



April 6, 2025
Bulletin #14

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 Blind Man

- ***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 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

A Burning and Shining Lamp John 5:31-47

Scripture: "He (John the Baptist) was a burning and shining lamp, and for a while you were content to rejoice in his light. But I have testimony greater than John's." (John 5:35-36a)

Reflection: Ruth Mary Fox was on the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for many years. She was a Dante expert and shared her wisdom of this literary giant in her book, *Dante Lights the Way*. Over the centuries, Dante has been a burning and shining lamp for readers who are seeking to understand the meaning of life. Dante gives testimony to one perspective of Christianity as he guides us on a tour down into hell, through purgatory, and up into heaven.

John the Baptist also points the way, the way to Jesus. This radical prophet knew his mission as being one of giving testimony to the Lamb of God, the one who would take away the sins of the world. But Jesus' testimony was even greater than John's as he gives us a tour of eternity, of the indwelling of the Spirit, of the great mystery of the incarnation and Trinity.

John realizes that Jesus himself was the light and that he the son of Zachariah and Elizabeth, was a forerunner. He was to decrease as Jesus was to increase. But even here John was indeed a burning and shining lamp as he courageously took on Herod and preached a gospel of repentance. He was true to his mission and gave his life in his service to the kingdom.

Dante writes in *The Divine Comedy*: "Not many come in answer to this call." During this season of Lent we are once again given the call to holiness, the universal vocation of all people. John the Baptist answered this call by becoming a prophet; Jesus answered this call by embracing the Father's will; Dante said yes to the gift God gave to him. Our task is ultimately the same: to respond to God's call to live life to the full, even realizing that this only happens by dying to our self. When we participate in Jesus' paschal sacrifice, we become shining, burning lamps.

Meditation: In what ways are you a light (lamp) to others? How have you responded to God's unique call?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, guide us in your way. You call us to be salt and light to others. May we become shining lamps in a dark world; may we become a burning light that gives warmth to others. Draw us more deeply into your life.

Sunday of the Blind Man

Readings: Is 42:6-18; 2Cor 10:1-7 and Mk 10:46-52

On the road that leads to Jerusalem, Jesus walks ahead of His disciples. They follow Him with trepidation, blinder than ever. They are unable to understand that the Son of Man must suffer and die, although it would be enough to follow Him resolutely to discover, in the depths of His abasement, who He is: the Son of God.

Mark, in relating the episode of the healing of blind Bartimaeus, sees beyond the circle of the Twelve to the whole Christian community which is also called to follow Jesus on the way of the passion, but is reluctant to do so. Paradoxically the blindness of this beggar, seated at the side of the road, does not prevent him from perceiving who Jesus is much better than the crowd does. He expresses his conviction by his repeated cries, by the leap of faith that makes him reject every support and hurry towards the one who calls him and is going to heal him. A miracle of the keen discernment of faith: not only does it save, but it also involves a man in the dynamism of conversion. No sooner cured than Bartimaeus, image of the faithful community and type of the perfect disciple, gets ready to follow Jesus on the way.

Symbol of *"those who dwell in the darkness and in the shadow of death"* (Lk 1:79), Bartimaeus thus becomes the model of those who cry out, who pray to be delivered from their blindness, in order to be able to get up and walk. *"There is a deliverer for them; I will make them see"* (Pascal). To see love coming under the sign of the cross. To see the gentle hands of God gathering up so many tears and incomprehensible deaths. To see the face of God rising, along with justice, over the horizon of the poor. To see the resurrection already at work in so many lives that have been renewed in the Church and in the world. Will we dare, with the help of the Son of David, to join the procession of believers, of pray-ers, of seers? *"Rabbuni, let me see!"*

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, April 5-6: Sunday of the Blind Man

Saturday, April 5; Mass at 4:00 pm:

- ✠ Vincent Jacovetty (Birthday) by George & Patty Fahey
- ✠ Mary E. Custer (Anniversary) by her sister Helen Benline
- ✠ Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby
- ✠ Special prayer for good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

Sunday, April 6; Mass at 10:30 am:

- ✠ Our parents Joe & Nell Duffy & George & Rose Fadoul by Mickey & Linda Duffy
- ✠ John Shibben by his wife Dee Shibben
- ✠ Special prayer for good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

This Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, April 7: No Mass. Pastor’s day off.

Tuesday, April 8; Mass at noon

- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & 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, April 9; No Mass. Office work.

Thursday, April 10; Mass at noon:

- ✠ Deceased of the Coury and Khoury Families by Richard Coury
- ✠ Bernadine Elias (Birthday) by Mike & Terri Golebowski
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family

Friday, April 11; Mass at 5:30 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross and Benediction

- ✠ Intention of George & Susan Saseen & the Frenn Family 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, April 12-13: Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 12; Mass at 4:00 pm: Procession with Palm branches

- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- ✠ Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby
- ✠ Special prayer for good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

Sunday, April 13; Mass at 10:30 am: Procession with Palm branches

- ✠ Mary Zaid Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone, Tom Ferris by Libby G. Magnone
- ✠ Chamse Rahi (Birthday) by Alicia Peklinsky and the Storm, Howarth and Rahi Families
- ✠ Special prayer for good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

Holy Week and Easter Mass Schedule

Mon. April, 14	5:30 pm Mass + Coming to the harbor
Tue. April, 15	5:30 pm Mass + Coming to the harbor
Wed. April, 16	5:30 pm Mass + healing with oil
Thu. April, 17	5:30 pm Mass + adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Good Friday, April 18	10:30 am: Signing of the Chalice

	5:30 pm: Solemn burial of the Lord ✠✠✠✠
Sat. April, 19	10:30 am: Communal Reconciliation 4:00 pm: Easter Vigil Mass (No Midnight Mass)
Sun. April, 20	10:30 am: Easter Day Mass

Diocesan Appeal Fulfilled (additional)

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:

--In Honor of Dr. and Mrs. A.D.Ghaphery, MD

--For divine mercy upon the souls in Purgatory

--Joe & Nikki Popovich in Honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Easter Lillies (additional)

✧--Kathleen George in Memory of her husband Tom George

✧--In Memory of John F. Kukula by his wife Mary Rose Kukula and Family

✧--In Memory of Cecilia Ann Murad by her daughter Luane Frazier

Coming Parish Events

Friday, April 11 Stations of the Cross	5:30 pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross, Spiritual Reflection, and Benediction. Then social hour sponsored by George & Susan Saseen & the Frenn Family
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 Masses	Saturday, April 19: 4:00 pm Easter Vigil Mass (No midnight Mass) Sunday, April 20: 10:30 am Easter Day 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	???????

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!

Masses for the Living & Deceased mothers & grandmothers ***From Saturday, May 10 until Sunday, May 18:***

Masses for the Deceased Mothers and Grandmothers

† Special Remembrance on these special days:

--on May 11: Gladys Howard by Lou, Charlotte & Louie Khourey

--on May 11: Mary Zaid Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone, Tom Ferris by Libby G. Magnone

--on May 17: Earl Ragase (Birthday) by his wife Mary Ragase

--on May 18: Rose Olinski (Anniversary) by Mary Ragase

† Deceased mothers & grandmothers of Jamil Harb (MI)

† Louise N. Khourey & Gladys V. Howard by Lou & Charlotte and Emmalena and Louie

† Emily Nader & Nabiha "Lena" Khourey by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Khourey

† Minnie Church Riggs & Cassandra "Cassie" Howard by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Khourey

† Sadie Chidiac (mother), Kathrine & Hasibi (grandmothers) by Msgr. Bakhos

† Catherine Arthur by her daughter Carol Burkhart

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

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

† Eva M. Coury by her son Richard Coury

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

† Mary Ann Coury by Richard Coury

† Sara (Joseph) McLaughlin & Selma Joseph by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

† Mary Miller by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

† Pearl (Nolte) Shutler & Isabelle (Frey) Nolte by Janet Shutler

† Clara Shutler by Janet Shutler

† Shirley Elias Nickerson & Amelia Elias by their Loving Family

† Mariam Joseph & Mary Catherine Habeb by Jean Weisner and Family

† Chamse Rahi and Marie Rouhana by the Peklinsky Family

† Dorothy Schweizer by Mary Lee & Dennis Porter

† Viola Porter by Mary Lee & Dennis Porter

† Martha Saseen by her son George Saseen

† Elizabeth Harasuik by her daughter Susan Saseen

† Mary K. Ferris by Denise Ferris

† Georgette Joseph, Nancy Valles & Betty Allen by Vickie Joseph

† Anne Bott & Angela Henning by Don & Roberta Henning

† Dolores M. Fahey by Jackie & Pat Petros

† Betty Lou Petros by Jackie & Pat Petros

† Ginny, Martha, Anna Shia & Edna Jochum by their children & grandchildren

† Lucille Gibbons by Bob & Paula Gibbons

† Elizabeth A. Magnone, Giovanni Magnone, Josephine Ferris, Nancy Coffield, Isabel Wolfe, Mary K. Ferris, Bess Garcia, Mary Stees and Zaid Ferris by Libby G. Magnone

† Charlotte George and Beatrice Stiles by Margaret George (MN)

† Maryanna George by Margaret George (MN)

† Cecilia Habdo Mays & Sada Habdo by Carol Dougherty (OK)

† LaVere Thomas and Siham Fredd by Dr. Adel, Diane & Dustin Frenn

† Anita Martha Weisner & Mariam Joseph by Mary Beth Weisner

† Helen Schroeder by her son Mark Schroeder & her daughter Jane Wine

- ✠ Dolores Palotay by the Palotay & Jarrett Families
- ✠ Fran Huffman by Debbie & Mark Huffman
- ✠ Lucy Gibbons & Ann Otterbeck & Sadie Coury by Ron & Kim Gibbons
- ✠ Nell Duffy & Rose Fadoul by Earl & Linda Duffy
- ✠ Eileen M. Hatty, Mary Ann Hatty & Cecilia F. Hatty by Judge Michael P. Hatty & Family
- ✠ Rose Ann Palsinelli by Rosalie Conti
- ✠ Lance Crawley by Rosalie Conti
- ✠ Agnes Jacovetty by Patricia & George Fahey
- ✠ June Fahey by George & Patricia Fahey
- ✠ Mary (Joseph) Shipley & Salema (Awed) Joseph by Thomasina Geimer
- ✠ Annette Togliatti by GiGi Rice
- ✠ Sadie Harb by GiGi Rice
- ✠ Viola Jeannette Yeater and Viola J. Belt by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- ✠ Laura Z. Wakim and Edna Wakim by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- ✠ Margaret Glaser by her Family
- ✠ Ella Boehm by her Family
- ✠ Mary Popovich, Kay Popovich and Anna Popovich by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- ✠ Helen Fielding, Freda Hartman and Angela Montalbano by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- ✠ Emily Shia Vince and Anna Shia by their children and grandchildren
- ✠ Patricia Gompers by the Matt Gompers Family
- ✠ Sharon Rose Wetzal and Lilly Hebdo by Rose Sharon Hebdo

Masses for the Living Mothers and Grandmothers

- ✠ Barb McLaughlin by Brad McLaughlin and Kristen Graney
- ✠ Barb McLaughlin by Nathan and Shane Graney
- ✠ Charlotte Khourey by her children Emmalena and Louie
- ✠ My sisters by Msgr. Bakhos
- ✠ Susan Saseen by her granddaughter Ginny Naswadi
- ✠ Nancy Valles by Vickie Joseph
- ✠ Josie Fertig, Arlene Magnone, Caroline McDowell, Carla Ferris, Lacey Magnone, Amanda Buzzard, Maria Rayl, Brea Wayt, Angela Snyder, Sherry Sullivan by Libby G. Magnone
- ✠ Diane Frenn and Brenda Riedel by Dr. Adel and Justin Frenn and Andreah, Zack & Christian Riedel
- ✠ Margaret Jean Joseph Weisner by Mary Beth Weisner
- ✠ Dolores Oser by Debbie & Mark Huffman
- ✠ Nikki J. Lenz by Joe & Nikki Popovich, PJ Lenz, Lindsay and Luke Lenz
- ✠ Nikki A. Popovich by Joe Popovich

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month

- 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
- April 29: Jeannette Wakim
- May 5: Eden DeMuth
- May 6: Nikki Lenz

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$779.00	Sunday Collection
500.00	2 nd collection: Diocesan Appeal
33.00	Candles
24.00	Coffee hour
312.00	Donation to the church
280.00	Mahrajan
25.00	Easter Lillies
\$1953.00	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)

Brian Bleifus, 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?

Home Care

If you are in need of home health care/companionship for the elderly, contact Miss Lynette Chuff. References available upon request. Strong moral character, dedication, and treating the elderly with the dignity, respect and compassion they deserve, is paramount in my work with the elderly. For more information call 740-641-0250 (competitive rates)

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 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
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

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

Question & Answer (#9)

Question #9: “How do I know that God loves me?” John, 14

Answer: Because He made you in His image and likeness, which He did not have to do. Quite simply, God made you because He knew you would like it. God needs no companions. He does not need our praise. His creation of us was a gift.

He also made you because He wants you to experience the bliss and unspeakable joy that will come from spending eternity with Him.

We also know God loves us because Scripture says, “God so loved the world that He sent His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life” (John 3:16). If He did not give His Son as the ultimate sacrifice for sin we all would have perished in hell because of sin. Sending His Son was an act of love.

Giving in Scriptures

(Influence of Giving)

Many curry favor with a ruler, and everyone is the friend of a man who gives gifts. (Proverbs 19:6)

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. (II Corinthians 9:12-14)

Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. (Philippians 4:17-18)

Spirituality: Recitation of the Rosary

Superiore Anno

On the Recitation of the Rosary

His Holiness Pope Leo XIII

August 30, 1884

To All Our Venerable Brethren the Patriarchs, Primate, Archbishops, and Bishops of the Catholic World in the Grace and Communion of the Apostolic See.

Venerable Brethren, Health and Apostolic Benediction.

LAST YEAR, as each of you is aware, We decreed by an Encyclical Letter that, to win the help of Heaven for the Church in her trials, the great Mother of God should be honored by the means of the most holy Rosary during the whole of the month of October. In this We followed both Our own impulse and the example of Our predecessors, who in times of difficulty were wont to have recourse with increased fervor to the Blessed Virgin, and to seek her aid with special prayers. That wish of Ours has been complied with, with such a willingness and unanimity that it is more than ever apparent how real is the religion and how great is the fervor of the Christian peoples, and how great is the trust everywhere placed in the heavenly patronage of the Virgin Mary. For Us, weighed down with the burden of such and so great trials and evils, We confess that the sight of such intensity of open piety and faith has been a great consolation, and even gives Us new courage for the facing, if that be the wish of God, of still greater trials. Indeed, from the spirit of prayer which is poured out over the house of David and the dwellers in Jerusalem, we have a confident hope that God will at length let Himself be touched and have pity upon the state of His Church, and give ear to the prayers coming to Him through her whom He has chosen to be the dispenser of all heavenly graces.

2. For these reasons, therefore, with the same causes in existence which impelled Us last year, as We have said, to rouse the piety of all, We have deemed it Our duty to exhort again this year the people of Christendom to persevere in that method and formula of prayer known as the Rosary of Mary, and thereby to merit the powerful patronage of the great Mother of God. In as much as the enemies of Christianity are so stubborn in their aims, its defenders must be equally staunch, especially as the heavenly help and the benefits which are bestowed on us by God are the more usually the fruits of our perseverance. It is good to recall to memory the example of that illustrious widow, Judith--a type of the Blessed Virgin--who curbed the ill-judged impatience of the Jews when they attempted to fix, according to their own judgment, the day appointed by God for the deliverance of His city. The example should also be borne in mind of the Apostles, who awaited the supreme gift promised unto them of the Paraclete, and persevered unanimously in prayer with Mary the Mother of Jesus. For it is indeed, an arduous and exceeding weighty matter that is now in hand: it is to humiliate an old and most subtle enemy in the spread-out array of his power; to win back the freedom of the Church and of her Head; to preserve and secure the fortifications within which should rest in peace the safety and weal of human society. Care must be taken, therefore, that, in these times of mourning for the Church, the most holy devotion of the Rosary of Mary be assiduously and piously observed, the more so that this method of prayer being so arranged as to recall in turn all the mysteries of our salvation, is eminently fitted to foster the spirit of piety.

3. With respect to Italy, it is now most necessary to implore the intercession of the most powerful Virgin through the medium of the Rosary, since a misfortune, and not an imaginary one, is threatening--nay, rather is among us. The Asiatic cholera, having, under God's will, crossed the boundary within which nature seemed to have confined it, has spread through the crowded shores of a French port, and thence to the neighboring districts of Italian soil.--To Mary, therefore, we must fly--to her whom rightly and justly the Church entitles the dispenser of saving, aiding, and protecting gifts--that she, graciously hearkening to our prayers, may grant us the help they besought, and drive far from us the unclean plague.

4. We have therefore resolved that in this coming month of October, in which the sacred devotions to Our Virgin Lady of the Rosary are solemnized throughout the Catholic world, all the devotions shall again be observed which were commanded by Us this time last year.--We therefore decree and make order that from the 1st of October to the 2nd of November following in all the parish churches (*curialibus templis*), in all public churches dedicated to the Mother of God, or in such as are appointed by the Ordinary, five decades at least of the Rosary be recited, together with the Litany. If in the morning, the Holy Sacrifice will take place during these prayers; if in the evening, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for the adoration of the faithful; after which those present will receive the customary Benediction. We desire that, wherever it be lawful, the local confraternity of the Rosary should make a solemn procession through the streets as a public manifestation of religious devotion.

5. That the heavenly treasures of the Church may be thrown open to all, We hereby renew every Indulgence granted by Us last year. To all those, therefore, who shall have assisted on the prescribed days at the public recital of the Rosary, and have prayed for Our intentions--to all those also who from legitimate causes shall have been compelled to do so in private--We grant for each occasion an Indulgence of seven years and seven

times forty days. To those who, in the prescribed space of time shall have performed these devotions at least ten times--either publicly in the churches or from just causes in the privacy of their homes-- and shall have expiated their sins by confession and have received Communion at the altar, We grant from the treasury of the Church a Plenary Indulgence. We also grant this full forgiveness of sins and plenary remission of punishment to all those who, either on the feast day itself of Our Blessed Lady of the Rosary, or on any day within the subsequent eight days, shall have washed the stains from their souls and have holily partaken of the Divine banquet, and shall have also prayed in any church to God and His most holy Mother for Our intentions. As We desire also to consult the interests of those who live in country districts, and are hindered, especially in the month of October, by their agricultural labors, We permit all We have above decreed, and also the holy Indulgences gainable in the month of October, to be postponed to the following months of November or December, according to the prudent decision of the Ordinaries.

6. We doubt not, Venerable Brethren, that rich and abundant fruits will be the result of these efforts, especially if God, by the bestowal of His heavenly graces, bring an added increase to the fields planted by Us and watered by your zeal. We are certain that the faithful of Christendom will hearken to the utterance of Our Apostolic authority with the same fervor of faith and piety of which they gave most ample evidence last year. May our Heavenly Patroness, invoked by us through the Rosary, graciously be with us and obtain that, all disagreements of opinion being removed and Christianity restored throughout the world, we may obtain from God the wished for peace in the Church.--In pledge of that boon, to you, your clergy, and the flock entrusted to your care, We lovingly bestow the Apostolic Benediction.

Given in Rome, at St. Peter's, the 30th of August, 1884, in the Seventh Year of Our Pontificate.

Wisdom: Today & Tomorrow (4)

This is the beginning of a new day,

God has given me this day to do as I will.

I can waste it or grow in it 's light, and be of service to others.

But what I do this day is important, because I have exchanged a day of my life for it. When tomorrow comes, today will be gone forever, I hope I will not regret the price I paid for it.

Story

The older I get, the more I enjoy Saturday mornings. Perhaps it's the quiet solitude that comes with being the first to rise, or maybe it's the unbounded joy of not having to be at work. Either way, the first few hours of a Saturday morning are most enjoyable.

A few weeks ago, I was shuffling toward the basement shack with a teaming cup of coffee in one hand and the morning paper in the other. What began as a typical Saturday morning, turned into one of those lessons that life seems to hand you from time to time.

Let me tell you about it. I turned the dial up into the phone portion of the band on my radio in order to listen to a Saturday morning swap net. Along the way, I came across an older sounding chap, with a tremendous signal and a golden voice. You know the kind; he sounded like he should be in the broadcasting business. He was telling whomever he was talking with something about "a hundred marbles." I was intrigued and stopped to listen to what he had to say.

"Well, Teddy, it sure sounds like you're busy with your job. I'm sure they pay you well, but it's a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much. Hard to believe a young fellow should have to work sixty or seventy hours a week to make ends meet. Too bad you missed your daughter's dance recital. He continued, "Let me tell you something Teddy, something that has helped me keep a good perspective on my own priorities." And that's when he began to explain his theory of a "1000 marbles." "You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, folks live about seventy-five years. Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3900, which is the number of Saturdays that the average person has in their entire lifetime. "Now, stick with me, Teddy, I'm getting to the important part." "It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about all this in any detail"; he went on, "and by that time I had lived through over twenty-eight hundred Saturdays. I got

to thinking that if I lived to be seventy-five, I only had about a thousand of them left to enjoy!" "So, I went to a toy store and bought every single marble they had. I ended up having to visit three toy stores to round up 1000 marbles. I took them home and put them inside of a large, clear plastic container right here in the shack next to my gear. Every Saturday since then, I have taken one marble out and thrown it away." "I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focus more on the really important things in life. There is nothing like watching your time here on this earth run out to help get your priorities straight." "Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign-off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure that if I make it until next Saturday then I have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use is a little more time." "It was nice to meet you Teddy, I hope you spend more time with your family, and I hope to meet you again here on the band. 75-year-old Man, this is the radio station, good morning!" You could have heard a pin drop on the band when this fellow signed off. I guess he gave us all a lot to think about. I had planned to work on the antenna that morning, and then I was going to meet up with a few hams to work on the next club newsletter. Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife up with a kiss. "C'mon honey, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast." "What brought this on?" she asked with a smile. "Oh, nothing special, it's just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. Hey, can we stop at a toy store while we're out? I need to buy some marbles...."

Jokes (161)

Prayer

A cobbler came to Rabbi Isaac of Ger and said. "Tell me what to do about my morning prayer. My customers are poor men who have only one pair of shoes. I pick up their shoes late in the evening and work on them most of the night; at dawn there is still work to be done if the men are to have their shoes ready before they go to work.

Now my question is: What should I do about my morning prayer?"

"*What have you been doing till now?*" the Rabbi asked.

"Sometimes I rush through the prayer quickly and get back my work -but then I feel bad about it. At other times I let the hour of prayer go by. Then too I feel a sense of loss and every now and then, as I raise my hammer from the shoes, I can almost hear my heart sigh, "What an unlucky man I am, that I am not able to make my morning prayer."

Said the Rabbi, "*If I were God I would value that sigh more than the prayer.*"

Prayer

A Sufi saint set out on a pilgrimage to Mecca. At the outskirts of the city, he lay down by the road, exhausted from the journey. He had barely fallen asleep when an irate pilgrim brusquely awakened him. "*This is the time when all believers bow their heads towards Mecca and you have your feet pointing towards the holy shrine. What sort of Muslim are you?*"

The Sufi did not move; he merely opened his eyes and said. "*Brother. Would you do me the favor of placing my feet where they won't be pointing to the Lord?*"

The prayer of a devotee to the Lord Vishnu:

"*Lord, I ask You to pardon me for three major sins:*

First, I went on pilgrimage to Your many shrines, obvious of Your presence everywhere;

Second, I so often cried to You for help, forgetting that You are more concerned than I am about my welfare;

And finally, here I am asking for forgiveness when I know that our sins are forgiven before we commit them."

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.