

February 21, 2010
Bulletin # 8

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

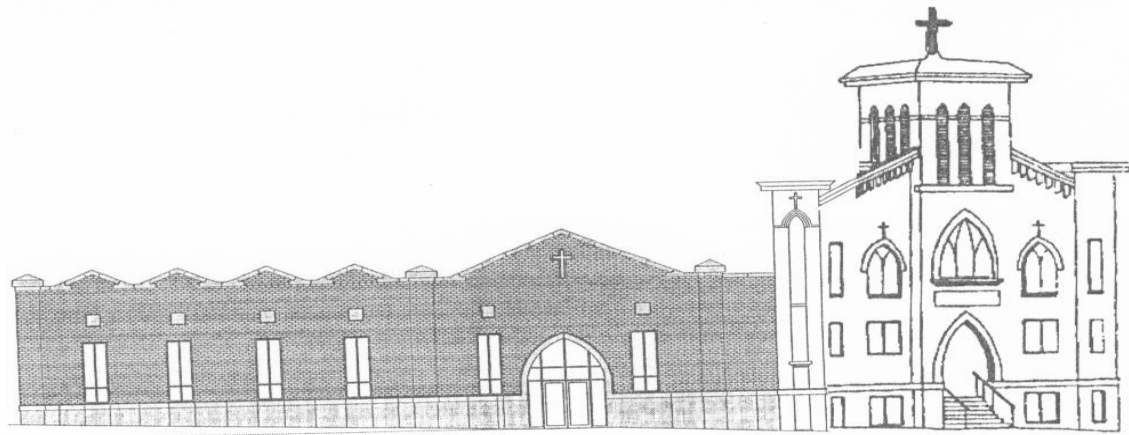
E-Mail: ololwv@Comcast.net • Web Site: www.ololwv.com

Rev. Bakhos Chidiac (Pastor)

Evelyn Ghaphery (Organist)

Charlotte Khourey & Thomasina Geimer (Secretaries)

Sunday of the Leper



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, 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: Sunday of the Leper

Readings: Rom 6:12-23 & Mk 1:35-45

All of us no doubt have told ourselves on more than one occasion that we were busy to pray. We are speaking about set, formal periods of prayer. We are not speaking about prayer in action, or that prayerful attitude which should permeate our daily activity. Such prayer in action allows us to bring a deeper Christian awareness to what we are doing and why we are doing it.

We cannot tell ourselves that we are busier than Jesus was; that we have more important work to accomplish than He did. Yet, as the above Scripture passage reminds us, Jesus set aside special time for prayer. Many, many holy Christian men and women from all states of life have likewise always found the time to pray. Moreover, they were more effective in their work precisely because they did pray.

Prayer serves various purposes. One of its functions is to mold us to become more effective workers in the Father's vineyard. Prayer helps us to control worry and anxiety. Worry and anxiety obviously can make us less efficient in our work. We cannot expect prayer to remove all anxiety from life. But prayer has a significant contribution to offer in making us Christians who are basically permeated with the peace of Christ. If we are persons of prayer, we grow in the awareness of what it means to be loved by Jesus, and, consequently, are in a position to control worry and anxiety. Prayer also aids us in work by giving the motivation to do the right thing at the right time. Sometimes we can fail to do the work precisely because we are not properly motivated. Prayer can also aid in making our work of a higher Christian quality; prayer can help permeate our work with a deeper faith, hope, and love.

These are some of the ways prayer assists us to go about our work more effectively. When we pause to analyze the situation, then, we have to admit that we really are not too busy to pray.

Fr. Bakhos' Motto: "Say Your Word and Walk Away"

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

My last nine years here in Wheeling have been **"the nine golden years of my life."** I met the best and the friendliest people on earth; and I am grateful to each and everyone who worked with me to achieve the addition to the church that became an architectural piece of art in the heart of Wheeling. I offered my labor and sacrifices and yours to the Blessed Mother who helped us all the way. She deserves the best from all of us.

Now it is time for me to move on!

Congratulations to our parish for being assigned one of the best young priests in our Diocese, Fr. Gary George who will come after Easter to replace me and become your pastor. I am confident that he will lead the parish to a much higher level. He is smart, energetic and I believe he will be able to activate the youth of the parish beautifully. You will love him dearly.

I don't deserve the honor bestowed upon me by my bishop, Robert Shaheen, who has appointed me Pastor of Saint Sharbel Church located at 31601 Schoneherr Road, Warren, Michigan, 48093. It is a huge responsibility to serve that parish of more than 2000 families. I pray and ask you to pray with me for the strength and wisdom to serve that parish—the largest in our Diocese—and to meet the expectations of my bishop and the members of his board. As I loved and served this parish with all my heart and soul, and as I make the best of my remaining days here in Wheeling, I am accepting the challenge to serve larger parish and hope to use the talents God gave me to the best of my ability.

There will be three priests moving simultaneously at this time. Our move will take place immediately after Easter. In the meantime, I know in my heart—that loves and respects each and every one of you—that you will miss me, but you can't imagine how much I will miss every one of you because you are so very special to me. I was ordained to welcome, serve and treat all those who attend our church equally. I am sorry and please accept my apology if, because of some unintentional misunderstanding or conflict of interest, a few people were not pleased—even Jesus was not successful in pleasing everyone.

The beauty and the improved function of our church is obviously the talk of the town. I came to light a candle not to curse the darkness. Our gift to the Blessed Mother is here for her to appreciate and for you and your children to enjoy. Even if you forgot me, I will never forget you. —Fr. Bakhos

Mass Intentions

THIS 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

Weekday Masses

Monday, February 22: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Tuesday, February 23: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Wednesday, February 24 at Noon:

Anthony Male (on his 3rd Anniversary) by his son-in-law Mike Linton
Rosaline Saseen by Vic & Tracy Canestraro

Thursday, February 25 at Noon:

Rosaline Saseen by Jim & Sue Anthony
Ferris Shia by Lynn Shia & Family

Friday, February 26 at 5:30 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross, Benediction & Light Dinner:

Ferris Shia by Jim & Lisa Shia Kepner & Family
Rosaline Saseen by Jim & Sue Anthony

NEXT WEEKEND, February 27-28: Sunday of the Hemorrhaging Woman

Saturday, February 27 at 4:00 p.m.:

Rosaline Saseen by Charlotte Canestraro
Ferris Shia by Emily Vince

Sunday, February 28 at 10:30 a.m.:

Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions
Ferris Shia by M/M Fred Shia & Family

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
This Wed. & Thur., Feb. 24 & 25	Soup & Hoagie Sale – 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 25	Bible Study Class – from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Lebanese Language Class – from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.
Fridays during Lent: Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26 & April 2	Mass, Stations of the Cross, Benediction, Light Dinner —begins at 5:30 pm
Sunday, February 28	Women's Society Meeting – following Sunday Mass
Sunday, February 28	Women's Society 50/50 Monthly Raffle – drawing following Sunday Mass
Sunday, March 7	Bingo Night with the Cedar Club – 6:00 p.m. in the Old Basement Hall
Sunday, March 21	Women's Society Gift Basket Drawing – at the St. Maron Dinner
Sunday, March 21	St. Maron Lebanese Dinner – 11:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, August 15	Mahrajan – at Oglebay Park



Community Events

Soup & Hoagie Sale (This Wednesday & Thursday, Feb. 24th & 25th, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.)

Remember to pick up your **Soup and Hoagie Sale** Orders from Our Lady of Lebanon Church on Wednesday and Thursday, February 24th and 25th, from 10:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. 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.

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.

Please call the church office at 304-233-1688 if you can help with this project.

Volunteers include: Judy Bedway, Carol & Bill Dougherty, Sandra Dusick, Kay Garvey, Kim Gibbons, Don & Roberta Henning, Anna Jalad, Nancy Joseph, Charlotte Khourey, Mike Linton, Mary Lish, Jill Magers, Nettie Seidler, Rita Strawn, Julia Tappe, Mary Thomas, Fran Saseen, Jean Weisner

Bible Study and Lebanese Language Classes (Thursday, February 25th)

--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 (Fri., Feb. 26 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 2nd, following the Friday prayers. Also many thanks for the generous families who sponsored the light meals during the other Fridays of Lent.

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

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.

St. Maron Lebanese Dinner (Sunday, March 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.)

Mark your calendar and plan to attend our St. Maron Lebanese Dinner which has been scheduled for Sunday, March 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tickets will be available soon. Look for more information in upcoming Bulletins.

Easter Lilies (Deadline: Sunday, March 28th)

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 an Easter Flower for \$25.00 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)
- \$25 Suzanne Linton by her husband Mike Linton
- \$25 Frances Linton by her husband Joseph Linton & sons Steve & Mike
- \$25 For a Special Intention by a Friend

Women's Society Gift Basket Raffle (Sunday, March 21, at the St. Maron Dinner)

The Women's Society's next Gift Basket Raffle drawing will be held at our 2010 St. Maron Dinner scheduled for Sunday, March 21. The "Wine and Chocolate" Gift Basket will include various wine and chocolates including: Oak Lake Merlot, Chateau Ste. Michelle Chardonnay, 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 May 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.

2010 Diocesan Appeal – Easter Obligation (Due by Easter Sunday, April 4th)

Many Thanks for all the following faithful parishioners and good Christians who contributed \$50.00 each (unless otherwise marked) toward their Easter Obligation for the 2010 Diocesan Appeal. May your Easter bring more blessings to you and to your family members.

Lou & Charlotte Khourey (\$100), Mike Linton, Anna Jalad, Earl & Linda Duffy, Larry Breiding, Kenny & Nancy Joseph, Jean Weisner, Sylvia Long, A Friend, Cecilia John, Cecilia Ammar, Joe & Karen John, Patricia Smith, M/M Michael Carl, Palmers at Columbia Sales, Bill & Carol Dougherty,

Mahrajan Update (Sunday, August 15th)

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

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:

Louis John, Pearl Shutler (mother of Janet), Dave Sengewalt

Also Please Pray for Those Who Asked Us to Pray for Them:

Marcus Saludes, Andy Kaminski, 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 21: Louie Khourey
February 25: Isaac Stephens
February 27: MaryAnn Carl
March 1: Linda Voellinger, Dottie Kupchak
March 4: Jeff Sengewalt
March 5: Philip Carl
March 6: Karen Shipley, Kristen McLaughlin
March 15: Shelby Imer
March 18: John Shibben, Kenny Imer, Bill Stees, Patrick Petros
March 21: Caroline Stees McDowell

Your Church Support Last Week

1,516	Collection
300	Diocesan Appeal
33	Candles
20	Utilities
60	Parking
2029	Reverse Raffle
742	Soup & Hoagies
80	Reimbursement
2,045	Donation (New Church High-Efficiency Heat System)
6,825.00	Total. <i>May God reward you many fold</i>

What's New?

Many Thanks...

I would like to thank all my wonderful parishioners and friends who have contributed to the joy of my 59th birthday. You were so generous to me and I appreciate that so very much. I have enjoyed being with you for the last nine years. You have proved to be the friendliest parish. As I will remember you when I am in Michigan next year as I celebrate my 60th birthday. Please remember the priest who has spent nine golden years among you serving the Blessed Mother.
-Fr. Bakhos

Heat System Fundraising to Replace Old Church Furnace

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

Silver (\$100-\$199)	<i>Mary Rose Kukula, Jonathan Turak, Jim & Rose Marie Carroll, Al Depto, Salem J. David In memory of Sadie & Joseph Simon, Bill & Mary Daniel Jr., Tom Ferris, Bob & Fran Saseen, Paul & Irene Schuler, Ferris Shia, Peggy Justice,</i>
Gold (\$200-\$499)	<i>Dr. Jack & Rose Palmer, Sylvia Long, Altmeyer Funeral Home, Rosella Saseen,</i>
Diamond (\$500 & over)	<i>Fr. Bakhos Chidiac, Lou & Charlotte Khourey, Larry Breiding,</i>

Donations received under \$100.00. **The following donors names will NOT appear on the plaque:**

Peggy Palmer, Michael Caruso, Frank & Anna Marie Duymich, Al & Annette Togliatti,

Total Raised so far: \$3,465.00?

Congratulations to Dr. AlKhouri

Congratulations to our parishioner Dr. Nabiel AlKhouri -currently a board certified oncologist at Wheeling Hospital's Schiffler Cancer Center- who recently received the additional board certification in hematology. We wish you success and many more honors here in Wheeling.

Best Wishes to...

We extend best wishes to Christina Marie daughter of Bill & Tricia Committee who was recently engaged to Dr. Matthew Joseph Zdilla. She is a student at WVU and is working toward a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. Matthew is an assistant professor of biology at West Liberty University. A July wedding is planned in Wheeling.

In Our Mailbox

Dear Fr. Bakhos Chidiac, Enclosed is \$100.00 toward the purchase of a new furnace for Our Lady of Lebanon Church. This donation is in memory of Sadie and Joseph Simon -both were very active in Our Lady of Lebanon Church for many years! I'm sure they are looking down from heaven above at all your accomplishments and that they are as thrilled as the rest of us are at all of them. Respectfully, --Salem J. David

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.

Around Us

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

Where & When: 18th Street Catholic Charity Neighborhood Center, Wheeling, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Parishioner Profile: Samuel Elias

“Parishioner Profile,” written by Carol Dougherty, is a feature in our Weekly Bulletin planned for publication approximately once-a-month. It will introduce one or more of our parishioners and include their life’s reflections, memories, etc. – each as unique as the individual. Please allow yourself to be interviewed when called upon by Carol so others may get to know you better.

Our February “Parishioner Profile” will feature our much beloved Sam Elias.

Sam was born in Georgetown, South Carolina to Albert (Abe) Elias and Nasima Wakim Elias. There were five children in the family. Lucille Theresa, John Joseph, Josephine Frances, Alma B. and Sam. All but Sam are deceased. The family moved to Wheeling because his grandmother, Tatile Wakim wanted Sam's father to help out at his uncle George Lewis's business in downtown Wheeling. His father became the manager of the 10th Street Waiting Room, a well-known business at that time. It was always a treat to stop in there and buy some fresh roasted peanuts.

Sam was educated in Wheeling schools and graduated from Wheeling Central High School class of 1943. Sam went into the Navy and served with the Seabees during the Second World War. The Seabees were a specialized unit that did construction. Sam was sent to Guam and the Marshall Islands in the Pacific and was part of the crew that built the airway there. There was some action during his stint there; but thankfully, after victory over Japan was declared, he was able to return home safe and sound. Sam then went to work for Prudential Insurance and retired there in 1986.

Sam met his true love, the lovely Bernadine George Elias at his sister's wedding. The meeting was a special one because they were married in Our Lady of Lebanon Church on December 26, 1948. Sam and Bernie have four daughters: Barbara Joseph, a Certified Nurse Anesthetist, in Florida; Debbie Davis, a secretary at St. Vincent Church in Elm Grove; Frances Golebiewski, an accountant with Bayer (Mobay) in Moon Township; and Rita Mosslander who works for the State of Ohio. They have 12 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Sam's hobbies are bowling, reading and sports. He was a member of the General Welding Bowling Team in St. Clairsville, Ohio. The teams that he likes are the Pittsburgh Steelers, the Penguins, and the Pirates. He stays true to the "black and gold."

What we know and love about Sam, besides his gentle personality, is his devotion to our church. Sam has been a Server of the Altar for approximately 80 years. He said when he was a boy he used to play softball on Thursday evening which was when the Miraculous Medal Novena was held. It was in conflict with his softball game; however, loyal Sam would leave the game early and run to the church, still in his uniform, and slip into his Altar Boy garment just in time to serve Mass.

When his mother Nasima would come to Mass, she always looked elegant. Dressed so neatly from head to toe. He is truly his mother's son because Sam is the same way - always elegant, always neat. I'm sure Bernie has something to do with that also. He is a special human being, and they are a special couple. We have enjoyed working with them for many years, and hopefully for many more.

Easter Reflection: Worth Saving

“This man welcomes sinners ...” (Luke 15:2)

For a long time in my life I seemed to nurture the secret hope that when I died, I would go before the Lord and somehow be able to say, “I’m glad that you underwent the Passion to save all of those sinners, but I did so well that I really didn’t need it myself.” It was never quite as bold as that, but I secretly hoped I could be that virtuous, enough to actually merit heaven.

What a delusion! Worse, what a missed opportunity to realize God’s bountiful goodness in saving us. It was a delusion because none of us can ever merit the Beatific Vision. If we think we can, we don’t need Jesus Christ. If we are at all honest, we will eventually see that all our efforts to save ourselves finally fail. But if we realize we cannot do it on our own and have not yet accepted Jesus as our Savior, it is all too easy to lose hope altogether. We can come to feel we are not worth heaven. Then the sad choice is between being a Pharisee or poor Judas. Or we can accept the salvation offered us. Yes, God has saved us and so we are worth saving. Yes, we could not do it on our own. And, yes, we are eternally grateful.

Easter Meditation: Prayer for Family Forgiveness

How often should we forgive, Lord?

Seventy times seven times?

Help me to forgive all who have wronged me.

Bless me with the humility

to see the plank in my own eye

so as not to focus on the splinter in another's.

Spare me the perils of pettiness

and help me to develop a magnanimous spirit.

Give our family the joy of the contrite of heart,

You who have blessed us innumerable times

with Your never ending mercy. AMEN

Easter Reflection: The Love of Jesus Crucified

Our loving Redeemer may well declare that he came upon the earth to enkindle divine love and that he desired nothing else but to see this sacred fire burning in our hearts, “I have come to bring fire upon the earth and how I wish it were already kindled” (Luke 12:49). And, in fact, how many happy souls have been so inflamed with the thoughts of a crucified God as to leave all other things and give themselves entirely to this holy love. What more could Jesus have done to induce us to love him than to die in torment upon a cross to prove how much he loved us? With good reason did Saint Francis, when he contemplated Jesus crucified, exclaim in ecstasy, “O love, love, love.”

But alas, most people live lives that are forgetful of so loving a God. If the vilest human being, or if a slave had done for me what Jesus Christ has done and suffered for me, how would I be able to live without loving that one? O God, who is he that hangs upon the cross? That cross, those thorns, those nails, exclaim, and with a still louder voice, those wounds cry out and demand our love. “May I die,” said Saint Francis of Assisi, “for the love of your love, O Jesus, who has died for the love of my love.” To make an adequate return for the love of God in dying for us would require another God to die for Jesus. It would be little, it would be nothing, were each of us to give a thousand lives in return for the love of Jesus Christ. Jesus is satisfied with the gift of our hearts, but he is not completely satisfied until we give them entirely to him. For this purpose, says Saint Paul, did Jesus die that he might have the entire dominion of our hearts: “Christ experienced death and life to be Lord both of the living and of the dead” (Romans 14:9).

My beloved Redeemer, how can I ever forget you? How can I love anything else, after having seen you die in torment on an infamous cross in reparation for my sins? How can I remember that my sins have reduced you to this and not die with grief at the remembrance of the offenses that I have committed against you? Jesus, help me. I desire nothing but you. Help me and love me. O Mary, my hope, assist me by your prayers.

Wisdom: American Pride

JFK'S

-Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, was in France in the early 60's when Charles de Gaulle decided to pull out of NATO de Gaulle said he wanted all US military out of France as soon as possible. Rusk responded "does that include those who are buried here?"

de Gaulle did not respond.

You could have heard a pin drop

-When in England , at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if our plans for Iraq were just an example of empire building by George Bush.

He answered by saying, 'Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return.'

You could have heard a pin drop.

-There was a conference in France where a number of international engineers were taking part, including French and American. During a break, one of the French engineers came back into the room saying 'Have you heard the latest dumb stunt Bush has done? He has sent an aircraft carrier to Indonesia to help the tsunami victims. What does he intend to do, bomb them?'

-A Boeing engineer stood up and replied quietly: 'Our carriers have three hospitals on board that can treat several hundred people; they are nuclear powered and can supply emergency electrical power to shore facilities; they have three cafeterias with the capacity to feed 3,000 people three meals a day, they can produce several thousand gallons of fresh water from sea water each day, and they carry half a dozen helicopters for use in transporting victims and injured to and from their flight deck. We have eleven such ships; how many does France have?'

You could have heard a pin drop.

-A U.S. Navy Admiral was attending a naval conference that included Admirals from the U.S., English, Canadian, Australian and French Navies. At a cocktail reception, he found himself standing with a large group of Officers that included personnel from most of those countries. Everyone was chatting away in English as they sipped their drinks but a French admiral suddenly complained that, whereas Europeans learn many languages, Americans learn only English. He then asked, 'Why is it that we always have to speak English in these conferences rather than speaking French?'

Without hesitating, the American Admiral replied, 'Maybe it's because the Brit's, Canadians, Aussie's and Americans arranged it so you wouldn't have to speak German.'

You could have heard a pin drop.

-AND THIS STORY FITS RIGHT IN WITH THE ABOVE...

Robert Whiting , an elderly gentleman of 83, arrived in Paris by plane. At French Customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry on.

"You have been to France before, monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically.

Mr. Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously.

"Then you should know enough to have your passport ready."

The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it."

"Impossible. Americans always have to show your passports on arrival in France!"

The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly explained, "Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day in 1944 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find a single Frenchmen to show a passport to."

You could have heard a pin drop.

I am proud to be of this land, AMERICA

Maronites = Catholic of the East

The Eastern Churches

Celebrate the Liturgy with Great Love (Liturgy 2)

The Christian East is divided into two great liturgical families: the family of Antioch and the family of Alexandria. From each there emerged various rites. The Maronite rite belongs to the western Antiochian family which means three things:

- 1- The Maronite rite has a close kinship with the Syriac Antiochian tradition (Aramaic), which embodies the tradition of Jerusalem, “the Mother of Churches.”
- 2- The Maronite rite has some similarities with the Chaldean rite.
- 3- The Maronite rite and the Roman Catholic rite share the same Catholic doctrine, it means, the same faith, but their spirituality is different due to geographical and cultural origins.

Moreover, throughout the ages, the Maronite rite developed its own personality and spirituality, and remained alive and was never assimilated by any other rites.

The Maronite Mass (the Holy Mysteries)

The various libraries of the East and the West have preserved about thirty manuscripts of the Maronite Mass (*Anaphora*) dated from the middle of the 15th to the end of the 16th centuries. The anaphora “*Sharar*” (Syriac word meaning “Confirm”) goes back to the 2nd Century and it is an anaphora proper to the Maronites. It is called “*the anaphora of the Apostles*” or the “*Anaphora of Addai and Mari*.” The liturgists describe it as “the most ancient Christian eucharistic composition to which we can have access today. It represents a model that is quite different from the prayers of the patristic period. On the other hand, although all these expressions are Christian, it is still modeled after the pattern of the Jewish prayers for the last cup of the meal.”

The Maronite Liturgical Year

The core of Christian worship is based on the Person of Christ: his Incarnation, Death, and Resurrection. It incites the faithful to participate in the Mysteries of Christ through contemplation and imitation, within the frame of “sacred time.” The Fathers of the Church compared the liturgical year to the civil one which is based on the cycle of the earth around the sun. In the same way, the liturgical year is based on the cycle of the Church around Christ, the Sun of Justice. The Maronite Church celebrates these saving events in a cyclical way, adding to them a new spiritual dimension. The six Seasons in the Maronite Liturgical year are:

- 1- Season of the Glorious Birth of the Lord
- 2- Season of Epiphany
- 3- Season of Great Lent
- 4- Season of the Glorious Resurrection
- 5- Season of Pentecost
- 6- Season of the Holy Cross

Story: Music in the Metro Station – What Are We Missing

Perception – something think about

At a Washington, DC, Metro Station on a cold January morning in 2007, a man with a violin played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time approximately two thousand people went through the station, most of them on their way to work. After three minutes a middle aged man noticed there was a musician playing. He slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds and then hurried to meet his schedule.

About four minutes later, the violinist received his first dollar: a woman threw the money in the hat and, without stopping, continued to walk.

After six minutes, a young man leaned against the wall to listen to him, then looked at his watch and started to walk again.

After ten minutes: a three-year old boy stopped but his mother hurriedly tugged him along. The kid stopped to look at the violinist again, but the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk, turning his

head all the time. This action was repeated by several other children. Every parent, without exception, forced their children to move on quickly.

During the 45 minutes the musician played continuously, only six people stopped and listened for a short while. About twenty gave money but continued to walk at their normal pace. The man collected a total of \$32.

At the end of one hour when he had finished playing and silence took over – no one noticed; no one applauded; nor was there any recognition.

No one knew this, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the greatest musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written, with a violin worth \$3.5 million dollars. Two days before Joshua Bell sold out a theater in Boston where the seats averaged \$100.

This is a true story. Joshua Bell playing incognito in the metro station was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and people's priorities.

The questions raised were:

- In a common place environment at an inappropriate hour, do we perceive beauty?
- Do we stop to appreciate it?
- Do we recognize talent in an unexpected context?

One possible conclusion reached from this experiment could be this: If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world, playing some of the finest music ever written, with one of the most beautiful instruments ever made. How many other things are we missing?

Joke (581)

Some Rules Are Tougher Than Others

Four-year-old Jimmy was on a family vacation last summer, and he was given quarters for the video game machine by his older sister. Since Jimmy is not proficient in operating such games, the quarters went rapidly. Finally, he had to be told that there were no more quarters. He demanded, "But I want more."

His sister responded, "Jimmy, in life we don't always get what we want."

Jimmy paused and then shouted, "I hate that rule!"

Take Your Pick

A newspaper in the county seat ran an expose on the unethical practices of some of the lawyers in that particular county. They ran the headline: "Half of the Lawyers in Our County Are Crooks!"

An association of the lawyers in the county threatened to sue the newspaper unless the "libelous" headline was retracted. The newspaper signed an agreement that did not admit that its story was inaccurate, but that they would indeed retract the headline. The following day the newspaper ran the new headline: "Half of the Lawyers in Our County Are Not Crooks!"

Research Lawyers

Did you know they are using lawyers now for medical research?

There are three reasons for this.

- 1- There are more lawyers than white rats
- 2- Lawyers are slightly more humanoid than white rats
- 3- There are certain things you can't get a white rat to do

Lawyer and a Thief

A man was charged with the theft of an expensive sports car. After a lengthy trial, the man was acquitted.

Shortly after his trial, the acquitted man returned to see the judge and told him that he wanted to file a warrant against his lawyer. The judge wanted to know why the man wanted his lawyer arrested after his lawyer had won his case and his freedom for him.

The man explained, "Well, I didn't have enough money to pay my lawyer, so he took the car I stole as payment."