



November 3, 2024

Bulletin #44

## ***Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church***

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

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Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



### ***Consecration of the Church***

**\*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 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:** 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.

## *Consecration of the church*

Readings: Is 54:1-10; Heb 9:1-12 and Mt 16:13-20

No wonder Our Divine Lord, who knows all souls in their inner being, chose as the head of His Church not John who had never denied, and who alone of all the apostles was present on the hill of Calvary, but rather chose Peter who fell and then rose again, who sinned and who then was forgiven amidst lifelong penance, in order that His Church might understand something of human weakness and sin, and bear to the millions of its souls the gospel of hope, the assurance of divine mercy.

Fittingly, then, when Peter came to the end of his lease on life, he asked not to be crucified as was Our Blessed Lord with head upright, but with head downward in the earth. Our Lord had called him the Rock of His Church, and the rock was laid where it should be -deep in the roots of creation.

On that very spot where the man of courage was crucified upside down, with his stumbling feet toward heaven, there now rises the greatest dome that was ever thrown against the vault of heaven's blue, the dome of the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome. Around it in giant letters of gold, we read the words Our Lord spoke to Peter at Caesarea Philippi: "... you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Mt 16:18).  
*--Bishop Fulton SHEEN, Lessons on Faith & Truth, p.23.*

### *All Souls Two Week Masses* (From November 1<sup>st</sup> until November 17<sup>th</sup>)

The weekend Masses will be followed by the Prayer of Incense for the Repose of All Souls

Special remembrance during these two week Masses for All Souls:

Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>: † Charlotte George (Birthday) by Margaret George (MN)

Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>: † Libby G. Magnone (Birthday)

† Mary Zaid Stees by her sister Libby G. Magnone

Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>: † Elizabeth Ferris Magnone (Birthday) by her daughters Mary Stees & Libby G. Magnone

Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>: † Deceased of the Schroeder Family by Mark Schroeder and Jane Wine

Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>: † Sara McLaughlin (Anniversary) by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>: † Judith Wolfe (Birthday) and Mary Stees by Libby Magnone

Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>: † V. Jeannette Yeater (Birthday) by Chris & Jeannette Wakim

Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>: † Joseph Benline by his wife Helen

Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>: † 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

† Gene & Janice Roxby by their son Joe Roxby

† John Shibben 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
- † 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 & Family

- † George & Rose Fadoul by Millet Fadoul & 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
- † George & Martha Saseen by George & Susan Saseen & Family
- † Steve & Elizabeth Harasuik by George & Susan Saseen & Family
- † Debbie Saseen by George & Susan Saseen & Family
- † John & Judy Wilson by Becky Ferrera
- † Joseph Abraham (Cleveland) by Msgr Bakhos and the parishioners
- † Deceased of the Bine & Gaudio Families by Shirley Bine
- † Steve & Theresa Sofka by Mike & Judy Sofka
- † Mary Jean & Jim Stanton by Mike & Judy Sofka
- † John William Sayre by Mike & Judy Sofka
- † Anna & Leo Spyra by Mike & Judy Sofka
- † Violet Machel by Mike & Judy Sofka
- † Lawrence & Teresa Ferrera; Mary Jean Comas; Janet Ferrera, Joann Ferrera Slack by Larry & Becky Ferrera
- † George & Betty Joseph by Larry & Becky Ferrera
- † Patti Smith, Diane Russell, Judy & John Wilson, Barb Hodulik, Jack Harsan by Larry & Becky Ferrera
- † Matthew Siebieda (father) by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- † Constantino & Delia Cetorelli (grandparents) by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- † Friend & Ida Blake (grandparents) by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- † Orval & Elena Blake (parents) by Larry & Lillian Blake Siebieda
- † Debbie Blake (sister-in-law) by Larry & Lillian Blake Siebieda
- † Donnie Sigler (brother-in-law) by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- † Vincent & Judi Blake (brother and sister-in-law) by Larry & Lillian Blake Siebieda
- † Josef and Antonina Siebieda (grandparents) by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- † Nicola & Angela Caputi (grandparents) by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- † David Frey by his loving Family
- † George & Mary Popovich, Kay Popovich by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- † Don, Helen, Stan Fielding by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- † Augie Montalbano and Mike O’Kane by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- † In Honor of Jesus’ Agonizing suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- † Thomas George by his Family
- † Dolores Palotay by the Jarrett & Palotay Families
- † Rezzo Palotay by the Jarrett & Palotay Families
- † Diane Palotay by the Jarrett & Palotay Families
- † Jerrie Williams by the Jarrett & Palotay Families
- † Dana Burkhart by his wife Carol Burkhart
- † Catherine Arthur by her daughter Carol Burkhart
- † George Alan Weisner by his son Gary Weisner
- † Linda Hostutler by Gary Weisner
- † Mike Linton by Gary Weisner
- † Dr. Ned Cunningham by Mary Beth Weisner
- † The Deceased of the Wakim and Nagem Families by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- † The Deceased of the Teater and Reass Families by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- † Stephen Wakim by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- † John M. Wakim (brother) by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- † John & Erma Wakim by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- † William & V. Jeannette Yeater by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family

- ✠ Robert Yeater by his uncle and aunt Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- ✠ Kayla Yeater by her uncle and aunt Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- ✠ Melo J. & Laura Z. Wakim by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- ✠ Andrew & Mary Demsko by their daughter Rosemary Cornish
- ✠ Andrew Demsko Jr. by his sister Rosemary Cornish
- ✠ Howard & Anna Franks by their niece Rosemary Cornish
- ✠ Our beloved parents John & Cecilia John and William and Carol Burns by Ron and Susan Burns
- ✠ Our beloved grandparents Tom & Sadie John, David & Tamamie Joseph, and Sarah Burns by Ron and Susan Burns
- ✠ All deceased Aunts and Uncles, especially Louis & Cecilia Ammar, Fred & Rita John, Sister Mary Thomasina John, and Roland & Julia Tappe by Ron and Susan Burns
- ✠ All deceased of The Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus by Ron and Susan Burns

## *Coming Events*

Two week masses	All Souls Masses will be celebrated for two weeks from Nov. 1 <sup>st</sup> until Nov.17 <sup>th</sup> .
Sun. December 8	Christmas Dinner to all parishioners
Sun. December 15	34 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Priesthood of Msgr. Bakhos. Brunch for parishioners

## *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 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## *Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month*

November 4: Kenny Joseph, Libby G. Magnone

November 8: Mark Wilson

November 9: Liz Murad, Cindy Thomas

November 26: Mary Lish

November 29: Tony Renzella

November 30: Melissa Ferrera-Renzella

December 3: Joey John

## *Your Church Support Last Week*

\$1,492.00	Sunday Collection
1,538.50	Bake sale
120.00	Bulletin Ads
69.00	Candles
13.00	Coffee hour
300.00	Donation to the church
100.00	utilities
\$3,632.50	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?*

### *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 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**. It is wise to keep the church statement with your tax records, in case the IRS questions your itemized deductions.

### *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

## *Spirituality: Why does Mass have to be so boring?*

*Dear Padre,*

*My mom told me to ask you this question, she says she is tired of hearing it from me. So, pardon the offense hut why does Mass have to be so boring? I don't think I'll use my real name just in case. --Bored*

*Dear Bored,*

You are not alone, let me tell you. But you're laying the boredom rap on the wrong person, unless you are just talking about the homily at Mass. If the sermon is boring, then it may be the priest's fault. But if you are talking about the Mass itself, it might be that you are coming to Mass with the wrong expectations.

A church can look like a theater, so unconsciously you might think of the Mass as a performance. The priest is the performer and the audience is there to be entertained. But the Mass is not a show, and a rite, by definition, is something that is done in the same way over and over again. The Mass is a repetitive rite for a reason. When you come to Mass, you don't have to worry about what is going to happen next. All you have to

do is recognize the gift of enormous love waiting for you through the actions of Jesus Christ on your behalf. How does one do that?

Before coming to Mass, read the selected readings from the Bible for that particular Sunday. Most parishes have missalettes with the readings for several weeks, even months. Ask if you could take home a missalette to prepare for next Sunday's readings. I don't know of any priest who would say no to that request! Listen to the prayers that are said at the Mass and ask yourself: Who should I be praying for right now? Think of people in need of God's love right now -maybe you heard about them in school- and think of what Jesus' love would do in their lives right now. Take a moment and think of all the things you've received thus far in your life, and say thanks.

You see, Mass allows you to think of the needs of others and talk to Jesus without any distractions and to hear a message that Jesus has just for you. If you were to come to Mass each Sunday with this kind of attitude, you'd find that the Mass is really timeless, not boring.

The Padre, Fr. William I. Parker, C.Ss.R.

### ***Wisdom: The sweeter things in life!!!***

1. Falling in love.
2. Laughing so hard your face hurts.
3. No lines at the supermarket
4. Taking a drive on a pretty road.
5. Hearing your favorite song on the radio.
6. Lying in bed listening to the rain outside.
7. Hot towels fresh out of the dryer.
8. Finding the sweater you want is on sale for half price.
9. A good conversation.
10. Finding a 20 note in your coat from last winter.
11. Midnight phone calls that last for hours.
12. Running through sprinklers.
13. Laughing for absolutely no reason at all.
14. Having someone tell you that you're beautiful.
15. Accidentally overhearing someone say something nice about you.
16. Waking up and realizing you still have a few hours left to sleep.
17. Making new friends or spending time with old ones.
18. Sweet dreams.
19. Road trips with friends.
20. Wrapping presents under the Christmas tree while eating cookies and drinking your favorite tippie.
21. Winning a really competitive game.
22. Spending time with close friends.
23. Seeing smiles and hearing laughter from your friends.
24. Holding hands with someone you care about.
25. Watching the expression on someone's face as they open a much desired present from you.
26. Watching the sunrise.
27. Getting out of bed every morning and being grateful for another beautiful day.

### ***Story: Soup of Stone***

"I am hungry," said the young stranger to the older woman who had opened the door in response to his knock. "Could you please give me something to eat?"

"I'm sorry," said the woman. I have nothing to give you." "Well, then," said the young traveler, "could you at least give me a stone?" "A stone?" said the woman. "There are plenty here. Take one from the ground. What will you do with that?"



“I will make some soup,” said the young man. “Soup’?” said the woman. “How will you do that?” “First I need some boiling water, and then I will make soup from the stone.”

Intrigued, the woman allowed the man into her house and she furnished him with a pot of water, which was then set to boil. “It would taste a little better,” said the young man, “if there were a carrot in there.” So the woman put a carrot in the pot.

“An onion would add a lot to the flavor,” said the young man. And the woman dropped an onion into the pot. “It smells delicious,” said the woman approvingly. “Come to think of it, though,” said the young man, “it would smell even better if we had a rutabaga in it.” So the woman found a rutabaga in her larder and added it to the concoction.

And thus it went, with the woman, who supposedly had nothing to give, adding more and more things to the soup. When the soup was done they both sat down to eat it. They finished it too and including the last drop, except for the stone. When the young man prepared to leave, he took the stone. “What will you do with that?” asked the woman. “It is not boiled enough yet,” said the young man, “so I will take it along for my next bowl of soup.”

Our first thought on reading the story may be that we think we have nothing to give. But if we say that we have nothing to give, we are lying. We have ourselves to give. An onion, a rutabaga, some meat, some spices – we are a variety of things that can become our gifts for the nourishment of others. God endows each human being with certain time, talents and material possessions. Christian stewardship reminds us that these gifts are not our own. Stewardship appeals to our noblest instincts to share our gifts with others.

## *A Time to Laugh (140)*

### *Two Cow Explanation*

**Here are the answers to this question: “If you have 2 cows, what do you do?”**

**A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT:** You keep one and give one to your neighbor.

**A SOCIALIST:** The government takes one and gives it to your neighbor.

**A REPUBLICAN:** Your neighbor has none. So what?

**A DEMOCRAT:** Your neighbor has none. You feel guilty for being successful. You vote people into office who tax your cows, forcing you to sell one to raise money to pay the tax. The people you voted for then take the tax money and buy a cow and give it to your neighbor. You feel righteous.

**A COMMUNIST:** The government seizes both and provides you with milk.

**A FASCIST:** The government seizes both and sells you the milk. You join the underground and start a campaign of sabotage.

**DEMOCRACY, AMERICAN STYLE:** The government taxes you to the point you have to sell both to support a man in a foreign country who has only one cow, which was a gift from your government.

**CAPITALISM, AMERICAN STYLE:** You sell one, buy a bull, and build a herd of cows.

**BUREAUCRACY, AMERICAN STYLE:** The government takes them both, shoots one, milks the other, pays you for the milk, then pours the milk down the drain.

**AN AMERICAN CORPORATION:** You sell one, and force the other to produce the milk of four cows. You are surprised when the cow drops dead.

**A FRENCH CORPORATION:** You go on strike because you want three cows.

**A JAPANESE CORPORATION:** You redesign them so they are one tenth the size of an ordinary cow and produce twenty times the milk.

**A GERMAN CORPORATION:** You reengineer them so they live for 100 years, eat once a month, and milk themselves.

**AN ITALIAN CORPORATION:** You have 2 cows, but you don't know where they are. You break for lunch.

**A RUSSIAN CORPORATION:** You count them and learn you have five cows. You count them again and learn you have 42 cows. You count them again and learn you have 12 cows. You stop counting cows and open another bottle of vodka.

**A MEXICAN CORPORATION:** You think you have two cows, but you don't know what a cow looks like. You take a nap.

**A SWISS CORPORATION:** You have 5000 cows, none of which belongs to you. You charge for storing them for others.

**A BRAZILIAN CORPORATION:** You enter into a partnership with an American corporation. Soon you have 1000 cows and the American corporation declares bankruptcy.

**AN INDIAN CORPORATION:** You have two cows. You worship them.

## *Famous Quotes (41)*

Jesus:

Be sure you do not perform your acts of piety before men, for them to watch; if you do that, you have no title to a reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in synagogues and in streets, to win the esteem of men. Believe me, they have their reward already. But when you give alms, you shall not so much as let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so secret is your almsgiving to be; and then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, you are not to be like hypocrites, who love to stand praying in synagogues or at street-corners, to be a mark for men's eyes; believe me, they have their reward already. But when you are praying, go into your inner room and shut the door upon yourself, and so pray to your Father in secret; and then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Moreover, when you are at prayer, do not use many phrases, like the heathens, who think to make themselves heard by their eloquence. You are not to be like them; your heavenly Father knows well what your needs are before you ask him. This, then, is to be your prayer, Our Father, who are in heaven, hallowed be your name; your kingdom come; your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen. Your heavenly Father will forgive you your transgressions, if you forgive your fellow men theirs; if you do not forgive them, your heavenly Father will not forgive your transgressions either. Again, when you fast, do not shew it by gloomy looks, as the hypocrites do. They make their faces unsightly, so that men can see they are fasting; believe me, they have their reward already. But do you, at your times of fasting, anoint your head and wash your face, so that your fast may not be known to men, but to your Father who dwells in secret; and then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (Matthew 6:1-18)