

June 7, 2009
Bulletin # 23

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

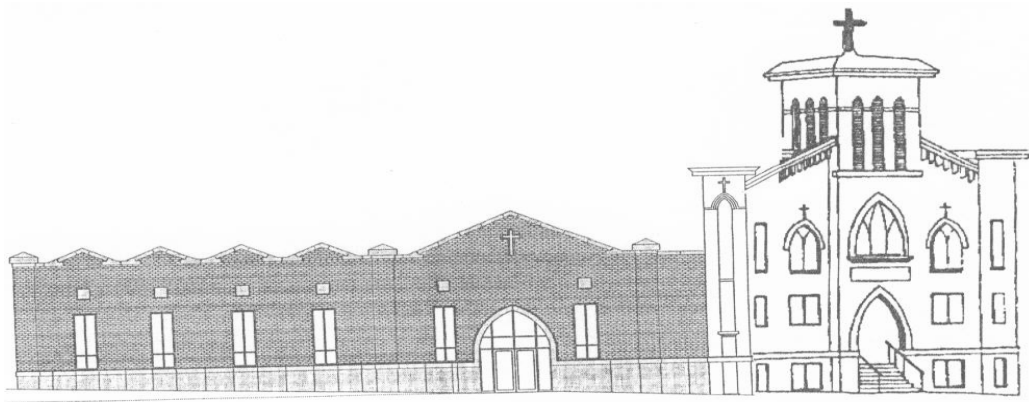
E-Mail: ololwv@Comcast.net • Web Site: www.ololwv.com

Rev. Bakhos Chidiac Ph.D. (Pastor)

Evelyn Ghaphery (Organist)

Charlotte Khourey & Thomasina Geimer (Secretaries)

Sunday of the Holy Trinity



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

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- *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: Sunday of the Holy Trinity

Readings: Rom 11:25-36 & Mt 28:16-20

Trinity and Incarnation

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." (Jn 14:6)
The mystery of the Incarnation led Conchita toward the profundities of God.

"The Lord then raised my spirit up to the contemplation of the Incarnation of the Word. He made me understand very profound things concerning the Most Holy Trinity, of which He is the Second Person.

From all eternity the Father existed. He produced from His own depths, from His own substance, from His very essence His Word. From all eternity, too, from the beginning the Word was God, as the Father was God, the two Persons constituting but one divine substance. But never at any moment did these divine Persons, the Father and the Son, exist alone, never were they but two. In this same eternity, though proceeding from the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit existed, the reflection, substance, essence of the Father and the Son and, equally, Person. The Holy Spirit is a divine reflection on the bosom of Love Itself. He is the reflection of light at the heart of light itself, the reflection of life in the innermost of Life itself, and so of all infinite perfection within the inmost core of eternal perfection.

This communication of the same substance, of the same essence, of the same life and of the same perfections which form and which are actually one and the same essence, substance, life and perfection, constitute the eternal felicity of one sole God and the endless complacency of the Persons of the august Trinity.

Oh how great, immensely great, God is! What abysses in Him, incomprehensible for man and even for angels! Before this grandeur, I feel like the tiniest atom. Yet my infinite soul, on feeling capable of receiving a feeble reflection of this same grandeur, expands, fully joyous on contemplating the felicity, the eternity, the incomprehensible immensity of its God.

And is the Word there? I ask myself, wholly moved, whether it is from this throne He will descend to the vile atom of the earth? Oh my eternal God, how can I accept such condescension?

Jesus went on: "The Word, the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity descended into the most pure womb of Mary and, by operation of the Holy Spirit who made her pregnant, the Word became incarnate and was made man! So profound an abasement as only the love of a God could bring about!"

I heard about this marvelous and so sublime mystery some things so profound that they are only for my soul, for I cannot explain them to others, for lack of words." (*Diary*, Feb. 25, 1897).

I suffer when I see certain paintings or representations of the Most Holy Trinity. Oh, that is not what I feel! God is light, purity, divine perfume, an array of beauty, the hearth of all perfection, peace and candor. He is love, love, love, incomprehensible, eternity apart from time, a point which enkindles and absorbs all, dazzling, majestic, and exceedingly sweet, which attracts everything and ever communicates itself . . . without ever diminishing its plentitude!

Oh, how this eternity apart from time is deeply imprinted on my heart! This God, God thrice holy, holy, holy, whom I do not understand but whom I experience, who will be able to say what He is, if even in heaven there is no language to explain it?

To feel, that makes me fear. But all at once, I feel myself immersed in this ocean of ravishing perfections, in this eternity of beauty and personal happiness! I see the three divine Persons communicate to each other this eternal complacency which is ever produced and at each instant on contemplating themselves.

Congratulations to the Blessed Mother

During the month of May 2007, we started our building addition. In May 2009 we painted the church and installed the new chandeliers. We offer our love and dedication as a gift from us to the Blessed Mother whose hands worked miraculously with us to run everything smoothly, without accident or debt. The church looks just gorgeous. The Blessed Mother deserves the best from all of us. She knows those of you by name who love her as well as her son. May the Light of Christ and her own beauty shine over all her benefactors. May she protect all of you under her wings in time of trouble and lead you into safe haven. -- Fr. Bakhos

Mass Intentions

THIS WEEKEND, June 6-7: Sunday of the Holy Trinity

Saturday, June 6:

3:30 p.m.: Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

4:00 p.m.: Special Intention

Rick Frazier by his wife Luane Frazier

Sunday, June 7 at 10:30 a.m.:

Living & Deceased members of the Nicholas & Nimnoom Ghaphery Family & the David Abraham

Ghaphery Family by the Ghaphery Family

Shipleby Shipley by Lou & Marge John

Weekday Masses

Monday, June 8: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Tuesday, June 9: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Wednesday, June 10 at Noon:

Sue Linton by Sophia Kindall

Shipleby Shipley by Nancy Fogle

Thursday, June 11 at Noon:

Shipleby Shipley by James Sleime Family

Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions

Friday, June 12 at Noon:

Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions

Shipleby Shipley by Paul & Terri Galbraith

THIS WEEKEND, June 13-14: Third Sunday of Pentecost

Saturday, June 13 at 4:00 p.m.:

40-Day of Sue Linton by her husband Mike Linton

Shipleby Shipley by Jerry & Marge John

Sunday, June 14 at 10:30 a.m.:

Dale Seidler Sr., by his wife Nettie & Family

Mimi Rohanna (on her Anniversary) by Mary & Frank Lish & Family

Church Parking Lot Paving Fund Update:

Many Thanks to the generous benefactors who have donated toward the Church Parking Lot Paving Fund (Total cost: \$25,000; Total Raised so far: \$4,450)

Peggy Justice & Ann Bauduin (\$150), Barb Sobota (\$50), Peggy & Nancy Shalvey (\$25), Mike Linton in Memory of his wife Sue (\$500), Patricia Smith (\$20), Elsie Renzella (\$20), Melo & Laura Wakim (\$100), Marge & Lou John (\$250), Mark Shroeder (\$200), Peggy Palmer (\$100), Anna Jalad (\$100), Paul & Irene Schuler (\$100), Michael Caruso (\$30), Frank, Anna Marie & Frank Duymich (\$25), Dr. Samy Sakla (\$50), Mark & Barb McLaughlin (\$75), Bob & Fran Saseen (\$150), Randy Weisner (\$500), John & Mary Pifko (PA) (\$50), Joe Linton (\$25), Drs. Rajai & Nahla Khoury (\$100), Sister Jeanne Vidonic (\$30), Sylvia Long, (\$200), Bob Kupchak (\$25), Emily Vince (\$30), Alvin & Josephine Weidman (\$25), Richard & Mary Ryncarz (\$50), George Lewis (\$25), Clara Carter (\$50), Ron & Kim Gibbons (\$25), Rose Marie White (\$25), Martha Ruggiero (\$20), Ed & Nancy Coram (\$50), Friend of Fr. Bakhos (\$150), Bob & Virginia Pockl (\$50), Denny Albaugh (\$50), Dr. John & Rose Palmer (\$500), Harold & Adele Storm (\$25), Joe & Mary Thomas (\$200), Kenny & Nancy Joseph (\$200), Julia Tappe (\$100),

Help with the Endowment Fund to Keep Our Church Open and Active (Total Raised: \$625)

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 (\$225), Sylvia Long (\$100), Catherine Arthur (Memorial) (\$100),

<i>Our Lady of Lebanon Community Calendar</i>	
Date	Event
Saturday, June 6	Parish Rummage Sale – from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. – <i>In Old Basement Hall</i> <i>Drop Off Days:</i> Sunday, May 31, from after Mass to 5 p.m. Monday & Tuesday, June 1 & 2, from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday & Thursday, June 3 & 4, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday, June 6	Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament: <i>June 6 at 3:30 p.m.</i>
Sunday, June 7	Spring Spaghetti Dinner – 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. – <i>In New Cedar Hall</i>
Sunday, June 7	Women’s Society Gift Basket Raffle Drawing – <i>at the Spaghetti Dinner</i>
Monday, June 8	Cedar Club Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – <i>In Old Basement Hall</i>
Sunday, June 14	Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament after 10:30 am Mass
Sunday, August 9	2009 Mahrajan
Sunday, August 30	Women’s Society Meeting – <i>after 10:30 a.m. Mass</i>

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (Saturday, June 6th, at 3:30 p.m.)

Spaghetti Dinner (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.

Menu: Spaghetti and meatballs or marinara sauce, salad, roll, dessert with coffee, ice tea or lemonade.

Tickets: \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children under 12; A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

Workers and Volunteers:

Kitchen Staff Assignments:

Kitchen: Linda Duffey, Tom George, Lou Anna Jalad, Khourey, Fran Saseen, Rita Strawn

Salad: Linda Duffey and Nini Miller

Window – Eat-In Dinners: Mary Lish (11:30 a.m. 2:30 p.m.) and Danielle Lavoie (2:30- 6:00 p.m.)

Take-Out Dinners: Sandra Dusick & Rex Strawn

Silverware & Set up: Linda Hostutler & Jean Weisner

Kitchen Aides: Louie Khourey (Noon-2:00 p.m.), & ?? *We need two volunteers from 3:00 p.m. - close.*

Church Hall Staff Assignments:

Entrance Greeter: Emmalena (11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.) & ??

Dinner Tickets Sales: Thomasina Geimer & Charlotte Khourey

50/50 Raffle: Shirley & Jim George, Sr.

Gift Basket Raffle: Kim Gibbons

Bake Sales: Kathleen George & Mary Thomas

Take Out Runners: Nettie Seidler & Jody Seabright

Hostess: Janet Shutler

Floor Coordinator: Carol Dougherty

Servers: Bill Dougherty, Mickey Duffy, Nancy & Kenny Joseph, George Thomas, Cheryl Tucker, Gary Weisner, Luke Seidler (1:30-3:00 p.m.)

Beverages: Kay Garvey & Julia Tappe

Desserts: Lindsey & Natalie & Chris Seidler (11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.); Alexis Seidler (1:30-3:00 p.m.); Roberta Henning (2:00-5:30 p.m.)

Bussing & Resetting Tables: Chris & Jonas George, Al Depto & Gina Haas

Late Day Clean up: Carol Burkhart

Back up: Mike Linton

1. 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.
2. Parishioners are also being asked to 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.
3. If you can volunteer to work for the Spaghetti Dinner or have questions, please call the Church office at 304-233-1688.

Gift Basket Raffle Drawing (Sunday, June 7, at the Spaghetti Dinner)

“**Wine & Dine Italian Style**” is the theme of our next Gift Basket Raffle. The drawing will be at the Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, June 7. The Gift Basket includes the following Italian items: *1 bag of tri-color pasta, 1 jar Figaretti Pasta Sauce, 1 box San Georgia shells, 1 box San Georgia spaghetti, 1 box Ronzini's Healthy Harvest spaghetti, 1 jar Classico Sweet Basil sauce, 1 jar DeLallo Roasted Peppers, 1 bottle Riunite Rasp. Wine, 2 Italian Wine Goblets, 1 Pasta Italian Cook Book, 1 pair kitchen shears, 1 Oneida 4-sided grater, 1 hand cheese grater, 1 Italian Spoon rest, 1 bottle Balsamic Vinegar, 1 bottle Pure Olive Oil, 1 container Parmesan Cheese, 1 Pampered Chef Measuring Cup, 1 garlic press, 1 pasta fork, 1 kitchen towel.*

The Gift Basket Raffles are sponsored by the Women’s Society to benefit our “Maintenance 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 **triple your chances of winning by sending in 18 ticket stubs** (3 sheets of tickets) **at one time for only \$10.00.**

Please check the ticket sheets carefully to be sure you are completing the correct ticket stubs. All raffle tickets will now be printed on white paper only. 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.

Cedar Club Meeting – (Monday, June 8, at 7:00 p.m. – in the old **Basement Hall**)

The Cedar Club will hold its next meeting in the old **Basement Hall**. On Monday, June 8, at 7:00 p.m. Office nominations for the coming year will be accepted. Please try to attend. Hostesses for the evening will be Rita Strawn and Shirley George.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (Sunday, June 14th after Mass)

The Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will take place next Sunday, June 14th after Mass. It is postponed because of the Spaghetti dinner on June 7th.

Father's Day Masses (Saturday, June 20, to Friday, June 26)

We are offering a week Masses for Deceased and Living fathers and grandfathers. Please remember the souls of those who hold you on their shoulders when you were a child.

Shopping for Dad

If I went shopping for a dad, here is what I'd buy:

One who would always stop to answer a little boy's "Why?"

One who would always speak kindly to a little girl or boy,

One who would give to others a bit of sunshine and joy.

I'd pick a dad that followed the Bible's Golden Rule,

And one who went regularly to church and Sunday school

I'd buy the very finest dad to place on our family tree,

And then I'd try to live like him so he would be proud of me.

--Helen Kitchell Evans

Special Masses already requested for the weekend and weekdays of June 20 – June 26

Saturday, June 20: Cathy Sharp Howard (on her Anniversary) by the Sengewalt Family

Sunday, June 21: Jim Garvey (on his Birthday) by his wife Kay and his daughter Sue.

Wednesday, June 24: Helen Fielding (on her Anniversary) by her husband Don Fielding (FL)
Arthur Long (on his Anniversary) by his wife Sylvia Long

Remembered Deceased Fathers and Grandfathers:

Deceased fathers & grandfathers of the Chidiac Family by Fr. Bakhos

Habib & Louis Khourey, Sr., & Nassif Nader by Lou & Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie

Frank Gray & Abraham George by Jim & Shirley George

Lou Elias by his daughter Debbie Kull & Family

Charles Przelenski & Daniel Schuler by Paul & Irene Schuler

Joseph J. John by Marge & Lou John

Abdo Habita Ferris by Tom & Denise Ferris

Charles F. Custer by mother Mary, brother Richard & daughter Candi

Earl Magruder & by Denny & Barbara Magruder

Harry Voitle by Denny & Barbara Magruder

William Coss (grandfather) by Denny & Barbara Magruder

Constantine Shia, Donald Vince, Thomas Shia & Bill Vargo by the Family

Thomas John & grandfather by Julia Tappe

Our fathers & grandfathers by Bill & Carol Dougherty

George Fadoul & Joseph P. Duffy by Earl, Linda & Allison Duffy

Joseph A. Benline by his wife Helen

Francis P. Emmerth Jr. by sisters Helen & Mary

Francis P. Emmerth Sr. by daughters Helen & Mary

Steve Schlog & Shakery Saseen by Bob & Fran Saseen

Tony Male (father-in-law) by Mike Linton

George Elias by Joe Elias

Jim Garvey by Sue & Mike Flading

Eskey Yost & James Garvey Sr., by Kay Garvey

Fathers & grandfathers of the Long & Condelli families

Remembered Living Fathers and Grandfathers:

Living fathers & grandfathers of the Chidiac Family by Fr. Bakhos

Lou Khourey by his children Emmalena & Louie & wife Charlotte

Lou John by his children

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Dennis R. Magruder Sr., by his wife, children & grandchildren

Bob Saseen by Fran & children

Joseph Linton by his son Mike Linton

Dr. Adel Frenn & Elias Frenn & Jim Thomas by Diane, Andreah & Justin Frenn

Women's Society Monthly 50/50 Raffle (Drawing: Sunday, June 28)

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 **for the June 50/50 Raffle Tickets** are provided at the church entrance and in the Weekly Church Bulletins will take place in the Cedar Hall after Mass on **Sunday, June 28**.

Please check the ticket sheets carefully to be sure you are completing the correct ticket stubs. All raffle tickets are now printed on white paper only. 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 May 50/50 winner of \$80: Eric Seabright of Morgantown, grandson of Mary Lish.

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

Please Remember Those Hospitalized Recently In Your Prayers:

Mary Piko, Donald Gibbons,

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

Jo Anne Reed (sister of Sue Brubach and Roberta Henning), Bill Reed (brother-in-law of Sue Brubach & Roberta Henning), Stella Korpita (friend of Roberta Henning), Rosella Saseen, Evelyn Goodson, Barb Sobota, Rosalie Conti, Laura & Marion Wellman, 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)

Happy Birthday

June 8:	Patty Olinski
June 9:	Ava DeMuth
June 11:	Allison Duffy
June 12:	Marcia Laughlin
June 14:	P.J. Lenz
June 15:	Becky Joseph Ferrera
June 20:	Nick Ghaphery, Jr.
June 22:	Michael Carl
June 23:	Laura Wellman, Mary Beth Weisner, Dave Laughlin
June 27:	Fred Shia, Lindsay Lenz, Peggy Justice, Seth George
June 29:	Phyllis Lewandowski

Your Church Support Last Week

959	Collection
80	Fundraising (50/50)
271	Utilities
36	Candles
40	Parking
802	Spaghetti Dinner
27	Reimbursement
850	Mahrajan (Ad Book)
200	Mahrajan (Table reservations)
1,060	Parking Lot Paving Fund
4,325	Total. May God reward you many fold

What's New?

Please, Please, Please!!!!

Dear Offering Envelope Holders,

Please don't use scotch tape when closing your envelopes. It hinders our job when opening them. They are designed to close easily when you wet the edge. Thank you for your understanding. -- Fr. Bakhos

New Baby Congratulations

Our warmest wishes and congratulations go to Josie & Mark Fertig on the birth of their daughter Berkley Abigail who was born on May 28th. Berkley is the granddaughter of parishioners Bill & Mary Stees and great-granddaughter of Elizabeth A. Magnone. May the Blessed Mother grant her a healthy life and bright future.

Congratulations Graduates

Ryan William Storm, was graduated May 16th from West Virginia University, (Magna Cum Laude) with a BS in Business Administration majoring in Accounting and Management Information Systems with a minor in Athletic Coaching earning a certificate in Coaching. He is the son of Bill & Adele Storm & grandson of parishioner Chamse Rahi.

Emmaus Meeting Held at OLOL

Fr. Bakhos hosted the June Emmaus meeting held at Our Lady of Lebanon Church during which he discussed the different rites of the Catholic Church and gave a tour of the new Cedar Hall and newly painted church. If you would like to join the group for a future event, call Rose Marie Carroll at 304-277-1188.

A Note of Thanks:

Dear Father,

Thank you so much for hosting the presentation of the Maronite Catholic Rite. We are so blessed to have Our Lady of Lebanon Church and you in our city. God bless you always Father.

--The Emmaus Group, St. Joseph Cathedral

Wisdom: The Buzzard, the Bat and the Bumblebee

THE BUZZARD:

If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of 10 to 12 feet. Without space to run, as is its habit, it will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

THE BAT:

The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkable nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

THE BUMBLEBEE:

A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

PEOPLE:

In many ways, we are like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. We struggle about with all our problems and frustrations, never realizing that all we have to do is look up! Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, but faith looks up! Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly and trust in our Creator who loves us.

Maronites = Catholics of the East

A Maronite Role in Lebanon

The Effective Syrian Occupation of Lebanon - The War Legacy.

Through a series of treaties entered into by the government of Elias Hrawi in May 1991 and supplemented by Prime Minister Salim el Hoss during the Fall of 1999, Lebanese security, military, diplomatic and foreign policy has been ostensibly turned over to Syrian control and direction. Though the treaties call for "coordination" between the two governments, the reality is that Syria effectively occupies and controls Lebanon. It appears that any "coordination" between the governments requires that Syrian interests be met first. If any trading space remains, then and only then are Lebanese interests considered or accommodated.

The Lebanese have been left out of the loop in the managing of their nation's international affairs for a number of reasons. First, because the Maronites remain divided. Washington places a premium on being able to deal with a party that can produce results and Assad has shown himself to be a person on whom the Americans can rely for results. The Israelis have a similar view of Assad, as a person who can deliver. If he can deliver peace with two countries, his own as well as Lebanon, then he is twice as valuable to the Americans and Israelis. Second, there is no person within the Lebanese government, with whom the Americans deal, who can deliver results for the Americans. American diplomats believe the problem is that there is no "go to guy." Therefore through a combination of abdication by Lebanese authority and usurpation by Syrian authority, the fate of Lebanon in the Middle East Peace process has been left in the hands of non-Lebanese.

This is the recent history of the Republic of Lebanon. Maronite Christians, who played such an essential role in the creation of the modern state and a leadership role through much of its history, after years of struggle to maintain its power within the country, face the current reality:

- 1- A divided community represented by only a few of its elements, some of whom, for mere personal gain, have handed over an entire community to outside hegemony.
- 2- A state in which no indigenous Lebanese constituency has sufficient credibility to manage the affairs of the Lebanese Republic in a way as to maintain internal stability and to make and keep international agreements.
- 3- One of the principle legacies of past Arab Israeli Wars, that being the creation of Palestinian Refugees, is most strongly felt by the Lebanese which is host to 342,121 refugees in a country of only 3.5 million resident Lebanese, or 1 Palestinian refugee for every 5 resident Lebanese citizens. Only Jordan hosts a higher number of refugees per capita, and no other country hosts as many Palestinian refugees in terms of density (per square kilometer). In Lebanon the rate is 57/sq.km, while in Jordan, which admittedly hosts the greatest absolute number of refugees, the rate is only 13/sq. km. (Statistics according to UNRWA as of 12/31/94) A little publicized fact concerns Lebanese citizens as refugees within their own country. A study commissioned by the Maronite League of Lebanon reported in February 1998 that there were 70,735 households displaced; representing approximately 400,000 Lebanese citizens.
- 4- Syria ultimately succeeded in destroying Lebanese independence and winning control of the Lebanese government.
- 5- The Lebanese economy is subject to exploitation by neighboring Syria as a result of various treaties and protocols into which the government of Syria has entered with its proxies in control of the Lebanese government. The Lebanese labor markets are flush with low wage Syrian workers. Syria maintains a customs office at the port of Beirut. The infrastructure of the two states have, or are in the process of merging, in terms of power grids, fiber optic cables connecting telephone service and data service as well as water resources. Travel between the two countries no longer requires a visa or a passport thus diminishing the significance of an international border between the two states for commerce as well as tourism purposes.

(To be continued in the next bulletin)

The Life of Pope Benedict XVI

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI, was born at Markl am Inn, Diocese of Passau in Germany on April 16, 1927. He was born on Holy Saturday and baptized that same day. His father was a policeman from Lower Bavaria and his mother the daughter of artisans from Rimsting.

Joseph spent his childhood and adolescence in Traunstein, a small village near the Austrian border. His youthful years were difficult. His faith and the education he received at home helped to prepare him for the harsh years during which the Nazi regime gained power and was hostile to the Catholic Church. Many times, young Joseph witnessed Catholic parish priests being beaten before the celebration of Mass.

It was during this time that he discovered the beauty and truth of faith in Christ, as he saw his family continue to practice Catholicism, even in the midst of these dangerous times. During the last months of the war, he was forced to enroll in the auxiliary anti-aircraft troops (the Flak).

In September of 1944, having reached military age, Joseph was released from the Flak and in November, he was required to start basic training for the German infantry.

In the spring of 1945, as the Allied forces were closing in, Joseph left the military and returned home to his family. When the American forces finally made it to his city, they established an operations center in the Ratzinger home and, identifying Joseph as a German soldier, held him as a prisoner of war. On June 19 of that same year he was freed and returned to his home in Traunstein. His brother, George, also returned home and together they reentered the seminary.

On June 29, 1951, Joseph and his brother George were ordained to the priesthood on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. Joseph received his doctorate in Theology in 1953 and taught theology at the universities at Bonn, Munster and Tübingen for the next 10 years. He was made Archbishop of Munich and Freising on March 25, 1977, by Pope Paul VI. He was the first Diocesan priest in 80 years to take on the task of leading this huge Bavarian Archdiocese. He was made Cardinal in June of that same year.

Cardinal Ratzinger began his service to the Vatican in 1962 as an expert theological advisor. In the following years, he continued to write major theological works, including the journal "Communio" and his articles "Introduction to Christianity" and "Dogma and Preaching."

He was part of the conclaves that elected both Pope John Paul I and Pope John Paul II. Pope John Paul II named him Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 1981 and made him Bishop in 1993. He continued to serve the Vatican in a variety of capacities and was finally elected Dean of the School of Cardinals in 2002. He held this vital position until he was elected Pope in 2005.

Joke (545)

Killer in the Cure

A medical student was doing a rotation in toxicology at the poison control center. A woman called in and was quite upset. She had caught her little daughter eating ants.

The medical student quickly reassured her that ants are not harmful and there would be no need to bring her daughter into the hospital. The woman calmed down and at the end of the conversation happened to mention that she had taken precautions and had given her daughter some ant poison to eat to make sure the ants were dead.

The medical student told the woman to bring her daughter to the emergency room – ***right away!***

Toothbrush Hygiene

A little boy came out of the bathroom screaming. He ran to his mother and told her that he had dropped his toothbrush in the toilet.

His mother fished the toothbrush out of the toilet and threw it in the garbage. The boy watched carefully as his mother did this. He then ran to his mother's bathroom and came back with her toothbrush.

He held the toothbrush up for his mother to see and then told her, "We had better throw this one away too; it fell in the toilet a few days ago."