

January 17, 2010
Bulletin # 3

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

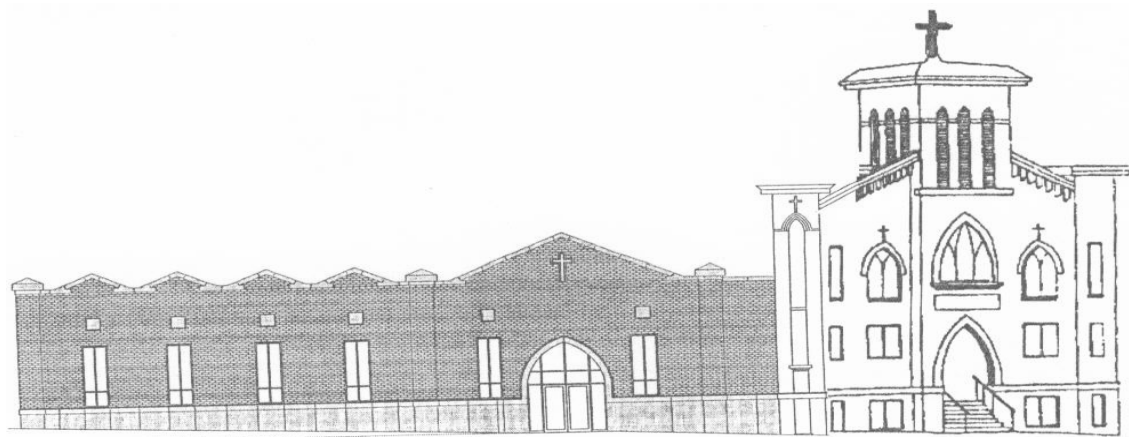
E-Mail: ololwv@Comcast.net • Web Site: www.ololwv.com

Rev. Bakhos Chidiac (Pastor)

Evelyn Ghaphery (Organist)

Charlotte Khourey & Thomasina Geimer (Secretaries)

Feast of Saint Anthony the Great



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.
- ***Cedar 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

Readings: 2 Cor 4:5-15 and Jn 1:35-42

Feast of Saint Anthony the Great

Legend has outstripped life when it comes to St. Anthony Abbot (251-356), as a reading of the accompanying story will make clear. St. Anthony (also known as St. Anthony of the Desert) did indeed live a life that was legendary in the figurative sense, but embellishments certainly added to the tale.

Not that there was much need for embellishment, for St. Anthony played a significant role in the development of the Church. He is generally regarded as the founder of Christian monasticism, and he vigorously defended the Church against the heresy of Arianism.

Born in Alexandria, Egypt, Anthony was a man of great rank and wealth. But he was thoughtful as well, and early in life determined to seek a state of spiritual perfection. He gave some of his possessions to his sister, others to the poor, and then joined a company of hermits in the desert.

Satan was angered by the purity of his life, and sent demons to tempt and torment him. Anthony remained steadfast through a series of trials, even including physical attacks that left him all but dead. When he revived himself, he returned to his cave and called out to Satan: "Did you really think I had fled? I, Anthony, have strength to fight on!" Then Satan, by now enraged, unleashed wild animals to attack the saintly hermit.

Suddenly a great light from heaven appeared in their midst, and the animals vanished. Anthony, looking up, cried out: "Lord Jesus! Where were you in my moments of anguish?" And Christ said gently, "Anthony, I was here beside you all the time, and rejoiced to see you contend and conquer. Be of good heart, for I will make your name famous throughout the world."

Anthony, now thirty-five years old, went further into the desert, living a life of complete solitude for twenty years. Then he began his public preaching telling everyone of God's love, comforting the sick and afflicted, expelling demons. Thousands were converted and came to the desert, many of them staying on to join Anthony in lives of quiet prayer.

After living in the desert for seventy-five years, a voice called out to him: "There is one holier than you, for Paul the hermit has served God in solitude and penance for ninety years." Anthony resolved to seek out Paul, and at length found the holy man's cave. At first Paul would not receive him, but finally relented. They held communion together and as they sat, a raven brought them a loaf of bread. Paul blessed it and said: "For sixty years, this raven has brought me half a loaf of bread every day. But because you have come, my brother, the portion is doubled—and we are fed as Elijah was fed in the wilderness."

He continued: "My brother! God has sent you here in order to receive my last breath and bury me. Go, return to your own dwelling, and then bring back the cloak that was given to you by the holy Bishop Athanasius. Wrap me in it and lay me in the earth."

Anthony was amazed; no one had known of the gift from Athanasius. But off he went, wondering if Paul would still be alive when he came back. As it developed, he was about three hours journey from Paul's cave on his return trip when he heard heavenly music. Looking up, he saw the spirit of Paul, as a star, borne by prophets, apostles, and angels to heaven. A mournful Anthony hastened to the cave and found the body of Paul, slumped over in an attitude of prayer. Anthony wept over him, recited the office of the dead, and wondered how, in his own weakened condition, he would manage to dig a grave for Paul.

Then came two lions across the desert, roaring as if in sympathy, and with their paws they dug a grave. Anthony laid the body of Paul -wrapped in the cloak of Athanasius— in the hollowed-out place. He later told of these things, which were believed by the whole Church, and Paul was canonized.

Some years later Anthony, by now one hundred four years old, told his friends that his own time had come. After going to a lonely place with a few Brothers, he charged them that they should keep secret the site of his burial. Gently his spirit passed away, and angels carried it to heaven.

Mass Intentions

THIS WEEKEND, January 16-17: Feast of Saint Anthony the Great

Saturday, January 16 at 4:00 p.m.:

Intentions of Lucille Gibbons by her sister Eva Moffat (FL)

Lou Elias by his Family

Sunday, January 17 at 10:30 a.m.:

Louis Joseph by his daughter Joan Hill

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

Weekday Masses

Monday, January 18: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Tuesday, January 19: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Wednesday, January 20 at Noon:

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

Jane Deeb (St. Paul, MN) by Larry Josephs (MN)

Thursday, January 21 at Noon:

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

Mike & Sadie Thomas & Deceased Relatives (MN) by Ervin & Rosemary Splatt (WI)

Friday, January 22 at Noon:

Intentions of our pastor, Fr Bakhos in the year dedicated to priests by the Weisner Family

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

NEXT WEEKEND, January 23-24: Third Sunday after Epiphany

Saturday, January 23 at 4:00 p.m.:

Ida Lewis by her husband George Lewis

Jean Bentz (on her 2nd Anniversary) by Susie & Millet Fadoul

Sunday, January 24 at 10:30 a.m.:

Jose` Saludes by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Kourey

Sally, Patty, Don Jacobs and Deceased of the Dusick Family by Sandra Dusick

Would You Like Fr. Bakhos to Visit You?

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

You are my extended family and you are my brothers and sisters in Christ here in Wheeling. I would like to visit you at your home once a year or more in order to know you better. You do not need to prepare anything for my visit; nor do you have to worry that I will pressure you for any reason. I would be happy to just visit with you for a short time.

I have been here in Wheeling for more than eight and half years; and trust me, I still don't know the names or the addresses of half of my parish. Why? Because half of my parish has not yet given me the chance to visit them. I would feel honored if you would say to me, "Fr., we would like you to visit us when you have time. The best time is ... and the best day for us is Please call us before you come." You may be sure that I will find time to visit you.

--Fr. Bakhos

Donate to the Church Maintenance Fund

Help with the Endowment Fund to Keep Our Church Open and Active. (Total Raised: \$3,283.00)

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.) Many thanks to January donors: ???

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.

Many Thanks to January donors: Mike Linton, and ??

Our Lady of Lebanon Community Calendar

Date	Event
Thursday, January 21	Bible Study – from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Lebanese Language – from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.
Sunday, January 24	Women’s Society Meeting – following Sunday Mass
Sunday, January 31	50/50 Monthly Raffle Drawing – following Sunday Mass
Sat., Feb. 6–Fri., Feb. 12	Week of Faithful Departed Masses
Thurs., February 11	Reverse Raffle & Dinner – cocktails & hors d’oeuvres at 6 & Dinner at 7 p.m.
Monday, February 15	Ash Monday
Wed. & Thur., Feb. 24 & 25	Soup & Hoagie Sale – 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Sunday, August 15	Mahrajan



Community Events

Bible Study and Lebanese Language Classes (Thursday, January 21st)

Classes resume as follows: Bible Study – from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. and Lebanese Language – from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Women’s Society Meeting (Sunday, January 24th, after Mass)

Plan to join the Women's Society for their next meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 24th, after Mass. We will complete our plans for the upcoming events.

Women’s Society Monthly 50/50 Raffle (Drawing: Sunday, January 31)

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 next drawing from entries received for the **January 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, January 31**.

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 L.B. Thomas who won the December prize.

Week of the Faithful Departed (Saturday, February 6th, to Friday, February 12th)

Prayer for Our Departed Loved Ones

O Almighty God, Who by the love which You have for men, have willed to take our humanity, to live a life of hard work, to suffer a most cruel Passion, and finally to die on the Cross, I beseech You, by the infinite merits purchased for us with Your precious Blood, look mercifully on the suffering which is endured by the holy souls in Purgatory. Accept, O merciful God, the prayers which I offer for them, and call them to the glory of heaven. I recommend to You the souls of my relatives, friends and benefactors, and in a special manner of those to whom I may have been an occasion of sin by my bad example.

Most Holy Virgin, Mother of Mercy, Comforter of the Afflicted, intercede for those souls, that, by your powerful intercession, they may be admitted to enjoy that kingdom which is prepared for them. Amen.

Please send your Mass offering along with the completed, attached Mass Form and return it via the collection basket or mail the form (or a note listing the name(s) of those you request a mass for and the name(s) that it is to be offered by) to Our Lady of Lebanon Church, Attention: Mass Request, 2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003.

All Masses will be offered for the Repose of the Souls of the followings:

Deceased family members of Fr. Bakhos Chidiac

Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL)

Deceased members of the Habib Khourey family by Virginia Khourey Bryan

Deceased of the Nader, Khourey & Howard families by Lou & Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Khourey

Deceased members of Kay Garvey Family by Kay Garvey

Deceased family members of Thomasina Geimer

Chuck Ferrell by Fr. Bakhos & his brother Garry & Pauline Ferrell

Deceased members of the Habdo & Dougherty families by Bill & Carol Dougherty

Deceased of the Bentz, Sengewalt & Werner families by Millet & Susie Fadoul

Deceased of the Fadoul, Cybulski & Bentz families by Millet & Susie Fadoul

Siham Frenn, LaVerne Thomas & Evelyn Hall by Dr Adel, Diane, Andreah & Justin Frenn

Robert & Myrtle Beiswenger by Rudolph & Jean Zinka

Rudolph & Ann Zinka by Rudolph & Jean Zinka

Robert L. Rose by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt & family

John F. Kukula by Mary Rose Kukula & children

Deceased members of the Jacobs & Dusick families by Sandra Dusick

Second Maronite Reverse Raffle Dinner (Thursday, February 11, 2010)

Our 2st Maronite Reverse Raffle and Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2010, at the Wheeling Country Club. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres begin at 6:00 p.m.; a sit-down dinner at 7:00 p.m. (each dinner purchase includes 2 drink coupons). Come and experience the excitement of the night. Everyone who attended last year really enjoyed the event – especially those who always work at our events. They were able to enjoy the event while being waited upon by the courteous, efficient staff at the Wheeling Country Club. Winners need not be present. Plan now to attend.

Deadline to purchase tickets is: Sunday, February 7, 2010. Costs are:

\$ 50.00 1 Raffle Ticket **only**

\$ 75.00 1 Raffle Ticket & 1 Dinner (with 2 drink coupons)

\$100.00 1 Raffle Ticket & 2 Dinners (with 2 drink coupons for each dinner)

For tickets call Mickey (Joseph) Morgan at 304-277-1642; Lois Rutter at 304-242-3922; Luane (Murad) Frazier at 304-242-7437; Linda Fadoul Duffy at 304-242-6853 or

1) complete the order form attached in this bulletin

- 2) Make your check payable to: **Our Lady of Lebanon Church** with "Memo Line:" **Reverse Raffle**
- 3) Mail both the form and the check to:

Our Lady of Lebanon Church, "Attention: Reverse Raffle"
2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

Soup & Hoagie Sale (*Wed. & Thur., Feb. 24th & 25th, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.*)

Chase away the winter blues and take a break from cooking! The ladies of Our Lady of Lebanon have scheduled a **Soup and Hoagie Sale** on Wednesday and Thursday, February 24th and 25th, from 10:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

You will be able to purchase and pick up from our church hall an assortment of delicious hoagie sandwiches and homemade soups to eat at home or freeze to enjoy another day. We will also have an assortment of desserts (*cake, pie, brownies, cookies, Texas sheet cake, Lebanese pastries, etc.*) available from our **Bake Sale Table** for you to take home to enjoy them with your soup and hoagies.

Soups will be available by the quart (32 oz. container) or by the pint (16 oz. container). You may choose from the following soups: *Chicken Noodle Soup, Chicken & Rice Soup, Fasolia (Lebanese Bean Soup – meatless), Ham & Bean Soup, Italian Wedding Soup, Lentil Soup, Maghrabeyah (Lebanese Chicken Soup), Maryland Crab Soup (spicy), Potato Soup, Stuffed Pepper Soup, Vegetable Beef Soup, Vegetarian Vegetable Soup, and ??? We are awaiting a volunteer to prepare and donate the following soups:*

Please call if you can prepare a soup. **Soup donors include:** *Carol Dougherty, Linda Duffy, Sandra Dusick, Don & Roberta Henning, Anna Jalad, Nancy Joseph, Fran Saseen, Nettie Seidler, Rita Strawn, Julia Tappe, Mary Thomas, Jean Weisner.*

Please call if you can donate a dessert. **Dessert donors include:** *Kay Garvey, Roberta Henning, Emmalena & Charlotte Khourey, Rita Strawn, Mary Thomas, ??*

Soup and dessert donors are asked to bring in their items on Tuesday, February 23rd, between 9:00 a.m. and Noon or on Wednesday, February 24th, between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m.

The famous hoagie sandwiches made by Don Henning, retired owner of Don's Corner Market, will include (1) *Ham & Swiss Hoagie*, (2) *Italian Hoagie* and (3) *Turkey & Cheese Hoagie*

Please call if you can help. Men and women of the parish are asked to call the church office at 304-233-1688 (or call Charlotte at 304-277-3230) volunteer to help make this sale a success by sharing your time, talents and treasure for any of the following:

- (1) **Volunteer Tuesday, February 23, to prep ingredients for the hoagies** from 9 a.m. to Noon; (2) **Volunteer to cook and donate your favorite soup;** (3) **Volunteer to make and donate a dessert** for our **Bake Sale Table;** (4) **Volunteer** to help during the sale on **Wednesday or Thursday, Feb. 24th or 25th**, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; (5) **Purchase some** of Don's delicious, famous Hoagies, some of our scrumptious homemade soups and/or some of our mouth-watering desserts from our Bake Sale Table; (6) **Distribute or post flyers** announcing our event; (7) **Get orders** from your friends, neighbors and co-workers.

More info and order forms will be coming in future bulletins.

Women's Society Gift Basket Raffle (*Next Drawing at our 2010 St. Maron Dinner*)

The Women's Society's next Gift Basket Raffle drawing will be held at our 2010 St. Maron Dinner which has yet to be scheduled. The "Wine and Chocolate" Gift Basket will include various wine and chocolates. (NOTE: Ladies, if you have an item to donate, please bring it to Carol as soon as possible so the basket can be displayed as soon as she can assemble it.)

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 December's winner – Peggy Justice.

Mahrajan Update (Sunday, August 15th)

Our Mahrajan this year will be held at Oglebay Park on Sunday, August 15th.

-Outdoor Mass at 10:30 a.m.

-Entertainment: this year we will have the Alhambra Dance Troupe of Cincinnati and singer Chris Aceto of Ohio with his band called "Al Layali Band" (The Night Band). They will bring many musical instruments: *derbake*, *ood*, drum, violin... for songs and dance (*dabke*).

-Generous Mahrajan sponsors and donors will be listed in the bulletin and in the Souvenir Ad Book as follows: Bronze (15 to \$24), Silver (\$25-\$49), Gold (\$50-\$99) and Diamond (\$100 and over).

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

Please Remember Those Hospitalized Recently In Your Prayers:

Rosaline Saseen, Lottie Elwartoski, Larry Breiding, Barb Sobota, Josephine Joseph,

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

Theresa Snedeker, Dolores Palotay, Charles Gibbons, Mary Custer, Bob Dougherty (brother of Bill), Edith Fahey, 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

January 17: Richard Elwartoski
January 18: Marge Saseen
January 22: Nick Bedway
January 23: Dale Seidler Jr., Lisa Haas
January 26: Chris DeMuth
January 28: Nikki Popovich
January 29: Sandra Dusick

Your Church Support Last Week

\$ 983	Collection
35	Candles
130	2 nd Collection Catholic Campaign
120	Ads
40	Reimbursement
1,800	Fundraising (Reverse Raffle)
\$3,108	Total. <i>May God reward you many fold</i>

What's New?

Parish Condolences: Lottie Elwartoski

The pastor and the parishioners of Our Lady of Lebanon Church, Wheeling, offer their heartfelt sympathy to the Elwartoski family on the loss of their beloved Lottie who passed away in Wheeling, this week. Lottie was the sister of Mary Piko. May the Almighty God grant repose of the soul to His handmaid Lottie and we extend the parish's condolences to her Family in their time of sorrow.

Am I Supporting the Church Properly?

Dear Parishioners,

Are you curious to know our average church Monthly Expenses? The majority of our parishioners consider the church as their second home and they donate generously (many donate over \$25 per week) in order to maintain her and keep her beautiful. Only few people still put \$1 bills into the collection (as they have done

since they first started contributing to the parish maybe ten, twenty, thirty, forty or more years ago) while they enjoy our warm welcome and our high level of spirituality.

To allow everyone to be aware that the church costs money to be heated and cooled, cleaned and well maintained, the following shows some of our monthly expenses based on our 2009 Financial Report: Electricity (\$444.00), Gas (\$1,070.00), water (\$132.00), Building Insurance (\$675.00), Health and Retirement (\$1,215.00), Elevator Insurance (\$134.00), Cleaning (\$100.00), Office and Church Supplies (\$864.00), other expenses (\$2,366.00),... Total Monthly Average Expenses: \$7,000.00.

So thanks from the bottom of my heart to those who generously support the church. –Fr. Bakhos

Recently Received In Our Mailbox ...

Dear Father Chidiac, We cannot thank you and your parishioners enough for the kindness you showed Joanne Condace and our family during the funeral of Joe. You made a very sad time very much more tolerable.

Your hospitality, luncheon and thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated. From one and all – a Hearty Thank You and may God Bless. --The Siblings of Joseph Gonot

To “Maronite Voice” Subscribers: Urgent Reply Needed!!!

Dear Parishioners,

My computer has lost the file with the names of those who paid \$10.00 to obtain the Maronite Voice for the year 2010. I need to create a new file and so that you can receive the Maronite Voice on time. I am sorry for any inconvenience this causes you. --Fr. Bakhos

The following names remain on my new list. If you paid \$10.00 and your name is not listed here, please call Fr. Bakhos at 304-233-1688 immediately: *Betty Shia, Donzil & Theresa Gain, Eva Moffat, Evelyn Ghaphery, Joe Dager, Lou & Charlotte Khourey, Dr. Nabil & Nesrine AlKhouri, Nettie Seidler, Jim & Shirley George Sr., Kay Garvey, Bill & Carol Dougherty, Earl & Linda Duffy, Mike Linton, Gary Weisner, Latif Thomas, Charles Sleeme, Julia Tappe, Millet & Susie Fadoul, Tom Ferris, Chamse Rahi, and ???*

Do You Need Lebanese Citizenship?

If you were born in the USA and your parents were originally from Lebanon and you want to obtain a Lebanese citizenship for yourself and your family members, please contact Fr. Bakhos for details by calling him at 304-233-1688.

Wisdom: What Happens in Heaven

What Happens in Heaven?

I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side-by-side inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, 'This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received.' I looked around in this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world.

Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section. The angel then said to me, 'This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them.' I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth.

Finally at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing. 'This is the Acknowledgment Section,' my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed. 'How is it that there is no work going on here?' I asked.

'So sad,' the angel sighed. 'After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments.' 'How does one acknowledge God's blessings?' I asked. 'Simple,' the angel answered. 'Just say, 'Thank you, Lord.'

'What blessings should they acknowledge?' I asked. 'If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of this world's inhabitants. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.' 'And if you get this on your own computer, you are part of the 1% in the world who has that opportunity.'

'If you woke up this morning with more health than illness ... You are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day.' 'If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of being imprisoned, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation ... , you are ahead of 700 million people in the world.' 'If your parents are still alive and

still married ... you are very rare.' 'If you can attend a place of worship without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world ...' 'If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm, you're unique to all those in doubt and despair.' 'Count your blessings.

Spirituality: The U in Jesus

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
 God stuck U in the name of His Son.
 And each time U pray, you'll see it's true,
 You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.
 You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
 For U, He was born; that's why He came.
 And His great love for U is the reason He died.
 It even takes U to spell crUcified.
 Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
 He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?
 The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
 and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.
 When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension,
 He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.
 "Go into the world and tell them it's true
 That I love them all - Just like I love U."
 So many great people are spelled with a U,
 Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?
 It all depends now on what U will do,
 He'd like them to know,
 But it all starts with U.

Wisdom: Be a Lamplighter

Several parents were sitting on a neighbor's porch discussing their children. They were talking about the negative environment in which the kids had to grow up -an environment filled with drugs, violence, and a pervading feeling of hopelessness. How could they, the parents, bring any light into their children's world since it seems so dark and hopeless? Could they be enough of a positive influence in their children's lives that the children would not just survive, but possibly work to change the world around them? The discussion went on for some time.

One of the parents, a science teacher, remarked, "I think we can make a difference in our children's lives if we become lamplighters." "Lamplighters? What do you mean?" the others asked.

She explained. "Around the turn of the century a lamplighter went around the streets lighting the streetlamps. He carried a long pole that had a small candle on top with which he would reach up to light the kerosene-fed lamps. But from a distance you could not see a lamplighter very well. The light from one small candle was not very bright in the surrounding darkness of night.

"However," she continued, "you could follow the progress of the lamplighter as he went along a street. The presence of his candle was barely visible until it joined with the flame of the streetlamp being newly lit. A radiant glow erased a portion of the night's darkness, and looking back down the street, you could see that the light from the glowing streetlamps made the entire street bright as day. The darkness was held at bay."

Almost as a chorus the parents exclaimed, "That's it! We'll be lamplighters for our children. We'll be their role models. We'll share from our own flame in order to light each child's individual lamp of wisdom, and by our love provide the fuel necessary to nourish and sustain its flame. Then we will have helped them become bright enough themselves so that they can conquer the darkness and hopelessness of their world."

Maronites = Catholic of the East

Lebanon In The Holy Scriptures 15

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IV. Lebanon in the New Testament and the Acts of the Apostles

In the New Testament, Lebanon is not mentioned by name. Nevertheless, the evangelists Matthew and Mark attest to Christ visiting regions in the far north of Palestine and beyond. Matthew (Matt 16:13) records that Christ visited the district of Caesarea Philippi.

According to authors of the New Testament, Christ also visited the region of two of the cities of modern-day Lebanon, Sidon and Tyre. In the Old Testament, the narrow strip of land along the Mediterranean coast, including the territory of the cities of Tyre, Sidon and others, was not considered part of what was then known as Lebanon but was instead part of Phoenicia.

Matthew records that after Jesus had stayed for a while on shore at Gennesaret (Matt 14:34), "Jesus left that place and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon" (Matt 15:22, cf. Mark 7:24 and 7:31). Jesus wished to remain hidden in these areas, but His presence did not go unnoticed and he healed the daughter of the Canaanite (Matt 15:22-28) or Syro-Phoenician (Mark 7:24-31) woman in the territory of Tyre.

The scriptures describe the site of the Transfiguration of Jesus (Matt 17:1-9; Mark 9:2-9; Luke 9:28-36) simply as the "high mountain" or "mountain." Traditionally, this "high mountain" is understood as Mount Tabor in northern Palestine. However, some speculate and identify this mountain with Mount Hermon or Great Hermon, also known as Jabal el-Sheikh. In his second letter, the apostle Peter later recalled what he had experienced when he had been with Jesus "on the holy mountain" (2 Peter 1:18).

The commentators in the New Jerusalem Bible understand Peter's reference to the mountain of the Transfiguration as "the holy mountain," either as an allusion to Zion (cf. Psalms 2:6, Isaiah 11:9) or "as a suggestion that the mountain of transfiguration was the antitype of Sinai." If the identification of the mountain of the transfiguration with Mount Hermon is correct, then Peter would be alluding to that mountain here.

Not only Jesus himself, but also his disciples and the members of the early Christian community went outside of the boundaries of Palestine, even if not voluntarily. The author of the Acts of the Apostles writes that, "those who had scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, but they proclaimed the message only to Jews" (Acts 11:19).

(To be continued)

Story: The Most Valuable Treasure

There is a city in Germany named Weinsberg. Overlooking the city, perched atop a high hill, stands an ancient fortress. The townspeople of Weinsberg are proud to tell about an interesting legend concerning the fortress.

According to the legend, in the 15th century, in the days of chivalry and honor, enemy troops laid siege to the fortress and sealed all the townsfolk inside. The enemy commander sent word up to the fortress announcing that he would allow the women and children to leave and go free before he launched a devastating attack.

After some negotiations, the enemy commander also agreed, on his word of honor, to let each woman take with her the most valuable, personal treasure she possessed, provided she could carry it out herself.

You can imagine the enemy commander's consternation and surprise when the women began marching out of the fortress ... each one carrying her husband on her back.

Joke (576)

Forbidden in School

A dog had followed his owner to school. His owner was a fourth grader at a public elementary school. However, when the bell rang, the dog sidled inside the building and made it all the way to the child's classroom before a teacher noticed and shooed him outside, closing the door behind him. The dog sat down, whimpered and stared at the closed doors. Then God appeared beside the dog, patted his head, and said, "Don't feel bad fella'...they won't let ME in either."

Disarming Defense

A lawyer was defending his client who was accused of theft. The defense was not going well, so the lawyer attempted a different, more creative defense.

"All my client did was to insert his arm across the counter and into the cash register and remove a small sum of money. As a matter of fact, it was just his arm that committed this crime. My client's arm can hardly be seen as my client. I don't understand how you can punish the entire individual for a crime that was committed by a single limb."

The judge saw through the flimsy defense immediately and answered the lawyer accordingly: "You have stated the dilemma well. So by using your line of reasoning, I will sentence only the defendant's arm to one year of imprisonment. As a courtesy to the defendant, he may either accompany his arm or he may not, as he chooses." Upon completion of the sentencing, the judge sat back in his chair with a smug smile on his face. He had played along with the lawyer's defense but had still outsmarted him.

The defendant and lawyer smiled as well. With the assistance of his lawyer, the defendant detached his artificial limb, laid the criminal limb on the bench, and left the courtroom a free man.

Oil of Kindness

Kindness is the oil that takes friction out of life.

Reading Is Not Enough

A certain intellectual fellow loved to read. He read everything he could find about philosophy, and he became a philosopher. He read everything he could read about mathematics, and he became a mathematician. He read everything he could find about swimming, and he drowned. There are some subjects you just have to do more than read about.

Facts Are Misleading

The professor in Alfred Hitchcock's film *The Lady Vanishes*, upon being confronted with evidence that proves his theory wrong, replies, "Nonsense. My theory is perfectly correct. It is the facts that are misleading."

Count on Math

There are only three kinds of people: those who can count and those who can't.

Reading Lion

Two explorers were on a jungle safari when suddenly a ferocious lion jumped in front of them. "Keep calm," the first explorer whispered. "Remember what we read in the book on wild animals: If you stand perfectly still and look the lion in the eye, he will turn and run."

"Sure," replied his companion, "you've read the book, and I've read the book. ...But has the lion read the book?"

Say Something in French

It was the final day of a three-year French course. The teacher had worked hard to teach his students to communicate fluently in French. The teacher excitedly asked one of his students, "What are the first words you will say when you get to France?" The student thought for a moment and answered the teacher, "*Parlez vous anglais?*" (which means, "Do you speak English?")