



February 16, 2025
Bulletin #7

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

Monsignor Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



Sunday of the Righteous and Just

- ***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 AlKhoury
- ***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.

Sunday of the Righteous and Just

Readings: Wis 5:1-16; Heb 12:18-24 and Mt 25:31-46

Luke presents Jesus as speaking to His followers: “HAPPY ARE YOU...” “ALAS FOR YOU...” The implication clearly is that His followers count among their number the rich and well to-do, the socially accepted, as well as the poor, rejected and persecuted. Jesus rejects the traditional values prevailing in Israel. Material well-being was considered a sign of God’s blessing, happiness was reckoned to consist in a long life and abundant possessions. He opts firmly for the position of the prophets and the poor, one might say the values of “PROTEST.” Those who are poor, hungry, sorrowful, rejected here and now on account of the Son of Man, are really the happy ones. This is because true happiness is to be found in heaven. The “HAVES” are warned, for them there is real danger of becoming enmeshed in the “GOOD THINGS” of this world.

Jesus Himself is the message of happiness. The blessedness of the kingdom begins from today, it is both present and is to come: it reaches men already in the person of Jesus Christ, the poor one, the type of the persecuted, who along with poverty, took to Himself the cause of all the unhappy ones of this world. So it is that in the midst of sufferings and privations the followers of Christ can rejoice and be happy. This is not a contradiction or an anomaly but a deeper happiness, a surer truth.

This message is very real today. We live in a world which is divided not only between rich and poor nations, but where divisions are found within every nation and society. Today’s poor are happy not because they have the prospect of becoming wealthy, but because the kingdom of heaven is promised to them, their hope is in the Lord. Poverty here on earth has taken the place of our lost paradise.

Any other attitude is contrary to the teaching of Christ. More than ever, today, the Church must welcome to itself people from every continent, the crowds of the poor, she must remain open to those in need: she offers them union with Christ, provided they offer themselves to God and accept his ways and values.

This Weekend, Feb. 15-16: Sunday of the Righteous and Just

Saturday, February 15; Mass at 4:00 pm:

- ✠ Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ Special Intentions

Sunday, February Mass 16; at 10:30 am:

- ✠ John Shiben by his wife Dee Shiben
- ✠ Deceased Family members of our parishioners

This Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, February 17: No Mass. Pastor’s Day off.

Tuesday, February 18; Mass at noon:

- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, and her son Mark by her last will
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

Wednesday, February 19: No Mass.

Thursday, February 20; Mass at noon:

- ✠ Virginia & Anton Matesic by Rosali Conti
- ✠ Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby
- ✠ John Shiben by his wife Dee Shiben

Friday, February 21: No Mass. Visitation of the sick

Next Weekend, Feb. 22-23: Sunday of the Faithful Departed

Saturday, February 22; Mass at 4:00 pm:

- ✠ Bob Rose (Anniversary) by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- ✠ Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby
- ✠ Special Intentions

Sunday, February 23; Mass at 10:30 am:

- ✠ John Shibben by his wife Dee Shibben
- ✠ Deceased Family members of our parishioners
- ✠ Healing Mass for Rosalie Galloway

Coming Parish Events

Cedar Club Meeting	Cedar Club Meeting, Sunday, Feb 16 th after 10:30 a.m. Mass
Stations of the Cross	Starting Friday, March 7 th : every Friday during Lent Season, the 5:30 pm Mass will be followed by Stations of the Cross, Spiritual Reflection, and Benediction.
Holy Week schedule	Monday thru Thursday, April 14-17: Mass at 5:30 pm every day. (no noon Masses)
Good Friday, April 18	Solemn Burial of the Lord at 5:30 pm followed by Meatless dinner prepared by the Cedar Club.
Easter, Sunday, April 20	10:30 am Easter Mass
Sunday, May 11	Mother Day
Spring Bake Sale	Kibbee baking: Wednesday, May 14 Spinach pie baking: Thursday, May 15 Order pick-up: Saturday, May 17
Sunday, June 15	Father's Day
Mahrajan (Festival)	Sunday, August 10, 2025. Outdoor Mass at Oglebay at 10:00 a.m. Booths open after Mass.
Thanksgiving Bake Sale	???????

Blessing with Ashes (Monday and Wednesday, March 3rd and 5th)

Ash Monday, March 3rd: During Noon Mass and 5:30 pm Mass
 Ash Wednesday, March 5th: During Noon Mass and 5:30 pm Mass

Stations of the Cross (Starting Friday, March 7th)

Every Friday during Lent, we celebrate the Mass at 5:30 p.m. It will be followed by the Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Cross. The "Stations of the Cross" is a devotion which consists of following the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ by recalling the fourteen prominent events that took place from the time of the trial under Pontius Pilate until His death and burial on Mount Calvary. Many Thanks to these generous families who sponsored light Lenten meal dinners for social hour after the Stations of the Cross. If any other family wants to participate in the meal for social hour, please ask and join the families listed below.

Date:	Volunteers Who are sponsoring the Light Meals on Fridays during Lent:
1st Friday, March 7	Meal Sponsors: Chris & Jeannette Wakim
2 nd Friday, March 14	Meal Sponsors: Susan & Ron Burns
3 rd Friday, March 21	Meal Sponsors: Dr. Nabel & Nisrine Alkhouri
4 th Friday, March 28	Meal Sponsors: Liz & Jay Murad
5 th Friday, April 4	Meal Sponsors: Msgr. Bakhos, Janet Shutler & Randy Weisner
6 th Friday, April 11	Meal Sponsors: George & Susan Saseen & the Frenn Family
Good Friday, April 18	Meal Sponsors: The Cedar Club & Parishioners
Easter Sunday, April 20	Happy Easter



Easter Lillies Donated in Memory of:

Please donate \$25.00 to sponsor a lilly or a hyacinth toward decoration the Tomb and the altar of the church at Easter. Please mention on your note: "In Loving Memory of..." May God reward you many folds.

✠ Gladys Howard & Louise N. & Lois H. Khourey, Sr. by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family

✠ In Loving Memory of Tom & Mary K. Ferris by their daughter Denise Ferris

✠ In Loving Memory of Mary Stees by Denise Ferris

✠ In Loving Memory of Mary Zaid Stees by Jay & Liz Murad

✠ Adib & Sadie (parents), Nadim (brother), Mona (sister) by Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac

✠ In Loving Memory of the Shutler and Nolte Families by Janet Shutler

✠ In Loving Memory of the Rahi and Peklinsky Families by Alicia Peklinsky

✠ In Honor of Janet Shutler

✠ In Honor of Jean and Mary Beth Weisner

✠ In Honor of Chris & Jeannette Wakim

✠ In Honor of Larry & Lillian Siebieda

✠ In Honor of Dr. & Mrs. Nabil Alkhouri and Family

✠ In Honor of Michael Duymich

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month

February 16: Dave Sengewalt

February 17: Rebecca DiFabrizio

February 18: Larry Ferrera III

February 21: Louie Khourey, Dennis Porter

February 24: Mary Lee Porter

February 27: MaryAnn Carl

March 2: Ava Murad

March 4: Jeff Sengewalt

March 6: Kristen Graney

March 15: Shelby Imer

March 16: Mia Ferrera

Your Church Support Last Week

\$2,385.00	Sunday Collection
32.00	Candles
439.00	Easter Lillies
20.00	Donation to the church
150.00	Utilities
\$3,026.00	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)

Fred Jaqway, Mary Ragase, Becky Ferrera, Debbie Sengewalt, Gavin Hancher, Monroe DeLuca, 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), Denny Albaugh, Rita Rae Sage,

What's New?

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

Our Diocese Events

Maronite Academy

The Maronite Academy is an initiative, undertaken by the Maronite Foundation, aimed at introducing young Lebanese immigrants around the world to their country of origin, Lebanon.

The Foundation is proud to announce, the opening of the 8th consecutive session of the Maronite Academy in honor of the late H. E. Michel Eddé, Founder and honorary President of the Maronite Foundation.

The candidates should be descendants of Lebanese Ancestors, aged between 20 and 30, and should undergo online courses to build their knowledge about Lebanon and the Maronite Heritage.

To increase their chances of being selected, the candidates must also complete the form on the website <https://maronitefoundation.org/LebaneseCitizenship/en> to learn more about their roots and to check if they are eligible to get their Lebanese Citizenship.

After successfully completing their online courses, the candidates will benefit from an organized two-week trip to Lebanon (August 2 to 17, 2025), hosted by the Maronite Foundation.

During their stay in Lebanon, the candidates will get to bond with their roots and explore the history of Lebanon and the Maronite Heritage through specialized seminars given by prominent figures and various site visits.

Please spread the word about the Maronite Academy program among your friends and family to register before the end of April 2025 and join the Maronite Academy!

*Candidates must be fluent in English

We are expecting your visit soon! Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram!



The Maronite Foundation in the World maronitefoundation.org

Maronite National Youth Conference (June 23-28)

Where: La Roche University, Pittsburgh

Age groups: 12-18 year old

Registration starts on: January 17, 2025

Information: www.maroniteyouth.org! Questions: office@maroniteyouth.org

NAM awarness

Our Diocese needs two parishioners interested to be the liason of the National Apostolate of Maronites Convention. Please call Msgr Bakhos at 304-233-1688 to be appointed. Thanks for your cooperation

Pilgrimage to Rome & Sicily (August 25 to September 4)

On the occasion of the Jubilee Year 2025, our Diocese is planning a pilgrimage trip to Rome and Sicily.

When: From August 25 until September 4

Package includes: stay at 4 star hotels, meals, visit important sites, English speaking guide, bus transportations.

Cost: \$3,900 for double occupancy per person. Additional \$1,000 supplement for single occupancy.

Reservation due date: May 31, 2025. There are only 50 spots open. First come, first serve.

Reservation: please call Ivette Jackson 323-336-3168 or Jamileh Koury 918-626-9193 info@eparchy.org

Trivia Teaser: The Brain Test

Warning Don't Drink Before Reading.

Exercise of the brain is as important as exercise of the muscles. As we grow older, it's important that we keep mentally alert. The saying; "If you don't use it, you will lose it" also applies to the brain, so..... Below is a very

private way to gauge your loss or non-loss of intelligence. So take the following test presented here and determine if you are losing it or are still "with it."

The spaces below are so you don't see the answers until you have made your own..... OK, relax, clear your mind and..... begin.

1st question: What do you put in a toaster?

The answer is "bread." If you said "toast," then give up now and go do something else. Try not to hurt yourself. If you said, "bread."

2nd question: Say "silk" five times. Now spell "silk." What do cows drink?

The answer: Cows drink water. If you said "milk," please do not attempt the next question. Your brain is obviously over stressed and may even overheat. It may be that you need to content yourself with reading something more appropriate such as "Children's World." If you said, "water" then proceed to Question 3.

3rd question: If a red house is made from red bricks and a blue house is made from blue bricks and a pink house is made from pink bricks and a black house is made from black bricks, what is a greenhouse made from?

The answer: Greenhouses are made from glass. If you said "green bricks," what the devil are you still doing here reading these questions????? If you said "glass," then go on to Question 4.

4th question: Twenty years ago, a plane is flying at 20,000 feet over Germany. If you will recall, Germany at the time was politically divided into West Germany and East Germany. Anyway, during the flight, TWO of the engines fail. The pilot, realizing that the last remaining engine is also failing, decides on a crashlanding procedure. Unfortunately, the engine fails before he has time and the plane crashes smack in the middle of "no man's land" between East Germany and West Germany. Where would you bury the survivors? East Germany or West Germany or in "no man's land"?

The answer: You don't, of course, bury survivors. you said ANYTHING else, you are a real dunce and you must NEVER try to rescue anyone from a plane crash. Your efforts would not be appreciated. If you said, "Don't bury the survivors" then proceed to the Question 5.

5th question: If the hour hand on a clock moves 1/60 of a degree every minute then how many degrees will the hour hand move in one hour?

The answer: One degree. If you said "360 degrees" or anything other than "one degree," you are to be congratulated on getting this far, but you are obviously out of your league. Turn your pencil in and exit the room. Everyone else proceed to the final Question 6.

6th question: Without using a calculator -- You are driving a bus from London to Milford Haven in Wales. In London, 17 people get on the bus. In Reading, six people get off the bus and nine people get on. In Swindon, two people get off and four get on. In Cardiff, 11 people get off and 16 people get in. In Swansea, three people get off and five people get on. In Carmathen, six people get off and three get on. You then arrive at Milford Haven. What was the name of the bus driver?

The answer: Oh, for crying out loud! Don't you remember? It was YOU, you dummy.

Now pass this along to all your "friends" and hope they do better than you....

Advice: Alarm system

This is a really good idea. Next time you come home for the night and you put your keys away, think of this: It's a **security alarm system** that you probably already have and requires no installation.

Start keeping your car keys next to your bed on the night stand when you go to bed at night. If you think someone is trying to get into your house, or if you hear a noise outside your house, just press the panic alarm on your car key chain. This is your car alarm.

Test it! It will go off from most everywhere Inside your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain. It works if you park in your driveway or garage.

If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break in your house, odds are the burglar or rapist won't stick around ... after a few seconds all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that.

Try yours to make sure it works before you rely on it. Just know that you must press the alarm button again to turn it off.

And remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there.

This is something that should really be shared with everyone. Maybe it could save a life or a sexual abuse crime.

Question & Answer (2)

Question: “Other than the Bible, how do we know God exists?” Travis C., 14

Answer: St. Thomas Aquinas says we can know of God by reason alone. He gives five proofs for the existence of God. I’ll give you one of them and then challenge you to read his works to find out the other four. One proof or argument is from “design.” This proof says the universe could not have just come together on its own any more than, say, a computer just comes together” on its own. The computer is a precise instrument that could not magically come together on its own. It is created and designed by something greater than itself -man. We know God exists by His handiwork. Only an all-powerful God could have orchestrated the creation of the universe the earth, man and everything else.

Giving in Scriptures: God Commands Us to Give (Attitudes in Giving)

The LORD said to Moses, Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man whose heart prompts him to give. Moses said to the whole Israelite community, This is what the LORD has commanded: From what you have, take an offering for the LORD. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the LORD an offering... (Exodus 25:1-2, 35:4-5)

Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses’ presence, and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him came and brought an offering to the LORD for the work on the Tent of Meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. All who were willing men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the LORD. (Exodus 35:20-22)

All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the LORD freewill offerings for all the work the LORD through Moses had commanded them to do. (Exodus 35:29)

I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. (I Chronicles 29:17)

If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. (I Corinthians 13:3)

And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God’s will. (II Corinthians 8:1-5)

For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have. (II Corinthians 8:12)

So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given. (II Corinthians 9:5)

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (II Corinthians 9:7)

Spirituality: Prayer

Dear Lord, I thank You for this day.

I thank You for my being able to see and to hear this morning.
 I'm blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God.
 You have done so much for me and You keep on blessing me.
 Forgive me this day for I have sinned. I ask now for Your forgiveness.
 Keep me safe from all danger and harm.
 Let me start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude.
 Let me make the best of each and every day and give my best in all that is put before me.
 Clear my mind that I can hear from You.
 Broaden my mind that I can accept all things that are of You.
 Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over.
 Let me continue to see sin through Your eyes and acknowledge it as evil.
 And when I sin, let me repent, and confess with my mouth my wrongdoing, and receive the forgiveness of God.
 And when this world closes in on me, let me remember Jesus' example to slip away and find a quiet place to pray.
 It's the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits.
 I know that when I can't pray out loud, You listen to my heart.
 Continue to use me to do Thy Will.
 Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others.
 Keep me strong that I may help the weak and unsaved.
 Keep me uplifted that I may have words of encouragement for others.
 I pray for those that are lost and can't find their way.
 I pray for those that are misjudged and misunderstood.
 I pray for those who refuse to share a word from You.
 I pray for those who don't know You intimately.
 I pray for those that will only read this and not speak this aloud in their own lives.
 I pray for those that will delete this without sharing it with others.
 I pray for those that don't believe ... But I thank you that I believe.
 I believe that You change people, and I pray for all my sisters and brothers.
 For each and every family member in their households.
 I pray for peace, love and joy in their homes that they are out of debt and all their needs are met.
 I pray that every eye that reads this knows there is no problem, circumstance, or situation greater than You, Lord.
 Every battle is in Your hands for You to fight.
 I pray that these words be received into the hearts of every eye that sees them and every mouth that confesses them willingly.

Wisdom: Time gets better with age

I've learned that I like my teacher because she cries when we sing "Silent Night". Age 5
 I've learned that our dog doesn't want to eat my broccoli either. Age 7
 I've learned that when I wave to people in the country, they stop what they are doing and wave back. Age 9
 I've learned that just when I get my room the way I like it, Mom makes me clean it up again. Age 12
 I've learned that if you want to cheer yourself up, you should try cheering someone else up. Age 14
 I've learned that although it's hard to admit it, I'm secretly glad my parents are strict with me. Age 15
 I've learned that silent company is often more healing than words of advice. Age 24
 I've learned that brushing my child's hair is one of life's great pleasures. Age 26
 I've learned that wherever I go, the world's worst drivers have followed me there. Age 29
 I've learned that if someone says something unkind about me, I must live so that no one will believe it. Age 30
 I've learned that there are people who love you dearly but just don't know how to show it. Age 42
 I've learned that you can make someone's day by simply sending them a little note. Age 44
 I've learned that the greater a person's sense of guilt, the greater his or her need to cast blame on others. Age 46

I've learned that children and grandparents are natural allies. Age 47

I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow. Age 48

I've learned that singing "Amazing Grace" can lift my spirits for hours. Age 49

I've learned that motel mattresses are better on the side away from the phone. Age 50

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a man by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. Age 51

I've learned that keeping a vegetable garden is worth a medicine cabinet full of pills. Age 52

I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you miss them terribly after they die. Age 53

I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life. Age 58

I've learned that if you want to do something positive for your children, work to improve your marriage. Age 61

I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. Age 62

I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catchers mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back. Age 64

I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, the needs of others, your work, meeting new people, and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you. Age 65

I've learned that whenever I decide something with kindness, I usually make the right decision. Age 66

I've learned that everyone can use a prayer. Age 72

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one. Age 82

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love that human touch-holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. Age 90

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. Age 92

Story: Chain of Love

He almost didn't see the old lady, stranded on the side of the road. But even in the dim light of day, he could see she needed help. So, he pulled up in front of her Cadillac and got out. His Pontiac was still sputtering when he approached her. Even with the smile on his face, she was worried. No one had stopped to help for the last hour or so. Was he going to hurt her? He didn't look safe; he looked poor and hungry.

He could see that she was frightened, standing out there in the cold. He knew how she felt. It was that chill which only fear can put in you. He said, "I'm here to help you, ma'am. Why don't you wait in the car where it's warm? By the way, my name is John."

Well, all she had was a flat tire, but for an old lady, that was bad enough. John crawled under the car looking for a place to put the jack, skinning his knuckles a time or two. Soon he was able to change the tire. But he had to get dirty and his hands hurt. As he was tightening up the lug nuts, she rolled down the window and began to talk to him. She told him that she was from California and was only just passing through.

She couldn't thank him enough for coming to her aid. John just smiled as he closed her trunk. The lady asked how much she owed him. Any amount would have been all right with her. She already imagined all the awful things that could have happened had he not stopped. John never thought twice about being paid. This was not a job to him. This was helping someone in need, and God knows there were plenty who had given him a hand in the past. He had lived his whole life that way, and it never occurred to him to act any other way. He told her that if she really wanted to pay him back, the next time she saw someone who needed help, she could give that person the assistance they needed, and John added, "And think of me." He waited until she started her car and drove off. It had been a cold and depressing day, but he felt good as he headed home, disappearing into the twilight.

A few miles down the road the lady saw a small cafe. She went in to grab a bite to eat, and take the chill off before she made the last leg of her trip home. It was a dingy looking restaurant. Outside were two old gas pumps. The whole scene was unfamiliar to her. The waitress came over and brought a clean towel to wipe her wet hair. She had a sweet smile, one that even being on her feet for the whole day couldn't erase. The lady noticed the waitress was nearly eight months pregnant, but she never let the strain and aches change her attitude. The old lady wondered how someone who had so little could be so giving to a stranger. Then she remembered

John. After the lady finished her meal, she paid with a hundred-dollar bill. The waitress quickly went to get change for her hundred-dollar bill, but the old lady had slipped right out the door. She was gone by the time the waitress came back. The waitress wondered where the lady could be. Then she noticed something written on the napkin. There were tears in her eyes when she read what the lady wrote: "You don't owe me anything. I have been there too. Somebody once helped me out, the way I'm helping you. If you really want to pay me back, here is what you do: Do not let this chain of love end with you."

Under the napkin were four more \$100 bills. Well, there were tables to clear, sugar bowls to fill, and people to serve, but the waitress made it through another day. That night when she got home from work and climbed into bed, she was thinking about the money and what the lady had written. How could the lady have known how much she and her husband needed it? With the baby due next month, it was going to be hard. She knew how worried her husband was, and as he lay sleeping next to her, she gave him a soft kiss and whispered soft and low, "Everything's gonna be all right. I love you, John."

There is an old saying "What goes around comes around." Today, I sent you this story, and I'm asking you to pass it on to a friend. Let this light shine. Good friends are like stars you don't always see them, but you know they are always there. Peace is Joy resting. Joy is Peace dancing! Share your faith with those who have none.

Jokes (154)

Now We Did It

There was these three brothers who lived in this little town.

The three brothers always got in trouble. So one day their mother called the priest in to talk to the three brothers. The priest called in the youngest one first. He asked the child, "Where is God?"

The little boy started to look around the room so the priest asked him again, the boy started to look under things and on top of shelves. The priest keep asking the boy, "Where is God?"

The little boy finally ran out of the room to his older brothers and said, "We're in trouble!" "Why?" the brothers asked, "Cause God's missing and they think we have something to do with it", the boy answered.

If Not For A Woman

A women's lib speaker was addressing a large group and said, "Where would man be today if it were not for woman?" She paused a moment and looked around the room. "I repeat, where would man be today if it were not for woman?" From the back of the room came a voice... "He'd still be in the Garden of Eden eating strawberries!"

Sunday Golfing

A Pastor decided to take a Sunday off and go golfing instead. He drove to a far course, to avoid meeting any parishioners. When St. Peter saw this he went to God, "You are just going to ALLOW him to get away with this?!" "Don't worry. I've got it under control," God replied calmly. Soon, St. Peter was watching the Pastor's game.

By afternoon he had made a perfect score. A hole in one every single time! St. Peter was absolutely furious, "God, you said you would handle it and he got a perfect score! Tell me, how is that punishment?!" God smiled and said, "Tell me, who is he going to tell?"

Famous Quotes (51)

Matthew Chapter 5: 13-16 (The Similes of Salt and Light)

Jesus said:

You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.