



March 3, 2024

Bulletin #9

## 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:      **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 Thursdays Mass at 12:00 Noon**  
                                 **Fridays during Lent: Mass at 5:30 pm followed by Stations of the Cross**
- \***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, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad, Gary Weisner.
- \***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.

## *Sunday of the Prodigal son*

Readings: Zec 3:1-7; 2Cor 13:5-13 and Lk 15:11-32

The story of the prodigal son is that of many young men and women who have left God and His Church. Some, like him, had the courage to come back; some, unfortunately, did not show up again in the Father's house. But God, our Father, loved them all and expected their returning home. How should we understand the three persons of the parable?

### 1-THE PRODIGAL SON:

He was a young growing man but weary at home. He was third in the family if we count his father and his older brother. He felt acutely an outsider and not much favored. He was looking for total freedom and independence from his family. Instead of seeking advice or seeing a family counselor, he resolved his restlessness in a selfish and thoughtless way. He requested from his father his share of the family's properties and left home. In a short time, he spent his funds in permissive and loose living. He was now poor, miserable and living in rags and beggary. Moreover, the swine of his friend were better fed than he. In his deep destitution he realized that in his father's house life would be better even if he was hired as a servant. Then, he noticed that he placed his own pleasures above the love and respect of his parents and remembered his father's love for him. He carefully prepared his words of repentance and returned home to face his father and be ready to do his fathers' will: "FATHER, DO TO ME WHATEVER YOU WISH. I LEAVE IT TO YOU...." At this, his father welcomed him out of love and mercy.

### 2-THE FATHER:

He is a rich landowner and loves his children very much. We find him generous in granting his youngest son's request. However, knowing how blind young people can be and how wrong and stubborn they can be in their determination and decisions, we wonder if any help can make them change their mind. How many children listen to their fathers? Nevertheless, we ought to tell them what are the consequences of their foolish decisions. In this parable, the father hoped and prayed till his loved son returned. He did not demand any apology; but he immediately, received him back as his son and not as a servant. Moreover, the father ordered for him the finest robe (like that of a dignified child), the ring (symbol of trust in sharing paternal authority upon the servants), and shoes befitting a noble man. Finally, his son's return home is also celebrated by a lavish and expensive banquet. All the generosity of the loving father was displayed for the dusty and ragged child, who repented and returned home

### 3-THE ELDER SON:

He took an unpleasant attitude. He became angry for what he heard and saw and refused to enter his own house. In vain his father pleaded with him, tried to make him understand and convince him to join the celebration. He rejected all and stated that he, the faithful son and not his immoral brother, deserved such a treatment and celebration.

What happened after that is everyone's guess! Jesus left the story unfinished. His main intention, however, is to show us on one hand, that God's (our Father's) love and forgiveness are far greater than anything experienced on earth, and on the other hand, that we, humans, in contrast to God, have difficulty to forgive our fellowmen. This is why, instead of calling the parable "THE PRODIGAL SON", we may call it either the parable of "THE FORGIVING FATHER", who is ready to receive us with open arms if we repent and make a good confession. Or we may call it the parable of "THE UNFORGIVING BROTHER".

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

Every Friday during Lent, we celebrate Stations of the Cross at 5:30 p.m. It will be followed by a spiritual reflection and the Benediction of the Cross. We start the Rosary and Litany at 5:15 pm. Please come early. 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.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Volunteers Who are sponsoring the Light Meals on Fridays during Lent:</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Friday, March 8	Meal Sponsor: Liz & Jay Murad
5 <sup>th</sup> Friday, March 15	Meal Sponsors: George & Susan Saseen and the Frenn Family
6 <sup>th</sup> Friday, March 22	Meal Sponsors: Don Nickerson and Family
<b>Good Friday, March 29</b>	Meal Sponsors: The Cedar Club & Parishioners
<b>Easter Sunday, March 31</b>	Happy Easter

## *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: Saturday-Sunday, March 2-3: Sunday of the Prodigal Son*

### **Saturday, March 2, Mass at 4:00 p.m.:**

- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- ✠ John Shibben by Denna O. Shibben (FL)
- ✠ Good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus
- ✠ Special Intention

### **Sunday, March 3, Mass at 10:30 a.m.:**

- ✠ Mary Stees by Mary Lee & Dennis Porter
- ✠ Bill Dougherty (Anniversary) by his wife Carol (OK)
- ✠ Lawrence Ferrera (Anniversary) by Larry & Becky Ferrera
- ✠ Good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

## *Weekdays Mass Schedule*

**Monday, March 4:** No Mass. Pastor's day off.

### **Tuesday, March 5, Mass at Noon:**

- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, and her son Mark by her last will
- ✠ Dana Burkhart by his wife Carol and Family
- ✠ Mary Stees by Dr. Nabiel Alkhouri and Family

**Wednesday, March 6:** No Mass. Office works.

### **Thursday, March 7, Mass at Noon:**

- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- ✠ Mary Stees by her Family
- ✠ John Shibben by Denna O. Shibben (FL)

### **Friday, March 8, at 5:30 pm Stations and Benediction & Light Dinner (Rosary starts at 5:15 pm)**

- ✠ Special prayers for those who prepared the light meal after the Stations of the Cross.

## *Next Weekend: Saturday-Sunday, March 9-10: Sunday of the Paralytic*

### **Saturday, March 9, Mass at 4:00 p.m.:**

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

- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by his grandchildren: Jeff, Courtney and Pat Sengewalt
- ✠ Dana Burkhart by his wife Carol and Family
- ✠ Good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

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

- ✠ Mary Stees by Mary Lee & Dennis Porter
- ✠ Betty Abraham, Clara Carter, Evelyn Goodson (Anniversaries) by Jean Weisner & Family
- ✠ Good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

## *Coming Parish Events*

Sunday, April 28	Mother Day dinner after 10:30 am Mass
Mother Day Masses	2 weekends Masses for Mothers & Grandmothers (May 11-19)
Saturday, May 11	Bake Sale. More details in next bulletins.
Father Day Masses	2 weekends Masses for Fathers & Grandfathers (June 15-23)
91 <sup>st</sup> Lebanese Festival	--Sunday, August 11, 2024 from 11:00 am until 6:00 pm --Outdoor Mass at Oglebay at 10:00 a.m. --Live Band, Belly dancers, inflatables, face painting, souvenirs, Lebanese Food, shish kebab, pastry, wine, beer, adult and children games, and much more. --Raffle Prize will be \$10,000 if all 1,000 numbered tickets are sold. --Save the Date Magnet will be mailed soon



## *Easter Lillies Donated in Memory of:*

- ✠ Gladys Howard & Louise N. & Lois H. Khourey, Sr. by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family
- ✠ Tom & Mary K. Ferris by their daughter Denise Ferris
- ✠ Mary Stees by Denise Ferris
- ✠ Adib & Sadie (parents), Nadim (brother), Mona (sister) by Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac
- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- ✠ Bob Saseen by his wife Fran
- ✠ Deceased of the Duffy & Fadoul Families by Earl & Linda Duffy
- ✠ Matthew Siebieda & Charles & Della Cettorelli by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ✠ Shirley Elias Nickerson & Deceased of the Elias Family by Tammy Strong
- ✠ In Honor of Ron Weisner
- ✠ Phillip Geimer & the Deceased Family of Thomasina Geimer
- ✠ Pearl Shutler by her daughter Janet Shutler
- ✠ Bob Shutler by his sister Janet Shutler
- ✠ Nimon & Miriam Joseph Family by the Joseph & Weisner Families
- ✠ In Honor of Michael Duymich
- ✠ Deceased of the Wakim & Yeater Families by Chris & Jeannette Wakim
- ✠ Mary Stees by the Jay & Liz Murad Family
- ✠ Danny & Milly Manners by their daughter Nini Miller
- ✠ The McLaughlin & Joseph Families by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- ✠ John Shibben by his wife Dee Shibben

## *Diocesan Appeal*

The Lenten Appeal for the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon is now taking place. A letter from Bishop Elias Zaidan about the Appeal will be mailed to every family. Copies are also available online at [www.eparchy.org](http://www.eparchy.org). The Eparchy relies upon you to support our Maronite parishes and train our future Maronite priests. Every family is asked to participate in the Appeal and please be generous. You may make a donation using a check, cash or credit card. Please support your Eparchy. Thank you.

## ***Diocesan Appeal Fulfilled***

**Many Thanks for all the following 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 contribute to the forgiveness of your sins:**  
 Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, David John, Jean Weisner, Tom & Sharon Beatty, Rosalie Conti, Carol Burkhart, Millet L. Fadoul, Frank & Anna Marie Duymich, Gary Weisner, Mark Schroeder, Mark & Barb McLaughlin, Thomasina Geimer, Larry & Lillian Siebieda, Ron & Susan Burns, Robert Harris, Sue Jochum, Elsie Renzella, The Frenn Family, Rex Strawn, Debbie Huffman, John & Opal Ritts, Deanna (Dee) Shiben, Jackie & Pat Petros, Nettie Seidler, Randy Weisner, Janet Shutler, Denny Albaugh, Ron & Kim Gibbons, Earl & Linda Duffy, Jane Palmer, Carol Dougherty, Mary Rose Kukula, Evelyn (Cathy) Goodson, Judy Bedway, GiGi Rice, Tom & Judy Brock,

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

March 4: Jeff Sengewalt  
 March 6: Kristen McLaughlin  
 March 10: Liam George  
 March 15: Shelby Imer  
 March 16: Mia Ferrera  
 March 18: Kenny Imer, Bill Stees, Patrick Petros  
 March 21: Caroline Stees McDowell  
 March 22: Jennifer Imer  
 March 26: Joseph John  
 March 30: Greg John  
 April 1: Patrick Sengewalt

<b><i>Your Church Support Last Week</i></b>	
\$1,450.00	Sunday Collection
750.00	Diocesan Appeal
75.00	Candles
65.00	Donations in Memory of Marge Saseen
205.00	Mother Day dinner
25.00	Donation to the church
16.00	Mahrajan
25.00	Easter Lillies
\$2,611.00	Total Deposits: <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i> Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Susan Burns, Liz Murad, Mark McLaughlin

## ***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)*

Dolores Oser, Sally Sengewalt, Anthony Wakim, Frank Duymich, Earl Duffy, Fran Saseen, Rex Strawn, Sandra DeMuth, Ken Imer, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Patty Olinsky, Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Earl Ragase, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter),

## ***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

## *What's New?*

### *Diocese Pilgrimage to Poland and Prague*

When: From August 26 to September 4, 2024. Space is limited

Where: Poland and Prague

Cost: \$2,900.00 double occupancy. Price per person

Information: call our Diocese at 323-336-3168 or 818-626-9193

### *Spirituality: God's Promises*

God didn't promise us a bed of roses  
If we would walk with Him,  
But He did promise us forgiveness  
And wash away our sins.  
He didn't promise us great riches  
Of silver and of gold.  
But He did promise us a home in heaven  
Where we never will grow old.  
He didn't say we'd have no worries  
Or pain, sickness and death,  
But He did say cast your burdens on me  
And I will give you rest.  
He said to love one another  
That's the greatest gift of all,  
I gave you sisters and brothers  
Lean on them lest you fall.  
He said band together all my people  
For the time is drawing nigh,  
When you hear of wars and rumors of wars  
I could come in the twinkling of an eye.

### *Wisdom: Resentment*

A friend once told me, "Resentment is the poison that destroys its own container." So why do we cling so desperately to our resentments and keep them swirling in our hearts? Here's a short meditative exercise to help you release a resentment.

First, think about a resentment you are holding. It can be from a recent incident or from long ago. Choose something that holds some energy for you. Write a word or phrase that captures that resentment on a small slip of paper. Next, crumple the paper and hold it in your hand as tightly as you can. Don't let up the pressure. Now, simply sit and become aware of what this tight grip is doing to the flexibility of your muscles. Do they hurt? How do you think this would feel after an hour? After a full day? How about months or years?

After two minutes, slowly open your hand, a finger at a time. Feel the freedom that comes with letting go of the resentment sheet. Ask God's help to do the same with the actual resentment.

### *Story: Run through the rain*

She had been shopping with her mom in Walmart. She must have been 6 years old, this beautiful red haired, freckle faced image of innocence. It was pouring outside. The kind of rain that gushes over the top of rain gutters, so much in a hurry to hit the earth it has no time to flow down the spout.

We all stood there under the awning and just inside the door of the Walmart. We waited, some patiently, others irritated because nature messed up their hurried day. I am always mesmerized by rainfall. I got lost in the sound and sight of the heavens washing away the dirt and dust of the world.

Memories of running, splashing so carefree as a child come pouring in as a welcome reprieve from the worries of my day. Her voice was so sweet as it broke the hypnotic trance we were all caught in.

"Mom, let's run through the rain," she said. "What?" Mom asked.

"Let's run through the rain!" She repeated. "No, honey. We'll wait until it slows down a bit," Mom replied.

This young child waited about another minute and repeated: "Mom, let's run through the rain." "We'll get soaked if we do," Mom said. "No, we won't, Mom. That's not what you said this morning," the young girl said as she tugged at her Mom's arm. "This morning? When did I say we could run through the rain and not get wet?" "Don't you remember? When you were talking to Daddy about his cancer, you said, 'If God can get us through this, he can get us through anything!'"

The entire crowd stopped dead silent. I swear you couldn't hear anything but the rain. We all stood

silently. No one came or left in the next few minutes. Mom paused and thought for a moment about what she would say. Now some would laugh it off and scold her for being silly. Some might even ignore what was said. But this was a moment of affirmation in a young child's life. A time when innocent trust can be nurtured so that it will bloom into faith.

*"Honey, you are absolutely right. Let's run through the rain. If GOD lets us get wet, well maybe we just needed washing,"* Mom said. Then off they ran, laughing as they darted past the cars and yes, through the puddles. They held their shopping bags over their heads just in case. They got soaked. But they were followed by a few who screamed and laughed like children all the way to their cars. And yes, I did. I ran. I got wet. I needed washing.

*Circumstances or people can take away your material possessions, they can take away your money, and they can take away your health. But no one can ever take away your precious memories...So, don't forget to make time and take the opportunities to make memories everyday. To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven.*

## *A Time to Laugh (105)*

### *Tenderloin! You are a Walleye!*

When Ole moved up north he discovered that he was the only Lutheran in his new little town of all Catholics.

That was okay, but the neighbors had a problem with his barbecuing venison every Friday. Since they couldn't eat meat on Friday, the tempting aroma was getting the best of them.

Hoping they could do something to stop this, the neighbors got together and went over to talk to Ole, eventually persuading him to join their church. The big day came and the priest had Ole kneel. He put his hand on Ole's head and said, "Ole, you were born a Lutheran, your were raised a Lutheran, and now," he said as he sprinkled some incense over Ole's head, "now you are a Catholic!"

Ole was happy and the neighbors were happy. But the following Friday evening at suppertime, there was again that aroma of grilled deer steaks coming from Ole's yard. The neighbors went to talk to him about this and as they approached the fence, they heard Ole saying, "You were born a whitetail, you were raised a whitetail, and now," he said as he sprinkled seasoning salt over the choice tenderloin cut, "now you are a walleye!"

### *A Worship Experience*

The local pastor of the small town parish was beloved by his people. His strength was neither his preaching nor his style as a celebrant. In fact, he was down right boring in his sermons that he gave twice a week at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. A young altar server was assisting the pastor in church and asked who were the names of people on the wall. "They are people who died in the service," answered the pastor. "Which one, the 8:30 or the 11:00?" asked the young lad.

### *Holy Humor*

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

## *Famous Quotes (11)*

### **Apology**

--Never make a defense or apology before you be accused. (King Charles)

### **Appearance**

--All things are less dreadful than they seem.

- Appearances are very deceitful. (French proverb)
- Things are not always what they seem. (Phaedrus)
- All that glitters is not gold. (Miguel de Cervantes)
- You are only what you are when no one is looking. (Robert C. Edwards)
- The bosom can ache beneath diamond brooches; and many a blithe heart dances under coarse wool. Edwin (Hubbel Chapin)
- The proof of the pudding is in the eating, not in its looks.
- Half the work that is done in this world is to make things appear what they are not. (Elias Root Beadle)
- There are no greater wretches in the world than many of those whom people in general take to be happy. (Seneca)

**Appeasement**

- Appeasers believe that if you keep on throwing steaks to a tiger, the tiger will turn vegetarian. (Heywood Broun)

**Appetite**

- He who cheats his appetite avoids debt. (Chinese proverb)
- A stomach that is seldom empty despises common food. (Horace)
- Seek an appetite by hard toil. (Horace)
- Always rise from the table with an appetite, and you will never sit down without one. (William Penn)
- The one thing bigger than my stomach is my appetite.

**Appreciation**

- We never know the worth of water till the well is dry. (English proverb)
- I now perceive one immense omission in my Psychology—the deepest principle of Human Nature is the craving to be appreciated. (William James)