Strong
- ✦ In Memory of Chamse Rahi by her daughter Alicia Peklinsky and Family
- ✦ In Memory of Nimon & Miriam Joseph Family by the Joseph and Weisner Families
- ✦ In Memory of the Deceased members of the McLaughlin, Joseph & Miller Families by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- ✦ In Memory of Abdo & Dorothy Saseen by Jim & Pat Saseen Connell
- ✦ In Memory of Bob Sengewalt by his son Dave and Family

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:

- March 26: Joseph John
- March 30: Greg John
- April 1: Patrick Sengewalt
- April 6: Ron 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

From Saturday, May 6 until Sunday, May 14: Mother Day Masses

Masses for the deceased mothers and grandmothers

- † Deceased of the Togliatti and Harb Families by GiGi Rice
- † Deceased mothers and grandmothers of Jamil Harb (MI)
- † Louise N. Kourey & Gladys Howard by children Lou & Charlotte & grandchildren Emmalena & Louie
- † Emma Nader & Nabiha "Lena" Kourey by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Kourey
- † Minnie Church Riggs & Cassandra "Cassie" Howard by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Kourey
- † Sadie Chidiac (mother), Kathrine & Hasibi (grandmothers) & all my sisters by Msgr. Bakhos
- † Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will
- † Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- † Catherine Arthur by her daughter Carole Burkhart
- † Deceased mothers of the Thomas, Splatt & Nutter Families by John & Kathy Thomas (MN)
- † Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- † Mary K. Ferris by her daughter Denise Ferris
- † Pearl I (Nolte) Shutler (mother), Clara Shutler (grandmother), Isabelle (Frey) Nolte (great-grandmother) by Janet Shutler
- † Shirley Elias Nickerson and Amelia Elias by Tammy Strong and their loving Family
- † Wanda Nickerson by her loving Family
- † Martha Saseen by her son George Saseen

- ✠ Elizabeth Harasuik by her daughter Susan Saseen
- ✠ Mary Popovich by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- ✠ Helen Fielding by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- ✠ Laura Z. Wakim by The Wakim Family
- ✠ For all mothers and grandmothers by The Wakim Family
- ✠ Sara McLaughlin and Selma Joseph by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- ✠ Mary Miller by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- ✠ Barbara Lenz by PJ, Nikki, Lindsay and Luke Lenz
- ✠ Betty Lou Petros by Jackie and Pat Petros
- ✠ Dolores M. Fahey by Jackie and Pat Petros
- ✠ Ginny and Martha Shia and Anna Shia by their Family
- ✠ Edna Jochum by her Family
- ✠ Angela Henning and Anna Bott by Don & Roberta Henning
- ✠ Cecilia (mother) and Saada (grandmother) by Carol Dougherty
- ✠ Nell Comer Duffy and Rose Shedeed Fadoul by Earl & Linda Duffy
- ✠ Cecilia Ann Murad by her daughter Luane Frazier
- ✠ Margaret Schlog by her daughter Fran Saseen
- ✠ Charlotte George by her daughter Margaret George
- ✠ Lottie Elwartoski by her son Richard Elwartoski

Prayers for the living mothers and grandmothers

- ✠ Charlotte Kourey by her children Emmalena & Louie
- ✠ Living mothers and grandmothers of Jamil Harb (MI)
- ✠ My sisters & their daughters in law by Msgr. Bakhos
- ✠ Nikki Jo Lenz by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- ✠ Nikki A. Popovich by Joe Popovich
- ✠ Viola J. Yeater by the Wakim Family
- ✠ Jeannette M. Wakim by her children Laura Chapman and Nathan Wakim
- ✠ Barb Mclaughlin by Brad McLaughlin and Kristen & Matt Graney
- ✠ Barb Mclaughlin by Nathan Graney
- ✠ Nikki Popovich by PJ, Nikki, Lindsay and Luke Lenz
- ✠ Kristen (McLaughlin) Graney by her son Nathan Graney
- ✠
- ✠

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$903.00	Sunday Collection
400.00	Diocesan Appeal
176.00	Candles
20.00	Coffee hour
731.50	Mercy Meal
545.00	Donations to the church
600.00	Donation to the church-Memorial
2,500.00	Festival
25.00	Easter Lillies
\$5,900.50	Total Deposits: <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i> Finance Committee: Lou Kourey, Mary Stees, Linda Duffy, Susan Burns, Liz Murad

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)

Fred Jaquay, Tim Pack, Patty Olinsky, Earl Ragase, Bettie Jane Fadoul, Patrick Sengewalt, Renee Beabout (daughter of Marge John), Mary Stees, Rex 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, Patty Fahey, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter),

What's New?

Rummage Sale

The ladies of the church would appreciate any items to be donated toward the coming rummage sale in June. Please bring your items with you to the church and we will open the basement door for you. Many Thanks.

Mahrajan Update (Sunday, August 13, 2023)

- This year we will celebrate our 90th Lebanese Festival (Mahrajan) at Oglebay Park on Sunday, August 13.
- Outdoor Mass at 10:00 a.m. not 10:30 a.m. There will be no Mass at the church the day of the Festival.
- Many Thanks to Susan & Ron Burns for sponsoring the welcome center tent at the entrance of the Mahrajan (Festival) this year. It is a beautiful 10x10 red and white stripes. May God reward you manyfolds.
- The church purchased 2 refrigerators for pop and water. Also one Sajj (woke) for Lebanese cheese pizza and Zaatar bread.
- The church purchased four red tents 10x15 feet each to be used for our special booths.
- There will be a special booth for Lebanese wine taste.
- If you have a friend or know someone who is interested in receiving correspondence about our Festival, please submit their addresses to Msgr. Bakhos.

Spirituality: Bible Tag

The Bible in 50 Words!

God made; Adam bit; Noah arked; Abraham split; Joseph ruled; Jacob fooled; Bush talked; Moses balked; Pharaoh plagued; People walked; Sea divided; Tablets guided; Promise landed; Saul freaked; David peeked; Prophets warned; Jesus born. God walked; Love talked; Anger crucified; Hope died; Love rose; Spirit flamed; Word spread; God remained.

Wisdom: The positive side of life

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.

How long a minute depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.

Birthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live.

Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.

Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?

Most of us go to our grave with our music still inside of us.

If Wall-Mart is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.

We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors.... but they all exist very nicely in the same box.

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Story: Let the music out

Three neighborhood boys, Salvator, Julio and Antonio, lived and played in Cremona, Italy, around the mid-1600s. Salvator had a beautiful tenor voice and Julio played the violin in accompaniment as they strolled the piazzas. Antonio also liked music and would have loved to sing along, but his voice squeaked like a creaky door

hinge. All the children made fun of him whenever he tried to sing. Yet Antonio was not without talent. His most prized possession was the pocketknife his grandfather had given him. He was always whittling away on some piece of wood. In fact, Antonio made some very nice things with his whittling.

As the time for the annual festival approached, the houses and streets gradually became festooned with beautiful decorations for spring. Dressed in their finest clothes, people filled the streets. On festival day, Salvator and Julio planned to go to the cathedral where they would play and sing in the crowded plaza.

"Would you like to come with us?" they called to Antonio, who sat on his stoop whittling on a piece of wood. "Who cares if you can't sing? We'd like to have you come with us anyway."

"Sure, I'd like to come along," Antonio replied. "The festival is so much fun."

The three boys went off to the cathedral. As they walked along, Antonio kept thinking about their remark about his not being able to sing. It made him cry in his heart, because he loved music as much as they did, even if his voice did squeak a little.

When they arrived at the plaza, Julio began to play the violin while Salvator sang with his melodious voice. People stopped to listen, and most of them left a coin or two for the shabbily dressed boys. An elderly man stepped out from the crowd. He complimented them and placed a shiny coin into Salvator's hand. He was quickly lost in the milling crowd.

Salvator opened his hand and gasped, "Look! It's a gold coin." He clenched it between his teeth to make sure. All three boys were excited and passed the coin back and forth, examining it. They all agreed that it was a real gold piece.

"But he can well afford it," said Julio. "You know, he's the great Amati."

Antonio asked sheepishly, "And who is Amati? Why is he so great?"

Both boys laughed as they said, "You've never heard of Amati?"

"Of course he hasn't," said Julio. "He knows nothing about music makers. He has a squeaky voice and is just a whittler of wood." Julio went on, "For your information, Antonio, Amati happens to be a great violin maker, probably the best in all of Italy or even the entire world, and he even lives here in our city."

As Antonio walked home that evening, his heart was very heavy. It seemed that he had been laughed at too often for his squeaky voice and his whittling. So, very early the next morning, Antonio left his home, carrying his precious whittling knife. His pockets were stuffed with some of the things he had made—a pretty bird, a flute, several statues and a small boat. He was determined to find the home of the great Amati.

Eventually, Antonio found the house and gently knocked on the front door. When a servant opened it, the great master heard Antonio's squeaky voice and came to see what he wanted so early in the morning.

"I brought these for you to see, sir," replied Antonio, as he emptied his pockets of the assortment of items that he had carved. "I hope you will look at these and tell me if I have enough talent to learn how to make violins, too."

Amati carefully picked up and examined each piece, and invited Antonio into his house. "What is your name?" he asked. "Antonio, sir," he squeaked.

"And why do you want to make violins?" inquired Amati, now quite serious.

Impulsively Antonio blurted, "Because I love music, but I cannot sing with a voice that sounds like a squeaky door hinge. You heard how good my friends are yesterday in front of the cathedral. I, too, want to make music come alive."

Leaning forward and looking Antonio in the eyes, Amati said, "The thing that matters most is the song in the heart. There are many ways of making music—some people play the violin, others sing, still others paint wonderful pictures. Each helps to add to the splendor of the world. You are a whittler, but your song shall be as noble as any."

These words made Antonio very happy, and he never forgot this message of hope. In a very short while, Antonio became a student of the great artist. Very early, every morning, he went to Amati's workshop, where he listened and learned and watched his teacher. After many years, there was not one secret about the making of a violin, with all of its seventy different parts, that he did not know. By the time he was twenty-two years old, his master allowed him to put his own name on a violin he had made.

For the rest of life, Antonio Stradivari made violins—more than 1,100 of them—trying to make each one better and more beautiful than the one before. Anyone who owns a Stradivarius violin owns a treasure, a masterpiece of art.

We may not be able to sing, play, whittle or make a violin, but if we really want to, we will find a way to let the music out of our hearts and to praise God with it.

A Time to Laugh (55)

Just Suppose

Samuel was down in the dumps and who could blame him? His landlord had ordered him out of the apartment and he had nowhere to go. Suddenly light dawned. He could live with his good friend Moshe. The thought brought Samuel much comfort, until it was assailed by another thought that said: “What makes you so sure that Moshe will put you up at his place?” “Why wouldn’t he?” said Samuel to the thought, somewhat heatedly, “After all it is I who found him the place he is living in now; and it was I who advanced him the money to pay his rent for the first six months. Surely the least he could do is put me up for a week or so when I am in trouble.”

That settled the matter, until after dinner he was once again assailed by the thought: “Suppose he were to refuse?” “Refuse?” said Samuel, “Why in God’s name would he refuse? The man owes me everything he has. It is I who got him his job; it is I who introduced him to that lovely wife of his who has borne him the three sons he glories in. Will he grudge me a room for a week? Impossible!”

That settled the matter, until he got to bed and found he couldn’t sleep because the thought came back to say: “But just suppose he were to refuse. What then?” This was too much for Samuel. “How the hell could he refuse?” he said, his temper rising now. “If the man is alive today it is because of me. I saved him from drowning when he was a kid. Will he be so ungrateful as to turn me out into the streets in the middle of winter?”

But the thought was persistent. “Just suppose...” Poor Samuel struggled with it as he could. Finally he got out of bed around two in the morning, went over to where Moshe lived and kept his finger pressed against the doorbell button till Moshe, half asleep, opened the door and said in astonishment: “Samuel! What it is? What brings you here in the middle of the night?” Samuel was so angry by now he couldn’t keep himself from yelling, “I’ll tell you what brings me here at this hour of the night! If you think I’m going to ask you to put me up even for a single day, you’re mistaken. I don’t want to have anything to do with you, your house, your wife or your family. To hell with you all!” With that he turned on his heel and walked away.

Jesus, are you there?

A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy turned to his mother and said, "Mama, I don't want to go out there. It's dark."

The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. "You don't have to be afraid of the dark," she explained. "Jesus is out there. He'll look after you and protect you."

The little boy looked at his mother real hard and asked, "Are you sure he's out there?"

"Yes, I'm sure. He is everywhere, and he is always ready to help you when you need him," she said.

The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and cracked it a little. Peering out into the darkness, he called, "Jesus? If you're out there, would you please hand me the broom?"

Enlightenment

A monk asked his superior: “How is it possible for a man to avoid speaking evilly to his neighbor?”

The superior answered and said to him: “We and our brethren possess two images: whenever then a man condemned himself, his brother appeared to him beautiful and excellent; but whenever a man appeared beautiful to himself, his brother will be found to be, in his sight, hateful and abominable.”

Art of the Heart

Michelangelo had completed a magnificent statue of an angel. “What a beautiful angel,” an admirer exclaimed. “How did you know that the angel was in the rock?” Michelangelo smiled. “The angel in my heart let me see the angel in the rock. Then all I had to do was chip away everything that wasn’t an angel.”