

**March 7, 2010**  
**Bulletin # 10**

## ***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

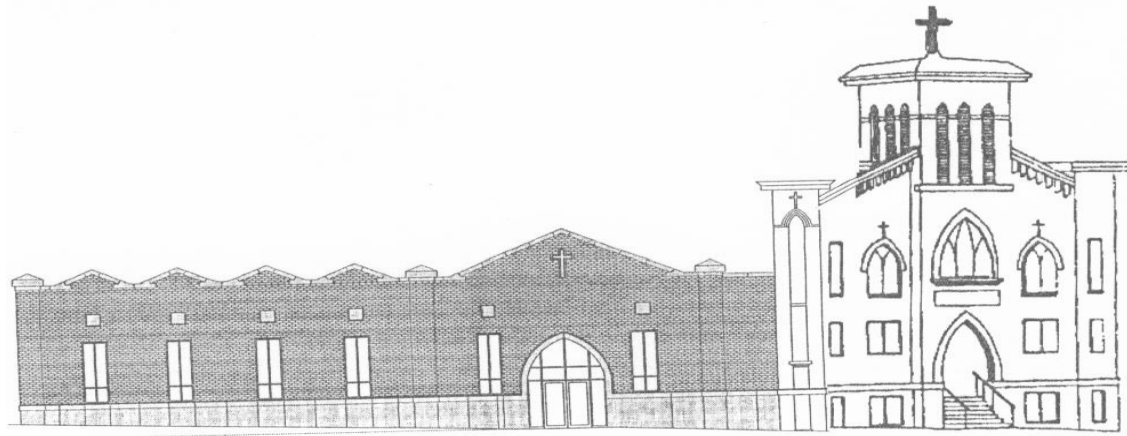
E-Mail: ololwv@Comcast.net • Web Site: www.ololwv.com

**Rev. Bakhos Chidiac (Pastor)**

Evelyn Ghaphery (Organist)

Charlotte Khourey & Thomasina Geimer (Secretaries)

### ***Great Lent Season*** ***Sunday of the Prodigal Son***



### ***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
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- \***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 Prodigal Son***

*Readings: 2Cor 13:5-13 & Lk 15:11-32*

A preacher showed his congregation a crisp \$20 bill and asked who wants it. All hands went up. Then he crumpled it in his palms and asked who still wanted it. Again all hands went up. Lastly he threw it on the ground, marched on it and repeated his question. Still the hands went up. Then he explained to them that the difference between a new, crisp \$20 bill and a rumpled and soiled \$20 in our eyes is the difference between a good person and a bad person in the sight of God. Both are equally acceptable. Basically both stand equal before God.

In the story that we heard today, both sons were equal in the eye of the loving father. Although the younger one transgressed his rules and went away to live a filthy life. His father never stopped loving him. His older brother was not much better than him and that was revealed when he raged his anger and refused to come into the house and celebrate the return of his brother who was dead and is back to life now

A teacher was going through the story of the Prodigal Son with the young children. At the end of the story she asked, "Who do you think is the one that ended up in the worst situation?" One of the kids shot up her hands and answered, "The fatted cow." The animal-loving child was certainly correct, but the answer the teacher properly expected was "The elder son." He was the loser.

We don't know what happened to the older son, but he was not in the best positions. Instead of rejoicing that his brother who was presumed dead has come back to life, he is angered by the fact that their father has received him back with a celebration.

We so often act like the elder son. We say "this is unfair, we need justice. He or she is a sinner and deserves punishment." We act as if we were gods or superior to others. Jesus told the hypocrites in the Gospel, "*Whoever of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw the stone.*"

We are all sinners my brothers and sisters and need constantly God's mercy and love. If you are a saint, please don't come to church next week, or better yet come and show us the way to heaven. Whether your sins are more visible like those of the younger son or more hidden like those of the elder son, the message of the Gospel today is that we all need to repent and return to the father's house. God's love is far greater than our capacity to love. We often want to punish, God wishes to reconcile, we want to hurt others, God wishes to heal, we want to retaliate, God wishes to forgive. God can forgive what we refuse to forgive. He will always welcome back and rejoices with his angels at the repentance and return of any sinner. Yes, God patiently seeks and awaits the conversion of every person. God will do everything that He can do to save us. He loved us even to the point of dying for us.

Two things I want you to take as a lesson from today's Gospel:

- 1- The First is that we have a Sacrament in the Church that we call "Reconciliation, or Penance or Confession," that has been forgotten by so many. I urge you to approach it, especially during this season of Holy Lent. As we humbly kneel and recognize our sins, God celebrates our repentance and dresses us with the finest robe, a beautiful ring, and lovely sandals. It is through our union with God, that we experience true joy and peace.
- 2- The second thing that I want you to learn and remember from today's Gospel is that we are all called to act like the father in today's Gospel. We are called to forgive and create peace with everyone around us. To love our neighbor as Jesus loved us and even to love our enemies and pray for them.

Jesus said that before you approach the Altar and present your offering, you must reconcile yourself first with anyone that has a problem with you or you have a problem with them. When time comes for Holy Communion, everyone lines up in the aisle, but are we ready to receive the Eucharist worthily? Do we have any grudges, hatred or sinfulness toward anyone? If yes, I should go and reconcile myself with them first and then come and offer my sacrifice and receive Christ into my heart.

If you have a problem with a sibling or an old friend or any person, I urge you to reconcile with them today. Go knock at their doors, pick up the phone and call them, write them a letter of peace and love. Do whatever you have in your power. The choice is yours! Do it today, for tomorrow may be too late for you or them.

The power of Christianity is in love and forgiveness. Even if you do not like someone or get along with them, you must love them.

This is the heart of our Lenten journey, to be forgiven and to forgive. However, if we do not forgive others, we will not be forgiven. Our Father who are in heaven... Forgive us as we forgive those who trespass against us.

I hope and pray that this Holy Season will bring a deeper love and appreciation of the gift of forgiveness that God bought for us with the blood of His Son, and I hope that we will all make true peace with everyone around us.

It is at that time that Easter would mean anything to me. It is at that time that I am a child of a Loving Father who loves me and calls me to love so that His kingdom may come and His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Msgr. Sharbel Maroun, Minneapolis

## ***Easter Meditation: Listening To The Voice Of Love***

“O that today you would listen to his voice! Do not harden your hearts . . . (Psalm 95:7-8)

Prayer is the discipline of the moment. When we pray, we enter into the presence of God whose name is God-with-us. To pray is to listen attentively to the One who addresses us here and now. When we dare to trust that we are never alone but that God is always with us, always cares for us, and always speaks to us, then we can gradually detach ourselves from the voices that make us guilty or anxious and thus allow ourselves to dwell in the present moment. This is a very hard challenge because radical trust in God is not obvious. Most of us distrust God. Most of us think of God as a fearful, punitive authority or as an empty, powerless nothing. Jesus' core message was that God is neither a powerless weakling nor a powerful boss, but a lover, whose only desire is to give us what our hearts most desire.

*Lord, to make sure I am not using my solitude as an escape, I resolve anew to live patiently and kindly with those around me. This Lent I will seek out at least one person with whom I can share your healing presence.*

## ***Mass Intentions***

**THIS WEEKEND, March 6-7: Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

### **Saturday, March 6:**

**At 3:30 p.m.: Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament**

**At 4:00 p.m.:** Good health and long life of Margaret Glasser (on her 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday) by Julia Gotses Ferris Shia (40-Day) by Frank & Mary Lish and Family

### **Sunday, March 7 at 10:30 a.m. Mass will be followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:**

- Helen Fielding (on her Birthday) by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions
- Living and Deceased members of the Nicholas and Nimnoon Ghaphery Family and the David Abraham Ghaphery Family by the Ghaphery Family.
- William Breit by the Ghaphery Family
- Tom Jalad by his wife Anna Jalad

### **Weekday Masses**

**Monday, March 8:** No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

**Tuesday, March 9:** No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

### **Wednesday, March 10 at Noon:**

Ferris Shia by The Cave Club

Rosaline Saseen by Rich & Susan Brooks

### **Thursday, March 11 at Noon:**

Ferris Shia by Philip & Vivian Pata

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

### **Friday, March 12 at 5:30 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross, Benediction & Light Dinner:**

Ferris Shia by the Cave Club

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

<b>NEXT WEEKEND, March 13-14: Sunday of the Paralytic</b>
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**Saturday, March 13 at 4:00 p.m.:**

Special Intention

Good health of Louis & Charles Coury by their Family members

**Sunday, March 14 at 10:30 a.m.:**

Helen Saseen (on her Anniversary) by her daughter Rosella Saseen

Clara Joseph Carter (on her Anniversary) by her nieces and nephews

## ***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***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Sunday, March 7	<b>Bingo Night with the Cedar Club – 6:00 p.m. in the Old Basement Hall</b>
Monday, March 8	<b>Cedar Club Meeting - 7:00 p.m. in Old Basement Hall</b>
Thursday, March 11	<b>Bible Study Class – from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.</b> <b>Lebanese Language Class – from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.</b>
Fridays during Lent: 12, 19, 26 & April 2	<b>Mass, Stations of the Cross, Benediction, Light Dinner—begins at 5:30 pm</b>
Sunday, March 21	<b>Women’s Society Gift Basket Drawing – at the St. Maron Dinner</b>
Sunday, March 21	<b>St. Maron Lebanese Dinner – 11:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.</b>
Sunday, August 15	<b>Mahrajan – at Oglebay Park</b>

### ***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.

### ***Cedar Club Meeting*** (Monday, March 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the Old Basement Hall)

The next Cedar Club Meeting will be held in our old Basement Hall at 7:00 p.m. Hostesses will be Nini Miller and Allison Duffy: **Members:** Please remember we are hosting the **Sunday Night Bingo Game** on March 7, starting at 6:00 p.m.

### ***Bible Study and Lebanese Language Classes*** (Thursday, March 11<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*** (Fri., March 12 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 sponsored 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.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Volunteers:</b>
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

### ***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.

### ***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.

### ***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 an Easter Flower for \$25.00 by Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### **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
- \$25 the Deceased of the Schlog and Saseen Families by Bob & Fran Saseen
- \$25 Ralph & Mary Joseph Shipley & Robby Hunter by Thomasina Geimer

### ***Women's Society Monthly 50/50 Raffle*** (Drawing: Sun. March 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 drawing from entries received for the **February 50/50 Raffle tickets**, which can be found at the church entrance, will take place in the Cedar Hall after Mass on **Sunday, February 28**. The next drawing from entries received for the **March 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, March 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!

Who won?.....

## ***2010 Diocesan Appeal – Easter Obligation*** (Due by Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>)

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, Mark & Barb McLaughlin, Dr. Adel & Diane Frenn, Dr Rajai & Nahla Houry, Bill & Tricia Committee, Elizabeth Abraham, Betty Shia, Barb Sobota, Mark Schroeder, Julia Tappe, Mary Rose Kukula, Millet & Susie Fadoul, Bob & Fran Saseen, Tom Ferris, Gary Weisner, Thomasina Geimer, Bob & Lois Hammond, Mary Beth Weisner,*

## ***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 a band playing many musical instruments: *derbake, ood*, and drum 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, Charles Coury (brother of Lucille Gibbons),

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

Eileen Foster and her mom Barb Sobota, Andy Kaminski, Sam Elias, Frank Lish, 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***

March 6: Karen Shipley, Kristen McLaughlin  
 March 15: Shelby Imer  
 March 18: John Shiben, Kenny Imer, Bill Stees, Patrick Petros  
 March 21: Caroline Stees McDowell

March 22:	Jennifer Imer
March 26:	Joseph John
March 27:	Tommy Zinn
March 28:	Virginia Porchiran
March 30:	Gregory John
March 31:	George Lewis & Jonas George

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
	Collection
	Diocesan Appeal
	Candles
	Utilities
	Parking
	Easter Flowers
	Soup & Hoagies
	Reimbursement
	Fundraising (New Church High-Efficiency Heat System)
	Total. <i>May God reward you many fold</i>

## *What's New?*

### *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.

<b>Silver</b> (\$100-\$199)	<i>Mary Rose Kukula, Jonathan Turak, Jim &amp; Rose Marie Carroll, Bill &amp; Mary Daniel Jr, Salem J. David In memory of Sadie &amp; Joseph Simon, Al Depto, Bob &amp; Fran Saseen, Tom Ferris, Paul &amp; Irene Schuler, Ferris Shia, Peggy Justice, Joseph &amp; Carol Abraham, Elizabeth Abraham, Pagendarm &amp; Moore Families, Chamse Rahi, Anna Jalad, Mark &amp; Barb McLaughlin, Robert &amp; Carolyn David,</i>
<b>Gold</b> (\$200-\$499)	<i>Dr. Jack &amp; Rose Palmer, Sylvia Long, Rosella Saseen, Altmeyer Funeral Home, Holly &amp; Shirley Bine, Gary Weisner,</i>
<b>Diamond</b> (\$500 & over)	<i>Fr. Bakhos Chidiac, Lou &amp; Charlotte Khourey, Larry Breiding, Mark Alan Schroeder, Kenny &amp; Nancy Joseph,</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, Michael & Vicky Joseph, Anonymous,*

**Total Raised so far: \$5,790.00?**

### *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*

### *Novena of Jesus, Infant of Prague* (March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.)

Where: Our Lady of Peace, Mount Olivet

When: Every Monday from March 22<sup>nd</sup> until May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Info.: 304-242-6579

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

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

***Whg. Airport Concession Stand Work*** (Sunday, April 18, 9:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.)

The Cedar Club will again have a Concession Stand at the Wheeling Ohio County Airport on Sunday, April 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Anyone willing to donate items such as cases of water, diet Pepsi, coke, etc. will be greatly appreciated. (If you are unable to shop, monetary donations will be accepted). We also will need a few baked goods for that day. More information will be forthcoming in the Bulletins. If you have any questions in the meantime, please call Linda at (304)232-6853)

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

### ***The Maronite Liturgy (5)***

#### **Introduction**

The word “liturgy” is of Greek origin, meaning among other things, the prayer of the people, the Christian community, or the Church. Applied to the Maronites, this general meaning reminds one of the history of a people who came into existence, expanded, and survived thanks to prayer, faith, and holiness of life. In this article, we will focus on the liturgical prayer of the community, as such. We shall divide our topic into the following parts:

#### **The Identity of the Maronite Liturgy:**

First of all, we must reinsert the Maronite rite into its genuine framework and base it firmly on its own ecclesial as well as historical foundations. The Christian East is traditionally 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. This identification of the Maronite rite as a Western Antiochian rite signifies three things:

The Maronite rite has a close kinship with the Syriac Antiochian tradition, which embodies, to a great extent, the tradition of Jerusalem, “the Mother of Churches”. Both the traditions of Antioch and Jerusalem are bound together into a rather solid liturgical unity. The Maronite rite is open to the Eastern Antiochian rite, that is, the Chaldean rite. In fact, in both of them we find many similarities. We may even affirm that these similarities are made up precisely of the most ancient elements within the two rites.

In spite of the marginal Latin influences on our rite, caused by the binding doctrinal links between the Maronite Church and the Church of Rome, the Maronite rite did, however, keep its distinctive liturgical personality. It is a great mistake to consider the Maronite rite as totally reduced to Latin influences. In fact, its liturgical texts have always borne a genuine Antiochian and Syriac theology, while, at the same time, the structure of its prayers and offices have shown true and unquestionable characteristics stemming directly from Antioch and Jerusalem.

The Maronite liturgical identity is, therefore, before anything else, Antiochian, Aramaic (Syriac), and from Jerusalem. In spite of the various elements shared with the Latins, the Maronite rite has retained its own distinctive personality and firmly adhered to its proper basic components. This is why we believe that this rite was able to stay alive over the course of time and was never assimilated by one of the other Antiochian rites.

### ***Story: God works in mysterious ways***

Isn't it amazing how God works in our lives! On a Saturday night several weeks ago, this pastor was working late, and decided to call his wife before he left for home. It was about 10:00 PM, but his wife didn't answer the phone.

The pastor let the phone ring many times. He thought it was odd that she didn't answer, but decided to wrap up a few things and try again in a few minutes. When he tried again she answered right away. He asked her why she hadn't answered before, and she said that it hadn't rung at their house. They brushed it off as a fluke and went on their merry ways.

The following Monday, the pastor received a call at the church office, which was the phone that he'd used that Saturday night. The man that he spoke with wanted to know why he'd called on Saturday night.

The pastor couldn't figure out what the man was talking about. Then the man said, “It rang and rang, but I didn't answer.” The pastor remembered the mishap and apologized for disturbing him, explaining that he'd intended to call his wife. The man said, “That's, OK. Let me tell you my story.

You see, I was planning to commit suicide on Saturday night, but before I did, I prayed, “God if you're there, and you don't want me to do this, give me a sign now.” At that point my phone started to ring. I looked at the caller ID, and it said, ‘Almighty God,’ I was afraid to answer!”

The reason why it showed on the man's caller ID that the call came from “Almighty God” is because the church that the pastor attends is called Almighty God Tabernacle!!

<b><i>Joke (583)</i></b>
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***Marvelous Discovery***

The story is going around that up in the Stanford Research Laboratories they have made an important change in procedure recently. Instead of using rats in their experiments, they are now using attorneys. When asked why this change was initiated, the head of the lab said, "Well, there are two reasons: there are more of them available, and we find that students don't get as emotionally attached to them."

***Truth and Compliments***

"You appear to be a man of intelligence," the opposing lawyer said during a trial as he cross-examined a witness.

The witness replied, "I would be glad to say the same of you, but I just swore to tell the truth."

***Baseball Managers***

Billy Martin, former manager of the New York Yankees, once said, "The key to effective management is to keep the five guys who hate you from the five guys who are undecided."

***Anatomy of a Committee***

A committee has six or more legs and no brain.

***Leaders and Followers***

Why is the leader the last to know where the followers want to go? The leader looks to check the flock, and finds that they are down the block.

***To Feed a Dog***

A woman read that dogs were healthier when fed a tablespoon of cod liver oil each day. She wanted the healthiest dog possible, so she resolved to feed her dog a tablespoon of cod liver oil every day. But every day, it was the same routine-she would chase her dog around the house and force feed it a spoon full of cod liver oil. One day while chasing down her dog, the woman knocked over the bottle of cod liver oil. Much to her surprise, her dog ran over to the puddle of oil and lapped it right up.

The dog loved cod liver oil-just not from the spoon. Perhaps there are times when our message is much more palatable than our method of presentation.

***Jack Benny on Scouting***

A scout troop consists of twelve little kids dressed like shmucks following a big schmuck dressed like a kid. (Jack Benny)

***Mark 17***

A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark chapter 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark chapter 17. Every hand went up.

The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

***Not Drunk***

A man came home drunk after a night of carousing in a number of neighborhood bars. His wife helped him up to the bedroom and tucked him into bed. Then she knelt at his bedside and whispered, "John, do you want me to pray for you?"

He agreed, and she began to pray, "Dear Lord, I pray for my husband who lies here before you drunk ..." Before she could finish, he interrupted, "Don't tell him I'm drunk; just tell him I'm sick."