

March 15, 2009
Bulletin # 11

Our Lady of Lebanon Church

(Maronite Catholic Rite)

Faith † Family † Friends

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

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

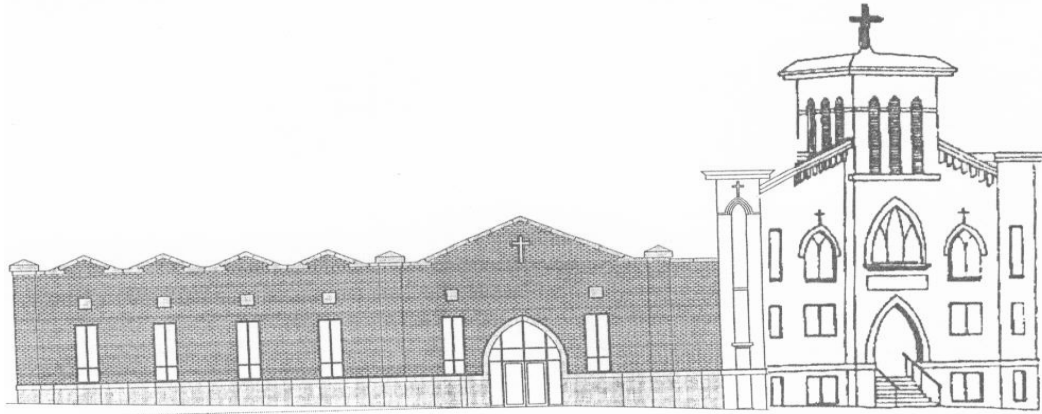
E-Mail: ololwv@Comcast.net • Web Site: www.ololwv.com

Rev. Bakhos Chidiac (Pastor)

Evelyn Ghaphery (Organist)

Charlotte Khourey & Thomasina Geimer (Secretaries)

Parable of the Prodigal Son



Schedule of Divine Liturgies

- *Weekend Masses: Saturday evening at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. [Rosary & Litany start at 10:10 a.m.]
- *Weekday Masses: **At Noon.** Please refer to the Mass schedule on page 3 of this bulletin for Mass times and changes due to special events. Thank you for your cooperation.
- *Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament: Every 1st Saturday of the month at 3:30 p.m. & 1st Sunday after Communion
- *Miraculous Medal Novena: Every 2nd Sunday of the month at 10:00 a.m.
- *Reconciliation: Saturday: 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. or any other time by appointment
- *Baptism: Kindly phone the Pastor as soon as the baby is born. Godparents must be Catholics.
- *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 any time at (304) 233-1688
- *Parish Council: Lou Khourey 277-3230, Linda Duffy 242-6853, Tom George 336-7142, P.J. Lenz 242-5606 and Carol Dougherty (740) 782-0146
- *Choir Members: Rita Thomas Strawn, Shirley George, Allison Duffy, George Thomas, Ted Olinski, Earl Duffy, Lou Khourey, Robert Vawter, Jody & Abbie Seabright, Tracey Dierkes
- *Altar Boys: Louie Khourey & Dalton Haas
- *Cedar Club: Linda Duffy, President 242-6853
- *Women's Society: Sandra Dusick, President 232-7395



- *Remember the Church in your Last Will – Her prayers will accompany you to heaven
- *Please support Our Lady of Lebanon Church by patronizing our Advertisers
- *If you support the Church and need a Bulletin mailed to you, please call the Rectory
- ***Bulletin Announcements:** Submit all Bulletin Information to Fr. Bakhos. Deadline is: Every Tuesday by Noon
- ***New Parishioners:** We welcome you with great joy and invite you to be officially listed as one of our parishioners
- ***Parking:** Saturday & Sunday – all spaces are for parishioners; Monday through Friday – park **ONLY** in the 3 ALLEY spaces

Gospel Reflection: Parable of the Prodigal Son

Readings: 2 Cor 13:5-13 & Lk 15:11-32

INTRODUCTION:

The story of the prodigal son is that of many young men and women who have left God and His Church. Some, like him, had the courage to come back; some, unfortunately, did not show up again in the Father's house. But God, our Father, loved them all and expected their returning home. How should we understand the three persons of the parable?

1-THE PRODIGAL SON:

He was a young growing man but weary at home. He was third in the family if we count his father and his older brother. He felt acutely an outsider and not much favored. He was looking for total freedom and independence from his family. Instead of seeking advice or seeing a family counselor, he resolved his restlessness in a selfish and thoughtless way. He requested from his father his share of the family's properties and left home.

In a short time, he spent his funds in permissive and loose living. He was now poor, miserable and living in rags and beggary. Moreover, the swine of his friend were better fed than he. In his deep destitution he realized that in his father's house life would be better even if he was hired as a servant. Then, he noticed that he placed his own pleasures above the love and respect of his parents and remembered his father's love for him.

He carefully prepared his words of repentance and returned home to face his father and be ready to do his fathers' will: "FATHER, DO TO ME WHATEVER YOU WISH. I LEAVE IT TO YOU...." At this, his father welcomed him out of love and mercy.

2-THE FATHER:

He is a rich landowner and loves his children very much. We find him generous in granting his youngest son's request. However, knowing how blind young people can be and how wrong and stubborn they can be in their determination and decisions, we wonder if any help can make them change their mind. How many children listen to their fathers? Nevertheless, we ought to tell them what are the consequences of their foolish decisions. In this parable, the father hoped and prayed till his loved son returned. He did not demand any apology; but he immediately, received him back as his son and not as a servant.

Moreover, the father ordered for him the finest robe (like that of a dignified child), the ring (symbol of trust in sharing paternal authority upon the servants), and shoes befitting a noble man. Finally, his son's return home is also celebrated by a lavish and expensive banquet. All the generosity of the loving father was displayed for the dusty and ragged child, who repented and returned home

3-THE ELDER SON:

He took an unpleasant attitude. He became angry for what he heard and saw and refused to enter his own house. In vain his father pleaded with him, tried to make him understand and convince him to join the celebration. He rejected all and stated that he, the faithful son and not his immoral brother, deserved such a treatment and celebration.

What happened after that is everyone's guess! Jesus left the story unfinished. His main intention, however, is to show us on one hand, that God's (our Father's) love and forgiveness are far greater than anything experienced on earth, and on the other hand, that we, humans, in contrast to God, have difficulty to forgive our fellowmen.

This is why, instead of calling the parable "THE PRODIGAL SON", we may call it either the parable of "THE FORGIVING FATHER", who is ready to receive us with open arms if we repent and make a good confession. Or we may call it the parable of "THE UNFORGIVING BROTHER".

Lenten Meditation: Creating Space for Compassion

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God -not the result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

In the house of God there are many mansions. There is a place for everyone -a unique, special place. Once we deeply trust that we ourselves are precious in God's eyes, we are able to recognize the preciousness of others and their unique places in God's heart. This makes me think of Helen, one of the handicapped members of our community. When she came to Daybreak a few years ago, I felt quite distant from her, even a bit afraid. She lived in a little world of her own, only uttering distracting noises and never making any personal contact. But as we came to know her better and trusted that she, too, has a unique gift to offer, she gradually came out of her isolation, started to smile at us and became a great source of joy to the whole community.

I now realize that I had to be in touch with my own goodness to discover the unique goodness of Helen. As long as my self-doubts and fears guided me, I couldn't create the space for Helen to reveal to me her beauty.

Lord, you know how hard it is for me to love certain people. Help me to see how you love them -and teach me how to do it, too.

Mass Intentions

THIS WEEKEND, March 14-15: "Parable of the Prodigal Son"

Saturday, March 14 at 4:00 p.m.:

Dr. James Antalis by Cyndi Reasbeck & Family
40-Day Mass for Millie Saab by her Family

Sunday, March 15 at 10:30 a.m.:

Helen Saseen (on her Anniversary) by her daughter Rosella Saseen
Dale Seidler Sr., by his wife Nettie & Family

Weekday Masses

Monday, March 16: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Tuesday, March 17: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Wednesday, March 18 at Noon:

Jennie Bedway by M/M Fred Shia
Mike & Sadie Thomas and Deceased Relatives (MN) by Ervin & Rosemary Splatt (WI)

Thursday, March 19 at Noon: St. Joseph Feast Day

Mrs. Barbara Jacobs by M/M John Piko (PA)
Mark Long (on his Anniversary) by Sylvia Long

Friday, March 20 at 5:30 p.m.: Mass & Stations of the Cross & Benediction

Jennie Bedway by Cecilia John & Family
Michael Garon (Godfather of Liz George) by Liz George

NEXT WEEKEND, March 21-22: "Healing of the Paralytic"

Saturday, March 21 at 4:00 p.m.:

Special Intention
Bill Druschel by Friends

Sunday, March 22 at 10:30 a.m.:

Zaidan & Zakieh Chahine (parents of Youssef Chahine) by Youssef & Jocelyn Chahine (PA)
John John by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family

I Want to Help the Church – What Can I Do?

Help Paint the Church this May:

The church needs to be painted and the cracks need to be fixed before they get worse. The cost of painting and patching is estimated to be \$32,000. **Painting will start on May 1st and end by May 31st.** During that month the Cedar Hall will be used for worship and our old basement hall will be used for coffee and donuts and all other events. No Cedar Hall rental may be scheduled during May. A special plaque will be mounted in the church stating: **"Please remember in your prayer these benefactors who painted the church in 2009."** Please check the list of donors below and see if your name is listed. Thank you for your dedication and generosity.

The Generous Benefactors who painted the church in 2009: (Total Raised: \$25,104.00)

Memorials: Mike Sobota (Memorial) (\$635), John John (Memorial) (\$800), Lena Joseph (Memorial) (\$100), Jennie Bedway (Memorial) (\$300), Rosella Saseen (\$5,000 in Memory of her grandparents Shikery & Helen & her parents Nancepe & Helen),

Donations: Our Lady of Lebanon Church Women Society Fundraising (\$211), Nancy Joseph (\$100), Manell Brice (\$500), Paul & Irene Schuler (\$100), Betty Shia (\$500), Charles Mattes (MD –Betty Shia’s brother \$500), Cedar Club \$1,150, Rose Karsten (MN \$20), Bob & Fran Saseen (\$100), Millie & Sister Jeanne Vidonic (\$50), Robert & Virginia Pockl (\$100), Tom Ferris (\$125), Mary Custer (\$108), Denny Albaugh (\$25), Sylvia Long (\$100), Joseph & Carmella (Babe) Dallison (\$100), A Friend (\$100), Anna Jalad (\$100), Shirley Dietz (\$500), Mike & Maryann Carl (\$1,000), Joe & Nikki Popovich (\$100), Kenny & Nancy Joseph (\$500), Evelyn Ghaphery (\$300), Mark & Barb McLaughlin (\$50), Dr. Joe Palmer (\$100), Joann Hill (\$50), Robert & Lois Hammond (\$100), Jim & Sue Brubach (\$100), Anonymous Parishioners (\$250), Fred & Debbie Shia (\$100), Annette Togliatti (OH \$20), Salem David (CT \$15), Susan & Dominique George (\$100), Lou & Marge John (\$200), Dr. Samy Sakla (\$100), Rose Mary White (\$25), Thomasina Geimer (\$100), Drs. Rajai & Nahla Khoury (\$100), Mike & Nicole Breit (NC \$50), Donald Fielding (FL \$250), Randy Weisner (\$500), Barbara Joseph (FL \$500), Evelyn Goodson (\$100), Rose Vargo (\$100), Ron & Kim Gibbons (\$30), Mike & Sue Linton (\$150), Al & Josephine Weidman (\$25), Frank & Anna Marie Duymich (\$25), Charles Sleeme (FL \$25), Emily Vince (\$50), Youssef & Jocelyn Chahine (PA \$300), John & Dee Shiben (\$500), Jim & Shirley George (\$100), Bill Hogan (\$100), Kathy Maroon (\$25), Patti (Hage) Hirsh (TX \$70), Clara Morris (\$25), Rex & Rita Strawn (\$300), Bill & Carol Dougherty (\$1,500), Eleanor Thomas (\$25), Mary Beth Weisner (OH \$1,000), George & Jean Weisner (\$500), Philip & Robbie Saseen (\$100), Gary Weisner (\$800), Millet & Susie Fadoul (\$200), Patrick & Laurie Henry (\$200), Clara Morris (\$20), Linda Hostutler (\$200), Julia Tappe (\$100), Louis & Joan Betras (\$100), Bob & Mary Thomas (OH) (\$340), Ron Weisner (\$2,000), Peggy & Nancy Shalvey (\$30), Dee Freeland and Michelle Beatty and Ann Verardi (\$55), Allison Duffy (\$50), Josephine Joseph (\$50), Mary M. Blum (\$50),

Help with the Endowment Fund to Keep Our Church Open and Active (Total Raised: \$425)

Fr. Bakhos opened at Main Street Bank an Endowment Fund CD account exclusively for our church maintenance for the years to come. Many parishioners –primarily those who have no one to inherit their property or money– are willing to donate all or part of their assets to the church. These earmarked donations will be saved in this Endowment Fund. Only the yearly interest will be withdrawn and spent to pay for church utilities and general maintenance.

We understand that some members of our community cannot support our church as they would like to because of the need to retain funds for their retirement years. But after their death, their donation can bring stability and security to the future of the church. All benefactors will be enrolled in the daily Mass offering. Please put into writing in your will as Fr. Eugene Jacobs did. The following is suggested wording:

(I, , hereby give, devise and bequeath the sum of \$..... (or specify described real or personal property) to the Church of Our Lady of Lebanon, a non-profit organization located at 2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003. I want my donation to be deposited in the Endowment Fund account designated to maintain and support the church. I also wish to be enrolled as benefactor in the daily Mass intentions.) We thank each of the following individuals for their generous contribution to this Endowment Fund.

Bill & Mary Stees (\$200), Tom Ferris (\$125), Sylvia Long (\$100),

<i>Our Lady of Lebanon Community Calendar</i>	
<u>Fridays of Lent:</u>	Stations of the Cross, Benediction, Reflections, Light Dinner
March 20, 27, April 3, 10	
Sunday, March 22	St. Maron Lebanese Dinner – 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 22	Women’s Society Gift Basket Raffle Drawing – at St. Maron Lebanese Dinner
Sunday, March 29	Bingo Night – 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 29	Women's Society 50/50 Maintenance Fund Raffle Drawing –after 10:30 a.m. Mass
Sunday, March 29	Women's Society Meeting – after 10:30 a.m. Mass
Sat. & Sun. April 4-5	No Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament because of Palm Procession
Sunday, April 5	Easter Lilies: Donation Deadline
Sunday, April 5	Palm Sunday
Thursday, April 9	Holy Thursday & Washing of the Feet of the Apostles
Friday, April 10	Good Friday
Sunday, April 12	Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 12	Diocesan Appeal: Donation Deadline
Sunday, April 12	Spring Lebanese Bake Sale: Order Deadline
Sun.-Thur., April 19-23	Spring Lebanese Bake Sale – Work Days (11:30 a.m. Sun.; M-Th at 9:00 a.m.)
Sunday, April 19	Work Concession Stand at Wheeling Airport – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday, May 2	Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 3:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 3	May Crowning & May Procession – No Benediction after Mass
Sunday, May 10	Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass
Saturday, June 6	Parish Rummage Sale – from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. – In Old Basement Hall
Sunday, June 7–New Date	Spring Spaghetti Dinner – 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. – In New Cedar Hall
Sunday, August 9	2009 Mahrajan

40 Day Mass for Millie Saab (Saturday, March 14th, at 4:00 p.m.)

Stations of the Cross, & Light Dinner (Friday, March 20th)

Every Friday during Lent, we celebrate the Mass at 5:30 p.m. and Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m., followed by Benediction of the Cross. We need one more generous family to host the light meal following the Friday prayers on March 20th. (Desserts each Friday will also be provided by the Cedar Club.)

Date:	Volunteers:
4 th Friday, March 20 th	Light Meal Family Sponsor: ???
5 th Friday, March 27 th	Light Meal Family Sponsor: Carol Dougherty, Charlotte K., Fran Saseen, Jean Weisner
6 th Friday, April 3 rd	Light Meal Family Sponsor: Anna Jalad, Rita Strawn, Mary Thomas
7 th Friday, April 10 th	Light Meal Family Sponsor: The Cedar Club

St. Maron Lebanese Dinner (Sunday, March 22nd, 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.)

Mark your calendar with the date for our St. Maron Lebanese Dinner. Help is needed in many areas to make this Dinner a success. Please volunteer to work by calling Linda at 304-242-6853 or Carol at 740-782-0146 or call the church office at 304-233-1688. Proceeds will benefit the Church Building Maintenance Fund. Tickets will be available soon.

Menu: baked kibbee, stuffed grape leaves, luban, fasolia (Lebanese lima beans), chicken & rice, hummus, salad, pita bread, dessert and beverage (Beer & pop are available a la carte.)

Advance Ticket Sales: (If PAID by March 15th)

\$ 7.00 ea. Child under 12 (Blue Ticket)

\$15.00 ea. Adult (Salmon Ticket)

(Adult Tickets are \$17.00 ea. if PAID March 16th thru 22nd)

For Tickets ask one of our parishioners or call 304-233-1688. Buy your tickets in Advance and save! Only a very limited number of tickets will be available at the door – All Adult Tickets Sold Monday, March 16th through Sunday March 22nd, including ALL “At-The-Door,” Tickets will cost: \$17.00. Bring your completed Ticket Stub with you to be eligible for **Door Prizes – drawings held throughout the dinner.**

Take Out Dinners will be available. **Gift Basket and 50/50 Raffle Drawings** will be held at 5:15 p.m.

St. Maron Dinner Baked Goods Sale: A Baked Goods Sale will also be held featuring a variety of delicious homemade pastries and other baked goods (cakes, cookies, pies, candy, breads, Lebanese specialties, etc.) made by our parishioners. After you have enjoyed a wonderful meal, please plan to stop by our table at the Baked Goods Sale and purchase some fabulous treats to take home!

Donations for the St. Maron Baked Goods Sale: We are asking all our generous parishioners to help make this a successful dinner by preparing and donating one (or even two) of your favorite homemade pastries for our St. Maron Lebanese Dinner Baked Goods Sale (especially if you are talented with making Lebanese items). With your help, we will have another great bake sale this year! Thank you in advance for your generosity, effort and time! Please plan to drop-off your donation between 3:30 and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 21ST, or between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 22nd. If you would like to schedule an alternative drop-off time, please call the church at 304-233-1688.

St. Maron Dinner Food Preparation: Please plan to share your time and talent in service to our church the week beginning Monday, March 16 (*specific days and times will be listed in a future bulletin*). Please volunteer to work by calling Carol at (740) 782-0146 or Linda at (304) 242-6853 or the Church Office at 304-233-1688. We welcome everyone who is available to help and thank you in advance for your time.

Work Days are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, March 12	9:30 a.m.	make cookies
Wednesday, March 18	10:30 a.m.	clean, cook & shred chicken, brown orzo, puree onions, & brown 10 lb. ground beef
Thursday, March 19	9:00 a.m.	make & bake kibbee
	1:30 p.m.	pick up & clean vegetables
Friday, March 20	1:00 p.m.	fill individual serving cups of luban & hummus
Saturday, March 21	10:00 a.m.	bag bread & finish with hummus cups, cook grape leaves & set up Cedar Hall

St. Maron Dinner Workers are as follows:

Kitchen: Chicken & Rice and Grape Leaves: Ann Jalad, Tom George, Linda Duffy

Hot Vegetable: Rita Strawn

Kibbee: Fran Saseen

Salads: Starting at 9:30 a.m. David John & Nini Miller

Kitchen Helpers: Dalton Haas, Mary & Bill Stees from 3 p.m. to closing

Dinners for Eat In – at Kitchen Window: Mary Lish 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. & Allison Duffy 2:30 p.m. to closing

Dinners for Take Out: Sandra Dusick & Rex Strawn

Tickets at Entrance: Thomasina Geimer & Charlotte Kourey

Take Out Runner – at Entrance: Nettie Seidler & Jody Seabright

Hostess: Janet Shutler or Cheryl Tucker (or server)

Greeter: Luane Frazier

Servers: Bill Dougherty, Kenny & Nancy Joseph, Lou Kourey, Gary Weisner, George Thomas

Complimentary Beverage Servers: Kay Garvey, Julia Tappe

Beverage Sales Bar: Mickey Duffy

Set Up (Silverware, Bread & Cookie): Linda Hostutler, Jean Weisner ??, and ??

50/50 Raffle Tickets: Jim & Shirley George

Gift Basket Tickets: Kim Gibbons & Floater

Bake Sale: Kathleen George, Marge Saseen, Mary Thomas

Floor Coordinator: Carol Dougherty & Floater

Floater: Mike Linton

Table Busing: Supervisor – Al Depto; Helpers – Chris & Jonas George,

Resetting Tables: Lisa & Gina Haas, & Corey Bratton

Gift Basket Raffle Drawing (Sunday, March 22nd, at the St. Maron Dinner)

A "Homemakers Gift Basket" of kitchen items is the theme of our next Gift Basket Raffle (printed on white paper). The drawing will be at the St. Maron Lebanese Dinner on Sunday, March 22.

The Gift Basket includes: *a salt mill, a pepper mill, an 8 oz. pkg. of chocolate raspberry decaf coffee, a sample-size pkg. of cinnamon hazelnut coffee, a bottle of Riunite Lambrusco, a filled decorative bottle, a Wilton metal bread dish, a chicken roasting stand, an apron, chopping mats, a Tupperware pitcher & tumbler set, 3 kitchen utensils, a dish washing brush, 4 place mats, 2 dish cloths, 2 potholders, 2 dish towels, 2 sets of plastic food storage containers, a package of green produce bags, a kitchen timer, a bread knife, a manual can opener, a vegetable peeler, 3 food storage bag clips, a magnetic to do list tablet, recipe cards, a bottle of Soft Soap, a bar of Swiss milk chocolate.*

This month's Gift Baskets Raffle is sponsored by the Women's Society to benefit our Church "Painting Fund" Tickets are available now at the church entrance, in our weekly Bulletin, at our upcoming St. Maron Dinner or call Kay at 232-0492. Tickets cost \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 or you can **triple your chances of winning by sending in 18 ticket stubs at one time for only \$10.00** (3 sheets of tickets).

Buy or sell the tickets, and return the completed stubs as soon as possible in the weekly collection (with Gift Basket Raffle noted on the front of the envelope) or write the notation on the "Memo" line of your check when you mail it to: Our Lady of Lebanon Church, 2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003.

For more information, contact the church office at 304-233-1688. Your generosity and cooperation enhances our Church.

Bingo Night (Sunday, March 29th, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.)

The Cedar Club is sponsoring a "BINGO NIGHT" on Sunday, March 29, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. The event will be held in our old Basement Hall. George Thomas, Mickey Duffy and Jim George are requesting parishioners and friends to come and play your special cards at very reasonable prices - 3 for 25 cents; along with hot dogs & soft drinks available. Free coffee. There will be a "cookie jar" prize for the evening. The Cedar Club sponsors different events or socials to see what is best liked by everyone.

Women's Society March Meeting (Sunday, March 29, after 10:30 a.m. Mass)

Plan to join the Women's Society at our March Meeting to discuss plans for our upcoming Easter, Bake Sale and our other upcoming events. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Monthly 50/50 Raffle (Drawings: Sunday, March 29th, after Mass)

The Women's Society continues to sponsor the Monthly 50/50 Raffle. Tickets cost \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Proceeds will now be designated to the benefit the Church "Maintenance Fund."

The drawing from entries received **from the March tickets** (printed on **canary** paper) are provided at the church entrance and in the Weekly Church Bulletin will take place in the Cedar Hall after Mass on **Sunday, March 29th**.

Buy or sell the tickets, and return the completed stubs as soon as possible in the collection or mail to: Our Lady of Lebanon Church, 2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003. Please write as "Memo: 50/50 Raffle."

For more information or additional tickets, contact the church office at (304) 233-1688. May the Blessed Mother reward you manifold and we ask for your continued support. Congratulations to the February 50/50 winner of \$53: Sandra Dusick.

Easter Lilies (Deadline: Sunday, April 5th)

Dear Parishioners and friends of the Blessed Mother,

Every Easter the church looks beautiful decorated with the flowers donated from your hearts to the Blessed Mother in Memory of your beloved family members. Please be generous as usual and sponsor a \$20.00 Easter Flower by Sunday, April 5. The following Easter Flowers are donated in Memory of:

\$25 Gladys Howard & Louise N. & Louis H. Khourey Sr., by Lou, Charlotte Khourey & Family

- \$20 John F. Kukula by his wife Mary Rose Kukula & Family
 \$25 Helen Fielding, a loving mother, by her husband Don Fielding (FL)
 \$20 Barkett & Sadie Coury by their families
 \$20 George & Rose Fadoul by the Family
 \$25 Deceased members of the Habdo & Dougherty Families by Carol & Bill Dougherty
 \$20 Arthur & Mark Long by Sylvia Long
 \$35 Joseph, Victoria, Minnie & John J. John by Marge & Lou John
 \$35 John & Marian Keegan by Marge & Lou John
 \$20 Siham Frenn & LaVerne Thomas & Evelyn by Dr. Adel & Diane Frenn & Family
 \$20 Mattes & Shia Families by Betty Shia
 \$30 Fritz and Freddie Oser and Ron Canestraro by Bob Oser
 \$25 McCutcheon and Sobota Families by Peggy Justice and Ann Bauduin
 \$20 Saseen and Schlog Families by Bob & Fran Saseen
 \$20 The Shiben and McFarland Families by John & Dee Shiben
 \$20 Mary K. Ferris by Tom Ferris
 \$20 Deceased members of Nimon & Miriam Joseph by the Family

2009 Diocesan Appeal – Easter Obligation (Due by Easter Sunday, April 12th)

Many Thanks for all the following faithful parishioners and good Christians who contributed \$50.00 each (unless otherwise marked) toward their Easter Obligation for the 2009 Diocesan Appeal. May your Easter bring more blessings to you and to your family members.

Lou & Charlotte Khourey (\$100), Lou & Marge John (\$50), Peggy Palmer (\$50), Patricia Smith (\$25), Dr. Adel & Diane Frenn (\$50), Mark & Barb McLaughlin (\$50), Tom Ferris (\$50), Dolores & Virginia Joseph (\$50), Peggy Justice (\$50), Barb Sobota (\$50), Bill & Tricia Committee (\$50), Tom & Michelle John (\$50), Larry Breiding (\$50), Gary Weisner (\$50), Anna Jalad (\$50), Earl & Linda Duffy (\$50), Randy Weisner (\$50), Paul & Irene Schuler (\$50), Drs. Rajai & Nahla Khoury (\$50), Larry & Lillian Siebieda (\$250), Louis & Joan Betras (\$50), Pearl Shutler (\$50), Cecilia Ammar (\$50), Sandra Dusick (\$50), Mark Schroeder (\$50), Mary Piko (\$50), A Friend (\$50), Kenny & Nancy Joseph (\$50), Julia Tappe (\$50), Cecilia John (\$50), Sylvia Long (\$50), Dr. Michael Fortunato (\$50), Rex & Rita Strawn (\$50), Bill & Carol Dougherty (\$50), Joe Elias (\$50), Donald Fielding (FL) (\$50), Mr. & Mrs. Michael N. Breit (NC) (\$50), Sam & Bernadine Elias (\$50), Ron Weisner (\$100), Emily Vince (\$25), Bob & Fran Saseen (\$50), Betty Shia (\$50), Millet & Susie Fadoul (\$50), Mary Beth Weisner (\$50), John & Dee Shiben (\$50), Jean Weisner (\$30), Josephine Joseph (\$30), Nick & Evelyn Ghaphery (\$50), Frank & Anna Marie Duymich (\$25), Mike & MaryAnn Carl (\$50), Anna Bris Bougher (\$50), Martha Ruggiero (\$50), Ron & Kim Gibbons (\$50), David Weisner (\$50),

Spring Lebanese Bake Sale (Order By: Sunday, April 12; Pick Up Orders: April 22-23)

Order Deadline	Sunday, April 12
Spinach Preparation	Sunday, April 19, 11:30 a.m.
Baking to Fill Orders	Monday to Thursday, April 20-23, 9:00 a.m.
Order Pick Up Dates	Wednesday & Thursday, April 22 & 23

Spring Lebanese Bake Sale Order Forms will be available soon. The Women's Society of our Church has scheduled its Spring Lebanese Bake Sale of Spinach Pies, Meat Pies, Sweet (*Sesame*) Bread, and Zattar Bread. Completed order forms should be returned by mail or place it in the collection basket.

All those who helped in the past are asked to help us again on the baking days listed above. Please come and join in the camaraderie! **Note:** Please save large clean paper grocery bags for use in packing our orders.

Whg. Airport Concession Stand Work (Sunday, April 19th, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.)

The Cedar Club will work the Concession Stand at the Wheeling Ohio County Airport during a Swap Meet and Craft Sale being held on Sunday, April 19th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ("rain date" is Sunday, April 26). For this to be successful, all food along with cases of cans of pop and cases of water (16 oz. size) will need to be donated in order to make a profit. (If you are unable to shop for the pop and water, monetary donations will be accepted.) Remember this is for the parish and all funds raised will be designated for

the Church Building Maintenance Fund. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Linda Duffy at 304-242-6853 or Luane Frazier at 304-242-7437.

Clearing the Church for Painting (Sunday, April 26th from noon to 3:00 pm)

The church needs to be cleared and made ready for scaffolding and painting on Sunday, April 26th, from noon until 3:00 p.m. A BBQ and salad will take place after the job done. All young men and women of the parish are asked to volunteer and help Fr. Bakhos move items from the church into the Cedar Hall that will be used for Masses during May. The ladies will help set up the chairs and the altar in the Cedar Hall and the young men will move and store the statues, stations of the cross, ... in the old basement. Please let Fr. Bakhos know if he can count on you and especially to prepare enough food for everyone. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Rummage Sale (Saturday, June 6th, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) – ***Held in the Old Basement Hall***

Start saving your household items that are in good condition and can be sold at our upcoming Parish Rummage Sale which will be **held in our Old Basement Hall**. There is always a profit on sales. Drop off times will be listed at a future date.

Spaghetti Dinner – NEW DATE (Sunday, June 7th, 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.)

Mark your calendars now and plan to enjoy our Spring Spaghetti Dinner served in our Cedar Hall following Mass Sunday, June 7. Chairperson Tom George and our parishioners invite you and your friends to come and enjoy our food and hospitality. Help our Church make this our best Spaghetti Dinner yet! Invite your friends, co-workers and neighbors to attend. Every dollar of profit earned will be used for our Church Building Maintenance Fund.

New this year: Students from the Lyceum School will strolling through the hall during the Spaghetti Dinner to provide entertainment throughout the day.

Notes:

1. Advance Ticket Sales: If you are able & willing to help sell tickets to make our dinner a tremendous success, please call our Church office. Unsold tickets & payments must be returned by Sunday, May 31.
2. Parishioners are being asked to *please bake and donate a dessert for use at the dinner* so that we may offer a variety of choices to go with the meal.
3. Parishioners are also being asked to help make our *Baked Goods Sale* –held simultaneously with the dinner– a huge success. Please make and donate an item: cookies, cake, pie, fudge, candy, Lebanese treat, etc.
4. Please save large, clean paper grocery or shopping bags and bring them to the Church any weekend so that we may use them to pack bake sale and "to go" orders.
5. If you can volunteer to work for the Spaghetti Dinner or have questions, please call the Church office at 304-233-1688.

Menu: Spaghetti and Meatballs or Marinara Sauce, Salad, Roll, Dessert & choice of Coffee, Ice Tea or Lemonade. (Beer & pop are available a la carte.)

Tickets: \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children under 12; will be available soon from the Church office at – 304-233-1688 or at the door. **Payment in advance is greatly appreciated.**

Happy Birthday

March 15:	Shelby Imer
March 18:	Kenny Imer, Bill Stees, Patrick Petros, John Shiben
March 21:	Caroline Stees McDowell
March 22:	Jennifer Imer
March 26:	Joseph John
March 27:	Tommy Zinn
March 28:	Virginia Porchiran
March 30:	Gregory John
March 31:	George Lewis & Jonas George

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

Please Remember Those Hospitalized Recently In Your Prayers:

Catherine Arthur

Also please pray for those who asked us to pray for them:

Barb Sobota, Rosella Saseen, Sam Elias, Laura & Marion Wellman, Mary Piko, Virginia Khourey Bryan (aunt of Lou Khourey in Toledo, OH), Richard & Mary Ryncarz (Shadyside, OH), Manell Brice (Arlington, VA), Rose Mary Bris-Roybal (Albuquerque, NM), John Vawter & his mom (brother & mother of Dr. Rob Vawter)

Your Church Support Last Week

1,313	Collection
935	Diocesan Appeal
57	Candles
20	Utilities
60	Parking
330	Donation to Church
35	Spaghetti Dinner
265	Easter Flowers
2,560	Painting Fund
690	St. Maron Dinner
187	2 nd Collection, "Caritas Lebanon"
10	Soup & Hoagie Sale
378	Reimbursements
6,840	Total. May God reward you many fold

What's New?

Item needed for the new hall and church.

- 1- With the perseverance and help of Don & Roberta Henning, we were able to purchase a used slicer for \$400.
- 2- The church needs a 14 feet step ladder to be used for work and bulb change in the high ceiling of the new building and the new chandeliers in the church. Cost is \$620.00. If you have been blessed with health and money and are able to sponsor any of these items, please call Fr. Bakhos at 304-233-1688. Your help will be deeply appreciated and it helps defray the expenses of the church.

Thank You...

- 1- To Mrs. Neisrin Alkouri for donating the under-cabinet can opener for the Cedar Hall kitchen. It is very much appreciated.
- 2- To Dee Freeland, Michelle Beatty and Ann Verardi for donating \$55.00 toward the Painting Fund. May God bless you many folds.
- 3- To Tom & Kathleen George for sponsoring a propane tank for the grill. Cost \$50.00. Thanks Tammoos.

Poor Box

Please consider sharing your blessings with the brothers and sisters of Christ who knock at our door daily. Many people in the area need assistance in many ways. Some are in dire need some are not, but God alone knows what's in each one's heart. The Poor Box is located at the rear of the church near the Holy Water Font. Fr. Bakhos is using his judgment to help the poor on your behalf and asks each of them to pray for you.

Around Us

St. Alphonsus Church Fish Fry (Fridays during Lent, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.)

Phone: 304-232-4353; Fax: 394-232-1993 (Fax orders for Friday are accepted only on Thursday.)

Eat-in or take-out service is available, as well as delivery. (Delivery orders must be received from 8-10 a.m.)

Gyro Sale at the Greek Church on Chapline Street, Wheeling

When: March 10th from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. To order call: 304-233-1766

B.E. Taylor Concert after Whg. Nailers Game (Saturday, March 21, 8:05 p.m.)

The Wheeling Nailers are celebrating Family Night on Saturday, March 21, at their game scheduled to begin at 8:05. Following the game B.E. Taylor will perform a concert. Tickets: \$8.50 Adult; \$5.50 Children. Call Ryan at 304-234-4625 for tickets and more information.

Spaghetti Dinner (Sunday, March 29, from 12 Noon to 5:00 p.m.)

Where: Catholic Neighborhood Center, 18th Street, Wheeling; Cost: Adult – \$6.00; Child \$3.00; Information: Call 304-232-7157

Saint Patrick (385-461)

Patron of Ireland

Although he is the patron saint of Ireland, Patrick was not a native of that country: he was born in Scotland in 385. When he was just 14, he was captured and taken to Ireland, where he was enslaved. During this time of trial, he turned to God for comfort and strength: he would pray each morning, and he felt no sadness.

After Patrick had been in Ireland for six years, God came to him in a dream and told him to go home. Patrick escaped and was reunited with his family, but he still heard the Irish calling to him in dreams.

Patrick entered the priesthood and eventually became a bishop; after many years of doing great work in Rome, Patrick was sent to Ireland to spread the message of the Gospel because he was able to speak Celtic, and so was able to communicate with the Irish.

The Power of faith:

Patrick's mission wasn't an easy one. Druidism (an ancient Celtic religion) was widely practiced in Ireland, and many Druids would rather have killed Patrick than convert; he and his followers were imprisoned and sentenced to death many times. But Patrick's faith in God was strong, and he knew he could keep going, "spreading God's name everywhere with confidence and without fear." Patrick preached all over Ireland, using a shamrock to explain the Trinity and converting thousands with his quiet, unassuming manner and gentle way of speaking.

As a man of God, Patrick was known for his humility and disinterest in material wealth. He wouldn't accept gifts from admirers, and often retreated in quiet prayer.

By the time he died in 461, Patrick had converted virtually all of Ireland to Christianity, and he is a reminder that God speaks to us through His servants.

Prayer of Saint Patrick:

"I bind to myself God's power to guide me, God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to teach me, God's eye to watch over me, God's ear to hear me, God's word to give me speech, God's hand to guide me, God's way to lie before me, God's shield to shelter me, God's host to secure me... Against the snares of demons, against the seductions of vices, against the lusts of nature, against everyone who meditates injury to me, whether far or near, few or many."

Irish Memories from Australia

When I was in Australia –the country of the Irish convicts- I studied in Saint Patrick's Seminary, Sydney where most of my teacher priests were Irish. They were strong in faith as we Maronite in the East are. One day, the seminarians visited a castle in a very prominent area in Sydney. It was built on more than 10 acres of land and is now a touristic site. When we entered the gate we noticed that the ground of the property is white which is totally different than the brownish clay soil of Australia. Then the guide told us the story behind that white soil. He said, "This castle was owned by a rich Irish family. They found lots of bugs and insects and snakes on the property because Australia is hot and humid and is a fertile ground for all kinds of insects. Then the Irish grandpa decided to hire a huge cargo ship and he returned to Ireland, filled it with Irish white soil and brought it back to Australia and spread it over the clay of his Australian property believing that this was the only way to keep insects, snake and all the reptiles away. This belief was built in the mind of all Irish that the holiness and prayers of Saint Patrick drove away from Ireland all the snakes and reptiles." Fr. Bakhos

Maronites = Catholics of the East

The Identity of the Maronite Church (5)

When speaking of Maronite Identity it is essential to trace a solid line in the Catholic Church of Jesus Christ, which is made up twenty-two Eastern and Western churches. Each proclaims the same Faith handed on by the apostles, celebrates the seven Mysteries (sacraments), and shares unity with the Bishop of Rome. Moreover, the Maronite Church is an autonomous Eastern church (*sui juris*) with its own liturgy, spirituality, theology, laws and cultural-linguistic influences. It is a universal community of faith of the Antiochene-Edessan Monastic tradition, founded by Peter and developed by Maron and his disciples. The Maronite Church, guided by its Patriarch and bishops, shepherd people of many nations and cultures in teachings of Jesus Christ.

As one of the twenty-one Eastern Churches, the Maronite Catholic Church is imbued with a sense of the mysteriousness and un-approachability of God. Since the human mind cannot grasp nor understand God, then any knowledge of God is just knowledge, not experience of God. This un-approachability of God leads to mystical union; for the more that one searches for God, the more one encounters God in awe, communion, and prayer. A symbolic, rather than philosophical, approach to Syriac theology comes into play here in a significant way. Syriac poetic theology abhors boundaries and definitions, and functions by means of paradoxes of opposites held together in a state of tension, creating a sense of wonder/awe. It works by association, not by definition; it is allusive, not descriptive; dynamic, not static; it leaves meaning implicit not explicit. The link between the material and spiritual world is provided through types, mysteries and symbols. Types and symbols potentially are to be found everywhere in Scripture and nature. For God reveals himself to humanity through them, and they are his 'two witnesses'.

Maronites lived in the countryside, near Antioch, a center of intellectual and cultural activity unparalleled in the Roman Empire. This Antiochene tradition resisted extensive Greek/philosophical influence and kept Edessan culture/language. The Maronite theology, spirituality, and liturgy developed according to biblical thought patterns and poetry. It was in this atmosphere of artistic and theological creativity that the Maronite tradition began to take its own distinctive shape from three main streams, two geographical and one cultural, that flow together to form Maronite Church. The geographical streams are Antioch and Edessa, and the spiritual-cultural one is the Syriac monastic tradition (Maron).

Antioch

Antioch, a center of commerce and communication in West Syria of Greek and Syriac influence is where followers of Jesus Christ were first called Christians (Acts 11:26). Among its early bishops were St. Ignatius and St. Theophilus. The Antiochene school of biblical exegesis, remarkably modern in its approach, provided a profound love and sensitivity for the scriptures. The literal sense of scripture and the types from the Old Testament were considered as the foreshadowing of the coming of the Lord Jesus in the New Testament. Maronites view the world improving with time as it moves from incompleteness to completeness. This creation-centered spirituality focuses on God creating us in His image, with the potential to grow in His likeness, called divinization. The interaction, between God and humans in Christ, is to teach and prepare them for their divine vocation, which is the kingdom. To the Maronite, God the Creator, from the creation to the call of Abraham, to Moses through the prophets was progressively setting the stage and readying the universe for the coming of the Messiah. Jesus' birth, death and resurrection complete humanity's fullest potential. In Maronite liturgical texts Old Testament images offer types and patterns of the promised Messiah: Adam and the new Adam, tree of knowledge and the Cross of life, side of Adam and pierced side of Jesus, Eve and the new Eve, and Manna and the Eucharist.

Edessa

Edessa, a prominent city in ancient Mesopotamia of Semitic culture and Syriac poetry, represents Syriac language and culture as a whole. Semitic thought patterns evidenced in Syriac liturgical poetry also influenced shaped and transformed the prayer and hymnody of the Maronite Church. The genius of this native, Syriac, Semitic culture is that they often used poetry rather than prose as a medium. Among early texts are the Acts of

Thomas (3rd century), the Homilies of Aphrahat the Persian Sage (mid 4th century) and the two great poets Ephrem (373) and James of Serugh (521). They composed hundreds of poems and hymns as tools for catechizing the people to Christ. Religious poetry is the greatest gift that enriched the Church.

Monasticism – Mount Lebanon

The very name Maronite, deriving from the Monastery of Saint Maron, testifies to the importance of the monastic tradition in the Maronite Church. This famous monastery flourished from the late 5th to 7th centuries, during which time it was a center of spiritual and intellectual activity. It provided a haven for the Maronite monastic life, which St. Maron founded, and used to shape the Maronite Church with a uniquely monastic spirituality.

The Maronite monastic way of life grew out of two roots: the first, Egyptian monasticism, inspired by St. Anthony (of the Desert) and St. Pachomius that spread from Egypt into Palestine and Syria in the late 300 hundreds, and the second, native Syriac asceticism, called ‘proto-monasticism’. This ascetical spirituality is rooted in four dominant themes, which inspire and shape this tradition: recovery of paradise, angelic life, betrothal to Christ, and imitation of Christ.

The monastic spirit of the Maronite Church opens the door to a life of simplicity, a vision of hope and an attitude of readiness to greet the Lord at His second coming. The human vocation is to become like God, but sin interrupts this call. Conversion, purification and change invite the believer to renewal, new life, and intimacy with God -called divinization. Thus human beings become what God intends for them -intimates of the Father, children of God, and heirs of the kingdom. Maronite Christians journey to the harbor of safety in terms of birth from three wombs: womb of a mother, womb of the baptismal waters, and womb of the tomb.

Maron, a priest and hermit, walked the land traveled by Peter and Paul. Following the Councils of Ephesus (431), condemning the Nestorian heresy, and the Council of Chalcedon (451), condemning the Monophysite teaching, the great Church of Antioch-Edessa divided in three: Nestorians, Monophysites, and Chalcedonians. Believers who came gradually to inherit the name Maronites belong to the last group, and the monks of Saint Maron monastery were zealous defenders of Chalcedon. Their history reveals great sacrifices of their lives and possessions for their Catholic convictions and religious freedom. Maronites fled to the high mountains in the north -Mount Lebanon, and later in 687 AD elected Saint John Maron their first patriarch, a source of unity and symbol of solidarity with their bishops. Between the 7th and the 10th centuries these Maronites established themselves as an organized, autonomous, Eastern-Catholic, Antiochene-Edessan church, and Lebanon became the third geographical center of influence for Maron’ s family of faith.

Syriac Fathers, representing a genuinely Semitic form of Christianity not yet heavily hellenized or westernized, expressed their world in thought patterns essentially biblical in nature and poetic in tone. For them the mystery of God, and ultimately God’s becoming man, cannot be reduced to definitions, which impose boundaries on God; rather this mystery can only be expressed through the language of paradox, metaphor and symbol. The proper vehicle for this kind of theology is not prose, but poetry, and the outstanding father of this approach is Ephrem (306-373) whose theological vision reflected the interconnectedness of all things in both the material and spiritual realms. While one is unable to know God’s inner being, one can know God as He manifests, reveals Himself. In the Maronite tradition the believer sees and encounters the Divine One, as Mystery-Presence in three places: nature, words and people. God imprints upon nature, in scripture and upon human beings symbols and figures, which manifest his Son, Jesus Christ.

Therefore, the Maronite Church is deeply rooted in its creation-centered, monastic spirituality prayer then draws from the Semitic and biblical idea of ‘heart’ as the center for spiritual life. The Maronite sees the heart as the focal point for all life, the place for the deepest communication and experience of God. These core, fundamental spiritual elements of Antioch, Edessa and monasticism shape, form and express the very nature, life and vision of the Maronite Church as evidenced in and creatively expressed by Maronite liturgy, art, architecture, music, and culture.

Story: Keep Your Fork

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things *"in order,"* she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in.

Everything was in order and the pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. *"There's one more thing,"* she said excitedly. *"What's that?"* came the pastor's reply. *"This is very important,"* the young woman continued. *"I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand."* The pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say. *"That surprises you, doesn't it?"* the young woman asked. *"Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request,"* said the pastor. The young woman explained. *"My grandmother once told me this story, and from there on out, I have always done so. I have also, always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. 'In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork.' It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming...like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder 'What's with the fork?' Then I want you to tell them: 'Keep your fork ... the best is yet to come.'"*

The pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the young woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. She KNEW that something better was coming.

At the funeral people were walking by the young woman's casket and they saw the pretty dress she was wearing and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the pastor heard the question *"What's with the fork?"* And over and over he smiled. During his message, the pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the young woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. The pastor told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either.

He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork, let it remind you ever so gently, that the best is yet to come.

Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us. Show your friends how much you care. Remember to always be there for them, even when you need them more. For you never know when it may be their time to "Keep your fork."

Joke (533)

God's Picture

A little boy was so engrossed in drawing that his mother asked him what it was he was drawing. "God," he said. "But nobody has ever seen God," said his mom. "Well, they will when I'm finished," he responded.

What God Can Do

A young boy going to see his grandfather was traveling by train. He took a seat beside a man who happened to be a seminary professor. The boy was reading a Sunday school take-home paper, and the professor thought he would have some fun with the boy, so he said, "Young man, if you can tell me something that God can do, I'll give you a big shiny apple."

Thoughtfully the boy replied, "Mister, if you can tell me something that God can't do, I'll give you a whole barrel of apples."

Secret of Good Golf

I've had a good day when I don't fall out of the golf cart. (*Buddy Hackett*)