



August 20, 2023

Bulletin #34

# Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

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Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



## 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

- \*Weekend Masses: Saturdays: Mass at 4:00 p.m.  
Sundays: Mass at 10:30 a.m.
- \*Weekday Masses: Mondays and Wednesdays and Fridays: No Mass. Pastor's office work.  
Tuesdays and Thursdays Mass at 12:00 Noon
- \*Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament: Every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday and Sunday of the month after Mass
- \*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 Khourey, Mary Stees, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad
- \*Choir Members: Lou Khourey, 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.

## 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

Readings: Gn 2:8-17; 1Cor 3:1-11 and Lk 8:1-15

Jesus' use of parables was no innovation in the context of his time and environment: there are many instances in the Old Testament of this way of teaching and the rabbis of Jesus' time used it continuously. However, Jesus' method undoubtedly did cause surprise. It followed a sermon which he began by plainly proclaiming that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand, and therefore that all must turn from sin to the Lord. With the teaching in parables, it is not the subject matter which is different, but his hidden way of making it understood.

Suffice to say that Jesus did not make use of parables as a more expressive or clearer way of teaching. Doubtless the images clarify and are an aid to understanding, but they also puzzle. Only the one who begins to search, to ponder, to inquire, spurred on by a narrator who challenges his hearers to the utmost, will be in a position to understand. Each evangelist in his own way gives the reasons for the parables. For Matthew, understanding the parables presupposes a heart open to revelation, sincerely desiring to welcome the Word and to put it into practice — in spite of the obstacles it meets and its apparent setbacks.

Is it not true for us also that at certain times, everything conspires to prevent us from receiving this Word and to make us doubt its coming into the world? It is two thousand years since 'the Sower went out to sow, and sometimes it is very tempting to say: what a mess he made of it, how much has been lost! And does our own reaction to the wild extravagance of God consist of grasping without delay the word which we hear, so that we, in our turn, are possessed by it, caught up in the way of obedience and missionary zeal for his service? If so, then we too understand the parables!

## ***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.*

### **The 24th miracle of Jesus when he fed 4000 people**

During those days another large crowd gathered. They had nothing to eat. So, Jesus called for his disciples to come to him. He said, "I feel deep concern for these people. They have already been with me three days. They don't have anything to eat. If I send them away hungry, they will become too weak on their way home. Some of them have come from far away." His disciples answered him. "There is nothing here," they said. "Where can anyone get enough bread to feed them?" "How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked. "Seven," they replied. He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. He took the seven loaves and gave thanks to God. Then he broke them and gave them to his disciples. They passed the pieces of bread around to the people. The disciples also had a few small fish. Jesus gave thanks for them too. He told the disciples to pass them around. The people ate and were satisfied. After that, the disciples picked up seven baskets of leftover pieces. About 4,000 people were there. After Jesus sent them away, he got into a boat with his disciples. He went to the area of Dalmanutha. The Pharisees came and began to ask Jesus questions. They wanted to test him. So, they asked him for a sign from heaven. He sighed deeply. He said, "Why do you people ask for a sign? What I'm about to tell you is true. No sign will be given to you." Then he left them. He got back into the boat and crossed to the other side of the lake. (Mark 8:1-13)

## ***Creating your Legacy***

How can you manage your charitable giving more efficiently to benefit the charities you love and support, like our church established by our ancestors since 1906? The Parish Council opened an Endowment Fund Account designated exclusively for the church maintenance for years to come. All donations are tax deductible. Please let us keep our beautiful church well maintained and donate anytime toward this account or put the church in writing in your will. To donate, please call the church office at 304-233-1688. May the Blessed Mother reward you in this life and in the next. Monsignor Bakhos, pastor.

***This Weekend: Sat-Sun. Aug. 19-20: 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost***  
**Saturday, August 19, Mass at 4:00 p.m.:**

- ✠ Nimon Joseph by the Weisner & Joseph Families
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ Living & Deceased of the Roxby & Olinski Families by Joe Roxby
- ✠ Healing Mass for Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

**Sunday, August 20, Mass at 10:00 a.m.:**

- ✠ Lou Ann Blazier by Earl & Linda Duffy
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- ✠ Mike & Sue Linton and their parents Joe & Frances Linton by Steve Linton
- ✠ Healing Mass for Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

***Weekdays Mass Schedule*****Monday, August 21:** No Mass. Pastor's day off.**Tuesday, August 22 Mass at Noon:**

- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- ✠ Thanksgiving Mass requested by Mary Ragase
- ✠ Healing Mass for Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

**Wednesday, August 23:** No Mass. Office Work.**Thursday, August 24 Mass at Noon:**

- ✠ Living & Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock, Jr.
- ✠ Mike Linton & Msgr. Bill Bonczewiski (Birthdays) by Mary Stees & Libby Magnone
- ✠ John Shiben by Julie & Tom Shiben
- ✠ Healing Mass for Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

**Friday, August 25:** No Mass. Visitation of the sick.***Next Weekend: Sat.-Sun. Aug. 26-27: 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost*****Saturday, August 26, Mass at 4:00 p.m.:**

- ✠ Living & Deceased members of the Olinski & Marchy Families by Mary Ragase
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ Debbie Saseen by George & Susan Saseen & Family
- ✠ Healing Mass for Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

**Sunday, August 27, Mass at 10:30 a.m.:**

- ✠ Lou Ann Blazier by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family
- ✠ Mike & Sue Linton & their parents Joe & Frances Linton by Steve Linton
- ✠ John Shiben by Julie & Tom Shiben
- ✠ Healing Mass for Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

***Coming Parish Events***

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament	Every 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday and Sunday of the month after Mass followed by blessing with healing oil from Saint Sharbel for good health.
Friday, September 1 ⇒	Rummage Sale from 4 pm to 7 pm (NO concession food)
Saturday, September 2 ⇒	Rummage Sale from 8 am to 2 pm (concession food)
Sunday, September 10 <sup>th</sup>	OLOL Women's Society Meeting after 10:30 a.m. Mass
Monday, September 11 <sup>th</sup>	Cedar Club Meeting in Cedar Hall at 6:15 p.m. (Election of Officers)
Thanksgiving Bake Sale	Date will be announced later.
Christmas Party	Sunday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup> after Mass (Dinner will be served at noon)

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

August 20: Tricia Committee

August 23: Georgene Weisner Manning

August 25: Al Depto  
 August 26: Nathan Wakim, Jessica George  
 August 31: Joseph R. Simon  
 September 1: Janet Fadoul Wilson  
 September 8: Carol Dougherty  
 September 9: Gary Weisner, Patrick Stees,  
 September 10: Chris George  
 September 18: Michael Duymich  
 September 20: Regina Hancher, Gavin Hancher

<b><i>Your Church Support Last Week</i></b>	
\$2,509.00	Sunday Collection
46.00	candles
1,520.00	Mahrajan
\$4,075.00	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

### ***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)*

Frank Duymich, Earl Duffy, Fran Saseen, Mary Stees, Rex Strawn, Mary Thomas, Sandra DeMuth, Ken Imer, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Jamie Stoneking (nephew of Charlotte and Lou Khourey), Patty Olinsky, Sarah Volk (aunt of GiGi Rice), Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Earl Ragase, Patrick Sengewalt, Renee Beabout (daughter of Marge John), Jack Hogan (infant son of Mark & Michaela Hogan & great nephew of Lou Khourey), Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter),

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

#### ***Mahrajan Thank You***

Many Thanks to all the Benefactors, Chairpersons, and Volunteers who diligently worked hard since last November and especially during last week to prepare for the 90<sup>th</sup> Mahrajan (Festival). It was a team effort to kindle the flame of the dearest event to the hearts of many people in and outside the Wheeling area. Only Lebanese ethnic foods were served. Lebanese live folkloric singing and dancing were performed. Lebanese wine was tasted and sold. We had thousands of people coming from all corners of the United States to attend and enjoy family reunions and eat delicious healthy Lebanese food and pastry. We are proud of our tradition and we are happy to share it with everyone to enhance the culture of the Upper Ohio Valley. Our festival is unique in the whole region to be totally dedicated to peaceful families who like to spend time together. The festival is the only fundraising event earmarked to the maintenance of our miraculous church. We appreciate all kinds of donations that encouraged us to continue running that big operation for many generations to come.

#### ***Mahrajan 50-50 Raffle Winner***

All 1,000 raffle printed were sold. The youngest of the church dance troupe drew the winning ticket #271 at the stage in presence of Msgr. Bakhos, Liz Murad, Lou Khouey and everyone. The winner was Mr. Jamil Harb of General Food Store, 42889 Dequindre Road, Troy, MI 48098. He is friend of the John Family and a generous Benefactor toward our church. He donated his \$10,000 prize back to the church. May the blessed Mother shower him with more blessings.

#### ***Mahrajan Financial Report***

A detailed Income/Expenses financial report will be published in the bulletin as soon as we pay all the bills. Lot of companies don't send their bill before the end of the month.

## *Spirituality: Death*

Death is meant to be our true birth, our beginning. Christianity, in contrast to paganism, always blesses her children's spiritual birth into eternity. In the liturgy, the day on which a saint dies is called his *natilitia*, or birthday. The world celebrates a birthday on the day a person is born to physical life; the Church celebrates it when a person is born to eternal life. There are only three exceptions to this, and they were made for very good reasons: the only physical birthdays in the liturgy are those:

- 1- of Our Divine Lord (December 25);
- 2- of the Blessed Mother (September 8);
- 3- and of Saint John the Baptist (June 24).

This is because each of these births marked a special infusion of Divine Life into the world:

- a= Our Lord is Eternal Life;
- b= the Blessed Mother, through her Immaculate Conception, participated in that Eternal Life from the first moment of her Conception;
- c= and Saint John the Baptist was sanctified in his mother's womb when he was visited by His Lord, still tabernacled within the Blessed Mother.

These three exceptions rather prove than contradict the rule that life comes through death, spirituality through mortification, and the saving of the soul in eternity through the losing of it in time.

*Bishop Fulton SHEEN, Peace of Soul, 1949, pp.219-220*

## *Wisdom: Noah's Arc*

Everything I need to know, can be learned from Noah's Ark.

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float a while.
10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

## *Story*

*"A professor can never distinguish himself in his work than by encouraging a clever pupil, for the true discoverer are among them, as comets amongst the stars."*

During my high school graduation week, 20 of us seniors were summoned by our science teacher, to a mysterious meeting. Why us? we wondered.

He, wearing his signature bow tie and hornrimmed glasses, handed each of us a small white box. "Inside," he said smiling, "you'll find a charm or a tie tack decorated with a seed pearl. Boys and girls, that pearl stands for your potential -the things you have going for you. Just as a seed placed inside an oyster can grow into a pearl of great value, so each of you has a seed of greatness within."

I bit my lip to hold back tears as I stared at the tiny pearl set in a silver charm. How much those words would have meant a day earlier, before I'd learned I was pregnant. The news spelled the end of a dream -my own and my mother's. As long as I could remember, Mother had set aside a few dollars each week toward college for my sister and me. Education, she told us, was the way to escape the life of the coal mines in our town.

I was three when my father entered the sanitarium with tuberculosis. Even after he was released a few years later, Mother's wages from the corner grocery store often fed the family. From hardship was born her dream that one day my sister and I would change the pattern.

Now, instead of pride, I'd brought shame on the family. In our close-knit community, premarital sex was a scandal. Though we'd wanted to finish college first, Scott and I married after my high school graduation. By the time Scott graduated from college, a second child had arrived. With a growing family to support, Scott joined the Army. We were moved from base to base, and another child was born. All the while, I'd look at the charm dangling from my wrist and wonder what "greatness" my teacher had seen in me. Finally, I tucked the bracelet away in a drawer.

After seven years, Scott took a civilian job near town. Now that our youngest child was in school, I threw myself into volunteer projects. When the restlessness continued, I tried various jobs -store clerk, aerobics instructor. I was busy, I was helping others, I was adding to the family income, and still, I'd open that drawer, look at the bracelet and think: Are you building on that little seed my teacher saw? You have potential. Find it! Use it! At night, while everyone slept, the old goal of college would keep me awake. But then I'd think, I'm 35 years old! My mother must have guessed at my turmoil, because one day on the phone she said, "Remember the college money I saved? It's still there." I could only stare at the receiver in my hand.

Seventeen years had not been enough to blunt Mother's dream. When my teacher had spoken of "things going for you," I couldn't name one. But now they were everywhere! Faith in God. A mother's dream. A husband's encouragement. It took me six more months to work up the courage and I enrolled at the university. When my aptitude tests pointed to a career in teaching, I was incredulous. Teachers were confident people like my teacher. But the tests were so definite that I entered the teacher-training program. Going back to school was more difficult than I had feared, however. I was competing with people half my age and feeding my family packaged meals in a dusty house.

One afternoon that freshman year, after a particularly stressful class, I drove home in tears, wondering if I really belonged back in school. For self-doubters, quitting always seems the sensible thing. Our older daughter would be entering college in the fall. Instead of straining the family budget, I thought, I should be earning money for my child's education.

A few days later, I ran into my teacher at the dentist's office. I hadn't seen him in years. I told him about the seed pearl and how it had goaded me back to school. "But it's turning out to be too hard," I said. "I know," he agreed. "My husband didn't start college till his thirties, either." I listened, amazed, as he described struggles like my own. I'd always assumed my teacher had been teaching for years; in fact, I learned that my graduating class had been one of his first. I saw that chance meeting with his wife as a sign that I should stick out the next three years.

After graduating, I took a job teaching English at a local high school. Because of the years I'd spent away from school I tried to bring the real world into the classroom. Newspapers were as much a part of my curriculum as the classics; factory visits and talks by local employers were as important as Shakespeare.

Toward year's end, the principal stunned me by saying he was nominating me for a national award for excellence in first-year teaching. In the application, I was to tell how one of my own teachers had inspired me. And so, I told the story of the seed pearl. I realized it had functioned exactly as a seed in an oyster is supposed to -as an irritant, never letting the oyster alone until it's built something beautiful.

Indeed, I was one of 100 teachers to receive the first-year award, and the teachers who inspired us were each given a teacher tribute award. When the two of us met for a newspaper interview, I learned how appropriate the timing was: my teacher was retiring the following year. I learned something else that day. My ex-teacher revealed that he, too, had thought he wouldn't succeed. After getting poor grades in high school, he drifted, unable to believe in the future because he didn't believe in himself. What turned him around? "A renewed spirituality and seeing other people's faith in me," he said. Suddenly, understanding dawned. "That's what we had in common, wasn't it?" I said. "The kids you gave the seed pearls to -you saw 20 young people who lacked confidence." "No," he said. "I saw 20 people with seeds of something great."

## ***Forbidden in School***

A dog had followed his owner to school. His owner was a fourth grader at a public elementary school. However, when the bell rang, the dog sidled inside the building and made it all the way to the child's classroom before a teacher noticed and shooed him outside, closing the door behind him. The dog sat down, whimpered and stared at the closed doors. Then God appeared beside the dog, patted his head, and said, "Don't feel bad fella'...they won't let ME in either."

## ***Disarming Defense***

A lawyer was defending his client who was accused of theft. The defense was not going well, so the lawyer attempted a different, more creative defense.

"All my client did was to insert his arm across the counter and into the cash register and remove a small sum of money. As a matter of fact, it was just his arm that committed this crime. My client's arm can hardly be seen as my client. I don't understand how you can punish the entire individual for a crime that was committed by a single limb."

The judge saw through the flimsy defense immediately and answered the lawyer accordingly: "You have stated the dilemma well. So by using your line of reasoning, I will sentence only the defendant's arm to one year of imprisonment. As a courtesy to the defendant, he may either accompany his arm or he may not, as he chooses." Upon completion of the sentencing, the judge sat back in his chair with a smug smile on his face. He had played along with the lawyer's defense but had still outsmarted him.

The defendant and lawyer smiled as well. With the assistance of his lawyer, the defendant detached his artificial limb, laid the criminal limb on the bench, and left the courtroom a free man.

## ***Oil of Kindness***

Kindness is the oil that takes friction out of life.

Reading Is Not Enough

A certain intellectual fellow loved to read. He read everything he could find about philosophy, and he became a philosopher. He read everything he could read about mathematics, and he became a mathematician. He read everything he could find about swimming, and he drowned. There are some subjects you just have to do more than read about.

## ***Facts Are Misleading***

The professor in Alfred Hitchcock's film *The Lady Vanishes*, upon being confronted with evidence that proves his theory wrong, replies, "Nonsense. My theory is perfectly correct. It is the facts that are misleading."

## ***Count on Math***

There are only three kinds of people: those who can count and those who can't.

## ***Reading Lion***

Two explorers were on a jungle safari when suddenly a ferocious lion jumped in front of them. "Keep calm," the first explorer whispered. "Remember what we read in the book on wild animals: If you stand perfectly still and look the lion in the eye, he will turn and run."

"Sure," replied his companion, "you've read the book, and I've read the book. But has the lion read the book?"

## ***Say Something in French***

It was the final day of a three-year French course. The teacher had worked hard to teach his students to communicate fluently in French. The teacher excitedly asked one of his students, "What are the first words you will say when you get to France?" The student thought for a moment and answered the teacher, "Parlez vous anglais?"-which means, "Do you speak English?"