

November 8, 2009
Bulletin # 45

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)

Renewal of the Church



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
- *Confession: 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: Renewal of the Church

Readings: Heb 9:11-15 and Jn 10:22-42

Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me." (Jn 10:27)

On the Lord's day, we gather faithfully with the risen Christ. We "worship the LORD with gladness" and "come into his presence with singing." (Ps 100:2b) We stand with "a great multitude" from "every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages." (Rev 7:9b) Together we "hear the word of the Lord" (Acts 13:44) and are transformed into his body and blood for the world. Filled "with joy and with the Holy Spirit" (v 52), we have the courage to go forth and proclaim God's victory, even in times of defeat.

We catch a glimpse of heaven when we see the procession of all who "washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev 7:14b) through baptism. People who have suffered and mourned, who were hungry and thirsty, are led to the "springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (v 17b) Through Christ, we are a light to all nations, and a means to "bring salvation to the ends of the earth." (Acts 13:47b)

Spirituality: Salvation

Sit in your cell, as in Paradise; leave all memory of the world behind you; watch your thoughts, as a good fisherman watches the fish. Salvation consists in the chanting of psalms; do not abandon it. Remain always in fear and trembling, in the presence of God, like one who stands before an emperor.

—from the fathers of the desert

Reflection: New Creature in Christ

Queen Victoria once paid a visit to a paper mill. Without knowing who this distinguished visitor was, the foreman showed her the workings of the mill. She went into the rag-sorting shop where employees picked out the rags from the refuse of the city. Upon inquiring what was done with this dirty mass of rags, she was told that it would eventually make the finest white writing paper. After her departure, the foreman found out who it was that had paid the visit.

Some time later, Her Majesty received a package of the most delicate, pure white stationery, bearing the Queen's likeness for a watermark. Enclosed was a note saying that the stationery had been made from the dirty rags she had recently inspected.

This story illustrates Christ's work in us, as well. He takes us, filthy as we are, and makes us into new creatures. After receiving Jesus, we are as spiritually different from what we were before, as pure white paper is from the filthy rags from which it is made.

Wisdom: A Ripple of Hope

When God made you, he threw away the mold. There never has been or ever will be another person like you. The late Robert F. Kennedy addressed the young people of South Africa in 1966 with the following passage. The same passage was used by Ted Kennedy in his eulogy at his brother Robert's funeral.

"Some believe there is nothing one man or one woman can do against the enormous array of the world's ills. Yet many of the world's great movements of thought and action have flowed from the work of a single person.

"These people moved the world, and so can we all. Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each person can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.

"It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a person stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he or she sends forth a tiny ripple of hope. And crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

Mass Intentions

The additional following Faithful Departed were remembered during the week of All Souls:
--Deceased of the Henning & Bott Families by Don & Roberta Henning

THIS WEEKEND, November 7-8: Renewal of the Church

Saturday, November 7:

At 3:30 Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

At 4:00 p.m.:

Joseph, Victoria & Minnie John by Marge & Lou John
Good health of Richard Shibben by his brother John & Family
Special Intention

Sunday, November 8 at 10:30 a.m.:

Special Intention of Marge & Lou John
Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions
Good health of Richard Shibben by his brother John & Family

Weekday Masses

Monday, November 9: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Tuesday, November 10: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Wednesday, November 11: No Mass. Pastor's vacation day

Thursday, November 12 at Noon:

Good health of Richard Shibben by his brother John & Family
Good health of Christine Solberg (St. Paul, MN) by her parents
Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions

Friday, November 13 at Noon:

Michael Sobota Sr. (on his Anniversary) by his wife Barb and Family
Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions
Good health of Richard Shibben by his brother John & Family

NEXT WEEKEND, November 14-15: Announcement to Zechariah

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

Gloria and John J. John by Marge & Louis John
Good health of Richard Shibben by his brother John & Family

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

Mark Long (on his Birthday) by his mother Sylvia Long
Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions

Donate to the Church Maintenance Fund

Help with the Endowment Fund to Keep Our Church Open and Active (Total Raised: \$1,804.00)

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. Deposit my donation in the Endowment Fund account designated to maintain and support the church. Also, I wish to be enrolled in the daily Mass intentions as a benefactor.)

We thank the following individuals for their generous contribution to this Endowment Fund. They will be remembered in every Mass: *Bill & Mary Stees (\$200), Tom Ferris (\$325), Sylvia Long (\$100), Catherine Arthur (Memorial) (\$100), Women's Society Fundraising total (\$964), Donation (\$67), Mary Custer (48),*

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 deductible. May God reward those who share their blessings with the brothers and sisters of the Lord.

Our Lady of Lebanon Community Calendar

Date	Event
Saturday, November 7	Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
Monday, November 9	Cedar Club Meeting
Thursday, November 12	Bible Study – from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Lebanese Language – from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.
Saturday, November 14	Movie Night: "Mama Mia" – at 5:45 p.m. – following Saturday Mass
Sunday, November 22	Women's Society Meeting – following Sunday Mass
Saturday, November 28	Decorate Hall for Christmas Party – beginning at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, November 29	50/50 Monthly Raffle – <u>Please Note Change:</u> Drawing will be at Christmas Party
Sunday, November 29	Parish Christmas Party – 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. – <u>Deadline:</u> Monday, November 23
Sat. & Sun., Dec. 12-13	Christmas Cookie, Candy, etc., Exchange & Sale
Sunday, December 13	Parish Children's Christmas Party – following Sunday Mass
Sunday, December 13	Christmas Poinsettia – <u>Deadline</u>
Sunday, December 13	Donation of Non-Perishable Food – <u>Deadline</u>
Sunday, December 20	Women's Society Gift Basket Drawing – at Fr. Bakhos' Anniversary Luncheon
Sunday, December 20	Fr. Bakhos' Anniversary to the Priesthood Luncheon – following Sunday Mass



Community Events

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 (either Saturday or Sunday) and time will be decided when 6 or more candidates have expressed interest. **Please encourage your children or grandchildren, nieces and nephews to participate.** Call Fr. Bakhos today and sign up so we can begin. Dance Troupe students: *Emmalena & Louie Khourey, ??*

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (Saturday, November 7th, at 3:30 p.m.)

Cedar Club Meeting (Monday, November 9th, at 7 p.m.)

The Cedar Club is meeting this Monday, November 9th, at 7 p.m. in the old church hall. Final plans for movie night will be made plus open discussion for 2010 activities. Our hostesses for the evening will be Shirley George and Rita Strawn. There is no December meeting.

One Day Vacation for Fr. Bakhos (Wednesday, November 11th, No Mass)

Bible Study & Lebanese Language Classes (Thursday, November 12th)

Bible Study – from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Lebanese Language – from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Movie Night (Saturday, November 14th, at 5:45 p.m.)

Movie Night scheduled for Saturday, November 14th, will feature “Mama Mia” on the big screen in our Cedar Hall at 5:45 p.m. (after the Saturday Mass). The Cedar Club is sponsoring the movie and will provide soft drinks and popcorn. If you wish, bring an appetizer to share before the movie.

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

Singer George Suhon is booked to provide the entertainment for our parishioners at our Parish Christmas Party sponsored by our Women’s Society members on Sunday, November 29th, from 5:30 until 9:30 p.m. Come celebrate this year of blessings in our Cedar Hall. All parishioners and their guests are welcome to attend and join together for a great time! The menu will be: *Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans Almandine, Mixed Greens Salad, Rolls & Butter, a choice of Pies for Dessert and Coffee, Iced Tea or Lemonade*. Pop, beer and wine will be available a la carte. Everyone who attends is eligible for Door Prizes. (Women’s Society members may bring door prizes anytime – they can be stored in the church office).

Reservations are required and must be made by Sunday, November 23rd, to guarantee that enough food may be ordered. (No tickets will be available to be sold after November 23rd; none available at the door.) To be included in the fun and festivities, call the church office at 304-233-1688. Remember to bring your ticket with the attached, completed Door Prize Stub to the Dinner so that you can be entered for the Door Prizes (or to avoid forgetting them and let us hold your ticket(s) at the door). **Advance Payment is requested. Tickets are \$10.00 each.** Write checks to: Our Lady of Lebanon Church & mark the Memo line: “Christmas Party.”

Women’s Society Monthly 50/50 Raffle (Drawing: Sunday, November 29th)

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.”

November 50/50 Raffle Tickets can be found at the church entrance and in the Weekly Church Bulletins.

Please Note: The drawing from entries received will take place in the Cedar Hall at the Parish Christmas Party on **Sunday, November 29.**

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 Mary Custer who won the November prize of \$48. She donated her prize toward the Church Endowment Fund. Many Thanks to you Mary.

2010 Ad in Bulletin Now Due (Monday, November 30th)

If you wish to purchase an ad on the back of our popular weekly bulletin, please contact the church office at 304-233-1688 to see if any space is still available. Your payment should be received by Monday, November 30th.

2010 Bulletin Mail Subscription Now Due (Monday, November 30th)

If you are unable to attend the church and wish to receive the Weekly Bulletin by mail, please send your subscription payment of \$50 to cover the cost of mailing it to your home throughout the year 2010.

Christmas Cookie, Candy, etc., Sale & Exchange (Sat.-Sun., Dec. 12-13)

Our parish's third Christmas Cookie, Candy, etc., Sale & Exchange has been scheduled for Saturday & Sunday, December 12 & 13. Here's how it works:

--Make and bring extras of your favorite Christmas treats so that plenty will be available for sale.

--You may then buy goodies that another person brings **OR**

--You may choose to "exchange" half your treats for an equal amount that another person brings. (If you wish to take home 2 dozen treats, please bring 4 dozen – **half for you to exchange and half for others to buy**; if you want to take home 3 dozen, bring 6 dozen, etc.)

Donated cookies or other treats may be dropped off beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 12th; however, those who wish to "exchange" half their cookies donated should plan to come between 10 and 11 a.m.

Goodies remaining after the "exchange" are available for sale by the half dozen. Anyone can buy our treats (you do not have to bring anything to exchange). Just remember to come during the sale hours:

Saturday, December 12, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. and immediately following the 4 p.m. Mass; and Sunday, December 13, following 10:30 Mass.

Please make some goodies – any holiday treat will be welcomed: Lebanese specialty (Baklava, Mamouls, Sesame Twist Cookies, Namoura, Makaroons, Ghroubeh), Biscotti, Pizzelles, Nut Horns, Pecan Sandies, Thumbprint Cookies, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Peanut Butter Blossoms, Oatmeal Cookies, Raisin Cookies, Chocolate Peanut Butter Cookies, Shortbread Cookies, Russian Tea Cookies, Snicker Doodle Cookies, 7 Layer Bar Cookies, Anise Cookies, Feniki Cookies, Coconut Bon Bons, Truffles, Hard Tack Candy, Buckeyes, Fudge (chocolate, peanut butter, maple, vanilla, brown sugar, etc.), Nut Rolls, regular or mini-size quick breads with or without nuts (pumpkin, zucchini, banana, blueberry, cranberry, lemon, poppy seed), etc.

If you plan to participate by preparing your favorite goodies for this fundraiser, please let us know what you might make so we can tempt people by printing a list of items. *So far, donations this year will include: Buckeyes, Pecan Tassies, Call the Church office at 304-233-1688 or Charlotte at 304-277-2320.*

Children's Christmas Party (following Mass on Sunday, December 13th)

The Women's Society invites all who attend Our Lady of Lebanon Church to bring their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to the Children's Christmas Party planned for Sunday, December 13th, following 10:30 a.m. Mass. Santa will come to the party to visit with each child.

Christmas Poinsettias (Deadline: Sunday, December 13th)

Every Christmas our church looks beautiful when decorated with poinsettias grown by Nikki's Garden Center, \$25.00 each. Your generosity contributes to the beauty of the church.

2009 Christmas Poinsettias are offered in Memory of:

- \$25 Louise N. & Louis H. Khourey Sr. & Gladys Howard by Lou, Charlotte Khourey & family
- \$25 Fred Oser by Dolores Oser
- \$25 Freddie Oser by Dolores Oser
- \$25 Ron Canestraro by the Oser family
- \$25 The deceased members of the Oser & Gongola families
- \$25 In honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary by Dolores Oser
- \$30 For a Special Intention by "a Friend"
- \$25 John F. Kukula by his wife Mary Rose Kukula & family
- \$25 Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL)
- \$25 Joseph, Victoria & Minnie John by Marge & Lou John
- \$25 Gloria & John J. John by Marge & Lou John
- \$25 Marian & John Keegan by Marge & Lou John

Christmas Barrel of Non-perishable Food (Deadline: December 20th)

A barrel has been placed in the back of the Church for non-perishable food items to be given to those who are in need this Christmas Season. Our church will give a monetary gift from the “poor box” donations along with the food items to families with children. Please be generous if you can share your blessings.

Lunch to Honor Fr. Bakhos’ 18th Anniversary to Priesthood

Plan to join the members of the Women’s Society at a luncheon to honor Fr. Bakhos’ 18th Anniversary to the Priesthood on Sunday, December 20, after Mass. (He was ordained on December 21, 1991.) May we continue to be blessed with many more years of his leadership as our pastor. Look for more information in upcoming bulletins.

Women’s Society Gift Basket Raffle (Drawing, Sunday, December 20th)

The Women’s Society’s next Gift Basket Raffle drawing will be held on Sunday, December 20th, at the luncheon to honor Fr. Bakhos’ anniversary to the priesthood. The “Wine & More for the Holidays” Gift Basket includes one bottle of the following wines: Bolla Chianti and Valpolicello; Oak Leaf Shiraz and Merlot; Lindemans Cabernet Sauvignon; Sutter Home White Zinfandel; one four-bottle wine rack; two Italian-made wine goblets; and a cheese cutting board, with a cleaver, knife, and cheese plane – all to help make your Christmas and New Year’s holidays merrier.

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 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. Tickets are available in our weekly bulletin and at the entrance to the church at that time also.

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 “Memo” line of your check and on the front of the envelope) or mail it to: Our Lady of Lebanon Church, 2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003. Congratulations to Richard Ryncartz who won the October Gift Basket.

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

Please Remember Those Hospitalized Recently In Your Prayers:

Sam Elias, Justin Frenn, Gary West, Louis John, Dick Shiben (brother of John), Bob Dougherty (brother of Bill), Bart Ciofani, Alice Holmes (sister of Eva Powell), Tammy, Richard Ryncarz, Edith Fahey, Frank Lish,

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

Christine Solberg (MN), Rosella Saseen, Barb Sobota, Laura Wellman, Virginia Khourey Bryan (aunt of Lou Khourey in Toledo, OH), Manell Brice (Arlington, VA), Rose Mary Bris-Roybal (Albuquerque, NM), Pat & John Vawter (mother & brother of Dr. Rob Vawter)

Happy Birthday

November 8:	Staci Duffy, Mark Wilson
November 9:	Elizabeth A. Magnone
November 13:	Rosella Saseen
November 15:	Rena Bratton
November 18:	Emily Vince, Rose Vargo
November 19:	Elizabeth Olako
November 20:	Larry Breiding
November 22:	Cecilia John
November 24:	Jim Brubach, Mick Kukula
November 26:	Mary Lish

Your Church Support Last Week

\$1,184	Collection
49	Candles
95	Utilities
55	Christmas Flowers
200	Reimbursement
150	Christmas Dinner Party
48	Endowment Fund
\$1,781	Total. <i>May God reward you many fold</i>

What's New?

Mahrajan Financial Report Revised

We are thankful to Oglebay Park for reducing our bill for the Mahrajan. Because they reduced the expense, our profit went up. The following is our revised report:

Previous Years Mahrajan Financial Reports

Year	Total Income	Total Expenses	Net Profit
2002	\$45,320.00	\$21,218.00	\$24,102.00
2003	\$50,946.00	\$21,726.00	\$29,220.00
2004	\$53,904.00	\$26,732.00	\$27,172.00
2005	\$58,468.00	\$30,472.00	\$27,996.00
2006	\$57,596.00	\$35,791.00	\$19,805.00
2007	\$52,379.00	\$25,435.00	\$26,944.00
2008	\$49,631.00	\$21,958.00	\$27,673.00
2009	\$50,862.50	\$22,451.56	\$28,410.94

Lamb Shish Kebab and Other Mahrajan Food for Sale

If you would like to purchase some frozen food items, and at the same time help our church recover the expense for these items, please ask Fr. after Mass or call the church office at 304-233-1688. Items available for sale include: **Shish Kebob**: \$17 pkg. of 5 skewers; **Zattar Bread**: \$1.50 pkg. of 2; **Wheat** (#1 fine and #2 medium): \$3.50 pkg. of 2 lb. and once again we now have more **Pita Bread**: \$3.00 pkg. of 10 large.

Poor Box

Please consider sharing your blessings with the brothers and sisters of Christ. 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. Half of the money from that box is deposited in our "Parish Families Assistance Fund" and the other half is given to the nun at the Catholic Charity on 18th Street, Wheeling to be used for the poor and homeless. May your good deeds toward the brothers and sisters of Christ shine in the kingdom of God.

Around Us

Wheeling Symphony Auxiliary Steak Fry (Sat., November 14, 6:30-10:30 p.m.)

What: Steak Fry – delicious homemade desserts, beer & pop are included; bring place setting & utensils
 When: Saturday, November 14th, from 6:30-10:30 p.m.
 Includes: DJ – Joey Allen; Gift Baskets, a Chinese Auction, Texas Poker, a 50/50 Raffle & Door Prizes
 Call: Reservations 304-242-7015 or contact Charlotte at 304-277-3230
 Pay to: Anita Carenbauer, 3 Evergreen Drive, Wheeling, WV 26003

St. John Parish Annual Wine Tasting (Saturday, November 14th, (7:00-10:00 p.m.)

Where: St. John Church Hall, 1300 Charles Street. Wellsburg, WV

Cost & Info: Tickets \$10 each; call Chris Cipriani at 304-737-0867

St. John the Divine Church Bake Sale (Order Deadline: Sunday, November 15)

What & When: Holiday Bake Sale; Order/Payment by Sun., Nov. 15; Pick-up Wed., Dec. 9, 11 am-3 pm

Items Available: "Yia Yia Cooks"; Koulourakia, Kourambethes, Finikia, Baklava, Spanakopita, etc.

Info & Costs: Elizabeth 304-233-5674 or Goldie 304-394-5861

Boatsie's Stockings for Soldiers (Due by Monday, November 16th)

What: Make a donation or make or buy a Christmas Stocking; list items and value; fill stocking and slip stitch top or secure it to prevent items from "spilling out." (Suggestions: variety of candy, gum, hot chocolate, DVD's, cards, travel toiletries, athletic socks, phone cards, black watch caps, etc. (Suggested value of stocking contents is \$20-25; checks or money is gratefully accepted).

When: Stockings or donations are due by Monday, November 16th. (See flyer at church entrance)

Contact: Janell 'Zoomie' Loh, Special Project Coordinator for Boatsie's Boxes at (304) 243-0675

Wheeling Park Presents Play (Sunday-Tuesday, November 22-24, at 7 p.m.)

What: Park Players present – *The Butler Did It* Sunday-Tuesday, November 22, 23 & 24, at 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$7.00 in advance; \$8.00 at the door; \$6.00 for groups of 10 or more if attending on same night

Information: 304-243-0417 between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. weekdays or wphsparkplayers@yahoo.com

Pierogi Sale (Orders accepted until December 6)

What: Precooked Homemade Potato & Cheese Pierogi

Where: St. John Church, Benwood

Cost: \$6.00 per dozen. Information: 304-232-7558

Spirituality: The Church

An instructor in aviation teaches a candidate the laws of flight, the principles of gravitation and navigation. Then the student is given full freedom of choice; he can either obey the laws of flight or disobey them. If he uses his freedom to disobey, he will crash; if he uses his freedom to obey the laws he has learned, he will enjoy flying. The Church, likewise, teaches us the laws that govern reality and the consequences of breaking them. This is what Our Lord meant when He said, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (Jn 8:32) For moral freedom –like every other freedom– is limited by the order of the universe.

You are free to draw a triangle (provided that you give it three sides instead of thirty); you are free to draw a giraffe (provided that you respect its nature, giving it a long neck and not a short one); you are free to teach chemistry (provided that you tell the students that water is H₂O and not H₂SO₄). So with the Church: we are free to reject the teachings of Christ in His Church, just as we are free to ignore or disobey the laws of engineering; but we will find that the rejection of her laws never leads us to the perfection of our personality, as we foolishly hoped. It results, instead, in a morbid affirmation of the ego, which can even lead to self-destruction.

(...) The Church makes none of us less free than we were before. But we chiefly value freedom in order to give it away; everyone who loves surrenders his freedom, whether his passion be the love of another person, the love of a cause, or the love of God. When a man loves a woman, he says, "I am yours," and the surrender of freedom gives him into a sweet slavery. Every person in love with God says, as Paul did, "What will you have me to do?" (Acts 9:6) and adds, as we do in the Our Father, "Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." In both instances, freedom is surrendered for the sake of a greater joy. Freedom hoarded is of little value –spent for something we love, it brings peace and perfects one's personality in the law and love of God.

Bishop Fulton Sheen, Peace of Soul, 1949, pp.272-274

Maronites = Catholics of the East

Lebanon in the Holy Scriptures (6)

By Cornelia B. Horn

Ph. D. candidate in the Early Christian Studies Program at The Catholic University of America

III. Lebanon in the Old Testament

Jeremiah 22:6 “For thus says the Lord concerning the palace of the king of Judah: Though you be to me like Gilead, like the peak of Lebanon, I will turn you into a waste, a city uninhabited.”

Jeremiah 22:23 “You who dwell on Lebanon, who nest in the cedars, how you shall groan when pains come upon you, like the pangs of a woman in travail!”

Ezekiel 17:3 “Thus says the Lord God: A great eagle with great wings and long pinions, rich in plumage of many colors, came to Lebanon and took the top of the cedar.”

Ezekiel 31:3 “Behold, I will liken you to a cedar in Lebanon, with fair branches and forest shade, and of great height, its top among the clouds.”

Ezekiel 31:15 “Thus says the Lord God: When it goes down to Sheol I will make the deep mourn for it, and restrain its rivers, and many waters shall be stopped; I will clothe Lebanon in gloom for it, and all the trees of the field shall faint because of it.”

Ezekiel 31:16 “I will make the nations quake at the sound of its fall, when I cast it down to Sheol with those who go down to the pit; and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, will be comforted in the nether world.”

Nahum 1:4 “He rebukes the sea and makes it dry, he dries up all the rivers; Bashan and Carmel wither, the bloom of Lebanon fades.”

Zechariah 11:1-2 “Open your doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may devour your cedars! Wail, you cypress trees, for the cedars are fallen, the mighty have been despoiled. Wail, you oaks of Bashan, for the impenetrable forest is cut down!

It is obvious that the most important and recurrent theme in these passages are the trees of the high mountains of Lebanon, and the cedars of Lebanon rank first. With such an abundance of precious wood to be found in the land, it should come as no surprise that in ancient times the cedars were the country's most important and highest-prized export goods. --To be continued

Story: Nothing Will Grow There

Each summer as I bite into a juicy, homegrown tomato, I think of a humorous event concerning a time, as a seminary student, when three of us sought permission to plant a garden. Our house of studies was located in the downtown area of a large metropolitan city. There wasn't much of a backyard. Actually, it was a stone-covered dirt parking lot with no extra space. However, we carefully planned our garden, taking into account the area that received optimal sunshine.

The three of us approached the superior with our plan for a small area to plant some squash, tomatoes and cucumbers. The only real cost involved was to rent a rake, a pick-ax and a hoe. However, getting the superior's permission would still be difficult. None of us who were involved with this garden project will ever forget his response to our request. With a slightly bored tilting of his head, he glanced at us and abjectly replied, "You're wasting your time. Nothing will ever grow there! But, go ahead if you still want to."

We had received permission from on high! So what if it wasn't enthusiastic. We rented tools; raked four inches of stones into neat walls outlining the garden; hoisted the pick-ax and struck what must have been a former refuse area. A gardener's dream – dark, composted, fertile soil just sitting there waiting to be discovered. We looked at each other with broad grins and repeated in unison, "Ah, nothing will grow there."

As you might have surmised by now, things did grow there, in our garden. In fact, twice we re-staked the tomatoes, topping them off, finally, when they were seven feet tall. They seemed more like tomato trees than plants.

Whenever a group of us from those seminarian days get together, the story of our little garden is re-told. "Nothing will ever grow there!"

Isn't it amazing how much can be learned from planting a garden – about life, about people? How often have you said about another person, whether elderly, middle aged, a teenager, or a child, that nothing will ever grow there? Perhaps all that is needed is for someone to help that person rake away some of the stones that are covering up the rich, fertile soil-of-life, just waiting to be discovered.

Joke (566)

How Fights Start

--My wife sat down on the couch next to me as I was flipping the channels. She asked, 'What's on TV?' I said, 'Dust!' And then the fight started.

--My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary. She said, 'I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 100 in about 3 seconds.' I bought her a scale. And then the fight started.

--When I got home last night, my wife demanded that I take her someplace expensive. So, I took her to a gas station. And then the fight started.

--My wife and I were sitting at a table at my high school reunion, and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table. My wife asked, 'Do you know her?' 'Yes. I sighed. She's my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since.' 'My God! says my wife, 'who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?' And then the fight started.

--I rear-ended a car the other day. We pulled over and slowly the other driver got out of his car. You know how sometimes you just get so stressed and little things just seem funny? Well I couldn't believe it. He was a DWARF!!! He stormed over to my car, looked up at me, and shouted, 'I AM NOT HAPPY!' So, I looked down at him and said, 'Well which one are you?' And then the fight started.

--When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed. But, somehow I always had something else to take care of first, the truck, the car, playing golf – always something more important to me. Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point. When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house. I came out again I handed her a toothbrush. I said, 'When you finish cutting the grass, you might as well sweep the driveway.' And then the fight started.... The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.

Moral to these stories: Marriage is a relationship in which one person is always right, and the other is the husband.

Denny's Policy

In honor of the mother of the octuplets, Denny's is offering a new breakfast meal: "You get fourteen eggs, no sausage, and the guy next to you has to pay the bill!"

A Knock on the Door

A man and his wife were awakened at 3:00 am by a loud pounding on the door. The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push. "Not a chance," says the husband, "it is 3:00 in the morning!" He slams the door and returns to bed. "Who was that?" asked his wife. "Just some drunken guy asking for a push," he answers. "Did you help him?" she asks. "No, I did not, it is 3:00 in the morning and it is pouring rain out there!" "Well, you have a short memory," says his wife. "Can't you remember about three months ago when we broke down, and those two guys helped us? I think you should help him, and you should be ashamed of yourself!"

The man does as he is told, gets dressed, and goes out into the pounding rain. He calls out into the dark, "Hello, are you still there?" "Yes," comes back the answer. "Do you still need a push?" calls out the husband. "Yes, please!" comes the reply from the dark. "Where are you?" asks the husband. "Over here on the swing," replies the drunk.