

September 6, 2009
Bulletin # 36

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)

Nativity of the Virgin Mary



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
 - *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 304-277-3230, Linda Duffy 304-242-6853, Tom George 304-336-7142, P.J. Lenz 304-242-5606 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 304-242-6853
 - *Women's Society: Sandra Dusick, President 304-232-7395
- ☩ ☩ ☩ ☩ ☩ ☩ ☩
- *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 – both parking lots are for parishioners; Monday through Friday – park ONLY in the 3 ALLEY spaces

Gospel Reflection: Nativity of the Virgin Mary

Readings: James 1:9-18 and Lk 8:16-21

As to the place of the birth of Our Blessed Lady, there are three different traditions to be considered. First, the event has been placed in Bethlehem.. A second tradition placed the birth of Our Blessed Lady in Sephoris, about three miles north of Bethlehem, the Roman Diocaesarea, and the residence of Herod Antipas until late in the life of Our Lord. The antiquity of this opinion may be inferred from the fact that under Constantine a church was erected in Sephoris to commemorate the residence of Joachim and Anna in that place. The third tradition, that Mary was born in Jerusalem, is the most probable one. We have seen that it rests upon the testimony of St. Sophronius, St. John Damascene, and upon the evidence of the recent finds in the Probatia. The Feast of Our Lady's Nativity was not celebrated in Rome until toward the end of the seventh century; but two sermons found among the writings of St. Andrew of Crete (d.680) suppose the existence of this feast, and lead one to suspect that it was introduced at an earlier date into some other churches. In 799 the 10th Canon of the Synod of Salzburg prescribes four feasts in honor of the Mother of God: the Purification, February 2; the Annunciation, March 25; the Assumption, August 15; the Nativity, September 8.

The Presentation of Mary

According to Exodus 13:2 and 13:12, all the Hebrew first-born male children had to be presented in the Temple. Such a law would lead pious Jewish parents to observe the same religious rite with regard to other favorite children. This inclines one to believe that Joachim and Anna presented in the Temple their child, which they had obtained by their long, fervent prayers.

As to Mary, St. Luke (1:34) tells us that she answered the angel announcing the birth of Jesus Christ: "how shall this be done, because I know not man." These words can hardly be understood, unless we assume that Mary had made a vow of virginity; for, when she spoke them, she was betrothed to St. Joseph. The most opportune occasion for such a vow was her presentation in the Temple. As some of the Fathers admit that the faculties of St. John the Baptist were prematurely developed by a special intervention of God's power, we may admit a similar grace for the child of Joachim and Anna.

But what has been said does not exceed the certainty of antecedently probable pious conjectures. The consideration that Our Lord could not have refused His Blessed Mother any favors which depended merely on His munificence does not exceed the value of an *a priori* argument. Certainty in this question must depend on external testimony and the teaching of the Church.

Now, the writing entitled "De nativitate Mariae," state that Joachim and Anna, faithful to a vow they had made, presented the child Mary in the Temple when she was three years old; that the child herself mounted the Temple steps, and that she made her vow of virginity on this occasion. St. Gregory of Nyssa and St. Germanus of Constantinople adopt this report; it is also followed by pseudo-Gregory of Nazianzus in his "Christus patiens." Moreover, the Church celebrates the Feast of Presentation, though it does not specify at what age the child Mary was presented in the Temple, when she made her vow of virginity, and what were the special natural and supernatural gifts with which God endowed her. The feast is mentioned for the first time in 1166. From Constantinople the feast must have been introduced into the western Church, where we find it at the papal court at Avignon in 1371. About a century later, Pope Sixtus IV introduced the Office of the Presentation, and in 1585 Pope Sixtus V extended the Feast of the Presentation to the whole Church.

Her Betrothal to Joseph

Mary remained in the Temple after her presentation in order to be educated with other Jewish children. There she enjoyed ecstatic visions and daily visits of the holy angels.

When she was fourteen, the high priest wished to send her home for marriage. Mary reminded him of her vow of virginity, and in his embarrassment the high priest consulted the Lord. Then he called all the young men of the family of David, and promised Mary in marriage to him whose rod should sprout and become the resting place of the Holy Spirit in form of a dove. It was Joseph who was privileged in this extraordinary way.

The emperor Justinian allowed a basilica to be built on the platform of the former Temple in memory of Our Lady's stay in the sanctuary; the church was called the New St. Mary's so as to distinguish it from the Church of the Nativity.

Jewish maidens were considered marriageable at the age of twelve years and six months, though the actual age of the bride varied with circumstances. The marriage was preceded by the betrothal, after which the bride legally belonged to the bridegroom, though she did not live with him till about a year later, when the marriage used to be celebrated. All this agrees well with the language of the Evangelists. St. Luke (1:27) calls Mary "a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph." St. Matthew (1:18) says, when as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child, of the Holy Spirit." As we know of no brother of Mary, we must suppose that she was an heiress, and was obliged by the law of Numbers 36:6 to marry a member of her tribe. The Law itself prohibited marriage within certain degrees of relationship, so that the marriage of even an heiress was left more or less to choice.

According to Jewish custom, the union between Joseph and Mary had to be arranged by the parents of St. Joseph. One might ask why Mary consented to her betrothal, though she was bound by her vow of virginity. As she had obeyed God's inspiration in making her vow, so she obeyed God's inspiration in becoming the affianced bride of Joseph. Besides, it would have been singular among the Jews to refuse betrothal or marriage; for all the Jewish maidens aspired after marriage as the accomplishment of a natural duty. Mary trusted the Divine guidance implicitly, and thus was certain that her vow would be kept even in her married state.

Mary Our Mother

Jesus Christ is the only Mediator, but depending on Jesus, Mary can help us understand and reach the mediation of Her Son. Mary leads us to God. She is not the mediator that God has placed between Himself and mankind. On the contrary, Mary is the means He took so that the human race, through Jesus, can reach God directly.

There is only one mediator, Jesus Christ, and this mediator does not need to be completed by anyone. However, there is an essential element of the mediation of Christ, and that is Mary, who is "full of grace."

The mediation of Mary is intimately connected with the mediation of Christ because Mary is the mother of Christ and the spiritual mother of all people. Thanks to Our Lady, the mediation of Jesus is perfect from the human side. "The maternal duty of Mary toward men in no way obscures or diminishes this unique mediation of Christ, but rather shows its power. All the saving influences of the Blessed Virgin on men originate from the divine pleasure. They flow forth from the superabundance of the merits of Christ, rest on His mediation, depend entirely on it and draw all their power from it. In no way do they impede the immediate union of the faithful with Christ" (The Second Vatican Council decree on The Church no. 60).

No creature could ever be considered equal to the Incarnate Word and Redeemer, but just as the priesthood of Christ is shared in various ways both by sacred ministers and by the faithful, and the one goodness of God is in reality communicated diversely to His creatures, so too, the unique mediation of the Redeemer does not exclude, but rather gives rise among creatures to a manifold cooperation which is but a sharing in this unique mediation. The Church does not hesitate to profess this subordinate role of Mary. She experiences it continuously and commends it to the hearts of the faithful, so that encouraged by this maternal help they may more closely adhere to "the Mediator and Redeemer" (The Church n. 62).

At the Wedding of Cana in Galilee, Mary contributed to the beginning of Jesus' miracles before His time had come. There she asked her Son to apply publicly the fruits of the Redemption, and she revealed Him to the world as Messiah, the Son of God. This miracle pre-figured the Eucharist: a mysterious transformation. Water was changed to wine and the words of Mary echo for all eternity in the churches: "Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5). Mary also prefigures our Lord's words "Do this in memory of me until I come again" (Anaphora of the Twelve Apostles).

The Gospel's description of the miracle at Cana outlines what is actually a "new kind of motherhood," even before Jesus gives her to us at the Cross in the presence of John, a motherhood according to the spirit and not just according to the flesh. This new motherhood is Mary's solicitude for mankind. "The maternity of Mary is like a 'relation' of inclusion of the Son in humanity, a 'relation' which contains in itself the possibility of our inclusion also in the Son" (Mother of the Redeemer, n. 45). Mary is, therefore, in the plan of salvation and in human history, the one who accomplished a 'recapitulation' of Eve, who brought

shame. Mary in turn brought glory. This redemptive work is proper to the Holy Spirit in the plan of the Trinity. Thus, there is a special assimilation of Mary to the Holy Spirit.

The gesture at Cana has a symbolic value as well: her coming to the aid of people in need, yet at the same time bringing those needs within the radius of Christ's messianic mission and salvific power. This is true mediation, for "Mary places herself between her Son and mankind in the reality of their wants, needs and sufferings – in the middle, that is to say, she acts as mediatrix, not an outsider, in her position as Mother" (Mother of the Redeemer n. 46).

Saint John of Damascus says of Mary. "You lived not for yourself, for you were not born for your own sake. You lived for God, for whose sake you came into this life so that you might serve the salvation of the whole world, that God's will may be fulfilled, and that the Word might become flesh so that we might become divinized."
--By Archbishop Francis M. Zayek

Mass Intentions

THIS WEEKEND, September 5-6: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday, September 5: *(Mass will be preceded by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament)*

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

At 4:00 p.m.:

John F. Kukula (on his Anniversary) by his wife Mary Rose Kukula

Special Intention

Sunday, September 6 at 10:30 a.m.: *(Mass will be followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament)*

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

Ghaphery Family by the Ghaphery Family

Martha Ruggiero by Fr. Bakhos

Weekday Masses

Monday, September 7: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Tuesday, September 8: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Wednesday, September 9 at Noon:

Intentions of Don Fielding (FL)

Adib & Sadie Chidiac (parents) & Mona Chidiac (sister) by Fr. Bakhos

Thursday, September 10 at Noon:

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

Walter Elwartoski & Mary Piko by Lottie & Rich Elwartoski

Friday, September 11 at Noon:

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

Adib & Sadie Chidiac (parents) & Mona Chidiac (sister) by Fr. Bakhos

NEXT WEEKEND, September 12-13: Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Saturday, September 12 at 4:00 p.m.:

Allen "Sam" Banker by Eva Lee Powell

Adib & Sadie Chidiac (parents) & Mona Chidiac (sister) by Fr. Bakhos

Sunday, September 13 at 10:30 a.m.:

Dale Seidler Sr., by his wife Nettie & Family

Nabiha & Habib Khourey by Virginia Khourey Bryan

Donate to the Church Maintenance Fund

Help with the Endowment Fund to Keep Our Church Open and Active (Total Raised: \$1,365.00)

Please donate toward the Endowment Fund CD account that is meant exclusively for our church maintenance for the years to come. Only the yearly interest will be withdrawn and spent to pay for church utilities and general maintenance. All benefactors will be enrolled in the daily Mass offering. Please put into writing in your will the following 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, Phone (304) 233-1688. 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. They will be remembered in every Mass: *Bill & Mary Stees (\$200), Tom Ferris (\$275), Sylvia Long (\$100), Catherine Arthur (Memorial) (\$100), Women's Society total Fundraising (\$690),*

Donate to Our Parish Families Assistance Fund

A special account called "**Parish Families Assistance Fund**" had been opened to help exclusively the families of our parish who are in dire need. You can make a donation to the church earmarked toward the "Poor of the Parish" or drop your donation in the Poor Box located at the back of the church. The Poor Box money located at the back of the church will be divided between the poor of our parish and the "Poor of Wheeling" through cooperative effort with the 18th Street Catholic Neighborhood Charity center. All donations are tax exempt. May God reward those who share their blessings with the brothers and sisters of the Lord.

Our Lady of Lebanon Community Calendar

Date	Event
Sunday, September 13	Women's Society (Special Menu Meeting) – <i>after 10:30 a.m. Mass</i>
Monday, September 14	Cedar Club Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – <i>in our church Basement Hall</i>
Thursday, September 17	First Communion – <i>from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.</i> Arabic Language Classes – <i>from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.</i>
Thursday, September 24	Confirmation – <i>from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.</i> Bible Study – <i>from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.</i>
Sunday, September 27	Women's Society Meeting & 50/50 Raffle Drawing – <i>after 10:30 a.m. Mass</i>
Sunday, October 4	Spaghetti Dinner – <i>11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.</i>
Sunday, October 4	Women's Society Gift Basket Drawing – <i>at Spaghetti Dinner</i>
Sunday, November 29	Parish Christmas Party – <i>5:30 to 9:30 p.m. – see note below</i>



Other Church Events

Cedar Club News (Meeting: Monday, September 14th, at 7:00 p.m.)

The Cedar Club meetings will resume on Monday, September 14th, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the old Basement Hall. Our mission is to organize and provide family fun-filled events that foster a spirit of fellowship and friendship within the parish community. We welcome new members (both male and female) to join us as we start planning the activities schedule for the upcoming year. Refreshments will be served.

Officers are: President – Linda Duffy; Vice President – Luane Frazier; Secretary – Shirley George; Treasurer – Nini Miller; Special Events Coordinators – Nini Miller and Danielle Lavoie; The Cedar Club Newsletter Editor – Susan John.

2009 Fall Classes Start Thursday, September 17th and 24th

Please call Fr. Bakhos at 304-233-1688 to register for any of the following classes scheduled this Fall. Each will meet every other week as follows:

Thursday, September 17th:

4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.: First Communion (??)

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.: Arabic Language (*Lou, Emmalena & Louie Khourey, Kim Gibbons, Dalton Haas, Linda Duffy, Luane Frazier, Thomasina Geimer and ???*)

Thursday, September 24th:

4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.: Confirmation (??)

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.: Bible Study (*Nikki Popovich, and ??*)

Vacation Days for Fr. Bakhos

Friday, September 18th. No Mass. One day of vacation.

Friday, September 25th. No Mass. One day of vacation.

Lebanese Folklore Dance Troupe "Dabke" Classes Forming

Our Lady of Lebanon Church is willing to establish a Lebanese Folkloric Dance Troupe under the guidance of trainer, Natalie Committee. The troupe will be able to perform at our 2010 Mahrajan and at local events in the greater Wheeling area. Fr. Bakhos is willing to order a traditional folkloric costume from Lebanon for each age. Please register first by calling Fr. Bakhos at 304-233-1688. Training day and time will be decided when 6 or more candidates have expressed interest.

Dance Troupe students: *Emmalena & Louie Khourey, ??*

Women's Society Monthly 50/50 Raffle (after Mass: Sunday, September 27)

The Women's Society continues to sponsor the Monthly 50/50 Raffle. Tickets cost \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Proceeds now will benefit the maintenance of our church through the "Endowment Fund."

The drawing from entries received **for the September 50/50 Raffle Tickets**, which will be provided at the church entrance and in the weekly Church Bulletins, will take place in the Cedar Hall after Mass on **Sunday, September 27.**

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 August 50/50 winner of \$80.00: Latif Thomas (PA).

Fall Spaghetti Dinner (Sunday, October 4th, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Save Sunday, October 4, on your calendar so you can come to enjoy the Fall Spaghetti Dinner at our beautiful Cedar Hall. 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. **Please note that this fall the dinner will end at 5:00 p.m.**

Parish Council has decided that because of the current economic situation, our church is not in a position to lose by preparing too much food for an uncertain number of people attending the dinner. We encourage you to buy your tickets in advance and help us to have a more accurate count of meals for which we will place our food orders and prepare food. Therefore, prices are as follows:

\$7.00 Adults; \$4.00 Children (under 12) for Advance Tickets Sales – if PAID by September 30th

\$8.00 Adults; \$5.00 Children (under 12) for Late Ticket Sales – if PAID October 1st thru 4th

(Late ticket sales includes ALL at-the-door payments)

To purchase tickets in advance, contact one of our parishioners or mail your payment and ticket(s) request to the church. Only a limited number of tickets will be available for purchase at the door.

Menu: spaghetti & meatballs or marinara sauce, salad, roll, dessert & choice of coffee, ice tea or lemonade.

Advance Ticket Sales by Parishioners: If you are able & willing to help sell tickets to make our dinner a success, please pick up a packet of tickets from our Church office. **Unsold tickets & payments must be returned by Sunday, September 27.**

Baked Goods Needed for Sale: Parishioners are 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, Lebanese specialty, etc.

Desserts Needed for Eat-In Dinners: Parishioners are being asked to also bake and donate a dessert for use at the dinner so that we may offer a variety of choices to go with the meal (*take-out desserts are already arranged*). **Drop off of Baked Goods and Eat-In Desserts:** Saturday, October 3th, before 4:00 p.m. Mass or Sunday, October 4th, after 10:00 a.m.

Women's Society Gift Basket Raffle (*Drawing: Sunday, October 4*)

The Women's Society's next Gift Basket Raffle – held on Sunday, October 4th, at the Spaghetti Dinner. It will featuring many items to help you create your own "Kitchen Magic." This Gift Basket contains: *a beautiful, idea-filled "Bake Sale" Cookbook, Chef Mate mini food processor, tri-color pasta, a grater, pasta sauce, kitchen shears, a spoon rest, soup mix, a bread platter, wooden spoons, spatula, measuring cups, kitchen towels, stainless steel tongs, an ice cream scoop, and a bottle of Sangria and more.*

The Gift Basket Raffle proceeds benefit the maintenance of our church through the "Endowment Fund." **Won't you take a chance ... or two ... or eighteen!** 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.**

All Gift Basket and 50/50 Raffle Tickets are now printed on white paper in the bulletins so please check the ticket sheets carefully to be sure you are completing the correct ticket stubs. 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 Gift Basket Raffle on the "Memo" line of your check when you mail it to: Our Lady of Lebanon Church, 2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003. Tickets are available now at the church entrance and in our weekly Bulletins or call Kay at 304-232-0492.

Winner of the August basket was Mary Custer. Congratulations.

Christmas Party (*Sunday, November 29th, from 5:30 until 9:30 p.m.*)

Singer George Suhon is booked to entertain our parishioners on Sunday, November 29th, from 5:30 until 9:30 p.m. in the Cedar Hall. Read more details in upcoming bulletins.

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

Please Remember Those Hospitalized Recently In Your Prayers:

Sandra Dusick, Frank Lish, Millie Hoskinson, Pat McNeil (FL) niece of Kay Garvey

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

Rosella Saseen, Barb Sobota, Laura 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 & Pat (brother & mother of Dr. Rob Vawter)

Happy Birthday

September 8:	Carol Dougherty
September 9:	Gary Weisner, Barb Sobota, Patrick Stees
September 10:	Christopher R. George
September 12:	Bernard Olako, Danielle Lavoie
September 13:	Aaron Olinski
September 15:	Ted Olinski
September 17:	Bill Bang III

Your Church Support Last Week

\$1,361	Collection
22	Candles
401	Utilities
620	Parking
3	Fundraising
80	Reimbursement
690	Donations to Church
29	Mahrajan (food sales after Mahrajan)
176	Donation to Endowment Fund by the Women Society (<i>Gift Basket: \$95; & 50/50 Raffle: \$81</i>)
\$3,382	Total. May God reward you many fold

What's New?

Congratulations on Your Baptism

Joshua & Ingrid Hendrickson granted to their daughter Marie Gabriella the honor to be the adopted daughter of God through the sacrament of Baptism, last Sunday, August 30th, at Our Lady of Lebanon Church. Godparents were: **David White and Erin Board**. After the Baptism, a reception was held at the house of the parents for the family and friends. May **Mary, the Mother of God**, the patron saint of **Marie Gabriella**, protect her and grant her along with her parents, godparents, and grandparents, good health and bright future.

Parish Condolences: Mary Piko

The pastor and the parishioners of Our Lady of Lebanon Church, Wheeling, offer their heartfelt sympathy to the Piko family on the loss of their beloved **Mary** who passed away in Wheeling, **last week**. Fr. Bakhos concelebrated the Funeral Mass at St. Alphonsus Church on Monday, August 31st, at 10:00 a.m. May the Almighty God grant repose of the soul to His handmaid **Mary** and we extend the parish's condolences to her Family in their time of sorrow.

Lamb Shish Kebab and Other Mahrajan Food for Sale

If you would like to purchase some Mahrajan food items, which are frozen, and at the same time help our church recover the expense for this item, please ask Fr. after Mass or call the church office at 304-233-1688. Items available for sale include: **Shish Kebab**: \$17 pkg. of 5 skewers; **Cabbage Rolls** (extra lg.): \$8.00 pkg. of 6 **or** \$15.00 a dozen; **Spinach Pies**: \$2.00 each **or** \$7.00 pkg. of 4; **Zattar Bread**: \$1.50 pkg. of 2; **Pita Bread**: \$3.00 pkg. of 10 lg.; **Wheat** (#1 fine and #2 medium): \$3.50 pkg. of 2 lb.

Many Thanks...

...Many thanks to an anonymous generous parishioner for sponsoring one of the hand dryers for our restrooms and also to Paul & Irene Schuler for sponsoring the second hand dryer.

Around Us

Shopping and a Show in New York City (October 9th to 11th)

What: Join Wheeling Symphony Auxiliary members on a Bus Trip to NYC to eat, drink and shop 'til-you-drop or take in a Broadway Show
(*"Jersey Boy" 2 p.m. show tickets available for our group for an extra discounted price of \$106*)

When: Bus leaves the First State Capitol building 10 p.m. Friday, October 9th, arrives NYC about 7 a.m. Saturday, October 10th; returns to Wheeling about 6 a.m. Sunday morning, October 11th

Cost: \$99 person covers bus trip, snacks and drinks. Make reservations now. Payment due ASAP

Contact: Barbara Knutsen at 304-215-0522; 304-242-3133 or email: barbaraknutsen@hotmail.com

Wisdom: Explanation of God

(THIS ONE IS FABULOUS!!! It was written by an 8 year old, Danny Dutton of Chula Vista, CA, for his third grade homework assignment. The assignment was to explain God.)

EXPLANATION GOD

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth.

He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because He hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless He has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your Mom and Dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church. Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him. But He was good and kind, like His Father and He told His Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K. His Dad (God) appreciated everything that He had done and all His hard work on earth so He told Him He didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So He did. And now He helps His Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important. You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church or do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach.

This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases.

And... that's why I believe in God.

Maronites = Catholics of the East

Who were the Lebanese in the USA?

The first Lebanese immigrant to come to the United States was a native of Salima near Beirut, an Antoun al-Bishallany, who was influenced by the work and teaching of the early American Missionaries in Lebanon. He landed in Boston in 1854 to study for missionary work under the auspices of American Missions.

Despite being an avid student, he succumbed to illness only two years later and died in New York at the young age of 29. In 1865 Sarkees Abraham, a Lebanese youth of 22, landed in New Orleans and over a period of 2 1/2 years made his way on foot to Philadelphia. Several years later other Lebanese immigrants arrived in New Orleans and followed in Sarkees' footsteps north to Pennsylvania.

The earliest family to come to America from Lebanon was that of the learned Dr. Joseph Arbeely, a scholar and educator, who at one time had served as President of the Patriarchal College in Damascus. After the Druze massacre of Christians in 1860, which he miraculously survived, he moved with his entire family from Damascus to Beirut, where he lived more securely until 1878, when he decided to emigrate to America to provide a better and safer life for his children. He arrived in New York in 1878 with his wife, niece and six sons. Two of his sons, Abraham and Fudlallah, were doctors; one, Khalil, was a druggist, and another, Najeeb, was a college teacher of French. His two youngest sons, Habeeb and Nasseem, later founded the first Arabic newspaper in the new world, *Kowkab Amerika*, or the *Star of America*.

Another notable early immigrant, Amin G. Beder, left his native Shweir in Lebanon in 1886 and settled in New York. Though poverty-stricken and with only a smattering of Arabic, he was determined to acquire a college education. After studying enough English to qualify for admission to St. Lawrence departmental honors in English!

In 1905, following the mercantile instincts of many of his fellow Lebanese Americans, Beder established Amin Beder & Co., a business firm dealing in Oriental goods such as laces, embroideries, needle work and white goods. In a few years Beder's firm became one of the most prosperous and successful businesses in America, importing and selling Oriental goods on a worldwide scale.

Another early immigrant, Betrus Saad, after hearing glowing accounts about America from a neighbor in Lebanon, left his native village of Baskinta for the United States in 1888. Accompanied by three other young fellow-Baskintans, the foursome left Lebanon and traveled together through Paris, Dublin and Belfast, and finally arrived in New York. There they arranged immediately to travel farther on a peddling expedition through the United States that was to last three years. The four peddlers loaded themselves with religious articles, handkerchiefs, linens, table cloths and other sundry dry goods items, then proceeded to travel, mostly on foot, and peddled their goods from one community to another.

While traveling through the Mohawk Valley in upper New York State, the quartet stopped in Utica, where a small Lebanese colony was already established, and while awaiting the slow arrival of some dry goods items from New York City, they decided to stay in Utica for the winter and to study English in evening school.

Following this sojourn in Utica and fortified by their better command of English, the foursome resumed their travels westward, going on as far as California and then returning east again to New York, where they settled permanently. Later in New York City Betrus Saad invested some of his peddling earnings in a banking business. For many years he operated jointly with his brothers the successful banking firm of Betrus Saad & Brothers on Washington Street of New York City.

Before the turn of the century, Michael Shadid came as an immigrant from Mount Lebanon to Elk City, Oklahoma. Like many of his fellow-countrymen, he started to peddle jewelry and managed to save in a short time \$5,000 for his medical education. After graduating from medical college, he became one of the first American-trained physicians of Lebanese background. After several years of successful medical practice, he established the first cooperative hospital in the United States, which provided inexpensive medical care to the poor. He wrote a book about his medical experiences entitled "Doctor for the People."

Abraham Mitre Rihbany was another early Lebanese immigrant who arrived in New York City in 1891 like many others, destitute and illiterate, and became a well-known minister in Boston and a widely-traveled lecturer and writer in the United States. He wrote several popular books, the best known being "A Far Journey" and "The Syrian Christ." The former is a colorful autobiographical sketch of the author, describing the many obstacles he incurred and surmounted in his odyssey from ancient Mount Lebanon to his new home and ministerial career in America, while the latter book describes with feeling a Near Eastern Christian's strong commitment to his faith and its exemplification in his daily living and habits of speech.

Naoum Mokarzel was an early nationally-known Lebanese American publisher. He started publication of *A1-Hoda* (The Guidance) in Philadelphia in 1898. He moved the paper in 1903 to New York, where he was

joined by his brother Salloum. Al-Hoda was the first paper to use Arabic characters in a linotype machine, replacing type-setting by hand. The paper was strongly anti-Ottoman and promoted the independence of Lebanon from Turkey. It was also a strong supporter of the Arabic reawakening in the Near East and stirred considerable interest throughout America in Arabic letters and culture.

Salloum Mokarzel was not only co-publisher of Al-Hoda with his brother Naoum but also he was an avid and inspired writer. Among his works were *The History of Syrian Business Among Immigrants in America, 1920-1921*, *The History of Syrian Trade in the American Colonies* and *The Story of Lebanon and Its Emigrants*. Also, he joined with H.E Otash in 1908 to compile the First Edition of *The Syrian Business Directory* and wrote a *History of the Syrians in New York City* for the New York American newspaper in October of 1927.

Khalil Gibran (1883-1931) was the best known of the early Lebanese immigrants who came to America. The author of the widely-read philosophical poem, "The Prophet," arrived in Boston in 1895 as a poor and illiterate lad of twelve. He showed an early talent for drawing, which was recognized by American teachers and friends. He was encouraged and assisted to develop this ability and eventually he found success as a popular artist. Later, under the tutelage of an American educator friend, Mary Haskell, he began to write poetry in English and turned his attention particularly to philosophical prose poems, parables and precepts. His books were illustrated with his own artistic drawings. Gibran wrote in both Arabic and English. Among his works written originally in Arabic are: *Nymphs of the Valley*, *Spirits Rebellious*, *Broken Wings*, *Tears and Laughter*, *The Procession*, *The Tempests*, *Best Things*, *Spiritual Sayings*, *The Spikes of Grain*. Among his works written originally in English are: *The Madman*, *The Forerunner*, *The Prophet*, *Sand and Foam*, *Jesus the Son of Man*, *The Earth Gods*, *The Wanderer*, and *The Garden of the Prophet*. Gibran's writing career spanned the quarter century between 1906 and 1931. His last two books, *The Wanderer* and *The Garden of the Prophet*, were published posthumously. His most famous work, *The Prophet*, was published in 1923.

Among other early Lebanese American writers who are worthy of mention are the other members of the New York Pen League, whose leading light and most distinguished member was Khalil Gibran. These included: Naseeb Arida, a poet and publisher of the works of the Pen League in a literary journal called *Al-Fanun* (The Arts). Abdal-Masih Haddad, who published a semi-literary paper called *AlSayeh* (The Traveler). Iliyya Abu Madi, publisher of the magazine *Al-Sameer* (The Entertainer).

Mikhail Naimy, a native of Baskinta, poet and organizer of the Pen League, studied at the Russian Teacher's Institute in Nazareth, Palestine, at the Theological Seminary in Poltava, the Ukraine, at the University of Washington in Seattle, USA, and at the University of Rennes in France. Among his voluminous writings are: *The Frozen River* (a poem), *A Dawn of Hope after a Night of Despair* (an article that appeared in *Al-Fanun*), *Fathers and Sons*, *Memoirs of a Vagrant Soul*, *Hunger* (first English poem), *Food for the Godward Journey* (a collection of lectures), *Once Upon a Time* (a collection of short stories), *Eyelid Whisperings* (a collection of poems), *The Idols*, *The Book of Mirdad* (first English work), *Gibran, A Biography*, *A Straw in the Wind* (a collection of lectures), *Pathways* (a collection of essays), *The Man with the Fat Calf* (short stories), *The Last Day*, *Job* (a 4-act play), *Oh Son of Adam* (a novel), *The Complete Works* (10 volumes).

Ameen Rihani, poet and friend of the American poet Edwin Markham, emigrated to New York in 1889 and started writing for the Arabic paper Al-Hoda. Among his writings are *The Quatrains of Abu'l-Ala'* (translation from the Arab poet Ma'arri), *Myrtle and Myrrh* (a collection of his English poems), *Al Rihaniyyat* (a collection of addresses and essays), *The Book of Khalid* (his chef d'oeuvre), *Lily of the Jordan Valley* (a novel), *Out of the Harem* (a novel), *The Descent of Bolshevism*, *The Path of Vision* (a collection of essays), *The Arab Kings*, *Ibn Saud of Arabia*, *His People and His Land*, *Around the Coasts of Arabia*, *Arabian Peak and Desert*, *Faysal the First*, *The Heart of Iraq*, *Morocco*, and *Heart of Lebanon*.

Story: Heaven

An 85-year-old couple had been married for 60 years. Though they were far from rich, they managed to get by because they watched their pennies.

Though not young, they were both in very good health, largely due to the wife's insistence on healthy foods and exercise for the last decade. One day their good health didn't help when they went on a rare vacation and their plane crashed, sending them off to Heaven.

They reached the Pearly Gates and Saint Peter escorted them inside. He took them to a beautiful mansion furnished in gold and fine silks with a fully stocked kitchen and a waterfall in the master bath. A maid could be seen hanging their favorite clothes in the closet. They gasped in astonishment when he said, "Welcome to Heaven. This will be your home now."

The old man asked Peter how much all this was going to cost. "Why, nothing," Peter replied, "Remember, this is your reward in Heaven." The old man looked out the window and right there he saw a championship golf course, finer and more beautiful than any ever built on Earth. "What are the greens fees?" grumbled the old man. "This is heaven," St. Peter replied. "You play for free, every day..."

Next they went to the clubhouse and saw the lavish buffet lunch with every imaginable cuisine laid out before them from seafood to steaks to exotic deserts, free flowing beverages.

"Don't even ask," said St. Peter to the man. "This is Heaven, it is all free for you to enjoy."

The old man looked around and glanced nervously at his wife.

"Well, where are the low fat and low cholesterol foods and the decaffeinated tea?" he asked. "That's the best part," St. Peter replied. "You can eat and drink as much as you like of whatever you like and you will never get fat or sick. This is Heaven!"

The old man pushed, "No gym to work out at?" "Not unless you want to," was the answer. "No testing my sugar or blood pressure or..." "Never again. All you do here is enjoy yourself."

The old man glared at his wife and said, "You and your bran flakes. We could have been here 10 years ago!"

Joke (557)

Norma

A sweet grandmother telephoned St. Joseph's Hospital. She timidly asked, "Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?" The operator said, "I'll be glad to help. What's the name and room number?" The grandmother in her weak voice said, "Norma Findlay, Room 302."

The operator replied, "Let me place you on hold. I'll check with her nurse."

After a few minutes, the operator returned to the phone: "I have good news. Her nurse just told me that Norma is doing very well. Her blood pressure is fine; her blood work just came back as normal, and her physician, Dr. Cohen, has scheduled her to be discharged on Tuesday."

The grandmother said, "Thank you. That's wonderful! I was so worried! God bless you for the good news."

The operator replied, "You're more than welcome. Is Norma a relative?" The grandmother said, "No, I'm Norma Findlay in 302. No one tells me anything!"

The Silent Treatment

A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment. The next week the man realized that he would need his wife to wake him at 5:00 a.m. for an early morning business flight to Chicago. Not wanting to be the first to break the silence, he finally wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5:00 a.m."

The next morning the man woke up, only to discover it was 9:00 a.m., and that he had missed his flight. Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife hadn't woken him he noticed a piece of paper by the bed

...It said, "It is 5:00 a.m.; wake up."