



November 10, 2024

Bulletin #45

## 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



### Renewal 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.

## *Renewal of the church*

Readings: 2 Mac 10:1-9; Heb 9:11-15 and Jn 10:22-42

One day, an older man called to tell me the tale of his conversion to Christianity. It was a journey marked with the drama of an escape from Nazi Europe, a return to the Jewish camps in an attempt to save his parents, and emigration to the new world of America. He could pinpoint the very moment of his conversion. It happened as he was passing a Catholic church. God called his name, drew him into the church, and spoke to him. As I listened to him, I pondered how different my own life, that of a cradle Catholic, has been. No dramatic moments but the constant familiarity and comfort of being with the Church.

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his people to be converted by his works. He invites them to open their eyes, see what he is doing, and then convert and believe.

What will bring us to conversion today? Is a dramatic moment of hearing God's voice awaiting us? Will our conversion happen because God's work will shine forth for us to see? Will we rely on the strength of our constant Catholic faith to ignite us? We wait and pray: "I love you, O Lord, my strength. O Lord, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer".

### *The seven sacraments*

Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion, Confession, Marriage, Holy Orders, and the Anointing of the Sick are the life of the Catholic Church. All of the sacraments were instituted by Christ Himself, and each is an outward sign of an inward grace. When we participate in them worthily, each provides us with graces with the life of God in our soul. In worship, we give to God that which we owe Him; in the sacraments, He gives us the graces necessary to live a truly human life.

The first three sacraments—Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion—are known as the sacraments of initiation because the rest of our life as Christians depends on them.

#### **The Sacrament of Baptism**

The Sacrament of Baptism, the first of the three sacraments of initiation, is also the first of the seven sacraments in the Catholic Church. It removes the guilt and effects of Original Sin and incorporates the baptized into the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ on Earth. We cannot be saved without Baptism.

#### **The Sacrament of Confirmation**

The Sacrament of Confirmation is the second of the three sacraments of initiation because it was historically administered immediately after the Sacrament of Baptism. Confirmation perfects our baptism and brings us the graces of the Holy Spirit that were granted to the Apostles on Pentecost Sunday.

#### **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

While Catholics in the West today normally make their First Communion before they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the reception of Christ's Body and Blood, was historically the third of the three sacraments of initiation. This sacrament, the one we receive most often throughout our lives, is the source of great graces that sanctify us and help us grow in the likeness of Jesus Christ. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is also sometimes called the Eucharist.

#### **The Sacrament of Confession**

The Sacrament of Confession, also known as the Sacrament of Penance and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, is one of the least understood, and least utilized, sacraments in the Catholic Church. Reconciling us to God, confession is a great source of grace, and Catholics are encouraged to take advantage of it often, even if they are not aware of having committed a mortal sin.

#### **The Sacrament of Marriage**

Marriage, a lifelong union between a man and a woman for procreation and mutual support, is a natural institution, but it is also one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. As a sacrament, it reflects the union of Jesus Christ and His Church. The Sacrament of Marriage is also known as the Sacrament of Matrimony.

#### **The Sacrament of Holy Orders**

The Sacrament of Holy Orders is the continuation of Christ's priesthood, which He bestowed upon His Apostles. There are three levels to this sacrament of ordination: the episcopate, the priesthood, and the diaconate.

### **The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick**

Traditionally referred to as Extreme Unction or Last Rites, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is administered both to the dying and to those who are gravely ill or are about to undergo a serious operation, for the recovery of their health and spiritual strength.

### ***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:

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 Kourey & Howard Families by Lou & Charlotte Kourey & Emmalena & Louie

† Virginia Kourey Bryan & Deceased of the Nabihah & Habib Kourey Family by the Kourey Family

† Deceased of the Nader Family by Lou & Charlotte Kourey & 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 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
- † Abdo & 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 & 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. Ayooob by Mary Beth Weisner
- † Al & Helen Schroeder by their son Mark & 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 & 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 & Nagem Families by Chris & Jeannette Wakim & Family
- † The Deceased of the Teater & Reass Families by Chris & Jeannette Wakim & Family
- † Stephen Wakim by Chris & Jeannette Wakim & Family
- † John M. Wakim (brother) by Chris & Jeannette Wakim & Family
- † John & Erma Wakim by Chris & Jeannette Wakim & Family
- † William & V. Jeannette Yeater by Chris & Jeannette Wakim & Family
- † Robert Yeater by his uncle & aunt Chris & Jeannette Wakim & Family
- † Kayla Yeater by her uncle & aunt Chris & Jeannette Wakim & Family
- † Melo J. & Laura Z. Wakim by Chris & Jeannette Wakim & 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 & William & Carol Burns by Ron & Susan Burns
- † Our beloved grandparents Tom & Sadie John, David & Tamamie Joseph, & Sarah Burns by Ron & Susan Burns
- † All deceased Aunts & Uncles, especially Louis & Cecilia Ammar, Fred & Rita John, Sister Mary Thomasina John, & Roland & Julia Tappe by Ron and Susan Burns
- † All deceased of The Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus by Ron & Susan Burns
- † Rhoda Marie Perilli “Ginger Perilli” by the Perilli Family
- † Silvio “Joe” Perilli by the Perilli Family
- † John A. Tapscott by Paula Perilli & John Tapscott

## *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> .
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Sunday, Nov. 10	OLOL Women’s Society Meeting after 10:30 a.m. Mass in Cedar Hall
Sunday, Nov. 17	Cedar Club Meeting after 10:30 a.m. Mass in Cedar Hall
Sun. December 8	Christmas Dinner. Complimentary to all parishioners. Donation to the church is appreciated.
Sun. December 15	34 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Priesthood of Msgr. Bakhos. Brunch for parishioners

**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.

**Christmas Poinsettias in Memory of:**

Please donate toward decorating the altar with poinsettias during Christmas. Every poinsettia cost \$25.00

- ☼ Louis N. & Louis H. Khourey, Sr. & Gladys Howard by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family
- ☼ Tom & Mary K. Ferris by Denise Ferris
- ☼ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Denise Ferris

**Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month**

- November 26: Mary Lish
- November 29: Tony Renzella
- November 30: Melissa Ferrera-Renzella
- December 3: Joey John
- December 7: Christina Committee Zdilla

**Your Church Support Last Week**

\$1,182.00	Sunday Collection
2,030.50	Bake sale
120.00	Bulletin Ads
67.00	Candles
16.00	Coffee hour
125.00	Donation to the church
100.00	Christmas Poinsettias
435.00	utilities
\$4,075.50	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)  
Sally Sengewalt, Mary Zigler (sister of Lillian Siebieda), Dolores Oser, 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?**

**Bake Sale net profit**

Income \$11,357.20 – Expenses \$5,279.40 = Net profit: \$6,077.80

## *Many Thanks*

--To all the chairpersons and volunteers who contributed to the success of the Thanksgiving Bake Sale. Words could not express how high was the spirit of cooperation and joy during the event. May the Blessed Mother reward each and every one of you in good health and happy life. The Blessed Mother is surely proud of you and our church is so blessed to have you ladies and gentlemen. —Msgr Bakhos

--To Jana Joseph for sponsoring the kibbee press machine. She will be acknowledge in the 2025 Mahrajan Sovenir ad book on the golden level.

## *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 we go to Mass?*

The Mass is an opportunity to participate in Christ's sacrifice.

The Mass is a time to worship.

It is different from -and adds to- private prayers and meditations.

People join together to share the gifts and grace of God.

Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

(Matthew 18:20)

The Mass is a time to give and to receive. To give praise to God and receive God's blessing.

The Mass can strengthen our faith, nourish our spiritual life, and encourage Christian attitudes and actions.

We can offer ourselves to God through Jesus Christ, express our love for Christ, and share with others in the faith community.

The Mass is a Sacrifice: Jesus gave His life so that we might have everlasting life with God in heaven. Because of this perfect sacrifice, we can be saved from our sins.

In the Sacrament of the Eucharist, we accept the sacrifice of Jesus' Body and Blood under the appearance of bread and wine. The Lord Jesus said, "Do this, in remembrance of me."

(1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

The Mass is a Holy Meal. Jesus offered His life as a sacrifice for all. In this way, Christ is the food of our spiritual life. The Eucharistic meal brings us together and makes us better able to offer sacrifices of our own.

The Mass gives us an opportunity to give thanks and praise to God for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, for our health, talents and opportunities, for our chance to serve God and for the world in all its complexity and beauty.

The Mass allows us to feel God's direction in our lives. Prayer is a direct dialogue with God. Throughout the Mass, individual and group prayers provide a time to communicate and listen, to offer and receive. The Reading



from the Scriptures helps us to focus on the Word of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ. And the homily can bring understanding of the day's Scripture readings and the problems of everyday life. It helps make the Scriptures a living part of our modern world.

The Mass is a celebration. It is a chance to express our joy for the miracle of the risen Christ and the promise of everlasting life.

We show our joy through: the songs we sing, the Sign of Peace, the full participation in all other parts of the Mass. This expression of faith brings us closer to God and to our faith community. It is a sign of the true happiness that is God's gift.

We are filled with the Holy Spirit and feel inner joy and peace. God's presence fills our lives in church, at work, at home, and in school.

The Mass provides inspiration. It challenges us to improve the ways we love and serve God. The Mass can bring the renewed presence of Christ to our lives. It can be the inspiration for: helping those less fortunate than ourselves, spreading the Word of God's promise for all people, showing God's love to family, friends, acquaintances and strangers by using Christian values as a basis for all decisions and by doing God's work every day.

### ***Wisdom: Take some time***

Take some time to smell the flowers; as you walk the paths of life.

Take some time to ease the tensions; from the challenges and the strife.

***Take some time to hear the birds sing; as they usher in the dawn.***

***Though the day be just emerging; too soon it will be gone.***

Take some time to watch a sunrise; now and then a sunset too.

Just be sure that seeking pleasure; isn't all you ever do.

***Take some time to count your blessings; though you feel they're not that great.***

***You will find they're more abundant; than you thought, at any rate.***

Take some time to banish hatred; when and where you can.

Just detest man's evil ways; and not your fellow man.

***Take some time to love your children; every moment you are free.***

***The benefits exceedeth; a university degree.***

Take some time to love your neighbor; and even more important still.

Take some time to love yourself; or not many others will.

***And if you don't like that image; of yourself that others see.***

***Take some time to make some changes; be the best that you can be.***

Take some time to help another; who you think might need a hand.

You will find the satisfaction; leaves you feeling sort of grand.

***Take some time to live by virtue; in the best way that is know.***

***And respect the rights of others; as equal to your own.***

Take some time to just appreciate; the fact that you are here.

And to know that Higher Power; and to trust It without fear.

***If you do these things with diligence; you will eventually be glad.***

***If you don't attempt to do them; you may one day wish you had.***

Although this no doubt could impose; upon your time for seeking wealth.

There should be little question; that it could improve your health.

***And though you might not be as wealthy; nor drive so fine a car.***

***You'll find you will be richer; in other ways by far.***

### ***Story***

The song that silenced the cappuccino machine. (by John Thomas Oaks)

It was chilly in Manhattan but warm inside the Starbucks shop on 51st Street and Broadway, just a skip up from Times Square. Early November weather in New York City holds only the slightest hint of the bitter

chill of late December and January, but it's enough to send the masses crowding indoors to vie for available space and warmth.

For a musician, it's the most lucrative Starbucks location in the world, I'm told, and consequently, the tips can be substantial if you play your tunes right. Apparently, we were striking all the right chords that night, because our basket was almost overflowing.

It was a fun, low-pressure gig. I was playing keyboard and singing backup for my friend who also added rhythm with an arsenal of percussion instruments. We mostly did pop songs from the '40s to the '90s with a few original tunes thrown in. During our emotional rendition of the classic, "If You Don't Know Me by Now," I noticed a lady sitting in one of the lounge chairs across from me. She was swaying to the beat and singing along.

After the tune was over, she approached me. "I apologize for singing along on that song. Did it bother you?" she asked. "No," I replied. "We love it when the audience joins in. Would you like to sing up front on the next selection?" To my delight, she accepted my invitation. "You choose," I said. "What are you in the mood to sing?" "Well, do you know any hymns?"

Hymns? This woman didn't know who she was dealing with. I cut my teeth on hymns. Before I was even born, I was going to church. I gave our guest singer a knowing look. "Name one."

"Oh, I don't know. There are so many good ones. You pick one."

"Okay," I replied. "How about 'His Eye is on the Sparrow'?"

My new friend was silent, her eyes averted. Then she fixed her eyes on mine again and said, "Yeah. Let's do that one." She slowly nodded her head, put down her purse, straightened her jacket and faced the center of the shop. With my two-bar setup, she began to sing.

Why should I be discouraged? Why should the shadows come?

The audience of coffee drinkers was transfixed. Even the gurgling noises of the cappuccino machine ceased as the employees stopped what they were doing to listen. The song rose to its conclusion.

I sing because I'm happy; I sing because I'm free.

For His eye is on the sparrow; And I know He watches me.

When the last note was sung, the applause crescendo to a deafening roar that would have rivaled a sold-out crowd at Carnegie Hall. Embarrassed, the woman tried to shout over the din, "Oh, y'all go back to your coffee! I didn't come in here to do a concert! I just came in here to get something' to drink, just like you!"

But the ovation continued. I embraced my new friend. "You, my dear, have made my whole year! That was beautiful!" "Well, it's funny that you picked that particular hymn," she said. "Why is that?" "Well ..." she hesitated again, "that was my daughter's favorite song." "Really!" I exclaimed.

"Yes," she said, and then grabbed my hands. By this time, the applause had subsided and it was business as usual. "She was 16. She died of a brain tumor last week." I said the first thing that found its way through my stunned silence. "Are you going to be okay?"

She smiled through tear-filled eyes and squeezed my hands. "I'm gonna be okay. I've just got to keep trusting the Lord and singing his songs, and everything's gonna be just fine."

She picked up her bag, gave me her card, and then she was gone. Was it just a coincidence that we happened to be singing in that particular coffee shop on that particular November night? Coincidence that this wonderful lady just happened to walk into that particular shop? Coincidence that of all the hymns to choose from, I just happened to pick the very hymn that was the favorite of her daughter, who had died just the week before? I refuse to believe it.

God has been arranging encounters in human history since the beginning of time, and it's no stretch for me to imagine that he could reach into a coffee shop in midtown Manhattan and turn an ordinary gig into a revival. It was a great reminder that if we keep trusting him and singing his songs, everything's gonna be okay.

## ***A Time to Laugh (141)***

### ***Buying a Turkey***

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store, but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked a stock boy, "Do these turkeys

get any bigger?" The stock boy replied, "No ma'am, they're dead."

## ***Church Billboards***

- \*\*It is unlikely there'll be a reduction in the wages of sin.
- \*\*Forbidden fruit creates many jams.
- \*\*Try our Sundays. They are better than Baskin-Robbins.
- \*\*Have trouble sleeping? We have sermons; come hear one.
- \*\*Parking is for Church patrons only. Violators will be baptized.

## ***Insured Ticket to Heaven***

### **Trains Leave at all Hours:**

Streamliners: Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience.

Accommodation Train: Sunday Mass only, occasional Communion, and avoidance of mortal sin.

### **Trains arrive when God wills:**

Price of ticket:

Streamliner: Chastity and self-surrender.

Limited Express: Faith and self-sacrifice.

Accommodation Train: Hope and self-abasement.

### **Note carefully:**

There are no excursion trains, and no return tickets.

Travelers can take passage on any part of the road.

Passengers are advised to bring no other baggage except Good Works; otherwise they may miss the train or be delayed at the next to the last Station.

Children who have not attained the use of reason do not pay anything provided they are held on the lap of their Mother the Church.

(Mr. Paul Thinks This Is A Cheap Ticket)

## ***Famous Quotes (42)***

Jesus:

--Do not lay up treasure for yourselves on earth, where there is moth and rust to consume it, where there are thieves to break in and steal it; lay up treasure for yourselves in heaven, where there is no moth or rust to consume it, no thieves to break in and steal. Where your treasure-house is, there your heart is too.

The eye is the light of the whole body, so that if thy eye is clear, the whole of thy body will be lit up; whereas if your eye is diseased, the whole of your body will be in darkness. And if the light which you have in you is itself darkness, what of your darkness? How deep will that be!

A man cannot be the slave of two masters at once; either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will devote himself to the one and despise the other. You must serve God or money; you cannot serve both.

I say to you, then, do not fret over your life, how to support it with food and drink; over your body, how to keep it clothed. Is not life itself a greater gift than food, the body than clothing? See how the birds of the air never sow, or reap, or gather grain into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them; have you not an excellence beyond theirs? Can any one of you, for all his anxiety, add a cubit's growth to his height? And why should you be anxious over clothing? See how the wild lilies grow; they do not toil or spin; and yet I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If God, then, so clothes the grasses of the field, which today live and will feed the oven tomorrow, will he not be much more ready to clothe you, men of little faith? Do not fret, then, asking, what are we to eat? or What are we to drink? or how shall we find clothing? It is for the heathen to busy themselves over such things; you have a Father in heaven who knows that you need them all. 33 Make it your first care to find the kingdom of God, and his approval, and all these things shall be yours without the asking. (Matthew 6:19-33)