



October 13, 2024

Bulletin #41

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



5th 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.

5th Sunday after the Holy Cross

Readings: Song of Sg. 5:2-8; Phil 2:12-18 and Mt 25:1-13

Entry to the kingdom of heaven cannot be taken for granted. St Matthew's gospel stresses two essential conditions for entry: a higher standard of justice than that of the Scribes and Pharisees, and a readiness to accept the coming of the kingdom at any moment.

It would be reasonable to expect a festive atmosphere for these ten bridesmaids, full of joy and gaiety. But that would be to show how little one knew Matthew. Far from singing and dancing, he describes a formal ceremony and a series of hitches, which point to his intention of giving a lesson about the final coming of Christ and the last judgment. All ten bridesmaids fall asleep: but that is not the point of the story, because the second coming will take the whole world by surprise. The mistake would be not to have made the necessary preparations for the feast. Those who have taken the precaution to bring plenty of oil light up the night and are able to meet the Bridegroom face to face. The foolish ones, whose supplies run short, bestir themselves too late: the door is shut in their faces.

The Bridegroom arrives in the middle of the night: this corresponds to a very ancient conviction of both Judaism and the Church. In this Easter night of eternity, believers will find the fulfillment of all that their baptism means: meeting Christ, they will pass from sleep to wakefulness and from darkness to light.

In this wedding story it is curious that there is no mention at all of the Bride. Reference was made in times gone by on the evidence of some manuscripts. But it is better not to rush into speaking of her. Because this Bride is the Church, and she is also each one of us, in so far as we actively prepare in faith for the coming of the Lord. We must be able to say, 'I sleep, but my heart is awake' (Song 5:2).

This Weekend, Oct. 12-13: 5th 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

Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, October 14: No Mass. Pastor's day off.

Tuesday, October 15 Mass at Noon:

- ✠ 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

Wednesday, October 16: No Mass. Office works.

Thursday, October 17, Mass at Noon:

- ✠ Harry F. Nolte (Anniversary) by great granddaughter Janet D. Shutler
- ✠ John Shiben by Erica Shiben & Family
- ✠ Special prayer for good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

Friday, October 18: No Mass. Visitations of the sick.

Next Weekend, Oct. 19-20: 6th Sunday after the Holy Cross

Saturday, October 19 at 4:00 pm:

- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by his grandchildren: Jeff, Courtney and Pat Sengewalt
- ✠ Gene & Janice Roxby by their son Joe Roxby

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

Sunday, October 20 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
Sunday, Oct. 20	Cedar Club Meeting after 10:30 am Mass in the Cedar Hall
Sat. November 2	Thanksgiving Bake Sale pick-up orders
Two week masses	All Souls Masses will be celebrated for two weeks from Nov. 1 st until Nov.17 th .

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!

Bulletin Ads

There will be 1 or 2 weekly bulletin Ad spaces available starting January 4th – 5th, 2025. Cost to cover a single-column Ad for the entire year is \$120.00; the cost to cover a double-column ad would be \$240. Please contact Msgr Bakhos or Charlotte to reserve the space for your Business Ad or Memorial Ad.

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 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

† 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. Nabel 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
- † Al & Helen Schroeder by their son Mark and their daughter Jane Wine
- † Frank Schroeder by Mark Schroeder
- † Suzanne Bush by Mark Schroeder
- † Deceased of the Hughes Family by Mark Schroeder
- † Deceased Members of the Nolte Family by Janet Shutler
- † Deceased Members of the Shutler Family by Janet Shutler
- † Betty Jane Fadoul by Millet, John and Family
- † George & Rose Fadoul Millet Fadoul and Family
- † Emily Shia Vince by her Children & grandchildren
- † Donald Vince by his Children & grandchildren
- † Patricia Gompers by Matthew Gompers Family
- † Deborah Vargo by Matt & Vickie Gompers
- † Gus & Anna Shia by Matt & Vickie Gompers

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month

- 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
 November 4: Kenny Joseph, Libby G. Magnone
 November 8: Mark Wilson
 November 9: Liz Murad, Cindy Thomas

Your Church Support Last Week

\$1,995.00	Sunday Collection
52.00	Candles
26.00	Coffee hour
301.00	utilities
\$2,374.00	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?

Condolences: Judy Wilson

The pastor and the parishioners of Our Lady of Lebanon Church, Wheeling, offer their heartfelt sympathy to the Wilson Family on the loss of their beloved Judy who passed away in Morgantown. Msgr. Bakhos celebrated the Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Lebanon Church on Thursday, October 10. The choir of the church served the funeral Mass. May the Almighty God grant repose of the soul to His handmaid and we extend the parish's condolences to her Family in their time of sorrow.

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, Polsen, 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: Mass and children

Three ways your family can get more out of the Mass

Would you like to get more satisfaction out of going to Mass? Would you like to make even routine celebration of the Eucharist a meaningful time for you and your kids? Here are three suggestions that can help.

1- Attend with friends. Have your kids invite their friends along and celebrate with a special treat afterwards either at home or out. The Mass is the central part of Sunday in which we are meant to enjoy rest, fellowship, and the goodness of God's creation, including our friends. Discover how good it is to join with those we care about when we are the people of God.

2- Give your children an assignment. Have everyone in the family ask another family member to pray for him or her. You can offer specifics about what you want prayers for (e.g., a hard test coming up or a difficult situation at work), or it can remain a general request for prayers. Listen for and point out the specific times in the Mass when the priest invites our prayers.

3- Agree to listen. During the course of the Mass, find one message that matters to you and share it afterwards. It could be a phrase from the liturgy, an insight by the preacher, words to a hymn, or even the miracle of a new baby sleeping peacefully on its daddy's shoulder. Unlike sitting and watching television, the liturgy demands active participation.

One way to encourage that is to listen during the Mass and to talk about it afterward.

Wisdom: 36 Stress Reducers

1. Pray
2. Go to bed on time.
3. Get up on time so you can start the day unrushed.
4. Say No to projects that won't fit into your time schedule or that will compromise your mental health.
5. Delegate tasks to capable others.
6. Simplify and unclutter your life.
7. Less is more. (Although one is often not enough, two are often too many.)
8. Allow extra time to do things and to get to places.
9. Pace yourself. Spread out big changes and difficult projects over time; don't lump the hard things all together.
10. Take one day at a time.
11. Separate worries from concerns. If a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you to do and let go of the anxiety. If you can't do anything about a situation, forget it.
12. Live within your budget; don't use credit cards for ordinary purchases.
13. Have backups; an extra car key in your wallet, an extra house key buried in the garden, extra stamps, etc.,
14. K.M.S. (Keep Mouth Shut.) This single piece of advice can prevent an enormous amount of trouble.

15. Do something for the Kid in You everyday.
 16. Carry a Bible with you to read while waiting in line.
 17. Get enough exercise.
 18. Eat right.
 19. Get organized so everything has its place.
 20. Listen to a tape while driving that can help improve your quality of life.
 21. Write thoughts and inspirations down.
 22. Everyday, find time to be alone.
 23. Having problems? Talk to God on the spot. Try to nip small problems in the bud. Don't wait until its time to go to bed to try and pray.
 24. Make friends with Godly people.
 25. Keep a folder of favorite scriptures on hand.
 26. Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is often a good "Thank you, Jesus!"
 27. Laugh.
 28. Laugh some more!
 29. Take your work seriously, but yourself, not at all.
 30. Develop a forgiving attitude (most people are doing the best they can).
 31. Be kind to unkind people (they probably need it the most).
 32. Sit on your ego.
 33. Talk less; listen more.
 34. Slow down.
 35. Remind yourself that you are not the general manager of the universe.
 36. Every night before bed, think of one thing you're grateful for that you've never been grateful for before.
- GOD HAS A WAY OF TURNING THINGS AROUND FOR YOU

Story

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art. When the Vietnam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son. About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly. He often talked about you, and your love for art." The young man held out this package. "I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this." The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. "Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift". The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected. The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one of their collection. On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?" There was silence. Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one." But the auctioneer persisted. "Will someone bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?" Another voice shouted angrily. "We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Goghs, the Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids!" But still the auctioneer continued. "The son! The son! Who'll take the son?"

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man and his son. "I'll give \$10 for the painting." Being a poor man, it was all he could afford. We have \$10, who will bid

\$20?" *"Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters."* "\$10 is the bid, won't someone bid \$20?"

The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections. The auctioneer pounded the gavel. *"Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!"*

A man sitting on the second row shouted, "Now let's get on with the collection!" The auctioneer laid down his gavel. *"I'm sorry, the auction is over."* *"What about the paintings?"*

"I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings. The man who took the son gets every thing!"

God gave His son 2,000 years ago to die on a cruel cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is: *"The son, the son, who'll take the son?"* Because, you see, whoever takes the Son gets everything.

A Time to Laugh (137)

The Best Part of Waking Up!

A grandmother was surprised by her 7 year old grandson one morning. He had made her coffee.

She drank what was the worst cup of coffee in her life. When she got to the bottom, there were three of those little green army men in the cup. She said, *"Honey, what are the army men doing in my coffee?"*

Her grandson said, *"Grandma, it says on TV- 'The best part of waking up is soldiers in your cup!'"*

Bran Muffins

This 85 year old couple, having been married almost 60 years, had died in a car crash. They had been in good health the last ten years mainly due to her interest in health food, and exercise. When they reached the pearly gates, St. Peter took them to their mansion which was decked out with a beautiful kitchen and master bath suite and Jacuzzi.

As they **"oohed and aahed"** the old man asked St. Peter how much all this was going to cost. *"It's free,"* St. Peter replied, *"this is Heaven."* Next they went out back to survey the championship golf course that the home backed up to. They would have golfing privileges everyday and each week the course changed to a new one representing the great golf courses on earth. The old man asked, *"What are the green fees?"* St. Peter's reply, *"This is heaven, you play for free."* Next they went to the club house and saw the lavish buffet lunch with the cuisine's of the world laid out.

"How much to eat?" asked the old man. *"Don't you understand yet? This is heaven, it is free!"* St. Peter replied with some exasperation. *"Well, where are the low fat and low cholesterol tables?"* the old man asked timidly.

St. Peter lectured, *"That's the best part...you can eat as much as you like of whatever you like and you never get fat and you never get sick. This is Heaven."*

With that the old man went into a fit of anger, throwing down his hat and stomping on it, and shrieking wildly. St. Peter and his wife both tried to calm him down, asking him what was wrong. The old man looked at his wife and said, *"This is all your fault. If it weren't for your bran muffins, I could have been here ten years ago!"*

Famous Quotes (38)

--If I did not believe in God, I should still want my doctor, my lawyer, and my banker to do so.

— *G. K. Chesterton*

--True holiness consists in doing God's will with a smile. — *Mother Teresa*

--If you believe what you like in the Gospel, and reject what you don't like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself. — *St. Augustine of Hippo*

--A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty. — *Sir Winston Churchill*

--A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows. — *St. Francis of Assisi*

--Every evening I turn my worries over to God. He's going to be up all night anyway. — *Anonymous*

- The world is full of givers and takers; the takers may eat better, but the givers sleep better. —*Anonymous*
- Once in the lobby of the Midland Hotel in Manchester when I happened to be in some public disfavor, a man came up to me, grasped my hand and observed: Never forget that only dead fish swim with the stream. —*Malcolm Muggeridge*
- The family that prays together stays together. (*Motto devised for the Roman Catholic Family Rosary Crusade, 1947, Al Scalpone*)
- The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home. — *St. Augustine of Hippo*
- We can do no great things, only small things with great love. — *Mother Teresa*
- All that we do without offering it to God is wasted. — *St. John Vianney*
- Writing is no trouble: you just jot down ideas as they occur to you. The jotting is simplicity itself—it is the occurring which is difficult. —*Stephen Leacock*
- In any really good subject, one has only to probe deep enough to come to tears. Edith Wharton
- It is a sobering thought that each of us gives his hearers and his readers a chance to look into the inner working of his mind when he speaks or writes. --*J M Barker*
- Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all his sentences short, or that he avoid all detail and treat his subjects only in outline, but that every word tell. --*William Strunk*
- I conceive that the right way to write a story for boys is to write so that it will not only interest boys but strongly interest any man who has ever been a boy. That immensely enlarges the audience. --*Mark Twain*