



September 1, 2024

Bulletin #35

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

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Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



16th Sunday of Pentecost

- *Weekend Masses: Saturdays: Mass at 4:00 p.m. and 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, 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: 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.

16th Sunday of Pentecost

Readings: Amos 5:21-24; Rom 8:18-27 and Lk 18:9-14

“TWO MEN WENT UP TO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY.” It is the hallmark of caricature to take some characteristic of a person and exaggerate it in such a way as to make them ludicrous. Jesus here has done something similar with the two extremes of the religious society of his day, two attitudes before God. This concerns me this Sunday. In which do I see myself, the Pharisee or the Publican?

First the Pharisee, with his magnificent “PRAYER OF THANKS”: “I THANK YOU GOD...” He asks nothing for himself, and we should judge him no hypocrite: what he says, he does, and perfectly. The trouble is he knows it too well: he listens to himself praying, he is preoccupied with himself. Above all, he judges others. As far as he is concerned about God, he sees him chiefly as the one who will recognize his merits. Set against this religiously observant man we have the publican. He makes no great prayer of thanksgiving; he confesses, not because he needs to sweep his conscience clear (the Pharisee had done that for him), nor to go back over his faults, but to express all the sorrow he feels for them. Finding nothing that could give him any assurance before his judge, he entrusts himself to the divine mercy: hoping to receive his very existence as a grace, a gift. When this humble man returned to his home, he and not the other was at rights with God.

As Christians we know that a just man is one who has been justified, saved by God, without regard for merit. Do we BELIEVE THAT firmly enough when we pray? The best revealer of God and of ourselves is still our prayer.

This Weekend, Aug. 31-Sep. 1: 16th Sunday of Pentecost

Saturday, August 31 at 4:00 pm:

- ✠ Shirley Nickerson (Birthday) by her daughter Tammy
- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by his grandchildren: Jeff, Courtney and Pat Sengewalt
- ✠ Gene & Janice Roxby by their son Joe Roxby
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family

Sunday, September 1 at 10:30 am:

- ✠ Tom & Mary K. Ferris (Anniversary) by their daughter Denise Ferris
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family
- ✠ John Shiben by Erica Shiben & Family

Weekdays Mass Schedule

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

Tuesday, September 3 Mass at Noon:

- ✠ Shirley Nickerson (Birthday) by her daughter Tammy
- ✠ Dennis Bartolovich by his wife Debbie & Helen Benline
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will

Wednesday, September 4: No Mass. Office works.

Thursday, September 5, Mass at Noon:

- ✠ Tom Ferris (Birthday) and Mary Stees by Libby Magnone
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family

Friday, September 6: No Mass. Visitations of the sick.

Next Weekend, Sep. 7-8: Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Saturday, September 7 at 4:00 pm: Mass followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

- ✠ John F. kukula (Anniversary) by his wife Mary Rose Kukula
- ✠ Teresa Ferrera (Anniversary) by Larry & Becky Ferrera

✠ Gene & Janice Roxby by their son Joe Roxby

✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family

Sunday, September 8 at 10:30 am: Feast of the nativity of the Blessed Mother. Mass followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

✠ Susie Fadoul, Betty Jean Fadoul, Joe & Nell Duffy, Geo & Rose Fadoul by Earl & Linda Duffy

✠ Elias Frenn (Anniversary) by Dr. Adel, Diane and Justin and Andrea & Zack Riedel

✠ John Shiben by Erica Shiben & Family

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:

September 1:	Janet Fadoul Wilson
September 8:	Carol Dougherty
September 9:	Gary Weisner, Patrick Stees, Lorenzo Ferrera
September 10:	Chris George
September 18:	Michael Duymich
September 20:	Regina Hancher, Gavin Hancher
September 24:	Luane Frazier
September 26:	Mary Rose Kukula

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$911.00	Sunday Collection
58.00	Candles
2,513.30	Mahrajan
23.00	Coffee hour
500.00	Donation to the church
\$4,005.30	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)

Regina, Shelly and Gavin Hancher, Debbie Blake, Mary Zigler (sister of Lillian Siebieda), Dolores Oser, Sally Sengewalt, Anthony Wakim, Earl Duffy, Fran Saseen, Sandra DeMuth, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Patty Olinsky, Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter),

What's New?

Mahrajan Updates

--the Financial Report on the festival will be published by mid-September when all the bills are received and paid.

--Two round high tables are needed for our guests to eat and socialize while watching the dance floor. Each costs with the cover around \$100. If you are blessed enough and you need to sponsor one or both of them, please let Msgr Bakhos Know. Your name will be on the Sponsors' page of the Ad book next year.

--Msgr Bakhos

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

Diocese Pilgrimage to Canonization

Subject: Canonization of the three Massabki Brothers

Where: Rome

When: From October 15 till 24th, 2024.

Sites to visit: Rome, Polseña, Orvieto, Florence, Assisi, Casia, Naples

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

Spirituality

Mortification is based, not on hatred, but on preference. The mother sacrifices the bloom in her cheek to put it on the cheek of an infant daughter; the scholar surrenders any hope he held for the development of his muscles; the moral life demands our saying: "No" to false ideals that glorifies power and egotism. It is quite a wrong thing, therefore, to say that you "give up" something during Lent. Our Lord never asked us to give up something; He asked us to exchange: "***What exchange shall you give for your soul?***" When someone is in love with God, he finds that there are some things he can get along without (his own pleasure), and something else he cannot get along without, namely, the peace of soul that comes from obeying God's Will. So he exchanges the one for the other, surrenders the lesser good to gain a Kingdom. He makes such a series of profitable exchanges every day he lives.

Love of God thus becomes the dominant passion of life; like every other worthwhile love, it demands and inspires sacrifice. But love of God and man, as an ideal, has lately been replaced by the new ideal of tolerance that inspires no sacrifices. Why should any human being in the world be merely tolerated? What human has ever made a sacrifice in the name of tolerance? It leads people, instead, to express their own egotism in a book or a lecture that patronizes the downtrodden group. One of the cruelest things that can happen to a human being is to be tolerated. Never once did Our Lord say: "Tolerate your enemies!" But He did say: "***Love your enemies; do good to them that hate you***" (Mt 5:44). Such love can be achieved only if we deliberately curb our fallen nature's animosities.

Bishop Fulton SHEEN, Peace of Soul, 1949, p.187.

Wisdom: Special moment

THIS IS SAD BUT SWEET.

TAKE HOLD OF EVERY MOMENT

A friend of mine opened his wife's underwear drawer and picked up a silk paper wrapped package:

"This, - he said - isn't any ordinary package." He unwrapped the box and stared at both the silk paper and the box. "She got this the first time we went to New York, 8 or 9 years ago. She has never put it on. Was saving it for a special occasion. Well, I guess this is it. He got near the bed and placed the gift box next to the other clothing he was taking to the funeral home, his wife had just died. He turned to me and said:

"Never save something for a special occasion. Every day in your life is a special occasion."

I still think those words changed my life. Now I read more and clean less.

I sit on the porch without worrying about anything.

I spend more time with my family, and less at work.

I understood that life should be a source of experience to be lived up to, not survived through. I no longer keep anything. I use crystal glasses every day. I'll wear new clothes to go to the supermarket, if I feel like it.

I don't save my special perfume for special occasions, I use it whenever I want to. The words "Someday..." and "One Day..." are fading away from my dictionary. If it's worth seeing, listening or doing, I want to see, listen or do it now. I don't know what my friend's wife would have done if she knew she wouldn't be there the next morning, this nobody can tell. I think she might have called her relatives and closest friends. She might call old friends to make peace over past quarrels. I'd like to think she would go out for Chinese, her favorite food. It's these small things that I would regret not doing, if I knew my time had come. I would regret it, because I would no longer see the friends I would meet, letters... letters that I wanted to write "One of this days." I would regret and feel sad, because I didn't say to my brothers and sons, not times enough at least, how much I love them.

Now, I try not to delay, postpone or keep anything that could bring laughter and joy into our lives. And, on each morning, I say to myself that this could be a special day. Each day, each hour, each minute, is special.

Story

A few years ago, a prayer to the Lord was written by one African girl named Kay who were deceived and brought to the rich Western world to be “used” like merchandise in the name of the god of money and a market that does not look at the faces of the men and women whom it often crushes pitilessly. What seems to count most is that some one will profit from all this, even if it causes great harm to many people.

Kay found herself in Europe because of a debt her father had to pay back to the racket. The alternative proposed to him was to send his daughter, who was barely 18 at the time, to take care of a paralyzed woman. She embarked on a plan and arrived. We can imagine her on her first voyage, not knowing German. She felt disoriented at the airport, and then she saw two other Africans with a little girl who asked her if she needed help. She trusted them and gave them her passport, which she never saw again.

She was taken by train to Rome where two accomplices were waiting for her in a car. They took her directly to a road in Italy. She cried and was in despair, but her companions tried to console her and joke with her. She could not “work” in the way that was expected of her, and so she was taken to another Italian city.

She had to give her exploiters 250,000 Liras every ten days, and 150,000 Liras a week for food and rent. The money was sent through one of those agencies that handles sending money in Italy. The way it is done is easy: she would go to an agency, give a name, hand over the money and then get a receipt and a code in return. The receipt was taken away from her and destroyed, and the code was communicated by phone to the person who had to collect the money.

When she was not able to put enough money together, she was beaten, and this happened several times. She was kidnapped twice: once by a Moroccan man, and another time by an Italian, and she immediately suffered the consequences for this. In the beginning, she felt very badly, then she started to “react” and got cut off from herself with loud, aggressive behavior, the kind of behavior that at times causes negative comments from those who saw her, and from some people who think basically that these girls like this kind of life.

In a few months, her degradation was obvious. Then, one evening, she had the “good fortune” of being beaten again. A neighbor called the police and she was brought to the emergency room. She ran away from there and took refuge in a customer’s house. Her adventure on the street, which had lasted a little over six months, ended there.

After some time, she took refuge with another person who kept her for almost two years. She got comfortable in her new situation and worked a little, but since she had no documents or residence permit, she could not do any more than this. Fear kept her from denouncing her exploiters.

It took some time to convince her to tell her story to lawyers and then finally make a report to the police. At last, the judge granted her the long-awaited residence permit and documents, which Kay showed off with understandable satisfaction to her close friends. After spending a few more months in the community, it was found that she had a tumor, but she was treated and is now under control. At last came the happy ending: she called to announce that she had just finished her first day at work in a large food industry.

This is not a fable, even though it has a happy ending. It is the story of a girl who suffered, fought and won her battle against fear, exploitation, subjection, violence ... and the prejudice of many people.

Maybe she would not have made it alone, but she did not give in to what seemed to be a marked destiny. Of course, it is not easy to choose. You have to pay to exercise your right to freedom, and not everyone has the courage to do this. Kay took advantage of the opportunities the Lord gave her, and she fought and prayed to have the strength to resist and not feel abandoned when everything seemed hopeless.

Jesus came on this earth to free us from the slavery of sin. Liberation requires our collaboration. In freedom everyone can choose between good and evil and, above all, to entrust oneself to Christ. Trust in Him (Faith) is one essential element of salvation. Without trust in Love, it is difficult to hope, and impossible to overcome evil.

Christ made himself known to Kay in the guise of those who approached, encouraged, supported and helped her with their own means to get out of her situation. All Christians have the duty to be instruments of salvation for those they meet along their way. All Christians are called to be Christ, the Savior of their brothers,

and in doing this, they will help Christ who makes himself known in the poor. Let us not stop to contemplate the birth of poor Jesus, his life, passion and death ... We are not called to contemplate (in the sense of observe), but to act in the world to order to help the poor.

A Time to Laugh (131)

Prayer

When Brother Bruno was at prayer one night he was disturbed by the croaking of a bullfrog.

All his attempts to disregard the sound were unsuccessful so he shouted from his window, "Quiet! I'm at my prayer." Now brother Bruno was a saint so his command was instantly obeyed. Every living creature held its voice so as to create a silence that would be favorable to prayer.

But now another sound intruded on Bruno's worship, an inner voice that said, "Maybe God is as pleased with the croaking of that frog as with the chanting of your psalms."

"What can please the ears of God in the croak of a frog?" was Bruno's scornful rejoinder. But the voice refused to give up: "Why would you think God invented the sound?"

Bruno decided to find out why. He leaned out of his window and gave the order, "Sing!" The bullfrog's measured croaking filled the air to the ludicrous accompaniment of all the frogs in the vicinity. And as Bruno attended to the sound, their voices ceased to jar for he discovered that, if he stopped resisting them, they actually enriched the silence of the night.

With that discovery Bruno's heart became harmonious with the universe and, for the first time in his life he understood what it means to pray.

Marriage

A group of a hundred lumberjacks worked in the forest for six months and two women did their cooking and laundry for them. At the end of that period two of the men married the two women. What the local newspaper said was that two per cent of the men married a hundred per cent of the women.

So Lost

A police car pulled up in front of Grandma Bessie's house, and Grandpa Morris got out. The polite policeman explained that this elderly gentleman said that he was lost in the park and couldn't find his way home.

"Oh, Morris," said Grandma, "you've been going to that park for over thirty years! How could you get lost?"

Leaning close to Grandma so that the policeman couldn't hear, Morris whispered, "I wasn't lost. I was just too tired to walk home."

Not Drunk

A man came home drunk after a night of carousing in a number of neighborhood bars. His wife helped him up to the bedroom and tucked him into bed. Then she kneeled at his bedside and whispered, "John, do you want me to pray for you?"

He agreed, and she began to pray, "Dear Lord, I pray for my husband who lies here before you drunk ..."

Before she could finish, he interrupted, "Don't tell him I'm drunk; just tell him I'm sick."

The Visit To The Doctor

A man asked his doctor if he thought he'd live to be a hundred. The doctor asked the man,

"Do you smoke or drink?"

"No," he replied, *"I've never done either."*

"Do you gamble, drive fast cars, and hunt or fish?" inquired the doctor.

"No, I've never done any of those things either."

"Well then," said the doctor, *"what do you want to live to be a hundred for?"*

Famous Quotes (33)

[Read from the wisdom of Bishop Fulton Sheen]

- Never forget that there are only two philosophies to rule your life: the one of the cross, which starts with the fast and ends with the feast. The other of Satan, which starts with feast and ends with the headache.
- Love cannot remain by itself because it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action, and that action is service.
- Why is it any time we speak of temptation we always speak of temptation as something that inclines us to wrong. We have more temptations to become good than we do to become bad.
- The humble, simple souls, who are little enough to see the bigness of God in the littleness of a Babe, are therefore the only ones who will ever understand the reason of His visitation. He came to this poor earth of ours to carry on an exchange; to say to us, as only the Good God could say: "you give me your humanity, and I will give you my Divinity; you give me your time, and I will give you My eternity; you give me your broken heart, and I will give you Love; you give me your nothingness, and I will give you My all.
- As the mother knows the needs better than the babe, so the Blessed Mother understands our cries and worries and knows them better than we know ourselves.
- It is typically American to feel that we are not doing anything unless we are doing something big. But from the Christian point of view, there is no one thing that is bigger than any other thing.
- A person is merciful when he feels the sorrow and misery of another as if it were his own.
- Joy comes from loving God and neighbor. Pleasure is quick and violent, like a flash of lightning. Joy is steady and abiding, like a fixed star.
- Every man rejoices twice when he has a partner in his joy. He who shares tears with us wipes them away. He divides them in two, and he who laughs with us makes the joy double.
- It will make the rich see that real wealth is in the service of the needy, and above all else, it will make the glory of Christ's Cross shine out in a love of the brethren for one another as true loyal sons of God.
- It has been said it makes no difference what you believe, it all depends on how you act.
- By our presence in the world, we are called to create a society capable of recognizing the dignity of every person and sharing the gift that each person to the other.
- Imagine a large circle and in the center of it rays of light that spread out to the circumference. The light in the center is God; each of us is a ray. The closer the rays are to the center, the closer the rays are to one another. The closer we live to God, the closer we are bound to our neighbor; the farther we are from God, the farther we are from one another. The more each ray departs from its center, the weaker it becomes; and the closer it gets to the center, the stronger it becomes.
- As Adam lost the heritage of union with God in a garden, so now our Blessed Lord ushered in its restoration in a garden. Eden and Gethsemane were the two gardens around which revolved the fate of humanity. In Eden, Adam sinned; in Gethsemane, Christ took humanity's sin upon Himself. In Eden, Adam hid himself from God; in Gethsemane, Christ interceded with His Father; in Eden, God sought out Adam in his sin of rebellion; in Gethsemane, the New Adam sought out the Father and His submission and resignation. In Eden, a sword was drawn to prevent entrance into the garden and thus immortalizing of evil; in Gethsemane, the sword would be sheathed.
- You are infinitely precious because you are loved by God.
- The very word mercy is derived from the Latin, Miserum cor, a sorrowful heart. Mercy is, therefore, a compassionate understanding of another's unhappiness.
- Here is the answer, after all these years, to the mysterious words in the Gospel of the Incarnation which stated that our Blessed Mother laid her "firstborn" in the manger. Did that mean that our Blessed Mother was to have other children? It certainly did, but not according to the flesh. Our Divine Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was the unique Son of our Blessed Mother by the flesh. But our Lady was to have other children, not according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.