



October 1, 2023
Bulletin #40

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

Rectory: 304-233-1688 • Fax: 304-233-4714

E-Mail: ololwv@comcast.net • Web Site: www.ololwv.com

Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



3rd Sunday after the Holy Cross

- *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 1st 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.

3rd Sunday after the Holy Cross

Readings: Dan 7:9-14; 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.

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 30th miracle of Jesus when he healed a Disabled Woman on the Sabbath Day

Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on a Sabbath day. A woman there had been disabled by an evil spirit for 18 years. She was bent over and could not stand up straight. Jesus saw her. He asked her to come to him. He said to her, "Woman, you will no longer be disabled. I am about to set you free." Then he put his hands on her. Right away she stood up straight and praised God. Jesus had healed the woman on the Sabbath day. This made the synagogue leader angry. He told the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days. But do not come on the Sabbath day." The Lord answered him, "You pretenders! Doesn't each of you go to the barn and untie your ox or donkey on the Sabbath day? Then don't you lead it out to give it water? This woman is a member of Abraham's family line. But Satan has kept her disabled for 18 long years. Shouldn't she be set free on the Sabbath day from what was keeping her disabled?" When Jesus said this, all those who opposed him were put to shame. But the people were delighted. They loved all the wonderful things he was doing. (Luke 13:10-17)

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 last 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., September 30- October 1: 3rd Sunday after the Holy Cross

Saturday, September 30, Mass at 4:00 p.m.:

- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- ✠ Living & Deceased of the Roxby & Olinski Families by Joe Roxby
- ✠ Special Intention

Sunday, October 1, Mass at 10:30 a.m.:

- ✠ Mary Thomas by Lou & Charlotte Khourey and Family
- ✠ Greg George by Bernadette Conklin
- ✠ Living & Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock, Jr.

Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, October 2: No Mass. Pastor's day off.

Tuesday, October 3 Mass at Noon:

- ✠ 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
- ✠ Living & Deceased of the Roxby & Olinski Families by Joe Roxby

Wednesday, October 4: No Mass. Office Work.

Thursday, October 5 Mass at Noon:

- ✠ Nancy Ferris Coffield (Birthday) by Mary Stees and Libby Magnone
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- ✠ Living & Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock, Jr.

Friday, October 6: No Mass. Visitation of the sick.

Next Weekend: Sat.-Sun., Oct 7-8: 4th Sunday after the Cross

Saturday, October 7, Mass at 4:00 p.m. followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by his grandchildren: Jeff, Courtney and Patrick Sengewalt
- ✠ Susie Marie Fadoul (Birthday) by her children: Janet, Millet C., Jonathan and Millet Lou

Sunday, October 8, Mass at 10:30 a.m. followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

- ✠ Deceased of the Wakim & Yeater Families by Chris & Jeannette Wakim
- ✠ Lawrence Belt by the Wakim Family

Coming Parish Events

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament	Every 1 st Saturday and Sunday of the month after Mass followed by blessing with healing oil from Saint Sharbel for good health.
Cooking Class, Sunday October 8th	Women's Society cooking class on Sunday, October 8 at 1:00 p.m.
Flower Arranging Class	Women's Society flower class on Sunday, October 22 at 1:00 p.m.
Thanksgiving Bake Sale	Baking date: Wednesday, November 1 st : Kibbee Thursday, November 2 nd : Meat pies, zatar bread, sesame bread Orders Pick-Up: Saturday, November 4, 2023.
Christmas Party	Sunday, December 3 rd after Mass (Dinner will be served at noon)

All Souls Masses for the Repose of the Souls of:

From November 1st until November 9th: All Souls Masses

† Special Prayers during this week to:

Wednesday, November 1st: † Charlotte George (Birthday) by Margaret George (MN)

Tuesday, November 7th to: † Libby G. Magnone (Birthday) by her sister Mary Zaid Stees

Thursday, November 9th: † Elizabeth Ferris Magnone (Birthday) by her daughters Mary Stees & Libby G. Magnone

† Deceased of Zaidan Chahine by Youssef & Jocelyne Chahine (PA)

† Deceased of the Chidiac Family by Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac

† Catherine Arthur by her daughter Carol Burkhart

† 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

† Deceased of the Nader Family by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Emmalena & Louie

† Deceased of the Thomas, Splatt & Nutter Families by John & Kathy Thomas (MN)

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

† Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

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

† John Wilson by Judy Wilson & Family

† Rudy Hodulik, Theodore Hodulik and Wayne Wilson by Judy Wilson

† Julia Hodulik, Filka Hodulik by Judy Wilson

† Alice Wilson by Judy Wilson & Family

† Tom Ferris by his nieces Mary Stees and Libby G. Magnone

† Zaid Hawa Ferris by her granddaughters Mary Stees and Libby G. Magnone

† Albert & Annette Togliatti by GiGi Rice

† Sadie Bouharb & Mary Harb by GiGi Rice

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

† Sarah Harb (sister of Benefactor Jamil Harb) by the Family

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

† Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock, Jr.

† Chamse Rahi by the Peklinsky, Howarth, Storm & Rahi Families

† Deceased of the Rouhana Family by the Peklinsky, Howarth, Storm & Rahi Families

† Tina Rahi by the Peklinsky, Howarth, Storm & Rahi Families

† Mary K. Ferris by her daughter Denise Ferris

† George & Martha Saseen by George & Susan Saseen & Family

† Steve & Elizabeth Harasuik by George & Susan Saseen & Family

† Debbie Saseen by George & Susan Saseen & Family

† Paul Hankish by Rose Hankish Carpenter

† Patty Ross Hankish by Rose Hankish Carpenter

† Christopher Hankish by Rose Hankish Carpenter

† Deceased of Gus & Anna Shia by the Family

† Tim, Ginny & Martha Shia by the Family

† Tom Jochum by his Family

† George, Dolores and Bert Fahey by Jackie & Pat Petros

† Philip & Betty Lou Petros by Jackie & Pat Petros

† Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt

† Ray, Sara, Mick and Gary McLaughlin by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

† John & Mary Miller by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

† Elias & Selma, Edward & Edith, George & Betty Joseph by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

† Deceased of the Daniel and DiFabrizio Families by Rebecca & Michael DiFabrizio

† Mike Joseph by Vickie Joseph

- † Alphonse Joseph by Vickie Joseph
- † Georgette Joseph by Vickie Joseph
- † Sam & Bernadine Elias & Deceased Family members by Mike & Terri Golebiewski
- † Alphonse & Violet Golebiewski & Deceased Family members by Mike & Terri Golebiewski
- † Elias & Siham Frenn by Dr Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn and Zack, Andreah and Christian Riedel
- † Jim & LaVerne Thomas by Dr Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn and Zack, Andreah and Christian Riedel
- † Fouad Frenn by Dr Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn & Zack, Andreah & Christian Riedel
- † Rose Ann & Angelo Palsinelli by Rosalie Conti
- † Katheryn & Hermon E. Conti by Rosalie Conti
- † Herman E. Conti Jr, & Tony Matesic by Rosalie Conti
- † Bill Dougherty by his wife Carol Dougherty (OK)
- † Deceased of the Habdo Family by Carol Dougherty
- † Emily Vince by her Children & grandchildren
- † Donald Vince by his Children & grandchildren
- † Patricia Gompers by Matt & Vickie Gompers
- † George Alan Weisner by Jean Weisner & Family
- † Deceased of the Nimon & Mariam Joseph Family by the Weisner & Joseph Families
- † Deceased of the Maroon & Mary Catherine Habeb Families by the Weisner & Joseph Families
- † Deceased of the Weisner, Bishop & Schmeichel Families by the Weisner & Joseph Families
- † Betty Abraham, Clara Carter & Evelyn Goodson by Jean Weisner & Family
- † Forgotten Souls in Purgatory by Jean Weisner
- † Betty Coram Purpura by Jean Weisner
- † Mary Thomas by Jean Weisner
- † Sophie Moses by Jim Moses
- † John G. Moses by Jim Moses
- † Jeffery Moses by Jim Moses
- † Loved Ones of the Bine, Gaudio & Paesani Families by Shirley Bine
- † Deceased of the Fadoul & Duffy Families by Earl & Linda Duffy
- † Robert “Herk” Henry by Patrick Henry
- † Rosemary Henry by Patrick Henry
- † Alma Erbachen by Patrick Henry
- † Barbara Wenskey by Patrick Henry
- † Don Wensyel by Patrick Henry
- † Paul & Anna Orr & Jim Orr by Patrick Henry
- † Camille & Selma Rohanna by Kim & Jan Seabright
- † Harry Charles Seabright by Kim & Jan Seabright
- † Frank Lish by Kim & Jan Seabright
- † Louis C. Seabright by Kim & Jan Seabright
- † Louise S. Gladkowski by Kim & Jan Seabright
- † Walter Elwartoski by his son Richard Elwartoski
- † Lottie Elwartoski by her son Richard Elwartoski
- † Elizabeth “Betty” Purpura by Robert & Sandra Coram
- † Noel Foreman by his wife Anne Foreman
- † Rose Maxwell Hazlett by her daughter Anne Foreman
- † Rose McKennan Hazlett by her sister Anne Foreman
- † Helen & Al Schroeder by Mark Schroeder and Jane Wine
- † Frank Schroeder by Mark Schroeder
- † Shirley Elias Nickerson and Deceased members of the Elias Family by their Loving Family
- † Donald Nickerson Sr. and Deceased members of the Nickerson Family by their Loving Family
- † Cathy Sharp-Howard by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- † Betty Jane Fadoul by Millet Fadoul and Family

✠ Susie Marie Fadoul by Millet Fadoul and Family

✠ Our parents John & Cecilia John and D. William Burns by Ron and Susan Burns

✠ Our grandparents Tom & Sadie John, David & Tamamie Joseph and Sarah Burns by Ron and Susan Burns

✠ Our Aunts & Uncles, Louis & Cecilia Ammar, Fred & Rita John, Sister Mary Thomasina John and Roland & Julia Tappe by Ron and Susan Burns

✠ All deceased of The Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus by Ron and Susan Burns

✠

✠

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:

October 4: Leo Bleifus

October 6: Joe Popovich, Frank Duymich

October 10: Linda Duffy

October 15: Denise "Nini" Miller

October 16: Karen John, Natalie DeMuth Mulvey

October 20: Courtney Sengewalt

October 24: Jonathan D. Fadoul

October 27: Holly (Porter) Stahl

October 30: Michael Duffy, Andreah Frenn Riedel

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$1,173.00	Sunday Collection
58.00	Candles
32.00	Coffee hour
\$1,263.00	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)

Anthony Wakim, Frank Duymich, Earl Duffy, Fran Saseen, Mary Stees, Rex Strawn, Sandra DeMuth, Ken Imer, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Jamie Stoneking (nephew of Charlotte and Lou Khourey), Patty Olinsky, 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?

Cooking Class *(Sunday, October 8 at 1:00 p.m)*

The OLOL Women's Society will be hosting a cooking class on Sunday, October 8, 2023. We will be making Baklava. The class will start at 1:00 p.m in the Cedar Hall. The class will be taught by Allison Duffy Totterdale (Linda Duffy's daughter). A recipe will be provided and samples! Everyone is invited so if you have a friend, he or she can attend! Please RSVP to Jeannette Wakim at 304-551-3934 by Sunday, October 1.

Order of Saint Sharbel

October 8th is designated "Order of Saint Sharbel Sunday" in the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles. We will have a brief, special presentation on the Order that day. The Order of Saint Sharbel is vitally important in providing financial and spiritual support for educating our seminarians, who are crucial for the future of our Maronite Church. Please prayerfully consider joining the Order. You may enroll online at www.orderstsharbel.org or ask Msgr. Bakhos for more information.

Flower Arranging Class (Sunday, October 22 at 1:00 p.m)

The Womens Society will host a Flower Arranging Class on Sunday, October 22 at 1:00 PM in the social hall. There is no fee for the class. You will need to bring your supplies. You will need a container for your arrangement and your flowers, ribbon and anything else you would like to add to your arrangement. You may want to bring florist foam for your arrangement.

If you have Wire Cutters and a Glue gun and glue please bring them. We will have some if you do not have a glue gun or wire cutters.

This class is open to anyone who would like to attend. Please RSVP to Jeannette Wakim @ 304-551-3934

Thanksgiving Bake Sale

Baking date:

Wednesday, November 1st: Kibbee

Thursday, November 2nd: Meat pies and zatar bread.

Orders Pick-Up: Saturday, November 4, 2023.

2024 Offering Envelopes

Many Thanks for all parishioners of good standing who are supporting the church via envelopes, cash or checks. Only donations (cash and checks) via envelopes or loose checks (not cash) are recorded all year long for tax deduction. The financial committee is unable to identify the names of those who put cash in the collection basket. Consequently, no one could claim cash donations unless it is marked. Those who donate less than \$50.00 throughout 2023 will not receive 2024 offering envelopes. They are still considered parishioners and welcomed to the church. —Msgr. Bakhos

Mahrajan Generous Sponsors needed:

--Many Thanks to:

-Rose Hankish for sponsoring 2 round cocktail tables to be used in 2024 Mahrajan.

-Chris & Jeanette Wakim for sponsoring 2 round cocktail tables to be used in 2024 Mahrajan.

We need to buy six more cocktail folding tables for our guests to use around the dance floor and around the beer and wine booths (\$75.00 each). Please sponsor one or more.

--We need to buy two extra red tent 10x15 to be used at next year festival (\$300 each). Please sponsor one or more.

Names of all Generous Benefactors will be published in 2024 Ad Book as **Golden Mahrajan Supporters**. May God and the Blessed Mother reward you many folds in this life and in heaven.

Christmas Gift from our Church Gift Shop

Order your Christmas Gifts to your family and friends from our Gift Shop. Please call 304-233-1688

Aprons	\$25.00
Born & Raised T-shirt	\$25.00
Heartbeat T-shirt	\$25.00
Dry Fit Festival T-shirt (youth)	\$25.00
Dry Fit Festival T-shirt (adult)	\$30.00
Festival Golf Shirt (youth)	\$35.00
Festival Golf Shirt (adult)	\$40.00

Rummage Sale items Drop off all Year Long

Please bring with you to the church all the items you wish to donate toward the Rummage Sale. Items are accepted all year long. The Cedar Club and the Women Society raise funds to cover the expensive Building Insurance of our church. Any donation is accepted and helpful. We will open the basement door for you anytime. Please call 304-233-1688

Around Us

Turkey Dinner (Sunday, October 8)

When: Sunday, October 8th from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Where: at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 630 Main Street, Bridgeport OH.

Menu includes: turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, sweet potatoes, green beans, cranberries, roll, butter, pie and beverage. Adults \$12.00, children \$10.00. Eat in or take out.

Sara Mudrick (740-635-0296)

Spirituality: Eucharist

Our Lord said to Saint Faustina: *"Eternal life must begin already here on earth through Holy Communion. Each Holy Communion makes you more capable communing with God throughout eternity."*

Saint Faustina often saw the Baby Jesus at Mass. She wrote, *"Once when Fr Sopocko was saying Mass, I saw, as usual, the child Jesus on the altar, from the time of offertory. However, a moment before elevation, the priest vanishes from my sight and Jesus alone remained. When the moment of the elevation approached, Jesus took the host and the chalice in His little hands and raised them together, looking up to heaven, and a moment later I again saw the priest. I asked the child Jesus where the priest had been during the time I had not seen him. Jesus answered, "In My Heart.""*

There are so many references in scripture to the Eucharist that you could almost call it the Eucharistic Book. In Matthew 26:26-28, we read: "Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat. This is My Body." In Corinthian 1: 11:27 we read, "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord." In John 6: 48-56, we read about being the living bread which came down from heaven, and that anyone who eats of this bread will live forever. And He added, "For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink."

The Church teaches that at the moment of consecration during the Mass, the bread and wine on the altar become the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

The Mass is so important because at every Mass we get to offer our sacrifice with Jesus to the Father for our sins and then he leaves us His body to adore and for food for the journey.

Wisdom: Openness

THE WISDOM OF OTHER-DIRECTEDNESS

"I've learned that if you stay focused on yourself you are guaranteed to be miserable."

A classic book of the 1960s was David Riesman's and Ruel Denny's, *The Lonely Crowd*. The authors criticized the twin American habits of rugged individualism (inner directedness), on the one hand, and dependence on others for approval (other-directedness), on the other. Instead, they put forward the more balanced position of autonomy, which required one to develop an authentic selfhood able to live in mature interdependence with others.

In the above quotation, the author is simply criticizing the rut of self-centeredness. Clearly the United States has no monopoly on self-centered people. Anyone who has traveled abroad knows that weeds as well as flowers are found almost everywhere. This human failing, possibly exacerbated by our modern consumer culture, makes relating to others difficult if not impossible. Paradoxically it doesn't do much for relating to oneself either.

At one point in his *Life of Samuel Johnson* (1791), James Boswell faithfully reports an instance when his beloved Dr. Johnson turned on him and stated in his rich eighteenth-century cadences: "Sir, you have but two topics, yourself and me. I am sick of both." As interesting as we may be, we are not universally so. Genesis explains that God created Eve because it was not good for Adam to be alone. It is when we stop being there just for ourselves that we make a space in which our individualities can grow. Some say this is the reason God created the universe. Even the All-Present needed to articulate some space in which to grow. This is also why one of the best ways to overcome depression without drugs is to do something positive for someone less

fortunate. Some psychiatrists routinely send their less seriously ill patients to do volunteer work for just this reason.

Story: Music Lessons

At the prodding of my friends, I am writing this story. I am a former elementary school music teacher. I've always supplemented my income by teaching piano lessons--something I've done for over 30 years. Over the years I found that children have many levels of musical ability. I've never had the pleasure of having a protégée, though I have taught some talented students. However, I've also had my share of what I call "musically challenged" pupils. One such student was Mark who was 11 years old when his mother dropped him off for his first piano lesson. I prefer that students begin at an earlier age, which I explained to Mark. But Mark said that it had always been his mother's dream to hear him play the piano. So, I took him as a student. Well, Mark began with his piano lessons, and from the beginning I thought it was a hopeless endeavor. As much as Mark tried, he lacked the sense of tone and basic rhythm needed to excel. But he dutifully reviewed his scales and some elementary pieces that I require all my students to learn. Over the months he tried and tried while I listened and cringed and tried to encourage him. At the end of each weekly lesson, he always say, "My Mom's going to hear me play someday." But it seemed hopeless. He just did not have any inborn ability. I only knew his mother from a distance as she dropped Mark off or waited in her aged car to pick him up. She always waved and smiled but never stopped in.

Then one day Mark stopped coming to our lessons. I thought about calling him but assumed, because of his lack of ability, that he had decided to pursue something else. I also was glad that he stopped coming. He was a bad advertisement for my teaching!

Several weeks later I mailed to the student's homes a flyer on the upcoming recital. To my surprise Mark (who received a flyer) asked me if he could be in the recital. I told him that the recital was for current pupils and because he had dropped out, he really did not qualify. He said that his mom had been sick and unable to take him to piano lessons but he was still practicing. "I've just got to play!" Mark insisted. I don't know what led me to allow him to play in the recital. Maybe it was his persistence, or maybe it was something inside of me saying that it would be all right. The night for the recital came. The high school gymnasium was packed with parents, friends and relatives. I put Mark up last in the program before I was to come up and thank all the students and play a finishing piece. I thought that any damage he would do would come at the end of the program and I could always salvage his poor performance through my "curtain closer."

Well, the recital went off without a hitch. The students had been practicing and it showed. Then Mark came up on stage. His clothes were wrinkled and his hair looked like he'd run an eggbeater through it. "Why didn't he dress up like the other students?" I thought. "Why didn't his mother at least make him comb his hair for this special night?" Mark pulled out the piano bench and he began. I was surprised when he announced that he had chosen Mozart's Concerto # 1 in C Major. I was not prepared for what I heard next. His fingers were light on the keys, they even danced nimbly on the ivories.

He went from pianissimo to fortissimo ... from allegro to virtuoso. His suspended chords that Mozart demands were magnificent! Never had I heard Mozart played so well by a person his age. After six and a half minutes, he ended in a grand crescendo and everyone was on their feet in wild applause.

Overcome and in tears I ran up on stage and put my arms around Mark in joy. "I've never heard you play like that Mark! How'd you do it?"

Through the microphone Mark explained: "Well, remember I told you my mom was sick? Well, actually, she had cancer and passed away this morning. And well ... she was born deaf, so tonight was the first time she ever heard me play. I wanted to make it special."

There wasn't a dry eye in the house that evening. As the people from Social Services led Mark from the stage to be placed into foster care, I noticed that even their eyes were red and puffy and I thought to myself how much richer my life had been for taking Mark as my pupil.

No, I've never had a protégée -- but that night I became a protégée of Mark's. He was the teacher and I was the pupil. For it is he that taught me the meaning of perseverance and love, and believing in yourself, and maybe even taking a chance in someone and you don't know why.

This is especially meaningful to me since Mark was killed in the senseless bombing of Oklahoma City in April

of 1995, where he was reportedly.... playing the piano.

A Time to Laugh (82)

Father of Lawyers

A minister once asked a lawyer, "What do you do if you make a mistake on a case?"

The lawyer answered, "I try to fix it if it's big and ignore it if it's insignificant." The lawyer then asked, "What do you do?" The minister told the lawyer, "I do more or less the same. Let me give you an example. The other day I meant to say, 'The devil is the father of liars,' but I said instead, 'The devil is the father of lawyers,' so I let it go."

The Unused Heart

An elderly patient needed a heart transplant and discussed his options with his doctor.

The doctor said, "We have three possible donors; you need to tell me which one you want to use.

"One is a young, healthy athlete who died in an automobile accident. The second is a young businessman who never drank or smoked and died in his private plane. The third is an attorney who just died after practicing law for forty years."

"I'll take the lawyer's heart," said the patient.

The doctor asked the patient why he wanted the heart of the lawyer.

"That's easy," the patient replied. "I want a heart that hasn't been used."

Lightbulb Changers-A Collection

Q: How many Calvinists does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: None: God has predestined when the lights will be on.

Q: How many Arminians does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: Just one, but it has to be changed again and again.

Q: How many Christian counselors does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: Only one, but the bulb has to be committed to long-term change.