



March 23, 2025  
Bulletin #12

## *Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church*

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

Rectory: 304-233-1688 • Fax: 304-233-4714

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Monsignor Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



### *Sunday of the Prodigal Son*

- \***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 Kourey, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad, Gary Weisner.
- \***Choir Members:** Lou Kourey, 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.

## ***Lenten Meditation***

### **The Honesty Of Compassion**

**Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.** (Luke 6:37)

Compassion means to become close to the one who suffers. But we can come close to another person only when we are willing to become vulnerable ourselves. A compassionate person says: "I am your brother; I am your sister; I am human, fragile, and mortal, just like you. I am not scandalized by your tears, nor afraid of your pain. I too have wept. I too have felt pain." We can be with the other only when the other ceases to be "other" and becomes like us.

This, perhaps, is the main reason that we sometimes find it easier to show pity than compassion. The suffering person calls us to become aware of our own suffering. How can I respond to someone's loneliness unless I am in touch with my own experience of loneliness? How can I be close to handicapped people when I refuse to acknowledge my own handicaps? How can I be with the poor when I am unwilling to confess my own poverty?

*I must do some things to fulfill my duties. But isn't it time I examined my routines and cut out the things I do just to stay busy? Lord, help me this Lent to begin to focus my attention on the important things.*

## ***Sunday of the Prodigal Son***

Readings: Zech 3:1-7; 2Cor 13:5-13 and Lk 15:11-32

If the sense of guilt is an estrangement from God and sorrow at having wounded someone we love, if the ache of self-reproach is a symptom of our rejection of love's invitation, then our emphasis must be not so much on the guilt as on the way to remove it and find peace. It takes love to see that love has been hurt. Divine Love always rewards that recognition by forgiveness; and once the forgiveness is given, a relationship is restored in a much more intimate way than ever before. There is more joy, Our Lord said, among the angels of heaven for one sinner doing penance than for the ninety-nine just who needed not penance.

When love is understood aright, we do not feel sorry for sin in order that God may forgive; rather, we feel sorry at accepting that forgiveness. God offers to forgive us before we repent. It is the sorrow on our part that makes that forgiveness available. The father did not begin to forgive the prodigal son when he saw him coming down the roadway. The father had already forgiven the son from the beginning. The forgiveness could not become operative until the son became sorry for having broken the relationship with his father and sought restoration. Just as there has always been music in the air that we do not hear unless the radio is attuned to it, so there is always forgiveness available, but we do not receive it so long as our soul lacks sorrow and a purpose of amendment. We find only what we seek: Nature has many secrets to give us, but she will not surrender them until we sit down patiently before her and obey her laws. Only by such submission do we receive. So long as there is no prayerful wish for a different relationship with God than that distant, fearful one that sin has caused, the sin cannot be forgiven. To be a sinner is our distress, but to know it is our hope.

*Bishop Fulton SHEEN, Peace of Soul, p.81.*

## ***Turn off your cellular phone before you enter the church***

It is a Common Sense that people silence or turn off their cellular phone before entering the church to pray and focus on prayers. Many public places display signs asking "Turn off your cell phone." It is the right of every worshiper not to be disturbed while praying. Two signs are posted inside our church to this regard. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding.

—Monsignor Bakhos

## ***This Weekend, March 22-23: Sunday of the Prodigal Son***

**Saturday, March 22; Mass at 4:00 pm:**

✠ Thanksgiving Mass for healing of Mary Ragase

✠ Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby

✠ John Shibben by his wife Dee Shibben

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

**Sunday, March 23; Mass at 10:30 am:**

† Michael & Annette & Gene Howard by Lou & Charlotte Khourey and Family

† Mary Zaid Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone, Tom Ferris by Libby G. Magnone

† George and Sonja Shia by their daughter Michelle and Family

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

***This Weekdays Mass Schedule***

**Monday, March 24: No Mass. Pastor's day off.**

**Tuesday, March 25; Mass at noon**

† Beth Ferris Garcia (Birthday) by Libby G. Magnone

† Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will

† Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

**Wednesday, March 26; No Mass. Office work.**

**Thursday, March 27; Mass at noon:**

† Attorney Edward Khoury by Richard Coury

† Alphonse Golebiewski (Birthday) by Mike & Terri Golebiewski

† Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

**Friday, March 28; Mass at 5:30 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross and Benediction**

† Intention of Liz & Jay Murad for sponsoring the Lenten Meal

† Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby

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

***Next Weekend, March 22-23: Sunday of the Paralytic***

**Saturday, March 29; Mass at 4:00 pm:**

† Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby

† John Shibben by his wife Dee Shibben

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

**Sunday, March 30; Mass at 10:30 am:**

† Mary Zaid Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone, Tom Ferris by Libby G. Magnone

† John Shibben by his wife Dee Shibben

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

***Coming Parish Events***

Friday, March 28	5:00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on the altar for adoration. This adoration is upon the request of his holiness Pope Francis. Confessions are available before the Stations of the Cross. Please come early and silently pray the Rosary while adoring the Blessed Sacrament. Mass starts at 5:30 p.m.
Friday, March 28 Stations of the Cross	5:30 pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross, Spiritual Reflection, and Benediction. Then social hour sponsored by Liz & Jay Murad
Holy Week schedule April 14-17	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 4	May Procession. Ma'lia Shia will be the May Queen.
May 10 - May 18	Masses for the Deceased and Living Mothers and grandmothers. Please submit your Mass Form to Msgr. Bakhos to publish your intentions.
Sunday, May 11	Mother Day

Spring Bake Sale	Kibbee baking: Wednesday, May 14 Meat 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	???????

## *Stations of the Cross*

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:
4 <sup>th</sup> Friday, March 28	Meal Sponsors: Liz & Jay Murad
5 <sup>th</sup> Friday, April 4	Meal Sponsors: Janet Shutler, Randy Weisner and Msgr. Bakhos
6 <sup>th</sup> 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 & Nolte Families by Janet Shutler
- ✠ In Loving Memory of the Rahi and Peklinsky Families by Alicia Peklinsky
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- ✠ In Loving Memory of beloved parents John & Cecilia John & D. William Burns and grandparents Tom & Sadie John, David & Tamamie Joseph & Sarah Burns by Susan & Ron Burns
- ✠ In Loving Memory of aunts & uncles: Louis & Cecilia Ammar, Fred & Rita John, Sister Mary Thomasina John & Roland & Julia Tappe by Susan & Ron Burns
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Elias & Selma Joseph Family by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Sara (Joseph) Mclaughlin Family by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- ✠ In Loving Memory of our mother & dear brother David Frey by their loving Family
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Nimon & Mariam Joseph Family by the Joseph & Weisner Families
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Shirley Elias Nickerson & deceased members of the Elias Family by Tammy Strong
- ✠ In Loving Memory of George & Martha Saseen & Steve & Elizabeth Harasuik by George & Susan Saseen
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Phillip Geimer & my deceased family members by Thomasina Geimer
- ✠ In Honor of Janet Shutler
- ✠ In Honor of Jean & Mary Beth Weisner
- ✠ In Honor of Chris & Jeannette Wakim
- ✠ In Honor of Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ✠ In Honor of Dr. & Mrs. Nabiel Alkhouri & Family
- ✠ In Honor of Michael Duymich

## *Diocesan Appeal Fulfilled*

Many Thanks for all the following generous parishioners who fulfilled their Easter Obligations so far. Our church's Quota is \$3,000 to be sent to our Diocese to help paying the cost of different projects mainly educating our seminarians to be our future priests. May the Lord who sees in secret accept your fasting and almsgiving and forgive your sins during this Lenten Season:

- Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac in Memory of his deceased family members
- Rusty & Annette Wetzel in Memory of Edgar & Ellen Dennis
- Ron & Susan Burns in Memory of our beloved parents John & Cecilia John & D.William & Carol Burns
- Anna Bris in Memory of Ronald, Tom and Ronald Jr.
- Tom & Sharon Beatty in Memory of Susie Fadoul
- Marge John in Memory of Louis John Family
- John & Opal Ritts in Memory of John & Mary Ritts
- Larry & Becky Ferrera in Memory of Lawrence & Teresa Ferrera & George & Betty Joseph
- Ron & Kim Gibbons in Memory of the Gibbons & Otterbeck Families
- In Honor of Joe Roxby
- Jean Weisner in Memory of Nimon & Mariam Joseph
- Millet Louis Fadoul & Family in Memory of Susie Marie Fadoul
- Dave & Debbie Sengewalt in Memory of Bob Sengewalt
- Mark Schroeder in Memory of Helen & Al Schroeder
- Carol Burkhart in Memory of Dana Burkhart
- Frank & Anna Marie Duymich in Memory of parents Frank Sr. & Mary Lou Duymich
- In Honor of Kenneth & Nancy Joseph
- Thomasina Geimer in Memory of my beloved deceased family members
- Larry Siebieda in Memory of Costentino & Delia Cetorelli
- Jeannette & Chris Wakim in Memory of Blanche & Tom Wakim
- Mark & Barb McLaughlin in Memory of Sara (Joseph) McLaughlin Family
- Dennis & Mary Lee Porter in Memory of the Deceased of the Porter & Schweizer Families
- Elsie Renzella in Memory of Nicola & Filomena Renzella & Family
- Dee Shiben in Memory of John E. Shiben
- Veronica Mushet in Memory of our Beloved Brother David Frey
- Ron Weisner in Memory of the Deceased members of the Weisner & Joseph Families
- Maryann Carl in Memory of Mr. & Mrs. John T. John
- David & Greg John in Memory of John T. & Cecilia John
- Debbie Huffman in Memory of the Huffman & Oser Families
- Rosalie Conti in Memory of Herman E. Conti Jr.
- Angele Mansor in Memory of the Mansor Family
- In Honor of Mike & Judy Sofka
- In Honor of Randy P. Weisner
- Dr. Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn in Memory of the Frenn & Thomas Families
- Sue Jochum in Memory of the Shia & Jochum Families
- Denise Ferris in Memory of Tom & Mary K. Ferris
- George & Susan Saseen in Memory of the Deceased members of the Saseen Family
- PJ Lenz Family in Memory of George & Mary Popovich
- George & Patricia Fahey in Memory of Dennis & June Fahey and Agnes & Vincent Jacovetty
- Carol Dougherty in Memory of her husband Bill Dougherty and the Hebdo Family
- In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Breit
- Jane Palmer in Memory of Joseph Palmer
- Gary A. Weisner in Memory of Linda Hostutler
- Janet D. Shutler in Memory of the Deceased members of the Shutler and Nolte Families
- Tammy Strong in Memory of Shirley Elias Nickerson and the Deceased of the Elias Family

--Jay & Liz Murad in Memory of Mary Murad  
 --In Honor of Earl & Linda Duffy  
 --In Honor of Juliette Ghaphery Breit  
 --In Honor of Nick A. Ghaphery, Jr.

## ***Festival (Mahrajan) News (Sunday, August 10 from 11 to 6pm)***

--**Outdoor Mass** at Oglebay at 10:00 a.m. Booths open after Mass. No Mass at the church this day.

### ***--Lebanese Festival Photographs Needed:***

The Lebanese Festival Committee is asking for any exceptional photographs you have from the 2024 festival. The committee would like to use the photographs to update the brochure and other advertising materials. We are specifically looking for photos of families enjoying the festival, guests dancing, and the OLOL Dance Troupe dancing. Please contact Monsignor Bakhos or Susan John if you have photographs that you would be willing to share for publication.

### ***--EXCITING NEWS!!! The Lebanese Festival 50/50 RAFFLE Tickets are now ON-SALE!***

...The festival 50/50 Raffle tickets are now on-sale for \$20 per ticket! We have only printed 1,000 tickets. If all tickets are sold, there is an opportunity to win \$10,000 Cash! Tickets can be purchased from Monsignor Bakhos at 304-233-1688. Once received, Monsignor will fill-out the raffle ticket and mail the stub to the buyer. THANK YOU for helping us achieve our 50/50 Raffle goal!

## ***Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month***

March 26: Joseph John  
 March 30: Greg John  
 April 1: Patrick Sengewalt  
 April 6: Ronald Weisner  
 April 8: Jesse John  
 April 11: Randy Weisner  
 April 12: Justin Frenn  
 April 13: Adel Frenn  
 April 14: Mark McLaughlin, Lori Chickos  
 April 20: Angela Petros  
 April 28: Ann Marie Weisner Serafin

## ***Your Church Support Last Week***

\$1,826.00	Sunday Collection
1,550.00	2 <sup>nd</sup> collection: Diocesan Appeal
43.00	Candles
17.00	Coffee hour
1,050.00	Donation to the church
\$4,486.00	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)  
 Earl & Linda Duffy, Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Mary Ragase, Becky Ferrera, Gavin Hancher, Monroe DeLuca, Sally Sengewalt, Mary Zigler (sister of Lillian Siebieda), Dolores Oser, Anthony Wakim, Fran Saseen, Sandra DeMuth, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Patty Olinsky, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter), Denny Albaugh, Rita Rae Sage,

## ***What's New?***

## ***Welcome New Parishioners***

We welcome every Christian and every Family into our church. We are happy that you are benefiting spiritually from our rich eastern catholic faith and tradition. We will be honored to serve you in all your needs. Please write your address on a sheet of paper and drop it in the collection basket so that we can mail you information about our events. Thanks you for your cooperation. —Monsignor Bakhos

## ***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](http://maronitefoundation.org)

### ***MYA Midwest Regional Conference (April 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>)***

Where: St. Sharbel Church, 43888 Hayes Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48038

When: April 4th - 6th.

Information: Fr. Tony Massad 810-691-7055

Activities, meetings, and presentations will take place at the parish.

**Hotel address:** Hilton Garden Inn Detroit Utica 44700 Hayes Road Clinton Township, MI 48038

The theme for our conference this year will focus on the Jubilee Year in the Church. We will explain the biblical foundation of the Jubilee year, when and why it became a tradition in the Catholic Church, and how we can incorporate the blessings of this Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope with a focus and meditation on praying and living the Lord's Prayer "Our Father".

Registration is open: <https://www.ololmya.org/event-details/midwest-mya-regional-conference>

Schedule: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fOyPJMOq5w965q-fhFgiicoDQTTSAUOrp8vfjzStp2Q/edit?usp=sharing>

### ***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](http://www.maroniteyouth.org)! Questions: [office@maroniteyouth.org](mailto: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  
If anyone like to join the National Apostolate of the Maronites, please call Msgr Bakhos.

## ***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](mailto:info@eparchy.org)

## ***Order of Saint Sharbel Retreat (September 12-14)***

Dear Msgrs. and Fathers,

The **Order of Saint Sharbel Retreat** will be held on **September 12 – 14, 2025** at the **Saint Sharbel Spiritual Life Center in Pittsburgh, PA**. This will be a weekend for each Member of the Order of Saint Sharbel to deepen their personal relationship with Christ. Attached you will find the flyers for your reference.

Please share the information with your Order of St. Sharbel members.

With sincere best wishes and prayers, I remain

Yours in Christ, Bishop A. Elias Zaidan. Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon

## ***Giving in Scriptures: God Commands Us to Give***

### ***(God's promise about giving)***

- One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. (Proverbs 11:24-25)
- Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the LORD Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. (Malachi 3:10)
- Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. (Luke 6:3 8)
- ... remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' (Acts 20:3 5)
- He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:32)
- Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever. Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. (2 Corinthians 9:6-11)
- And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)



## *Trivia Teaser: The Beauty of Math*

Please read and enjoy these fascinating calculations!

$$\begin{aligned}
 1 \times 8 + 1 &= 9 \\
 12 \times 8 + 2 &= 98 \\
 123 \times 8 + 3 &= 987 \\
 1234 \times 8 + 4 &= 9876 \\
 12345 \times 8 + 5 &= 98765 \\
 123456 \times 8 + 6 &= 987654 \\
 1234567 \times 8 + 7 &= 9876543 \\
 12345678 \times 8 + 8 &= 98765432 \\
 123456789 \times 8 + 9 &= 987654321
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 1 \times 9 + 2 &= 11 \\
 12 \times 9 + 3 &= 111 \\
 123 \times 9 + 4 &= 1111 \\
 1234 \times 9 + 5 &= 11111 \\
 12345 \times 9 + 6 &= 111111 \\
 123456 \times 9 + 7 &= 1111111 \\
 1234567 \times 9 + 8 &= 11111111 \\
 12345678 \times 9 + 9 &= 111111111 \\
 123456789 \times 9 + 10 &= 1111111111
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 9 \times 9 + 7 &= 88 \\
 98 \times 9 + 6 &= 888 \\
 987 \times 9 + 5 &= 8888 \\
 9876 \times 9 + 4 &= 88888 \\
 98765 \times 9 + 3 &= 888888 \\
 987654 \times 9 + 2 &= 8888888 \\
 9876543 \times 9 + 1 &= 88888888 \\
 98765432 \times 9 + 0 &= 888888888
 \end{aligned}$$

**And finally, take a look at this symmetry:**

$$\begin{aligned}
 1 \times 1 &= 1 \\
 11 \times 11 &= 121 \\
 111 \times 111 &= 12321 \\
 1111 \times 1111 &= 1234321 \\
 11111 \times 11111 &= 123454321 \\
 111111 \times 111111 &= 12345654321 \\
 1111111 \times 1111111 &= 1234567654321 \\
 11111111 \times 11111111 &= 123456787654321 \\
 111111111 \times 111111111 &= 12345678987654321
 \end{aligned}$$

**Brilliant, isn't it?**

## *Question & Answer (#7)*

**Question #7: "How did God create Himself?" John D., 14**

Answer: He didn't. He always existed. Creation means to make something from nothing. To create something requires that the creator exist before the thing created. When a carpenter makes a table, for example, he exists before the table he makes. For God to create Himself, He would have to exist before Himself, which doesn't make any sense.

God could not have been created by someone else because then God's creator would be greater than God. And that doesn't make sense because God is the supreme or highest Being, and you can't go any higher than the highest.

## ***Spirituality: Richness in God***

An overemphasis on temporal security is a compensation for a loss of the sense of eternal security. When the soul becomes poor through the loss of its wealth, which is virtue, its owner seeks luxury and riches to atone for his inner nakedness. The richer the soul, the less store it sets on the material. It is not poverty that makes people quarrelsome and unhappy, as some claim; it is an overfondness for the things that money buys. Poor monks are usually friendlier and far happier than millionaires. And it is also an error to say that, if economic conditions were good, there would be no opponents of capitalism. Those who make this claim forget that:

- 1- Poor economic conditions are only an *occasion* for embracing alternative ideologies, not a cause; in some instances, economic trials are, instead, an occasion for renewed spiritual living.
- 2- Economic conditions were excellent in the Garden of Eden, but the first infiltrator got in and made shambles of it.
- 3- What makes an unstable society is not the fact that people do not have enough but that they always want more.

There is no limit to human demands, once the earth is made the be-all and end-all of living; soon people are willing to use every means available to process as much of it as they can win. The real cause of such unbounded lust for what is often called "*security*" is fear of the eternal void within. Never before in history was the Gospel warning about God and Mammon as clearly as today -for the soul that has lost its God must worship Mammon. --Bishop Fulton SHEEN, *Peace of Soul*, 1949, p.206.

## ***Wisdom: Today & Tomorrow-2***

(This was written by an 83-year-old woman to her friend. The last line says it all.)

*Dear Cathy,*

*I'm reading more and dusting less. I'm sitting in the yard and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden. I'm spending more time with my family and friends and less time working. Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experiences to savor, not to endure. I'm trying to recognize these moments now and cherish them. I've stopped "saving"*

*anything; we use our good china and crystal for every special event such as losing a pound, getting the sink unstopped, or the first Amaryllis blossom. I wear my good blazer to the market. My theory is that if I look prosperous, I can shell out \$28.49 for one small bag of groceries. I'm not saving my good perfume for special parties, but wearing it for all the clerks in the hardware store and tellers at the bank. Someday" and "one of these days" are losing their grip on my vocabulary. If it's worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear and do it now. I'm not sure what others would have done had they known they wouldn't be here for the tomorrow that we all take for granted. I think they would have called family members and a few close friends. They might have called a few former friends to apologize and mend fences for past squabbles. I like to think they would have gone out for a Chinese dinner or for whatever their favorite food was. I'm guessing; I'll never know. It's those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew my hours were limited. Angry because I hadn't written certain letters that I intended to write one of these days. Angry and sorry that I didn't tell my husband and parents often enough how much I truly love them.*

*I'm trying very hard not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and luster to our lives. And every morning when I open my eyes, tell myself that it is special. Every day, every minute, every breath truly is a gift from God.*

## ***Story: Man with 2 wives***

A man in India had two wives. One of the wives used to live upstairs and the other on the lower store. One day a thief broke into the house. The thief wanted to steal away all the property, but the members of the house were wide awake and the thief could not get anything. Near dawn the members of the house saw the thief, and they caught him and took him before magistrate, or to the police magistrate. There was nothing stolen, yet

the thief had broken into the house. That was a crime. The magistrate put some cross questions to the thief. The thief at once admitted that he had broken into the house with the intention of stealing something. The magistrate was going to inflict some punishment upon him. The man said, "*Dear magistrate, you may do whatever you please, you may throw me into a dungeons, you cast me before dogs, you may burn my body, but do not inflict one punishment upon me.*" The magistrate being astonished asked, "*What is that?*" The man said, never make me the husband of two wives. Never inflict this punishment upon me. "*Why is that?*"

Then the thief began to explain how he was caught, how he had no opportunity to steal anything. He said: "*All night long this master of the house had to stand upon the stairs because one wife was pulling him upstairs and the other was dragging him downstairs. The hairs of his head were pulled out and the stockings on his feet were torn off; he was shivering with cold all night long, and thus it was that I was caught; I had no opportunity to steal anything.*"

[So it is, all your sufferings come through your conflicting desires, and your desires are not in harmony. your desires are at war with each other. Your desires are not in harmony with one another, and you know a house divided against itself must fall, so examine your own hearts and minds and see if there is peace there. Singleness of aim and unity of purpose, if you have these, you will have no trouble, you will have no suffering, but if there is conflict, if there is discord there the house must be pulled down, you must suffer.]

## *Jokes (159)*

### *Love*

An old woman in the village was said to be receiving divine apparitions. The local priest demanded proof of their authenticity. "WHEN GOD NEXT APPEARS TO YOU", he said, "ASK HIM TO TELL YOU MY SINS WHICH ARE KNOWN TO HIM ALONE. THAT SHOULD BE EVIDENCE ENOUGH."

The woman returned a month later and the priest asked if God had appeared to her again. She said He had. "DID YOU PUT THE QUESTION TO HIM?"

"I DID". "AND WHAT DID HE SAY?"

"HE SAID," "TELL YOUR PRIEST I HAVE FORGOTTEN HIS SINS".

### *Religion*

One night a fisherman stole into the grounds of a rich man and cast his net into a lake full of fish. The owner heard him and set his guards upon him.

When he saw the crowd searching for him everywhere with lighted torches, the fisherman hastily smeared his body with ashes and sat under a tree, as is the custom with holy men in India.

The owner and his guards could find no poacher, though they searched for a long time. All they found was a holy man covered with ashes sitting under a tree absorbed in meditation.

The next day word spread everywhere that a great sage had designed to take up residence in the grounds of the rich man. People gathered with flowers and fruits and food and even a lot of money to pay obeisance to him for it is piously believed that gifts, when made to a holy man, bring God's blessing upon the giver.

The fisherman turned sage was astounded at his good fortune.

"IT IS EASIER TO MAKE A LIVING ON THE FAITH OF THESE PEOPLE THAN BY THE TOIL OF MY HANDS," he said to himself. So he continued to meditate and never went back to work again.

### *Religion*

A king dreamt that he saw a king in paradise and a priest in hell.

He wondered how this could be, then he heard a Voice say, "THE KING IS IN PARADISE BECAUSE HE RESPECTED PRIESTS. THE PRIEST IS IN HELL BECAUSE HE COMPROMISES WITH KINGS."

## *Famous Quotes (56)*

Matthew Chapter 6: 5-15 (Teaching About Prayer)

Jesus said:

When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you. In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

This is how you are to pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one.

If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.