

April 18, 2010
Bulletin # 16

Our Lady of Lebanon Church

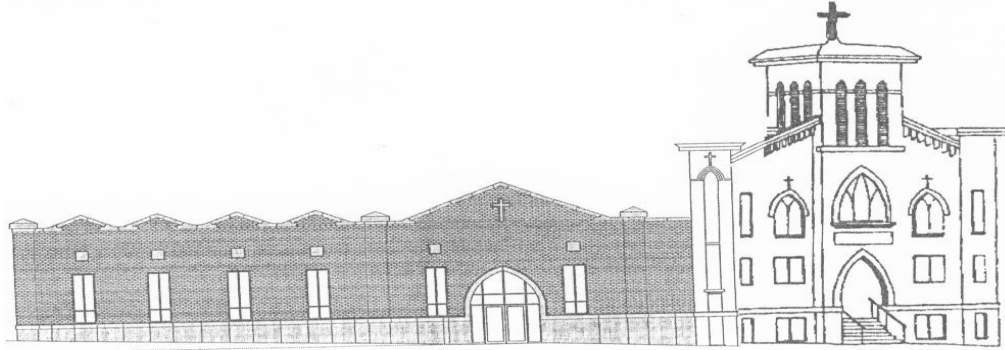
(Maronite Catholic Rite)

Faith † Family † Friends

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

Rectory: 304-233-1688 • Fax: 304-233-4714

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



Fr. Gary George, C.Ss.R. Administrator

Evelyn Ghaphery (Organist)

Charlotte Khourey & Thomasina Geimer (Secretaries)

3rd Sunday of the Resurrection

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:** **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 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, Louie 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. Gary or the parish office. 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 & Testament – Her prayers will accompany you to heaven
 - *Please support Our Lady of Lebanon Church by patronizing our Benefactors and Advertisers
 - *If you support the Church and need a Bulletin mailed to you, please call the church office

Gospel Reflection: 3rd Sunday of the Resurrection

Readings: 2Tim 2:8-13 and Lk 24:13-35

Which of us has not, at least once, walked the road to Emmaus, full of uncertainty about Jesus; full of disappointed hopes for his Church?

Again today, perhaps, we are tempted to lose heart. We are undergoing the shock of the passing away in our society of a certain kind of thinking about God; Christ is, to all appearances, defeated; the Church and its liturgy seems irrelevant to the unbelieving masses of people fascinated by latter-day idols. If God is going to lose his power before our money and machinery, then all that has been said about Jesus of Nazareth, about his saving power, about his resurrection, must surely be relegated to the realm of fables?

We must frequently walk this road to Emmaus, however painful the journey – this road which will bring us from despondency to faith. We must walk it in a twilight atmosphere before darkness falls. On roads like this we meet a disguised Companion. It is Jesus himself, who takes us just where we are, and who, at times, questions us at length. A long road is a good place to share confidence with a fellow traveler! Jesus has much to discuss with us concerning our destiny and his, and how we can enter into glory only by the gate of the cross. But he will do more than talk with us: he will break bread for us in that Eucharistic banquet at which the scriptures take on their full significance and reveal the true features of him who is their completion and fulfillment.

Jesus vanishes from sight the instant his identity is revealed by the Eucharistic signs celebrated in memory of his Passover. From now on there is more for the disciples to do than just gaze on his human features. They must begin being heralds of the good news that over there – beyond death – the Lord is forever alive.

From the Desk of the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

I am grateful to God for allowing me to share a part of my ministry with you. I have heard many good things about the parish and the tremendous work that Fr. Bakhos has completed. I hope in the days ahead we will get to know each other and share in this great gift of love.

I am ordained as a Redemptorist monk originally from South Africa where I served for several years as a missionary. I arrived in America in 1999 and have been working with the Maronite Diocese for the last 11 years in Youngstown. I run the MYO (Maronite Youth Organization) program for the entire country and also conduct retreats and parish missions for my order. I am deeply aware how difficult it is during the time of transition and the many concerns that you hold in your heart. I ask your patience and prayers as we begin this journey together. I offer you in return my complete support and dedication for the spiritual journey.

*I want to personally invite all our youth and young families to be part of our May Crowning for the Blessed Mother on Sunday, May 2, at 10:30 a.m. **Please call the church office so that we may include the names of all the girls who are willing to participate.** I am extremely grateful to Charlotte for helping me settle in during this past week and have also appreciated meeting many of the Parish Council members and other parishioners at weekday Masses. Finally my prayers go out to all the families who were recently affected by the tragic mining disaster and all who lost loved ones.*

Please plan to join me for cake and coffee next weekend after the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, April 24, in our New Hall and after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, April 25, in our Basement Hall.

May God bless our community and town with an Easter Peace that will overcome all tragedies. Please support all of our upcoming fundraisers so that we can continue to grow as a community. I am looking forward to meeting you in the weeks ahead. Please continue to keep me in your prayers.

God bless. –Fr. Gary

Mass Intentions

THIS WEEKEND, April 17-18: 3rd Sunday of the Resurrection

Saturday, April 17, at 4:00 p.m.:

Louis John by Jeff Bentz

Mary Custer by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family

Sunday, April 18, at 10:30 a.m.:

Dale Seidler Sr., by his wife Nettie & Family

Louis John by Kay Garvey

Weekday Masses

Monday, April 19: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Tuesday, April 20: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Wednesday, April 21, at Noon:

Louis John by Hazel LaHood

Thursday, April 22, at Noon:

Louis John by Janice Jones

Louis John by Tina Kitlak

Friday, April 23, at 5:30 p.m.: No Mass – Pastor's Retreat Day

NEXT WEEKEND, April 24-25: 4th Sunday of the Resurrection

Saturday, April 24, at 4:00 p.m.:

John F. Kukula (birthday) by Mary Rose Kukula

Louis John by Karen Shipley

Sunday, April 25, at 10:30 a.m.:

Intentions of Evelyn Ghaphery by the Ghaphery Family

Louis John by Our Lady of Lebanon Women's Society

Our Lady of Lebanon Community Calendar

Date	Event
<u>Lebanese Bake Sale</u>	
<i>Sunday, April 18</i>	<u>Work Day</u> – Spinach Preparation: <i>after Mass</i>
<i>Mon.-Thur., April 19-22</i>	<u>Work Days</u> – Baking to Fill Orders: <i>at 9:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Wed.-Thur., April 21 & 22</i>	<u>Order Pick-Up Days</u>
Sunday, April 19 or 20	Women's Society Meeting – <i>during Bake Sale work days</i> – <i>In New Hall</i>
Saturday, April 24	Meet & Greet Fr. Gary – <i>after 4:00 Mass</i> – <i>In New Hall</i>
Sunday, April 25	Meet & Greet Fr. Gary – <i>after 10:30 Mass</i> – <i>In Old Basement Hall</i>
Sat., May 8 to Fri, May 14	Week of Mothers Day Masses
Sunday, May 23	Women's Society Gift Basket Drawing – <i>at the Spring Spaghetti Dinner</i>
Sunday, May 23	Spring Spaghetti Dinner <i>11:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.</i>
Sunday, May 30	Women's Society 50/50 Monthly Raffle – <i>Following Mass</i>
Saturday, June 5	Rummage Sale
Sunday, August 15	Mahrajan – <i>at Oglebay Park</i>

Make Your Charitable Contributions Via the Church Funds

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 Fund" which will be used in case of emergency to support exclusively the poor, active parishioners who belong to our church – those who have offering envelopes and who attend our church on a regular basis. Others are not intended to benefit from this fund.

Heat System Fundraising to Replace Old Church Furnace

The installation of the central air heating and cooling system for the rectory is complete. This part of the job costs \$11,300. The second part of this project which is the replacement of the old furnace of the church with a new, high-efficiency one will start in June or July, when the heat is no longer needed so that we can turn off the heat in the church. The cost of the second part will be \$22,000. We need your help and donations to finish this job. 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.

Diamond (\$500 & over)	<i>Gary & Flip West, Fr. Bakhos Chidiac, Lou & Charlotte Khourey, Larry Breiding, Mark Alan Schroeder, Kenny & Nancy Joseph, Nick Ghaphery Jr., Louis & Marge John, John & Dee Shiben, Mike & Maryann Carl, Mike Linton, Dr. & Mrs. Anwar,</i>
Gold (\$200-\$499)	<i>Dr. Jack & Rose Palmer, Sylvia Long, Rosella Saseen, Altmeyer Funeral Home, Holly & Shirley Bine, Gary Weisner, Rex & Rita Strawn, Michael J. David, Earl & Linda Duffy, Carol & Bill Dougherty, Jean & George Weisner,</i>
Silver (\$100-\$199)	<i>Mary Rose Kukula, Jonathan Turak, Jim & Rose Marie Carroll, Bill & Mary Daniel Jr., Salem J. David In memory of Sadie & Joseph Simon, Al Depto, Bob & Fran Saseen, Tom Ferris, Paul & Irene Schuler, Ferris Shia, Peggy Justice, Joseph & Carol Abraham, Elizabeth Abraham, Pagendarm & Moore Families, Chamse Rahi, Anna Jalad, Mark & Barb McLaughlin, Robert & Carolyn David, Barb Sobota, David Frey, Cecilia John, Donald Fielding (FL), Julia Tappe, Dr. M.F. & Mrs. Josette Anwar, Dr. Joe Palmer, Denny Albaugh, Joe & Nikki Popovich, Joe Linton, Bernard & Liz Olako, Bob & Dottie Kupchak, Lois & Bob Hammond, Debbie & Freddie Shia,</i>

Other Donations received under \$100. We are grateful for all donations received toward replacing the Heat System. **However, 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, Dr. Nabil & Nesrin AlKhouri, Bassam & Jodi Deeb, Emily Vince,

Total raised so far: \$14,451.00 out of \$33,300.00

Spring Lebanese Bake Sale (Pick Up Orders: Wednesday & Thursday, April 21-22)

Work Days: Spinach Preparation	Sunday, April 18, 11:30 a.m.
Baking to Fill Orders	Monday to Thursday, April 19-22, 9:00 a.m.
Order Pick Up Dates	Wednesday & Thursday, April 21 & 22

Please remember to come to help the Women's Society with the baking Monday to Thursday, April 19 through 22, beginning at 9:00 a.m. each day.

Those who placed orders should plan to come after being called that your order is packed and ready for the day you requested.

Those who did not request that your order be prepared for a specific day will have your order filled and you will be called as soon as it is ready.

Women's Society April Meeting (Sunday, April 19 or 20, during the Bake Sale work days)

Please Note this Change: Our next Women's Society meeting has been rescheduled to be held during the Bake Sale work days either on Monday, April 19, or Tuesday, April 20, as time permits **in the Cedar Hall**. Remember the March meeting was cancelled. We will discuss plans for our upcoming spring events. Everyone is welcome to attend. We need to plan for May Flowers, the Spaghetti Dinner work, etc.

Change of Weekday Mass Times in April (Wed., Thur., Fri., April 21, 22, 23)

To allow Fr. Gary George time to unpack and settle into the rectory and to fulfill some of his duties as Director of the MYO – Maronite Youth Organization – the time of the weekday Masses will be temporarily changed on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please be sure to refer to the Mass times listed on page 3 of the weekly Bulletins.

Meet & Greet Fr. Gary (Sat., April 24, after 4:00 Mass, & Sun., April 25, after 10:30 Mass)

All parishioners, friends and visitors are asked to remain after Masses next weekend to have cake and coffee and meet Fr. Gary. Please plan to join Fr. Gary on Saturday, April 24, after the 4:00 p.m. Mass in our Cedar Hall and on Sunday, April 25, after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in our Old Basement Hall (*because the Cedar Hall is rented*).

Women's Society Monthly 50/50 Raffle (Sunday, May 30, after Mass)

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 **April and May 50/50 Raffle tickets** found at the church entrance and in the Weekly Church Bulletins will take place in the Cedar Hall after Mass on **Sunday, May 30th**.

Please check the ticket sheets carefully to be sure you are completing the correct ticket stubs. All raffle tickets are 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." Please Note: We are combining the April and May 50/50 drawing.

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 Al Depto who won the March prize of \$50.

Mother's Day – Week of Masses (from Saturday, May 8th, to Friday, May 14th)

A Mother's Heart

Floods of ink have been consumed to describe a mother's courage, patience and love for her family and children. Countless expressions have been coined to describe her, such as "the angel of the hearth," "the pillar of the family," "mother hen and shield for the children," "the ant of the household," the "queen of the home," etc. These commonplace expressions can only grasp the surface of her profound world which we understand only in part.

Who does not remember some glaring news headlines pointing to a mother's act of abnegation to the point of sacrificing her own life: "Mother run over by train while saving her child," "Mother falls from balcony in attempt to keep child from falling," "Mother dies shielding her child from father's stabbing."

We will never know what is truly in a mother's heart, and it is not easy to know what is in her mind. What she hopes for, her anxieties and anguish, how she prays, how and to what extent she suffers in silence by day and by night can only be vaguely imagined. The intensity of her feelings is a mystery, the greatest, most

beautiful mystery of life, on a par with that of God's love for us, or more clearly His emanation, since mothers are the creatures willed by God to co-create our lives.

We take notice of our mother when she makes some sensational act of love that get the general public's attention, or when we lose her, and maybe only then we feel scruples about having left her alone during the last years of her life. Then we remember, in a providential way, the sacrifices she made for us and we respectfully "honor" her memory and become better towards others for some time. We have many examples of mothers before us. The sight is very familiar to us of mothers watching over their children as they nurse them, take care of them, accompany them to school and hug them tightly, so happy because of their children's smiles.

What mothers do for us seems to be taken for granted: sometimes they work both inside and outside the home; they manage the household on a shoestring in order to keep the family budget balanced; they are the first to get up with the small and at times sick children. We speak about mothers who suffer when there is nothing in the house to give their children. We cannot forget to mention the millions of children who are dying of hunger behind whom there is always a mother's heart that suffers.

However, besides this rather widespread and common picture of mothers, it is not easy for us to forget the following: a) the picture of a young bride in Bucharest; b) the picture of a mother whose son was a drug addict; c) the picture of a mother who did not see her daughter grow up because of her career.

5 Masses for the Repose of the Souls of Our Deceased Mothers & Grandmothers

Sadie Chidiac by her son Fr. Bakhos

Living & Deceased members of the Nicholas & Nimnoom Ghaphery Family & the David Abraham

Ghaphery Family by the Ghaphery Family

Louise N. Khourey & Gladys Howard by their children Lou & Charlotte & grandchildren Emmalena & Louie Emma Nader & Nabhia "Lena" Khourey by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Emmalena & Louie

Minnie Church Riggs & Cassandra "Cassie" Howard by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Emmalena & Louie

5 Masses for Good Health & a Long, Happy Life of Our Living Mothers & Grandmothers

Charlotte Khourey by her husband Lou & her children Emmalena & Louie

Spring Spaghetti Dinner (Sunday, May 23, from 11:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.)

Mark your calendars now and plan to enjoy our Spring Spaghetti Dinner served in our Cedar Hall following Mass Sunday, May 23. Chairperson Tom George and our parishioners invite you and your friends, co-workers and neighbors to attend to and enjoy our food and hospitality. Help our Church prepare the "best Spaghetti Dinner in the Ohio Valley."

Menu: Spaghetti and meatballs or marinara sauce, salad, roll, dessert with coffee, ice tea or lemonade.

Discounted Advance Ticket Price If PAID by May 16: \$7.00 Adults; \$4.00 (Child under 12)

Regular Ticket Price if PAID May 17 thru 23: \$8.00 Adults; \$5.00 (Child under 12)

Buy in advance and save! Tickets are available now from the Church office at: 304-233-1688. Tickets can be held at the door only if they are prepaid. **Payment in advance is greatly appreciated.**

Notes:

1. Advance Ticket Sales: If you are able & willing to help sell tickets to make our dinner a tremendous success, please call our Church office. Unsold tickets & payments must be returned by Sunday, May 16.
2. Parishioners are being asked to *please bake and donate a dessert for use at the dinner* so that we may offer a variety of choices to go with the meal.
3. Parishioners are also being asked to help make our *Baked Goods Sale* –held simultaneously with the dinner– a huge success. Please make and donate an item: cookies, cake, pie, fudge, candy, Lebanese treat, etc.
4. If you can volunteer to work for the Spaghetti Dinner or have questions, please call the Church office at 304-233-1688.

Women's Society Gift Basket Raffle (Sun., May 23rd, at the Spring Spaghetti Dinner)

The Women's Society's next Gift Basket Raffle drawing will be held at our Spring Spaghetti Dinner scheduled for Sunday, May 23. The "**Pastabilities**" Gift Basket will include a bottle of Oak Leaf Cabernet Sauvignon; a bottle of Pinot Grigio; a Perfect pasta cookbook; a spoon rest; a set of wooden spoons; a hand grater; a Farberware spatula and basting brush; a cheese shaker; 4 dishcloths, 2 dish towels and a pot holder, Italian salad dressing; a can of black olives; a jar of Dei Fratelli Traditional Sauce; a jar of Bertoli Alfredo Sauce; and a box of each of the following pastas: Delallo Linguine, Barilla Angel Hair pasta, Creamette Linguini, Tri-colored pasta, Barilla Fettucine.

The Gift Basket Raffle proceeds will 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 will be available at the entrance to the dinner in the church hall.

Rummage Sale (Saturday, June 5, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) ***Held in Old Basement Hall***

Start saving your household items that are in good condition and can be sold at our upcoming Parish Rummage Sale which will be held **in our Old Basement Hall** on Saturday, June 5, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.. There is always a good profit on our sales which benefit our church. Look for drop-off times that will be listed in upcoming bulletins.

Mahrajan (Sunday, August 15, at Oglebay Park)

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

Please Remember Those Hospitalized Recently in Your Prayers:

Naji Abboud, Ann Lee Bauduin, Zachary McKim, Pearl Shutler (mother of Janet), Louis Coury (brother of Lucille Gibbons),

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

Sylvia Long, Dorothy Kupchak, Virginia Porchiran, Sue Brubach, Donald Gibbons (son of Lucille), 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

April 20: Angela Petros
 April 28: Ann Marie Weisner-Serafin
 April 29: Linda Hostutler, Jeanette Wakim
 April 30: Cecilia Ammar
 May 1: Kay Garvey, Ashley Musilli, Jack R. Klein
 May 3: Nicholas John
 May 4: John Weisner, Susan George
 May 5: Eden DeMuth
 May 6: Nikki Lenz
 Ma6 7: Laura Lee Hunter
 May 8: Tom George
 May 9: Debra Laughlin
 May 10: Frank Lish

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May 15: Austin Musilli
 May 16: Dustin Olinski, Jacqueline Petros
 May 17: Tina Kitlak
 May 17: David Weisner
 May 18: Millet L. Fadoul
 May 20: John Fadoul
 May 21: Roxanne Wurtzbacher, Rachel Zinn

Your Church Support Last Week

\$1,353.00	Collection
50.00	Diocesan Appeal
66.00	Candles
5.00	Utilities
40.00	Parking
100.00	Donation to Church
650.00	Hall Rentals
20.00	Reimbursements
13.00	St. Maron Dinner
135.00	Special Event (Farewell Dinner for Fr. Bakhos)
300.00	Fundraising (New Church High-Efficiency Heat System)
600.00	Mahrajan (Ad Book)
1,019.50	Bake Sales – Women’s Society Account
17.00	Parish Families Assistance Fund Account
\$4,368.50	Total. <i>May God reward you many fold</i>

What’s New?

Parish Condolences to: Melo Wakim

Fr. Gary and the parishioners of Our Lady of Lebanon Church, Wheeling, offer their heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the **Wakim** family on the loss of their beloved **Melo** who died last Tuesday, April 13th.

May the Blessed Mother intercede for him and lead him to the light of Christ. May the Almighty God grant repose of the soul to his servant **Melo** and grant peace and strength to *his* family in their time of sorrow.

Many Thanks to Helpers for the Farewell Party

A word of gratitude to everyone who pitched in to make Friday's Farewell Dinner for Father Bakhos a huge success. To Rita, Fran and Mike for their help in setting up the hall and to Mike, Julia and Bill for their help in completing it. It looked beautiful. To Linda and Rita for seeing that everyone was seated at the correct table. To Mary Stees for donating containers for the centerpieces and some of the flowers. To Rita for wrapping all of the containers. To Charlotte for the placemats and the guest book. To Rita, Rex and anyone else who helped clean up. And a special thank you to our former Pastor, even though he's no longer here, for making the seating arrangements so simple for us to follow and also for his assistance in planning the event. I also want to thank Charlotte, Emmalena, Linda, Rita, Gary and Larry Siebieda for their contribution as speakers, and also, a big thank you to everyone who attended. You made the affair a wonderful and poignant event.

--Carol

Thanks to the Following People for Their Generosity:

- 1...Nancy Joseph, Charlotte Khourey, Rita Thomas & Jean Weisner who helped pack some fragile items from the rectory for storage on Monday and to Gary and Randy Weisner for helping with a minor carpentry issue
- 2...Alphie & Toni Shia for donating \$40 to Our Lady of Lebanon Church in memory of Shipley Shipley
- 3...Jean & George Weisner for donating \$200 to our Heat System Fund to Replace the Old Church Furnace
- 3...Debbie & Freddie Shia for donating \$100 to our Heat System Fund to Replace the Old Church Furnace
- 4...Ann Lee Bauduin, Peggy Justice & Barbara Sobota who donated \$50 to our Bake Sale
- 5...Joe & Jocelyne for donating the Baklava for Fr. Bakhos' Farewell Dinner

Sponsors Needed

Before our parish held the farewell dinner last week, we had to acquire some additional 8-ft., 6-ft., and 4-ft. banquet style tables. If anyone would like to sponsor them, please call the secretary at the church office.

Cost: two 8-ft. tables \$80.00 each; two 6-ft. Tables \$50.00 each, two 4-ft. Tables \$30.00 each

Items Available for Purchase

Please see one of the ladies of our parish to purchase any of the following items:

\$1.00	2 Orange Cookies – in cooler
\$2.00	Pkg. of Small Pita –frozen
\$2.00	1 Kibbee Patty – frozen
\$5.00	3 Kibbee Patties – frozen

Around Us

Slovak Luncheon (Sunday, April 25th, from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.)

Where: St. John Church, Benwood at the school Gym at 7th Street
Call 304-639-7284 for Information and Tickets

Grand Hafli (Friday, April 30th, from 6:00 p.m.- midnight)

Where: The Club at Shadow Lakes, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania; Call 724-375-5511 for reservations
What: Amin Sultan and his Ensemble at Dinner at 7:00 p.m. Adults \$55, Children \$25
Menu: Roasted Lamb, kibbee, grape leaves, baked chicken, fattoush, ...

Mystery Dinner Theater Show (Saturday, May 1, at 7:00 p.m.)

Who: St. John Catholic Church, Benwood, WV
What: Mystery Dinner Theatre Show "Mayberry R.I.P."
Cost: \$25 per person includes dinner theater show
When: Saturday, May 1, at 7:00 p.m.; Seating is Limited
Call: Mary Rose at 304-845-8895

Park Players Present Play (April 29, 30, May 1, 5, 6 & 7, at 7:00 p.m.)

Who: Park Players of Wheeling Park High School
What: Present their annual spring musical production: *Thoroughly Modern Millie*
When: April 29, 30, May 1, 5, 6 & 7 at 7:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$9.00 Adult; \$6.00 Students at the door (\$6.00 Groups of 10 or more attending on same night)
Call: 304-243-0417 between 8 a.m. & 2 p.m. weekdays for tickets and reservations

Boatsie's Boxes Schedules 4 Raffles (Drawing July 4)

- Raffle 1: \$1,000 value Computer Package – Tickets \$2.00 each
 Raffle 2: \$740 value Wii System and IPOD Touch – Tickets \$2.00 each
 Raffle 3: \$1,000 Kroger Gift Card – Tickets \$2.00 each
 Raffle 4: 50/50 Drawing – Tickets \$1.00 each
 Call: 304-232-5277 or www.Boatsie.com for more information
 Mail: Send request for tickets to Boatsie's Boxes, Inc., 33 Forest Hills Drive, Wheeling, WV 26003

Maronites = Who Are They?

Maronites = Catholics of the East; Latins = Catholics of the West. We are all Catholics.

The Maronite and Daily Prayer by Msgr. Ronald Beshara

Daily we are invited to an ongoing dialogue of love on the journey of life with the Creator. Our ability to respond presumes we are spiritually connected and aligned, so that what we live we celebrate, namely life.

Imagine what it would be like to eat and not taste, to listen and not hear, to see and not experience.

Spiritual awareness of our connection with God, others and creation is central to celebrating life, and awareness or mindfulness comes through practice, namely daily prayer.

Prayer in the Maronite Church is deeply rooted in a creation-centered, monastic spirituality of Antioch-Edessa. Within this spiritual framework, prayer leads us to embrace nature, experience humanity, and thereby encounter God. Prayer is the delicate art of practicing balance and offers spiritual alignment and intimate communion in our lives. Prayer is the balancing of contemplation and action, of being in the world but not of the world. For a Maronite, being in touch with life, others and God, that is, being alive and aware, is the stuff of prayer. Prayer is not doing something different than living. It is living life aware of and in communion with God who is always present to us. Prayer is living in the loving presence of God encompassed by that Mystery within and outside of us. Therefore, prayer is the best way of making sense of reality since it offers the clearest vision of reality. For in and through prayer we see the world as it really is -an icon of God.

Prayer is coming face to face with God, the Mystery-Presence, in the deep awareness that there is no place, no vantage point outside the presence of God. Hence all creation is the fingerprints of God, and God is in all, and all is in God. For the Maronite, prayer is open acceptance and radical response to life. Prayer leads to healthy, grateful, peaceful living and life expresses prayer as loving communion, meaningful conversation, and nurturing relationships.

In the end, prayer for the Maronite believer is an enlightened heart to life through inner vision. Prayer offers the believer microscopic, telescopic and transparent vision of life, creation, and God. It is remembering, and remembrance is a form of meeting. This gift of 'luminous eye' sees all created things as God-touched, transformed, divinized and united. "The family that prays together, stays together."

Story: The Flower

For some time I have had a person provide me with a rose boutonniere to pin on the lapel of my suit every Sunday. Because I always got a flower on Sunday morning, I really did not think much of it. It was a nice gesture that I appreciated but it became routine. One Sunday, however, what I considered ordinary became very special. As I was leaving the Sunday service a young man approached me. He walked right up to me and said, "Sir, what are you going to do with your flower?" At first I did not know what he was talking about, but then I understood. I said, "Do you mean this?" as I pointed to the rose pinned to my coat.

He said, "Yes sir. I would like it if you are just going to throw it away." At this point I smiled and gladly told him that he could have my flower, casually asking him what he was going to do with it. The little boy, who was probably less than 10 years old, looked up at me and said, "Sir, I'm going to give it to my granny. My mother and father got divorced last year. I was living with my mother, but when she married again, she wanted me to live with my father. I lived with him for a while, but he said I could not stay, so he sent me to live

with my grandmother. She is so good to me. She cooks for me and takes care of me. She has been so good to me that I want to give that pretty flower to her for loving me."

When the little boy finished I could hardly speak. My eyes filled with tears and I knew I had been touched in the depths of my soul. I reached up and unpinned my flower. With the flower in my hand, I looked at the boy and said, "Son, that is the nicest thing I have ever heard, but you can't have this flower because it's not enough. If you'll look in front of the pulpit, you'll see a big bouquet of flowers. Different families buy them for the church each week. Please take those flowers to your granny because she deserves the very best."

If I hadn't been touched enough already, he made one last statement and I will always cherish it. He said, "What a wonderful day! I asked for one flower but got a beautiful bouquet."

Jokes

Grace

A devout religious man fell on hard times. So he took to praying in the following fashion: "*Lord, remember all the years I served You as best I could, asking for nothing in return. Now that I am old and bankrupt I am going to ask for a favor for the first time in my life and I am sure You will not say no: allow me to win the lottery.*"

Days passed. Then weeks and months. But nothing happened. Finally, almost driven to despair, he cried out one night, "*Why don't You give me a break, God?*" He suddenly heard the voice of God replying, "*Give me a break yourself! Why don't you buy a lottery ticket?*"

Grace

A priest was sitting at his desk by the window composing a sermon on Providence when he heard something that sounded like an explosion. Soon he saw people running to and fro in a panic and discovered that a dam had burst, the river was in spate and the people were being evacuated.

The priest saw the water begin to rise in the street below, he had some difficulty suppressing his own rising sense of panic but he said to himself, "*Here I am preparing a sermon about providence and I am being given an occasion to practice what I preach. I shall not flee with the rest. I shall stay right here and trust in the providence of God to save me.*"

By the time the water reached his window a boat full of people came by, "*Jump in, Father,*" they shouted. "*Ah no, my children,*" said Father confidently. "*I trust in the providence of God to save me.*"

Father did climb to the roof, however, and when the water got up there another boatload of people went by, urging Father to join them. Again he refused.

This time he climbed to the top of the belfry. When the water came up to his knees an officer in a motorboat was sent to rescue him. "*No thank you, officer,*" said Father, with a calm smile. "*I trust in God, you see. He will never let me down.*"

When Father drowned and went to heaven the first thing he did was to complain to God. "*I trusted you! You did do nothing to save me?*"

"Well," said God, "*I did send three boats, you know.*"

Religion

An atheist fell off a cliff. As he tumbled downward he caught hold of the branch of a small tree. There he hung between heaven above and the rocks a thousand feet below, knowing he wasn't going to be able to hold on much longer.

Then an idea came to him, "*God!*" he shouted with all his might. Silence! No one responded.

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“God!” he shouted again. “If you exist, save me and I promise I shall believe in You and teach others to believe.” Silence again! Then he almost let go of the branch in shock as he heard a Mighty Voice booming across the canyon.

“That’s what they all say when they are in trouble.”

“No, God, No!” he shouted out, more hopeful now. *“I am not like the others. Why, I have already begun to believe, don’t You see, having heard Your voice for myself. Now all you have to do is save me and I shall proclaim Your name to the ends of the earth.”*

“Very well,” said the Voice. *“I shall save you. Let go of that branch.”*

“Let go of the branch?” yelled the distraught man. *“Do you think I’m crazy?”*