



October 6, 2024

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



4th Sunday after the Holy Cross

***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.

4th Sunday after the Holy Cross

Readings: Gen 41:38-44; 1Thess 5:1-11 and Mt 24:45-51

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down' ... Once again, at the beginning of Advent, this cry reaches towards God, borne up by the assurance that our salvation has been achieved, though not yet fully worked out. This is because our God is a God who comes, and Jesus Christ is fully involved in this coming: 'he is, he was and he is to come' (Apoc 4:8).

But we must adopt a reasonable attitude before this mystery of the coming of our Lord. It would be quite useless to start speculating about the time of the Second Coming and the end of the ages. This is a regular temptation for any society which happens to be shaken to its foundations! In our own day there are various religious sects who set themselves up as prophets of doom. It is not the unpredictable date of the Second Coming which should take up our attention, but rather the decisive nature of the judgment it will entail, not only upon the whole course of human history, but upon each of our personal lives as well. Faced with the prospect of this Second Coming of the Son of Man, which can be neither predicted nor prevented, faced with this lengthy vigil in the night of this world, whose end remains in darkness, the best thing for us to do is to remain always on the alert. We must accept fully our responsibility with regard to our times and invest each moment with its full weight of eternity.

Above all we should, like St Paul, never cease to give thanks. It is true we still live sparingly among the riches which God has given us in Christ. But thanksgiving is not an expression of smug self-satisfaction. It is, rather, an expression of gratitude to him who is the beginning and the end of everything, in the full realization of what we have failed to be and do, but promising that we will take up whatever promotes and repudiate whatever impedes his Advent. Christians thus become the watchdogs of the world, a thorn in their century's side, overcoming sleep and igniting hope; 'Come, Lord Jesus!' (Apoc 22:20).

This Weekend, Oct. 5-6: 5th Sunday after the Holy Cross

Saturday, October 5 at 4:00 pm: Mass will be followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

- ✠ Susie Marie Fadoul (Birthday) by her husband Millet Louis and children Janet, Millet C. & Jonathan
- ✠ Gene & Janice Roxby by their son Joe Roxby

Sunday, October 6 at 10:30 am: Mass will be followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

- ✠ Louise N. & Louis H. Khourey Sr., by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena and Louie
- ✠ John Shiben by Erica Shiben & Family
- ✠ Special prayer for good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, October 7: No Mass. Pastor's day off.

Tuesday, October 8 Mass at Noon:

- ✠ Nancy Ferris Coffield (Birthday) and Mary Stees by Libby G. Magnone
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

Wednesday, October 9: No Mass. Office works.

Thursday, October 10, Mass at Noon:

- ✠ Lawrence J. Belt (Birthday) by Chris & Jeannette Wakim
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ John Shiben by Erica Shiben & Family

Friday, October 11: No Mass. Visitations of the sick.

Next Weekend, Oct. 12-13: 6th Sunday after the Holy Cross

Saturday, October 12 at 4:00 pm:

- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt

✠ Gene & Janice Roxby by their son Joe Roxby

✠ Special Intention

✠ Special prayer for good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

Sunday, October 13 at 10:30 am:

✠ John Shiben by Erica Shiben & Family

✠ Special prayer for good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

Coming Events

Sunday, Oct 13	First Communion celebration
Sunday, Oct. 13	No Women Society meeting because of the First Communion celebration
Sat. November 2	Thanksgiving Bake Sale pick-up order
Two week masses	All Souls Masses will be celebrated for two weeks from Nov. 1 st until Nov.17 th .

All Souls two week Masses (From November 1st until November 17th)

The weekend Masses will be followed by the Prayer of Incense for the Repose of All Souls
(Please complete the attached All Souls Mass Form and drop it in the collection basket)

Special remembrance during these two week Masses for All Souls:

Friday, November 1st:

✠ Charlotte George (Birthday) by Margaret George (MN)

Tuesday, November 5th to:

✠ Libby G. Magnone (Birthday)

✠ Mary Zaid Stees by her sister Libby G. Magnone

Thursday, November 7th:

✠ Elizabeth Ferris Magnone (Birthday) by her daughters Mary Stees & Libby G. Magnone

Saturday, November 9th:

✠ Deceased of the Schroeder Family by Mark Schroeder and Jane Wine

Sunday, November 10th:

✠ Sara McLaughlin (Anniversary) by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

Tuesday, November 12th:

✠ Judith Wolfe (Birthday) and Mary Stees by Libby Magnone

Thursday, November 14th:

✠ V. Jeannette Yeater (Birthday) by Chris & Jeannette Wakim

Saturday, November 16th:

✠ Joseph Benline by his wife Helen

Sunday, November 17th:

✠ Emily Vince (Birthday) by her children & grandchildren

✠ Mary Miller (Anniversary) by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

Masses for All Souls

✠ Deceased of the Khourey & Howard Families by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Emmalena & Louie

✠ Virginia Khourey Bryan & Deceased of the Nabiha & 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

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

✠ Deceased of the Chidiac Family by Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac

✠ John Shiben by his wife Dee

✠ Tom Brock Jr. by his wife Judy & Family

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

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

✠ Deceased Family members of Anthony & Rena Nassar

- † George A. & Dolores M. Fahey by Jackie & Pat Petros
- † Philip G. & Betty Lou Petros by Jackie & Pat Petros
- † Chamse Rahi by Alicia Peklinsky & Family
- † Deceased of the Rouhana and Rahi Families by Alicia Peklinsky & Family
- † Tina Rahi by Alicia Peklinsky & Family
- † Lucille Gibbons by Robert & Paula Gibbons
- † Robert Armstrong by Robert & Paula Gibbons
- † Charles & Roy Gibbons by Paula & Bob Gibbons
- † Larry Gibbons by Paula & Bob Gibbons
- † Barkett & Sadie Coury Gibbons by Robert & Paula Gibbons
- † Elias & Siham Frenn by Dr. Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn & Zack, Andreah & Christian Riedel
- † Jim & LaVerne Thomas by Dr. Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn & Zack, Andreah & Christian Riedel
- † Fouad Frenn by Dr Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn & Zack, Andreah & Christian Riedel
- † Deceased of the Henning & Bott Families by Don & Roberta Henning
- † Richard Frazier by his wife Luane Frazier
- † Thomas A. Ferris by his daughter Denise Ferris
- † Mary K. Ferris by her daughter Denise Ferris
- † Sam & Bernadine Elias Mike & Terri Golebiewski
- † Alphonse & Violet Golebiewski by Mike & Terri Golebiewski
- † Alfred Felici by his wife Francie Felici and Family
- † Tom Ferris by his niece Libby G. Magnone
- † Mary Stees by her sister Libby G. Magnone
- † Elizabeth A. Magnone by her daughter Libby G. Magnone
- † Josephine Ferris by her niece Libby G. Magnone
- † Deceased members of the Ferris Family by Libby G. Magnone
- † Deceased of the Alkhouri and AlAhmar Families by Dr. & Mrs. Nabil AlKhouri and Family
- † Ray, Sara, Mick and Gary McLaughlin by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- † John & Mary Miller by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- † Elias & Selma Joseph by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- † George & Betty Joseph by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- † Edward & Edith & Gerard Joseph by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- † Tom Jochum by his wife Sue, his children & grandchildren
- † Deceased of Gus & Anna Shia by the Family
- † Tom & Edna Jochum by Sue and Family
- † Deceased of Anna Shia Family by Sue and Family
- † Charles & Selma Meder by Sue & Family
- † Bill Dougherty by his wife Carol Dougherty (Ok)
- † Deceased of the Habdo Family by Carol Dougherty
- † Walter Elwartoski by his son Richard Elwartoski
- † Lottie Elwartoski by her son Richard Elwartoski
- † Tony George by his daughter Margaret George (MN)
- † Charlotte George by her daughter Margaret George (MN)
- † Michael George by his sister Margaret George (MN)
- † Gregory George by Margaret George (MN)
- † Nicholas T. Bedway Jr. by Judy Bedway
- † Michelle Bedway by Judy Bedway
- † Shirley Elias Nickerson by her Loving Family
- † Deceased members of the Elias Family by their Loving Family
- † Nicholas Elias, Amelia Elias, Albert Nickerson, Wanda Nickerson by their Loving Family
- † Donald A. Nickerson Sr. by his Loving Family
- † Robert Hunter Jr., & Robby Hunter III by Thomasina Geimer

- † Ralph & Mary (Joseph) Shipley by Thomasina Geimer
- † Phillip Geimer by his wife Thomasina Geimer
- † Deceased of Namon & Salema (Awed) Joseph & Family by Thomasina Geimer
- † Susie Marie Fadoul by Millet Fadoul & Family
- † Marth Ann Rinehart by Millet Fadoul & Family
- † Mary Zaid Stees by Millet Fadoul & Family
- † Bernard & Marie Connell by Jim & Pat Saseen-Connell
- † Abdoo & Dorothy Saseen by Jim & Pat Saseen-Connell
- † Angelo & Rose Ann Palsinelli by Rosalie Conti
- † Joseph & Ina Palsinelli by Rosalie Conti
- † Gene & Dorothy Palsinelli by Rosalie Conti
- † Tony Matesic by Rosalie Conti
- † Herman & Katheryn Conti by Rosalie Conti
- † Virginia & Anton Matesic by Rosalie Conti
- † Lance Crowley (son-in-law) by Rosalie Conti
- † Deceased of the Fadoul & Duffy Families by Earl & Linda Duffy
- † Deceased members of the Porter Family by Dennis & Mary Lee Porter
- † Deceased members of the Schweizer Family by Dennis & Mary Lee Porter
- † Deceased members of the Gibbons and Otterbecks Families by Ron & Kim Gibbons
- † Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- † Cathy Sharp-Howard by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- † Michael Joseph by Vickie Joseph
- † Alphonse Joseph by Vickie Joseph
- † Georgette Joseph by Vickie Joseph
- † Dennis & June Fahey by George & Patty Fahey
- † Vincent & Agnes Jacovetty by George & Patty Jacovetty-Fahey
- † James Fahey by George & Patty Fahey
- † Sam & Robert Jacovetty by George & Patty Jacovetty-Fahey
- † Deceased Members of the Albaugh & Bernas Families by Denny Albaugh
- † Deceased Members of Olinski & Ragase Families by Mary Ragase
- † Alois Marchy by Mary Ragase
- † Deceased Members of Stolarik Family by Mary Ragase
- † Merle McConn & Mark Slvga by Mary Ragase
- † Earl Ragase by Mary Ragase
- † Rosemary F. Coury by Richard Coury
- † Eva M. Coury by Richard Coury
- † Mary Ann Khoury by Richard Coury
- † Edward A. Khoury by Richard Coury
- † George Alan Weisner by Jean Weisner & Family
- † 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 Jean Weisner and Family
- † Betty Abraham, Clara Carter & Evelyn Goodson by Jean Weisner & Family
- † Forgotten Souls in Purgatory by Jean Weisner
- † George Alan Weisner by his daughter Mary Beth Weisner
- † Bryce D. Luginbill by Mary Beth Weisner
- † Robert N. Ayoob by Mary Beth Weisner

First Communion celebration (Sunday, October 13)

Msgr Bakhos prepared Silas John, Noah Sable and Jackson Chapman for First Communion. The three candidates attended their classes with their parents and they understood and memorized the basic Catholic

teaching of the church. They will receive their First Communion on Sunday, October 13th during Mass. A luncheon will be served in their honor in the Cedar Hall after Mass. All are invited.

Order of Saint Sharbel (October 12-13)

The weekend of October 12th - 13th 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 or donating to this worthy endeavor. You may enroll online at www.orderstsharbel.org or ask Father for more information.

With gratitude for all your love for the Church, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon

Priesthood Discernment Weekend (Nov. 1-3)

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few."

Hearing God's call in a world where there is so much noise is never easy. Nonetheless, we know there are men in our parishes called to the priesthood. Can we help them hear this call?

Let us increase our efforts to discern with them, to the best of our abilities, and put them on the right path. In this way we will be privileged to accompany men who show signs of a vocation to the priesthood, as well as promote the beauty of the priesthood in all that we do.

The Office of Vocations of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon and the Eparchy of Saint Maron, will be holding a discernment weekend from Friday November 1st to Sunday November 3rd at the Maronite Seminary, in Washington DC. If you know of anyone discerning a vocation to the priesthood, or would like to know more, please give him Chorbishop Don Sawyer's phone number (512-796-3693) or Fr. Dominique Hanna's phone number (718-624-7228) or let Chorbishop Don Sawyer or Fr. Dominique Hanna know, and either Vocation director will gladly give him a call.

They will be able to experience a weekend in the life of a seminarian by joining us for Liturgy, Adoration, meals, prayers and hanging out. This weekend is a great opportunity for them to come and see what a weekend in the life of a seminarian is like!

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

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$1,039.00	Sunday Collection
53.00	Candles
33.00	Coffee hour
95.00	Donation to the church
100.00	Mahrajan
854.00	Rummage sale
\$2,174.00	Total Deposits: May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home! 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)
 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?

Thank You to our mailing volunteers!

Many thanks to our mailing volunteers who gave of their time on Wednesday, 10/13/24, evening to collate our Thanksgiving Food Sale mailing. It was a HUGE project that could not have been completed without the help of the following angels: Linda Duffy, Mickey Duffy, Ron Gibbons, Kim Gibbons, Libby Magnone, Gary Weisner, Janet Shutler, Mary Lee Porter, Denny Porter, Becky Ferrera, Adel Frenn, Diane Frenn, Jeannette Wakim, Jay Murad, Liz Murad, Ron Burns, Susan John-Burns, and Monsignor Bakhos.

May God Bless your heart and hands!

Lower your 2024 Income Tax Bill

One way to lower your income tax bill for this year is to make charitable contributions, which can be deducted from your income if you are planning to itemize your deductions when you file your 2024 income tax. Gifts you make to charities, such as **Our Lady of Lebanon Church**, are tax deductible. But in order for you to claim the deduction on your tax return for **2024**, you must make the gift this year. That is important to keep in mind if you are planning on making a year-end gift. For example, if you are going to give money using a check, be sure the date on the check is on or before December 31st, 2024. Also, be sure to give the check to the church on or before that date. If your gift is **\$250** or more, and you plan to claim the gift as a deduction on your tax return, the IRS requires that you have a letter or receipt from the church that received the gift. By the end of January **2025** all donors -who donated \$250 or more- will receive a statement from **the Church** stating their names and the amount of gift received –through checks or weekly offering envelopes- from **January 1st, 2024 until December 31st, 2024**. It is wise to keep the church statement with your tax records, in case the IRS questions your itemized deductions.

Diocese Pilgrimage to Canonization

Subject: Canonization of the three Massabki Brothers

Where: Rome

When: From October 15 till 24th, 2024.

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

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

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 Building Insurance of our church which exceeds \$22,000. Any donation is accepted and helpful. We will open the basement door for you anytime. Please call 304-233-1688

Around Us

Spaghetti Dinner (Sunday, October 20)

--Where: St. John Church, 700 Main street, Benwood

--When: Sunday, October 20 from noon until 5:00 pm

--Cost: \$10.00 adult and \$5.00 children under 10 yrs.

--Menu: pasta, sauce, meatballs, salad, bread & butter, desserts and beverages, coffee

--Info: 304-905-8036. Proceeds benefits the parish community.

Spirituality: Marriage & Priesthood

The fusion brought about by the sacrament of marriage is as the fusion of fire and iron into the white hot liquid metal that is molded into steel. As the molten metal is being poured from the furnace into the container that will shape it, it is impossible to tell where the fire leaves off and the metal begins. Even more intimately one are husband and wife in the sacrament of marriage, the fire of love in Christ and His sacramental grace.

But there is yet another, an even greater, dimension to a sacramental marriage. A couple are not simply fused into one being of husband and wife; they are fused into Christ Himself. That's what the sacrament does. A sacrament not only infuses our natural lives, it assumes us into the supernatural life, the divine life of Christ, the Son of God. A sacramental marriage is a marriage exalted to a new plane of existence.

(...) Every man ordained a priest shares in the "*ordained*" priesthood of Christ. The priest does not possess his own unique priesthood. There is one priest: Christ the Lord. Each priest shares in Christ's priesthood. The same Christ gives us all the sacraments, including the sacrament of marriage. A couple may marry each other civilly, but when they marry sacramentally, they marry in Christ. The priest is a priest forever, it is true, and a marriage ends with death, but the indissolubility of both priesthood and a sacramental marriage during the lifetime of a spouse is rooted, in part, in the reality that Christ Himself is "*indissoluble*," always one and invisible.

(...) It has been said that peoples long ago spoke of a vein in the third finger of the left hand, a vein that led directly to the heart. The wedding band then symbolized that each one entering into marriage, encircling that finger with a band of enduring gold, was encircling the heart of the other with a bond of enduring love.

John Cardinal O'CONNOR, Covenant of Love, pp.26-28.

Wisdom: Stress managment

A lecturer, when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked, "how heavy is this glass of water? "

Answers called out ranged from 20g to 500g.

The lecturer replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter.

It depends on how long you try to hold it.

"If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem.

If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm.

If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance.

"In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes. "

He continued, "And that's the way it is with stress management.

If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on. "

"As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again.

When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden. "

So, before you return home tonight, put the burden of work down. Don't carry it home. You can pick it up tomorrow. Whatever burdens you're carrying now, let them down for a moment if you can. Relax; pick them up later after you've rested.

Life is short. Enjoy it!

And then he shared some ways of dealing with the burdens of life:

Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

Never buy a car you can't push.

Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.

Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.

The second mouse gets the cheese.

When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

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

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

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.

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

Story

Last week I was in Atlanta, Georgia attending a conference. While I was in the airport, returning home, I heard several people behind me beginning to clap and cheer. I immediately turned around and witnessed one of the greatest acts of patriotism I have ever seen.

Moving thru the terminal was a group of soldiers in their camo's, as they began heading to their gate everyone (well almost everyone) was abruptly to their feet with their hands waving and cheering. When I saw the soldiers, probably 30-40 of them, being applauded and cheered for it hit me. I'm not alone. I'm not the only red-blooded American who still loves this country and supports our troops and their families.

Of course, I immediately stopped and began clapping for these young unsung heroes who are putting their lives on the line everyday for us so we can go to school, work and home without fear or reprisal. Just when I thought I could not be more proud of my country or of our service men and women a young girl, not more than 6 or 7 years old, ran up to one of the male soldiers. He kneeled down and said "hi," the little girl then she asked him if he would give something to her daddy for her. The young soldier, he didn't look any older than maybe 22 himself, said he would try and what did she want to give to her daddy. Then suddenly the little girl grabbed the neck of this soldier, gave him the biggest hug she could muster and then kissed him on the cheek.

The mother of the little girl, who said her daughters name was Courtney, told the young soldier that her husband was a Marine and had been in Iraq for 11 months now. As the mom was explaining how much her daughter, Courtney, missed her father, the young soldier began to tear up. When this temporarily single mom was done explaining her situation, all of the soldiers huddled together for a brief second. Then one of the other servicemen pulled out a military looking walkie-talkie. They started playing with the device and talking back and forth on it.

After about 10-15 seconds of this, the young soldier walked back over to Courtney, bent down and said this to her, "I spoke to your daddy and he told me to give this to you." He then hugged this little girl that he had just met and gave her a kiss on the cheek. He finished by saying "your daddy told me to tell you that he loves you more than anything and he is coming home very soon."

The mom at this point was crying almost uncontrollably and as the young soldier stood to his feet he saluted Courtney and her mom. I was standing no more than 6 feet away from this entire event unfolded. As the soldiers began to leave, heading towards their gate, people resumed their applause. As I stood there applauding and looked around, there were very few dry eyes, including my own. That young soldier in one last act of selflessness, turned around and blew a kiss to Courtney with a tear rolling down his cheek.

We need to remember everyday all of our soldiers and their families and thank God for them and their sacrifices. At the end of the day, it's good to be an American.

A Time to Laugh (136)

A bad day

A police officer in a small town stopped a motorist who was speeding down Main Street.

"But officer," the man began, "I can explain." "Just be quiet," snapped the officer. "I'm going to let you cool your heels in jail until the chief gets back." "But, officer, I just wanted to say,..." "And I said to keep quiet! You're going to jail!" A few hours later the officer looked in on his prisoner and said, "Lucky for you that the chief's at his daughter's wedding. He'll be in a good mood when he gets back." "Don't count on it," answered the fellow in the cell. "I'm the groom."

Grandma & the Cake

A little boy is telling his Grandma how "everything" is going wrong: school, family problems, severe health problems, etc... Meanwhile, grandma is baking a cake.

She asked her grandson if he would like a snack, which of course he does. "Here, have some cooking oil." "Yuck" says the boy. "How about a couple raw eggs?" "Gross, grandma!" "Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?" "Grandma, those are all yucky!"

To which grandma replies: "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!"

God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful!!

Beep! Beep!

One day while driving with my then 4 year old daughter Melanie, I beeped the horn by mistake. She turned and looked at me for an explanation.

I said, "I did that by accident".

She replied, "I know that, daddy."

I replied, "How'd you know?"

Melanie said, "Because you didn't say 'JERK' afterwards!"

Famous Quotes (37)

--It takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire life to forget them.

--Our spiritual life is God's affair because it is really produced by his steady attraction, and our humble and self-forgetful response to it. It consists in being drawn, at his pace and in his way to the place where he wants us to be; not the place we fancied ourselves. -Evelyn Underhill

--Talk Low, Talk Slow, and Don't talk too much.

--Telephone, Telegram, Tell-a-woman.

--There are two eternities that can really break you down. Yesterday and Tomorrow. One is gone and the other doesn't exist... so live today.

--It takes years to build trust and a few seconds to destroy it.

--Kind words are short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless. — *Mother Teresa*

--The best exercise for strengthening the heart is reaching down and lifting people Up. — *Ernest Blevins*

--The world says, "the more you take, the more you have." Christ says, "the more you give, the more you are." — *Frederick Buechner*

--When were the good and the brave ever in a majority? — *Henry Thoreau*