

**February 14, 2010**  
**Bulletin # 7**

## ***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

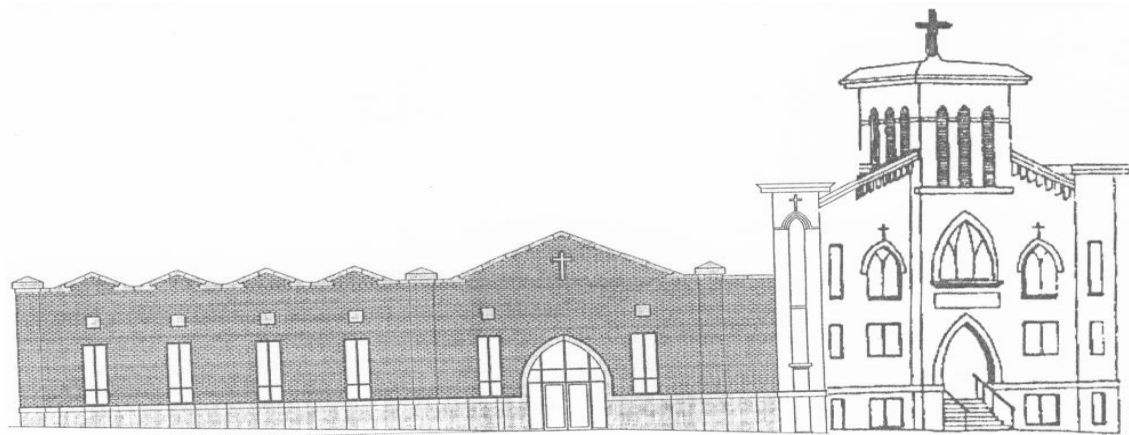
E-Mail: ololwv@Comcast.net • Web Site: www.ololwv.com

**Rev. Bakhos Chidiac (Pastor)**

Evelyn Ghaphery (Organist)

Charlotte Khourey & Thomasina Geimer (Secretaries)

### ***Cana Sunday***



### ***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 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month at 3:30 p.m. & 1<sup>st</sup> 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, Rita Strawn 304-547-1692, Mike Linton 304-242-6969
- \***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: Cana Sunday***

*Readings: Rom 14:14-23 and Jn 2:1-12*

One of the prayers during the season of Lent is part of a sermon by a fifth-century Italian deacon whose homilies were so stirring that they earned him the nickname “*golden worded*” and, thirteen centuries after his death, caused him to be declared a Doctor of the Church. The man was St. Peter Chrysologus, and the Lenten excerpt is titled “*Prayer knocks, fasting obtains, mercy receives.*” Without all three, St. Peter says –and by “*mercy*” he means charitable works– there is no progress in faith or virtue.

It’s a good way to think of Lent, as a time of emptying ourselves of the world, asking God to fill us up, and helping to fill our brothers and sisters in need. “*You will not be allowed,*” St. Peter writes, “*to keep what you have refused to give to others.*” Contemporary spiritual writer Derek Webster puts the same observation another way: “*The way lies on a path of love that has three gates; the failure of understanding, the forgetfulness of self, and the remembrance of others.*”

This year, our Lenten preparation could be fruitful if it deals with each of these three aspects of Christian living:

- 1- How the prayer of Lent, the season as spiritual preparation for Easter, is catching on with non-Catholic Christians
- 2- Fasting and addiction
- 3- The Lenten Charity of a parish.

I hope that these ideas inspire you as you prepare to begin your own Lenten journey.

### ***Happy Valentine’s Day***

For God so loVed the world,

That He gAve

His onLy

BegottEn

SoN

That whosoever

Believes In Him

Should Not perish,

But have Everlasting life." (John 3:16)

### ***Story: Jesus’ Valentine***

Sometimes we get a glimpse of ourselves through our children. We aspire to do great things for God but then, oops, we don’t quite hit the mark.

It was St. Valentine’s Day and our oldest daughter, Buffy, who was then in third grade, came home from school with a few candies to share with her three younger siblings.

I was in the kitchen preparing dinner when four-year-old John-Paul came in holding up a small pink candy heart.

With love in his eyes he announced, “Mommy, I’m going to give my heart to Jesus.” I was delighted by our son’s selfless devotion to Christ and praised him for it. He left the room smiling. Moments later he returned without the smile.

“Mommy,” John-Paul said holding up the candy heart with a little nibble out of it, “I’m going to give Jesus this much of my heart.” He waited anxiously for my response.

I continued to encourage him. “Son, Jesus will be delighted to share your heart with you,” I gushed. A smile again graced his face as he returned to tell the other children, “See, God isn’t mad at me!”

Satisfied that all was well, I returned to my task of making gravy. Suddenly there was John Paul again, tugging my slacks from behind. Once again my young son looked up at me with sad blue eyes but this time there was nothing in his hands.

“Mommy,” he announced earnestly, “I don’t think Jesus likes pink.”

## *Mass Intentions*

### THIS WEEKEND, February 13-14: Miracle of Cana at Galilee

#### **Saturday, February 13 at 4:00 p.m.:**

Steve & Margaret Schlog (Birthday) by Bob & Fran Saseen  
Dale Seidler Sr. (on his Birthday) by his wife Nettie & Family

#### **Sunday, February 14 at 10:30 a.m.:**

Rosaline Saseen by Earl & Linda Duffy  
Chuck Ferrell (friend of Fr. Bakhos) by the Parish of Our Lady of Lebanon

### Weekday Masses

#### **Monday, February 15: Ash Monday**

##### *8:00 a.m.: Mass & Blessing with Ashes*

Lottie Elwartoski by Debra Laughlin  
Joe Gonot by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family

##### *5:30 p.m.: Mass & Blessing with Ashes*

Rosaline Saseen by M/M Jerry Saseen  
Ferris Shia by Rose Vargo

#### **Tuesday, February 16:** No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

#### **Wednesday, February 17: Ash Wednesday**

##### *8:00 a.m.: Mass & Blessing with Ashes*

Mike & Sadie Thomas and Deceased Relatives (MN) by Ervin & Rosemary Splatt (WI)  
Ferris Shia by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family

##### *5:30 p.m.: Mass & Blessing with Ashes*

Rosaline Saseen by Carl Pearson  
Theresa Gubash & Deceased of the Koury Family by Peter & Mary Solberg & Family

#### **Thursday, February 18 at Noon:**

Rosaline Saseen by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family  
Ferris Shia by Toni & Alfy Shia & Family

#### **Friday, February 19 at Noon:**

Lottie Elwartoski by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family  
Ferris Shia by Kenny & Janet Shia Goncola

### NEXT WEEKEND, February 20-21: Sunday of the Leper

#### **Saturday, February 20 at 4:00 p.m.:**

Robert Rose (on his Anniversary) by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt & Family  
Special Intention

#### **Sunday, February 21 at 10:30 a.m.:**

Dale Seidler Sr., by his wife Nettie & Family  
Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions

## *Make Your Charitable Contributions Via the Church:*

Please keep in mind that you can donate, at any time, to your choice of the following two funds:

- The "**Endowment Fund**" which will help with our church maintenance for years to come.
- The "**Poor Families of our Parish**" which will be used in case of emergency to support exclusively the poor active parishioners who belong to our church. Those who don't have offering envelopes and don't attend our church on a regular basis could not benefit from this fund.

## *Our Lady of Lebanon Community Calendar*

Date	Event
Sunday, February 14	<b>Fr. Bakhos' Birthday Celebration</b> – <i>after Mass (with Cake &amp; Ice Cream)</i>
Mon. & Wed., Feb. 15 & 17	<b>Ash Monday</b> – 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Mass & Blessing with Ashes
Thursday, February 18	<b>Bible Study Class</b> – <i>from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.</i> <b>Lebanese Language Class</b> – <i>from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.</i>
Wed. & Thur., Feb. 24 & 25	<b>Soup &amp; Hoagie Sale</b> – 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 28	<b>Women's Society Meeting</b> – <i>following Sunday Mass</i>
Sunday, February 28	<b>Women's Society 50/50 Monthly Raffle</b> – <i>drawing following Sunday Mass</i>
Sunday, March 7	<b>Bingo Night with the Cedar Club</b> – 6:00 p.m. in the Old Basement Hall
Sunday, March 21	<b>Women's Society Gift Basket Drawing</b> – <i>at the St. Maron Dinner</i>
Sunday, March 21	<b>St. Maron Lebanese Dinner</b> – 11:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, August 15	<b>Mahrajan</b> – <i>at Oglebay Park</i>



## *Community Events*

### ***Fr. Bakhos Birthday Celebration Rescheduled*** (*Sun., February 14, after Mass*)

Because of the snowstorm last week, Fr. Bakhos' Birthday Celebration with cake and ice cream will be celebrated this Sunday, February 14, in the Church Cedar Hall. Come and join the Cedar Club and sing Happy Birthday.

### ***Masses & Blessing with Ashes***

**Ash Monday, February 15:** 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Mass & Blessing with Ashes

**Ash Wednesday, February 17:** 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Mass & Blessing with Ashes

### ***Bible Study and Lebanese Language Classes*** (*Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>*)

--Bible Study class will be from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

--Lebanese Language class will be from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

### ***Stations of the Cross & Light Dinner*** (*Starting Fri., Feb. 19 after 5:30 p.m. Mass*)

Every Friday during Lent, we celebrate the Mass at 5:30 p.m. and Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m., followed by Benediction of the Cross. The "Stations of the Cross" is a devotion which consists of following the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ by recalling the fourteen prominent events that took place from the time of the trial under Pontius Pilate until his death and burial on Mount Calvary.

Many thanks to the Cedar Club members who will sponsor the first Lenten Meal on Friday, February 19, and on Good Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, following the Friday prayers. Also many thanks for the generous families who sponsored the light meals during the other Fridays of Lent.

Date:	Volunteers:
1 <sup>st</sup> Friday, February 19 <sup>th</sup>	Light Meal Sponsor: The Cedar Club
2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday, February 26 <sup>th</sup>	Light Meal Family Sponsor: Jeannette Wakim
3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday, March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Light Meal Family Sponsor: Carol Dougherty, Charlotte Khourey, Fran Saseen, Jean Weisner
4 <sup>th</sup> Friday, March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Light Meal Family Sponsor: Anna Jalad, Rita Strawn, Mary Thomas
5 <sup>th</sup> Friday, March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Light Meal Family Sponsor: Sandra Dusick, Kay Garvey, Julia Tappe
6 <sup>th</sup> Friday, March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Light Meal Family Sponsor: MaryAnn Cater
7 <sup>th</sup> Friday, April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Light Meal Sponsor: The Cedar Club

## **Soup & Hoagie Sale** (Wed. & Thu., Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 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 Church have scheduled their third annual **Soup and Hoagie Sale** on Wednesday and Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. You can purchase assortment of delicious hoagie sandwiches and homemade soups to eat at home or freeze to enjoy another day and pick them up from our Cedar Hall. 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). **The quantity of soup that each person can make is limited – ORDER EARLY!** You may choose from the following soups: *Broccoli & Cheese Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup, Chicken & Rice Soup, Fasolia (Lebanese Bean Soup – meatless), Ham & Bean Soup, Italian Wedding Soup, Lentil Soup (meatless), Maghrabeyah (Lebanese Chicken Soup), Maryland Crab Soup (spicy), Potato Soup, Stuffed Pepper Soup, Vegetable Beef Soup, Vegetarian Vegetable Soup, and ???* **Please call the office if you can volunteer to prepare Broccoli & Cheese Soup.**

***Soup donors include:*** Sue Brubach, Fr. Bakhos Chidiac, Carol Dougherty, Linda Duffy, Sandra Dusick, Diane Frenn, Kathleen George, Don & Roberta Henning, Anna Jalad, Nancy Joseph, Charlotte Khourey, Jill Magers, Fran Saseen, Nettie Seidler, Mary Stees, Rita Strawn, Julia Tappe, Mary Thomas, Jean Weisner

***Dessert donors include:*** Nesrine AlKhouri, Sue Brubach, Kay Garvey, Kathleen George, Lucille Gibbons, Roberta Henning, Emmalena & Charlotte Khourey, Mary Stees, Rita Strawn, Mary Thomas, & ?? **Please call if you can donate a dessert.**

Soup and dessert donors are asked to bring in their items on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, between 9:00 a.m. and Noon or on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 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. 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>**, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; (5) **Purchase some** of Don's delicious **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. ***Volunteers include:*** Judy Bedway, Carol & Bill Dougherty, Sandra Dusick, Kay Garvey, Don & Roberta Henning, Anna Jalad, Nancy Joseph, Charlotte Khourey, Mike Linton, Mary Lish, Jill Magers, Nettie Seidler, Rita Strawn, Julia Tappe, Mary Thomas, and ???

## **Women's Society Monthly 50/50 Raffle** (Drawing: Sunday, February 28)

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 **February 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, February 28.**

**Please check the ticket sheets carefully to be sure you are completing the correct ticket stubs. All raffle tickets are now printed on white paper only.** Buy or sell the tickets, and return the completed stubs as soon as possible in the collection or mail to: Our Lady of Lebanon Church, 2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003. Please write as "Memo: 50/50 Raffle."

For more information or additional tickets, contact the church office at (304) 233-1688. May the Blessed Mother reward you manifold and we ask for your continued support. Congratulations to Mary Custer who won the January \$52 prize. She donated it toward the Endowment Fund. Many Thanks, Mary!

## **Bingo Night** (Sunday, March 7, at 6:00 p.m. in the Old Basement Hall)

The men and women of the Cedar Club will entertain a Bingo date Sunday, March 7, in the Old Basement Hall. Bingo cards are three for 25 cents. Hot dogs, snacks and treats will be available. Plan to come and bring a friend for an evening of fun.

## **Easter Lilies** (Deadline: Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>)

Dear Parishioners and friends of the Blessed Mother,

Every Easter the church looks beautiful decorated with the flowers donated from your hearts to the Blessed Mother in Memory of your beloved family members. Please be generous as usual and sponsor a \$25.00 Easter Flower by Sunday, March 28th. The following Easter Flowers are donated in Memory of:

\$25 Gladys Howard & Louise N. & Louis H. Khourey Sr., by Lou, Charlotte Khourey, Emmalena & Louie  
\$25 Helen Fielding, a loving mother, by her husband Don Fielding (FL)

## **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 including: Oak Lake Merlot, Chateau Ste. Michelle Chardonay, Oak Lake Cabernet Sauvignon, Ruinite Raspberry, two wine goblets, one long stem chocolate rose, Chocolate Delight Cookies with Carmel Cream, Chocolate Dipped Brownie Delights, White Chocolate Lindor Truffles and Dark Chocolate Lindor Truffles.

**NOTE: Our next basket for the upcoming Spaghetti Dinner Is Italian-themed. If any of you ladies have an item to donate for that basket please bring it to church or give it to Carol as soon as possible so the basket can be assembled and readied for display.**

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 15<sup>th</sup>)

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

**Mass:** Outdoor Mass at 10:30 a.m.

**Entertainment:** this year we will have 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*). Also we will have again the Alhambra Dance Troupe of Cincinnati to perform four dance shows.

**Sponsors:** Generous Mahrajan sponsors and supporters will be listed in the weekly bulletin and in the Mahrajan Souvenir Ad Book as follows: Diamond (\$100 & over); Gold (\$50-\$99); Silver (under \$50).

## ***Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List***

### **Please Remember Those Hospitalized Recently In Your Prayers:**

Dave Sengewalt

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

Marcus Saludes, Andy Kaminski, Louis John, Sam Elias, Frank Lish, Barb Sobota, Josephine Joseph, Theresa Snedeker, Dolores Palotay, Bob Dougherty (brother of Bill), Edith Fahey, Rosella Saseen, Gary West, 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

February 14: Diane Frenn  
February 15: Nettie Seidler, Monica Burns  
February 16: Josephine Joseph, Dave Sengewalt  
February 17: Rebecca DiFabrizio  
February 18: Barb McLaughlin  
February 21: Louie Khourey  
February 27: MaryAnn Carl

## Your Church Support Last Week

\$ 939	Collection
146	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection
37	Candles
25	Utilities
360	Parking
200	Hall Rental
25	Easter Flowers
3025	Reverse Raffle
121	Soup & Hoagies
120	Ads
10	Reimbursement
125	Donation for the Church
500	Donation (New Church High-Efficiency Heat System)
105	Donation (Endowment Fund)
60	Donation (Poor Families)
\$5,798	Total. <i>May God reward you many fold</i>

## What's New?

### ***New Lebanese Cookbook Available***

“Addie’s Way – Lessons in Cooking and Life as Learned from My Lebanese Mother” by Michael J. Shaheen (of St. Clairsville) has been printed and is available for sale. (Shaheen is the son of the late William and Addie Bedway Shaheen. This book is a beautiful, hard-cover book, preserves Addie’s countless memories, stories and recipes. Copies are available for \$25.00 (shipping is extra). Checks should be made payable to: *Shaheen Enterprises LLC*. If you would like to purchase a copy, please see Fr. Bakhos or call the church office at 304-233-1688.

### ***Heat System Fundraising to Replace Old Church Furnace***

During the last nine years that I have served this parish, the very old furnace of the church has needed to be repaired on a yearly basis. The steel pipes are rusted and the radiators inside the church are falling apart and are clogged with rust. I am afraid that if we don’t overhaul the heating system this summer, the church would be without heat during the coming winter.

A study by H.E. Neumann of Wheeling suggests that we replace the existing steam system of the church with a high-efficiency, hot water heat system with separate thermostat controls; and also the installation of a separate heating and air-conditioning system for the rectory.

The parish council and I approved this urgent task and we are beginning a special fundraising effort to cover the cost of this project: \$33,000.00

As you helped with the \$1.7 million building addition and with the recent painting project that makes the church look so beautiful, we ask you once more to make a contribution to the success of this urgent project. Our miraculous church has been brought to perfection, and the Blessed Mother is turning her smiling face toward us all.

A plaque will be installed in the church commemorating all the donors at the levels listed below. Please be a part of the generous and proud flock of our church.

Silver (\$100-\$199)	Mary Rose Kukula, Jonathan Turak,
Gold (\$200-\$499)	
Diamond (\$500 & over)	Fr. Bakhos Chidiac, Lou & Charlotte Khourey,

## *Around Us*

### *Spaghetti Dinner* (Sunday, April 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Where: 18<sup>th</sup> Street Catholic Charity Neighborhood Center, Wheeling

When: 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### *Easter Reflection: Take the Steps*

“Leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled...” (Matthew 5:24)

There is a proverb to the effect of, “Let not the sun set on your anger.” Jesus makes it more direct: forget your sacrifices and do not approach the altar if you are not reconciled.

Forgiveness again! Why does the Lord insist upon it? It could be because the habitual refusal to forgive hardens the heart so that hardhearted people have a difficult time *receiving* love. They really don’t want it. They would rather cling to their resentments, their hurts and slights. Hard hearts are hard to love, though God can do that, too.

If only they could “let go and let God,” as the Twelve Step Program recommends. We do not have to feel good about the person we are un-reconciled with, but we do have to desire reconciliation. And we must take whatever steps we can in order to be reconciled, including prayer. If we act this way, we will not only experience an unexpected peace, we will understand, finally, the meaning of sacrifice. And the Sacrifice of the Mass.

### *Easter Meditation: Praying with Hope*

**“Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.”** (Jeremiah 20:13)

The children of God need to support, protect, and hold one another to God’s heart. You belong to a minority in a large, hostile world. As you become more aware of your true identity as a child of God, you will also see more clearly the many forces that try to convince you that all things spiritual are false substitutes for the real things of life.

When you are temporarily pulled out of your true self, you can have the sudden feeling that God is just a word, prayer is a fantasy, sanctity is a dream, and eternal life is an escape from true living. Jesus was tempted in this way, and so are we. Do not trust your thoughts and feelings when you are pulled out of yourself. Return quickly to your true place, and pay no attention to what tricked you. Gradually you will come to be more prepared for these temptations, and they will have less and less power over you. Protect your innocence by holding on to the truth: you are a child of God and deeply loved.

*Lord, may I thank you for the many ways your Spirit has enriched my life, especially in guiding my life of prayer, placing within my heart the confidence that you have heard every prayer I have ever uttered.*

## ***Maronites = Catholic of the East***

### ***The Eastern Churches***

#### ***Celebrate the Liturgy with Great Love (Liturgy I)***

On the topic of ecumenism, what the Second Vatican Council says about relations between the Eastern and Western Churches is particularly important: "The current separation cannot make us forget the long way we have come together."

#### ***Pope John Paul II Wrote:***

On their journey together, the West received a great deal from the East in the area of liturgy, spiritual tradition, juridical order. Furthermore, "*the basic dogmas of the Christian faith concerning the Trinity and the Word of God made flesh from the Virgin Mary were defined in ecumenical councils held in the East.*"

The doctrinal development which occurred in the East in the early centuries was decisive for the formulation of the Church's universal faith. Here I would like to remember with deep veneration the doctrine defined by several ecumenical councils in the first centuries:

- a- the ***consubstantiality of the Son with the Father***, at Nicea in 325;
- b- the ***divinity of the Holy Spirit***, at the First Council of Constantinople, in 381;
- c- the ***divine motherhood of Mary***, at Ephesus in 431;
- d- the ***one person and two natures of Christ***, at Chalcedon in 451.

The thematic developments that make it possible to understand with increasing clarity the "unsearchable riches" of Christ's mystery must be based on this fundamental contribution which is definitive for the Christian faith. The Second Vatican Council refrained from examining the circumstances of the separation, as well as from evaluating the mutual rebukes. It merely noted that the same inheritance received from the Apostles was developed in different places and various ways in the East and in the West, "also because of differing mentalities and ways of life". This created problems that, in addition to "external causes, as well as the lack of charity and mutual understanding, left the way open to divisions".

The memory of the painful pages of the past, instead of imprisoning us in recrimination and controversy, should spur us to mutual understanding and charity, in the present and in the future.

In this regard, I would like to stress the great consideration shown by the council for the spiritual treasures of the Christian East, starting with those connected with the sacred liturgy. The Eastern Churches celebrate the liturgy with great love. This is especially true with regard to the Eucharistic Celebration, where we are all called to an ever greater discovery of the "source of the Church's life and pledge of future glory." In it, "the faithful, united with their bishops, have access to God the Father through the Son, the Word made flesh who suffered and was glorified, in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. And so, made "sharers of the divine nature," they enter into communion with the Most Holy Trinity. Hence... in each of these Churches, the Church of God is built up and grows in stature".

Then the decree on Ecumenism recalls the Eastern Churches' devotion to Mary, the Ever-Virgin Mother of God, who is extolled with splendid hymns. Worship of the THEOTOKOS highlights the essential importance of Mary in the work of redemption and also sheds lights on the meaning and values of the veneration given to the saints.

The decree puts special emphasis on the spiritual traditions, particularly those of the monastic life, observing that they were the source "from which Latin monastic life took its rise and has often drawn fresh vigor ever since"

The contribution of the East to the life of Christ's Church was and still is very important. Thus, the council exhorts Catholics "to understand, venerate, preserve, and foster the rich liturgical and spiritual heritage of the Eastern Churches, in order faithfully to preserve the fullness of Christian tradition and to bring about reconciliation between Eastern and Western Christians."

In particular, Catholics are invited "to avail themselves more often of the spiritual riches of the Eastern fathers" in the tradition of a spirituality which "lifts up the whole man to the contemplation of divine mysteries"

Therefore, we must grow in our knowledge of what the council taught and recommended about respecting the practices, customs, and spiritual traditions of the Eastern Churches. We must strive for relations of sincere charity and fruitful collaboration with them, in full fidelity to the truth. We can only share and repeat our wish that "friendly collaboration with them may increase in a spirit of love, without bickering or rivalry."

### ***Story: Two Traveling Angels***

Two traveling angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude and refused to let the angels stay in the mansion's guest room. Instead the angels were given a small space in the cold basement.

As they made their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it. When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied, "Things aren't always what they seem."

The next night the pair came to rest at the house of a very poor, but very hospitable farmer and his wife. After sharing what little food they had the couple let the angels sleep in their bed where they could have a good night's rest. When the sun came up the next morning the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears. Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income, lay dead in the field.

The younger angel was infuriated and asked the older angel how could you have let this happen? The first man had everything, yet you helped him, she accused. The second family had little but was willing to share everything, and you let the cow die.

"Things aren't always what they seem," the older angel replied.

"When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall. Since the owner was so obsessed with greed and unwilling to share his good fortune, I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it. Then last night as we slept in the farmers' bed, the angel of death came for his wife. I gave him the cow instead. Things aren't always what they seem."

Sometimes that is exactly what happens when things don't turn out the way they should. If you have faith, you just need to trust that every outcome is always to your advantage. You just might not know it until sometime later.

Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some people become friends and stay awhile leaving beautiful footprints on our hearts and we are never quite the same because we have made a good friend!! Yesterday is history. Tomorrow a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why it's called the present!

### ***Joke (580)***

#### ***Jury of Lawyers***

A defendant in a small county was brought before the judge. After listening to the man for several minutes, the judge could see that the man was clearly guilty. There were a couple of problems though. The man demanded a jury trial, and it was getting late into the afternoon. The judge glanced at his watch and thought he might still get this case over with before the end of the day.

The judge called for a recess and walked out into the hallway of the court. He saw a group of lawyers there who were finished with their cases and were preparing to leave. He asked them if they would like to serve on a jury for a short case.

This was an opportunity for the lawyers to act in an entirely different way, so they all enthusiastically agreed to serve on the jury. In just a few minutes court was convened, the case was heard, and the lawyer jury was dismissed to consider the case.

After more than an hour, the judge was confused at the length of the jurors' deliberations. He sent his bailiff to see what was delaying the jury. The bailiff returned. The judge asked the bailiff what was taking the jury so long to reach a decision.

"Reach a decision?" the bailiff responded. "They haven't even finished their nominating speeches for foreman of the jury."