

December 13, 2009
Bulletin # 50

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)

Revelation to Saint Joseph



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, 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



- ***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.
- ***Hall Rental Fees:** Call the Church Office 304-233-1688.
- ***Parking:** Saturday & Sunday, both parking lots are for parishioners. Monday through Friday – park ONLY in the 3 ALLEY spaces.
- *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.

Gospel Reflection: Revelation to Saint Joseph

Readings: Eph 3:1-13 and Mt 1:18-25

How many restless nights preceded the night of Joseph's blessed dream? Yes, he was her husband – the wedding contract had been drawn. It was the fruit of long and prayerful discernment, coming to what was a difficult decision for a vibrant young man: a virginal marriage with a very beautiful woman. They took time to come to that discernment, and it seemed in the end so clear and clearly a thing of grace. This beautiful young woman was truly one of God's chosen and he had been chosen to share life with her in a most special way. And now this! So incomprehensible. How could she possibly be pregnant? And yet the fact was undeniable. What did God want of him now?

Yes, there were many sleepless nights. Everything had been so clear, so beautiful. And now it was all a nightmare. Painfully, at last, the young man, a just man who truly wanted what God wanted, came to a decision and fell into a fitful sleep. And then came the dream. Only after he had done his very best to discern and say "YES" to God, did God finally allow him to enter into the mystery of love and give him the sure guidance he had so earnestly sought. Joseph would certainly understand the pain and confusion we sometimes experience in our quest for inner peace in the knowledge and fulfillment of God's holy will. His experience can assure us that if we do our best to know and do God's will, in the end the Lord will not let us down.

Prayer: Lord, I do want to do Your will. I don't always get it right. But I trust that in the end You will make the way clear to me.

Christmas Reflection: Believe

"Believe in yourself in the power you have, to control your own life day by day
Believe in the strength that you have deep inside will help you show the way
Believe in tomorrow and what it will bring, let a hopeful heart carry you through.
For things will work out if you trust and believe, there's no limit to what you can do!!!"

Christmas Prayer: Christ the King

I saw the Conquerors riding by, with cruel lip and faces wan;
Musing on kingdoms sacked and burned, there rode Mongol Genghis Khan;
And Alexander, like a God, who sought to weld the world in one;
And Caesar with his laurel wreath, and leading, like a star the van.

Heedless of up-stretched arm and groan,
Instructed Napoleon went, dreaming of empire and alone.
Then all perished from the earth, as fleeting shadows from a glass,
And, conquering down the centuries, came Christ, the Swordless, on an ass!

Fulton Sheen, The Cross and the Beatitudes, 1937, p.22.

Wisdom: Power to Fly

Ultimately we have the power to decide what we believe about ourselves. Don't allow people to impose limitations on what you can do or whom you can become. Take, for instance, the humble bumble bee.

Biologists have determined that, aerodynamically speaking, the bumble bee cannot fly. It has too large of a body mass to be supported by such puny wings. The bumble bee fortunately does not listen to such criticism.

Remember: People rise no higher than their expectation level. Expect little, receive little. Expect to fly and who knows where your next flower might be?

Mass Intentions

THIS WEEKEND, December 12-13: Revelation to Saint Joseph

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

Larry Gibbons by Mary Rose Kukula
Jerry Werner by Bernard & Elizabeth Olako

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

Dale Seidler Sr. by his wife Nettie & Family
Larry Gibbons by Nettie Seidler

Weekday Masses

Monday, December 14: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Tuesday, December 15: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Wednesday, December 16: No Mass. Pastor's Day of vacation

Thursday, December 17:

Lou Elias by his daughter Debbie Kull & Family
Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions

Friday, December 18:

Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions
Adib & Sadie Chidiac (parents) & Mona Chidiac (sister) by Fr. Bakhos

NEXT WEEKEND, December 19-20: Genealogy Sunday

Saturday, December 19 at 4:00 p.m.:

Larry Gibbons by George & Patti Fahey
Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions

Sunday, December 20 at 10:30 a.m.:

Louise Bonahoom by Joe & Tatla Dager (Utica, OH)
John Saab by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family

Donate to the Church Maintenance Fund

Help with the Endowment Fund to Keep Our Church Open and Active (Total Raised: \$2,080.00)

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 (\$250), Tom Ferris (\$325), Sylvia Long (\$100), Catherine Arthur (Memorial) (\$100), Women's Society Fundraising total (\$1,087), Donation (\$67), Mary Custer (48), Irene & Paul Schuler (\$53), A Friend (\$50),*

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
Sat. & Sun., Dec. 12-13	Christmas Cookie, Candy, etc., Exchange & Sale
Sunday, December 13	Parish Children's Parish Christmas Party – following Sunday Mass
Sunday, December 13	Christmas Poinsettia – <u>Deadline</u>
Thursday, December 17	Bible Study – from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Lebanese Language – from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.
Sunday, December 20	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
Sunday, December 27	50/50 Monthly Raffle Drawing
Friday, January 15	Cedar Club after Holiday Dinner – 6:30 p.m. - ?? at the Tikki Bar & Restaurant



Community Events

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:

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

2--**So your donated items will be ready for another person to enjoy and to avoid contamination, please plate or package them by the half dozen.**

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

4--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 (Baklawa, 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 (any flavor), Nut Rolls, regular or mini-size quick breads with or without nuts (any kind), etc.

If you can prepare favorite goodies, please let us know so we can tempt people by listing the items. Remember more than one person can make the same item. *So far, donations this year will include: Buckeyes, Pecan Tassies, Pizzelles, ... ???...* Church office: 304-233-1688 or Charlotte: 304-277-3220.

Children's Parish 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 Parish 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. Every year, Nikki & PJ donate the large poinsettia for the main altar. Also a beautiful bouquet of yellow Roses will decorate the altar of the Blessed Mother in Memory of Helen Fielding by her husband Don of Florida. 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*
- \$25 *Mary K. Ferris by her husband Tom & her daughter Denise*
- \$25 *Ed Shia & Helen Mattes by Betty Shia*
- \$25 *Arthur & Mark Long by Sylvia Long*
- \$25 *Suzanne Linton by her husband Mike Linton*
- \$25 *Frances Linton by her son Mike Linton*
- \$25 *Parents of Bob & Virginia Pockl by Bob & Virginia Pockl*
- \$25 *Barkett & Sadie Coury by Lucille Gibbons*
- \$25 *George & Rose Fadoul by the family*
- \$25 *For the Habdo & Dougherty Families by Bill & Carol Dougherty*
- \$25 *Mike Sobota Sr. by his wife Barbara Sobota*
- \$25 *Helen Bauerle & John & Sophie & Steve Olako by Bernard & Elizabeth Olako*
- \$25 *Deceased members of the McCutcheon family by Peggy Justice & Ann Lee Bauduin*
- \$25 *Deceased members of the Jalad Family by the Schuler family*
- \$25 *Deceased members of the Schlog & Saseen Families by Bob & Fran Saseen*
- \$25 *Deceased of the Shiben & McFarland Families by John & Dee Shiben*
- \$25 *Joseph A. Saseen by Joe & Susie Saseen*
- \$25 *Gloria & John John (parents) by daughter Dianne John Harrell (NC)*
- \$25 *Family members of Constantine & Anna Shia by the Family*
- \$25 *Camille & Mimi Rohanna Family members by the family*
- \$25 *Nimon & Mariam Joseph Family by the family*
- \$25 *Deceased of the Wakim Family & John Saab by Blanche Wakim*
- \$25 *John & Millie Saab by the Family*
- \$25 *Josephine Dager by Joe & Tatla Dager*
- \$25 *Lorena Abraham Matiasek by Adele Woodard*
- \$25 *Deceased Family Members of Joseph Linton by Joe Linton*
- \$25 *Deceased of the John & Joseph Families by Mike & Maryann Carl*
- \$25 *Rachel Nader Farrah by Emilie Kawas (FL)*
- \$25 *Ray, Sara, Mickey and Gary McLaughlin by Mark & Barb McLaughlin*
- \$25 *John & Mary Miller by Mark & Barb McLaughlin*
- \$25 *Siham Frenn, LaVerne Thomas & Evelyn Hall by Dr. Adel & Diane Frenn & Family*
- \$25 *Ed & Mary Lee Berardi by Joan Levitt*
- \$50 *2 poinsettias in Memory of Mary & George Murad by Thomas Murad*

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

A barrel has been placed at the upper lobby where we enter 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. If you know of anyone in need this Christmas, please let Fr. Bakhos know their name.

Fr. Bakhos' 18th Anniversary to Priesthood Luncheon (Sun., Dec. 20th)

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 on 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 & Valpolicello; Oak Leaf Shiraz & Merlot; Sutter Home White Zinfandel; Lindemans Cabernet Sauvignon; a four-bottle wine rack; two Italian-made wine goblets; a cheese cutting board, with cleaver, knife, & cheese plane – for Christmas & New Year's joy.

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 (note Gift Basket Raffle on "Memo" line of your check and front of envelope) or mail to: Our Lady of Lebanon Church, 2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003. Congratulations to October's winner – Richard Ryncartz.

2009 Christmas & New Year Schedule

Monday, December 21:

5:00 p.m.: **Mass followed by Christmas Novena** (Rosary starts 20 minutes before Mass)

Tuesday, December 22:

5:00 p.m.: **Mass followed by Christmas Novena** (Rosary starts 20 minutes before Mass)

Wednesday, December 23:

5:00 p.m.: **Mass followed by Christmas Novena** (Rosary starts 20 minutes before Mass)

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve:

4:00 p.m.: **Christmas Children's Mass.** (Choir will sing)

10:00 p.m.: **Christmas Midnight Mass.** (Choir will sing)

Friday, December 25: Christmas Day: (Day of Obligation)

10:30 a.m.: **Christmas Day Mass.** (No choir)

Thursday, December 31st: New Year's Eve:

5:00 p.m.: **New Year's Eve Mass.** (No Midnight Mass)

Friday, January 1st, 2010: New Year's Day: (Day of Obligation)

10:30 a.m.: **New Year's Day Mass**

Women's Society Monthly 50/50 Raffle (Drawing: Sunday, December 27th)

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 **December 50/50 Raffle Tickets**, which can be found at the church entrance and in the Weekly Church Bulletins, will take place in the Cedar Hall after Mass on **Sunday, December 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 Irene Schuler who won the December prize of \$53 and donated it to the Endowment Fund for the maintenance of our church.

Attention Bulletin Subscribers (December 31st, 2009)

The 2010 bulletin will be mailed weekly ONLY to those who renewed their subscriptions by sending \$50 to cover the cost of the stamps, envelopes, printing and related expenses. For those who did not renew their subscription, the last bulletin they receive will be that of **December 27, 2009**. Mail it today – don't delay.

40-Day Mass of John Saab (Saturday, January 2, 2010)

The 40-Day Mass Memorial for John Saab of Morgantown will be celebrated at our church on Saturday, January 2nd, 2010. His family will attend the Mass.

Cedar Club "After Holiday Dinner" (Friday, January 15, at Tikki Bar Restaurant)

The Cedar Club "After Holiday Dinner" starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Tikki Bar & Restaurant. Everyone is welcome. Wear your Hawaiian attire and order from the menu – pay as you go. Reservations required; call Nini 304-243-0057 or Allison at 304-242-6853.

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

Please Remember Those Hospitalized Recently In Your Prayers:

Barb Sobota, Mary Custer, Joe Gonot, Bob Dougherty (brother of Bill), Edith Fahey,

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

Frank Lish, Dolores Oser, Rosella Saseen, Sam Elias, Justin Frenn, Gary West, Louis John, 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

December 14: Joe Betras, Donnie Musilli
December 15: Lottie Elwartoski
December 18: Ronni Burns
December 20: Julia Tappe, Emily Stephens
December 21: Domenique George
December 22: Millet C. Fadoul

Your Church Support Last Week

1,095	Collection
43	Candles
103	Utilities
140	Parking
200	Donation to Church
75	Donations for Poor Families
217	Donations toward the endowment Fund
250	Christmas Flowers
76	Reimbursement
123	Christmas Dinner Party
120	Bulletin Ads
35	Mahrajan 2010 (table reservations)
2,477	Total. <i>May God reward you many fold</i>

What's New?

Parish Condolences: Dick Shiben

The pastor and the parishioners of Our Lady of Lebanon Church, Wheeling, offer their heartfelt sympathy to the **Shiben** family on the loss of their beloved **Dick** who passed away in Florida. Dick is the brother of our beloved parishioners John and Dee Shiben. May the Blessed Mother intercede for him and lead him to the light of Christ. May the Almighty God grant repose of the soul to His servant **Dick** and we extend the parish's condolences to *his* Family in their time of sorrow.

Offering Envelopes 2010

Start using your 2010 Offering Envelopes on January 1, 2010. Offering Envelopes for 2010 will be distributed to those who have used them on a regular basis during 2009 and to those who have requested them. Use of Offering Envelopes allows the church to register your contributions and, at the end of the year, to issue a statement verifying your donations, based on the amount of cash or checks that you enclosed within the envelopes. This statement can be used for your income tax return. (Please keep in mind that it does not mean that those who attend church regularly and who support the church financially without envelopes are not parishioners too.) However, we cannot identify donors who put loose cash in the collection basket and cannot, therefore, issue tax statements for those individuals.

If you wish to use 2010 Offering Envelopes and do not see a box at the entrance of the church with your name on it, please let Fr. Bakhos know and one will be prepared for you as soon as possible.

Lower Your Income Tax before the End of the Year

One way to lower your income tax bill for this year is to make charitable contributions, which can be deducted from your income when you itemize deductions on your 2009 Income Tax Return. Gifts made to charities, such as Our Lady of Lebanon Church, are tax deductible. It is important that you keep in mind that in order for you to claim the deduction on your tax return for 2009, **your gift must be received by the church and your check must be dated on or before December 31st, 2009.**

By the end of January 2010, those who made donations of \$250 or more will automatically receive from Our Lady of Lebanon Church a statement acceptable to the IRS stating the donor(s) name and the amount donated—through checks or weekly offering envelopes— from January 1st, 2009, through December 31st, 2009. This statement should be kept with your tax records, in case the IRS audits your return. *Note: The IRS will only accept cancelled checks or church statements as proof of your contributions.*

Many Thanks

--To the children of John and Millie Saab of Morgantown for donating a coffee maker to our church in memory their parents. May they be rewarded with the crown of glory in heaven.

--To all those who helped decorate the church for Christmas. May your golden fingers be blessed.

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" to assist the poor families in our parish; and the other half is given to Catholic Charity on 18th Street, in 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.

Maronites = Catholics of the East

Lebanon in the Holy Scriptures (12)

By Cornelia B. Horn

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

Lebanon and the Temple

The following scriptural passages illustrate the use Solomon made of the wood of the cedars of Lebanon to build the Temple and the "House of the Forest of Lebanon" as his reception hall.

1 Kings 5:15-32 "When Hiram, king of Tyre, heard that Solomon had been anointed king in place of his father, he sent an embassy to him; for Hiram had always been David's friend. Solomon sent back this message to Hiram: "You know that my father David, because of the enemies surrounding him on all sides, could not build a temple in honor of the Lord, his God, until such a time as the Lord should put these enemies under the soles of his feet. But now the Lord, my God, has given me peace on all sides. There is no enemy or threat of danger. So I propose to build a temple in honor of the Lord, my God, as the Lord predicted to my father David when he said: 'It is your son whom I will put upon your throne in your place who shall build the temple in my honor.' Give orders then, to have cedars from the Lebanon cut down for me. My servants shall accompany yours, since you know that there is no one among us who is skilled in cutting timber like the Sidonians, and I will pay you whatever you say for your servants' salary."

When he had heard the words of Solomon, Hiram was pleased and said, "Blessed be the Lord this day, who has given David a wise son to rule this numerous people." Hiram then sent word to Solomon, "I agree to the proposal you sent me, and I will provide all the cedars and fir trees you wish. My servants shall bring them down from the Lebanon to the sea, and I will arrange them into rafts in the sea and bring them wherever you say. There I will break up the rafts, and you shall take the lumber. You, for your part, shall furnish the provisions I desire for my household."

So Hiram continued to provide Solomon with all the cedars and fir trees he wished; while Solomon every year gave Hiram twenty thousand kors of wheat to provide for his household, and twenty thousand measures of pure oil. The Lord, moreover, gave Solomon wisdom as he promised him, and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, since they were parties to a treaty.

King Solomon conscripted thirty thousand workmen from all Israel. He sent them to the Lebanon each month in relays of ten thousand, so that they spent one month in the Lebanon and two months at home. Adoniram was in charge of the draft. Solomon had seventy thousand carriers and eighty thousand stonecutters in the mountain, in addition to three thousand three hundred overseers, answerable to Solomon's prefects for the work, directing the people engaged in the work. By order of the king, fine, large blocks were quarried to give the temple a foundation of hewn stone. Solomon's and Hiram's builders, along with the Gebalites, hewed them out, and prepared the wood and stones for building the temple.

1 Kings 7:1-7 His own palace Solomon completed after thirteen years of construction. He built the hall called the Forest of Lebanon one hundred cubits long, fifty wide, and thirty high; it was supported by four rows of cedar columns, with cedar capitals upon the columns. Moreover, it had a ceiling of cedar above the beams resting on the columns; these beams numbered forty-five, fifteen in a row. There were three window frames at either end, with windows in strict alignment. The posts of all the doorways faced each other, three at either end. The porch of the columned hall he made fifty cubits long and thirty wide. The porch extended the width of the columned hall, and there was a canopy in front. He also built the vestibule of the throne where he gave judgment – that is, the tribunal; it was paneled with cedar from floor to ceiling beams.

1 Kings 10:16-17 and 2 Chronicles 9:16 "Moreover, King Solomon made two hundred shields of beaten gold (six hundred gold shekels went into each shield) and three hundred bucklers of beaten gold (three minas of gold went into each buckler); and he put them in the hall of the Forest of Lebanon."

1 Kings 10:21 and 2 Chronicles 9:20 "In addition, all King Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the utensils in the hall of the Forest of Lebanon were of pure gold. There was no silver, for in Solomon's time it was considered worthless."

2 Chronicles 2:8 "Send me also cedar, cypress, and algum timber from Lebanon, for I know that your servants know how to cut timber in Lebanon. And my servants will be with your servants."

2 Chronicles 2:15 "For our part, we will cut trees on Lebanon, as many as you need, and float them down to you at the port of Joppa, whence you may take them up to Jerusalem."

2 Chronicles 2:16 "And we will cut whatever timber you need from Lebanon, and bring it to you in rafts by sea to Joppa, so that you may take it up to Jerusalem."

Ezra 3:7 "Then they hired stonecutters and carpenters, and sent food and drink and oil to the Sidonians and Tyrians that they might ship cedar trees from the Lebanon to the port of Joppa, as Cyrus, king of Persia, had authorized."

Isaiah 10:34 "He will cut down the thickets of the forest with an axe, and Lebanon with its majestic trees will fall."
--to be continued

Christmas Story: Only A Man

At first glance she looked like any other old woman. Plodding along in the snow, alone, neglected, head bowed. People passing on the busy city sidewalk averted their eyes, lest she remind them that pain and suffering did not stop to celebrate Christmas.

A young couple, smiling, talking, laughing, arms loaded with Christmas presents, took no notice of the old woman. A mother with two small children hurried by, on their way to grandmother's house; they took no notice. A minister walked by proudly carrying his Bible in his right hand, like a well armed Christian soldier; but his mind was stayed on heavenly things, and he took no notice.

If these people had noticed, they would have seen that the old woman wore no shoes. She walked barefoot in the ice and snow. With both hands the old woman gathered her worn button-less overcoat at the collar to keep out the wind. She stopped and stood bent and bowed at the bus stop. A red and blue scarf covering her head, she waited for the downtown bus.

A gentleman carrying an important looking briefcase waited near her, not too closely. After all, she could have something contagious. A teen-age girl also waited for the bus. She glanced repeatedly at the old woman's feet, but said nothing.

The bus arrived and the old woman slowly, painfully boarded. She sat on the side-ways seat just behind the driver. The gentleman and the teen-age girl hurried to the rear. The man sharing the seat with the old woman shuffled uneasily and twirled his thumbs. "Senile," he thought. The bus driver saw her bare feet and thought; "This neighborhood is sinking deeper and deeper into poverty; I hate to see it, I'll be glad when they put me on the College Park route."

A little boy pointed at the old woman. "Look, Mother, that old lady is barefoot." The embarrassed mother slapped his hand down. "Don't point at people, Andrew. It's not polite to point." She looked out the window.

"She must have grown children," a lady in a fur coat suggested. "Her children should be ashamed of themselves." She felt morally superior, because she took good care of her mother.

A teacher seated near the middle of the bus steadied the bag of gifts on her lap. "Don't we pay enough taxes to handle situations like this?" she said to a friend seated beside her. "It's this tax-cut crazy Republican administration, her friend replied. "They rob the poor and give to the rich." "No, it's the Democrats," a gray-haired man behind them interjected. "These Democrat welfare programs just make people lazy and keep them in poverty." "People have to learn to save their money," a well-dressed young college man added. "If that old woman had saved when she was young, she wouldn't be suffering now. It's her own fault."

And all these people beamed with satisfaction that their acumen had delivered such trenchant analysis.

But, a kind businessman felt offended by this murmuring detachment of his fellow citizens. He reached into his wallet and took out a crisp twenty-dollar bill. He strode proudly down the aisle and pressed the bill into the old woman's unsteady, wrinkled hand. "Here, Madam, get yourself some shoes."

The old woman nodded her head in thanks. The businessman strode back to his seat, feeling pleased with himself, that he was a man of action. A well-dressed Christian lady had noticed all of this. She began to pray silently. "Lord, I don't have money. There is no way I can help; but Lord, I can turn to you in every need.

Lord, I know that you are a loving God. You make a way out of no way. Now Lord, let your blessing shine on this old woman. Let shoes fall like manna from heaven, so that this old woman can have shoes for Christmas"; and the Christian lady felt supremely spiritual.

At the next stop, a young man boarded the bus. He wore a heavy blue jacket, a maroon scarf around his neck, and a gray woolen cap pulled down over his ears. A wire running under the cap and into his ear was connected to a Walkman. The young man jiggled his body in time to music only he heard. He paid his fare and plopped down on the sideways seat directly across from the old woman. As the young man's glance caught the old woman's bare feet, his jiggling stopped.

He froze. His eyes went from her feet to his. He wore his expensive, new, brand name sneakers. For months he had saved from his minimum wage pay to buy these sneakers. Everybody in the gang would think he was "so cool." The young man bent down and began to untie his sneakers. He removed his impressive new sneakers. He removed his socks. He knelt down before the old woman. "Mother," he said, "I see you have no shoes. Well, I have shoes." Carefully, gently, he lifted the old woman's crusty feet in his hands. He placed his socks and his fine sneakers on the old woman's feet. The old woman nodded in thanks.

Just then the bus arrived at the next stop. The young man left the bus and walked away, barefoot in the snow. The passengers crowded at the windows to watch him as he plodded barefoot through the snow.

"Who is he?" one asked.

"He must be a prophet," said another.

"He must be a saint," someone suggested.

"He must be an angel," said yet another.

"Look! There's a halo around his head," somebody shouted.

"He must be the Son of God," said the Christian lady.

But the little boy who had pointed, said, "No Mother, I saw him clearly, He was only a man."

Joke (571)

Quick Laughter

☺ 1 A ventriloquist is performing with his dummy on his lap. He's telling a dumb blonde joke when a young platinum-haired beauty jumps to her feet.

"What gives you the right to stereo type blondes that way?" she demands. "What does hair color have to do with my worth as a human being?"

Flustered, the ventriloquist begins to stammer out an apology.

"You keep out of this!" she yells. "I'm talking to that little jerk on your knee!"

☺ 2 In surgery for a heart attack, a middle-aged woman has a vision of God by her bedside. "Will I die?" she asks.

God says, "No. You have 30 more years to live."

With 30 years to look forward to, she decides to make the best of it. So since she's in the hospital, she gets breast implants, liposuction, a tummy tuck, hair transplants, and collagen injections in her lips. She looks great!

The day she's discharged, she exits the hospital with a swagger, crosses the street, and is immediately hit by an ambulance and killed.

Up in heaven, she sees God. "You said I had 30 more years to live" she complains.

"That's true," says God.

"So what happened?"

God shrugs. "I didn't recognize you."

☺ 3 Every ten years, the monks in the monastery are allowed to break their vow of silence to speak two words. Ten years go by and it's one monk's first chance. He thinks for a second before saying, "Food bad." Ten years later, he says, "Bed hard." It's the big day, a decade later. He gives the head monk a long stare and says, "I quit."

"I'm not surprised," the head monk says. "You've been complaining ever since you got here."