

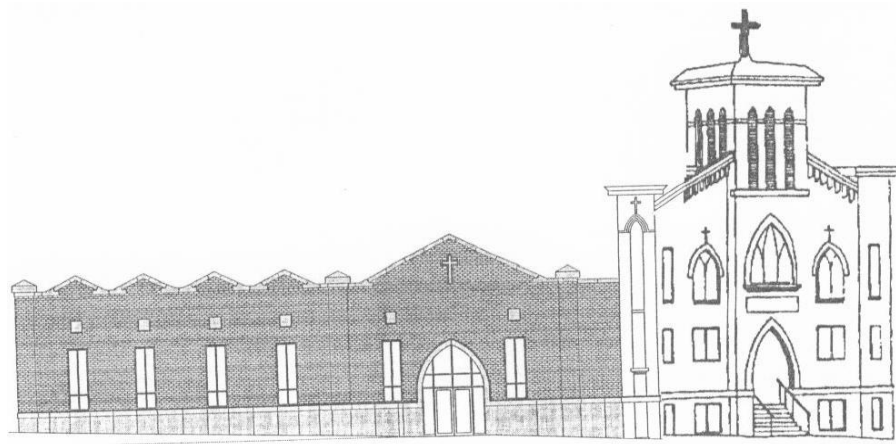
November 24, 2013  
Bulletin 47

## Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003  
Rectory: 304-233-1688 • Fax: 304-233-4714  
E-Mail: [ololwv@comcast.net](mailto:ololwv@comcast.net) • Web Site: [www.ololwv.com](http://www.ololwv.com)

**Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor**  
Evelyn Ghaphery (Organist)

### Announcement to Mary



### Schedule of Divine Liturgies

- \***Weekend Masses:** Saturday evening at 4:00 p.m. [Rosary & Litany start 30 minutes before Mass] Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. [Rosary & Litany start 30 minutes before Mass]
- \***Weekday Masses:** Tuesday through Friday at Noon [Rosary & Litany start 30 minutes before Mass]
- \***Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:** First Saturday of the month at 3:30 p.m. and First Sunday of the month after 10:30 a.m. Mass
- \***Confession:** Saturday: 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. or any other time by appointment
- \***Baptism:** Please phone the Pastor as soon as the baby is born; at least one Godparent must be Catholic
- \***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, Carol Dougherty, Tom George, Mike Linton, Rita Strawn, P.J. Lenz, Mark McLaughlin, Mary Stees
- \***Choir Members:** Allison & Earl Duffy, George Thomas, Ted Olinski, Lou Khourey, Robert Harris, Shelly Hancher
- \***Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer
- \***Altar Server:** Mike Linton
- \***Altar Boys:** Dalton Haas, Shaun Hancher & Luke Lenz
- \***Cedar Club:** Linda Duffy, President 304-242-6853
- \***Women's Society:** Sandra Dusick, President 304-232-7395



- \***Bulletin Announcements:** Submit all Bulletin Information by Noon on Tuesday every week
- \***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 at 304-233-1688 or 304-639-1372
- \***Parking:** Saturday & Sunday, parishioners may park in both lots; Monday-Friday, park ONLY in the 3 ALLEY spaces
- \*Remember the Church in your Last Will & Testament – Her prayers will accompany you to heaven
- \*Please patronize Benefactors & Advertisers of Our Lady of Lebanon Church to show them you appreciate their support.
- \*If you support the Church and need a Weekly Bulletin mailed to you, please call the church office.

## ***Gospel Reflection: Announcement to Mary***

*Scripture Readings: Gal 3:15-22 and Lk 1:26-38*

‘The Mother of All the Living’

***“The man called his wife Eve, because she became the mother of all the living.”*** Genesis 3:20

What does “Eve” as a woman’s name mean in English?

“Eve” is simply the English transliteration of her name in Hebrew: *chawwah*. The actual derivation of this name is uncertain. The ancient Israelite writer who composed the Adam and Eve story in its present form—scholars refer to this anonymous individual as the “Yahwist,” because he identifies God by the divine name, YHWH—delighted in spicing up his stories with wordplays.

The man’s explanation for Eve’s name is one example of this. The Hebrew word for “living” is *chay*, which comes from the verb *chayah*, to live. Say them out loud together and you’ll catch the pun: *chawwah*, *chay(ah)*. Get it? The naming of Eve is a significant moment in the story, because she is the sole creature whose unique gift the man has not yet been able to fathom. According to Genesis 2:1 8-20, the man gave names to every other “help” God devised for him as soon as they were created.

It is only after the forbidden fruit has made the man and woman aware of their sexual difference (Gn 3:7) and God has unveiled procreation as the means by which human life will be perpetuated (Gn 3:16) that the man solves this mystery, making the connection between the woman and life.

## ***Happy Thanksgiving: Give thanks for all these little things***

Last year someone posted on a bulletin board an article entitled: ***“41 Everyday Occurrences That Make You Want to Punch Somebody.”***

Included on the list were items like “Getting a phone call from someone who as soon as you answer, says, “Please hold,” and “Getting inaccurate street directions from some well-meaning soul who believes that any information is better than none.” Most were daily annoyances that plague us as humans living with other humans while trying to love them. I’d like to take the same idea this **THANKSGIVING** to come up with a few occurrences that make me want to **THANK** somebody. Here they are. Add your own.

### **I FEEL THANKFUL:**

When someone says, “Have you lost weight?” when I haven’t.

When my kids empty the trash or fill the tissue holder without being asked.

When anybody makes a move toward peace in our world.

When the hot water holds out through all the showers.

When the first crocuses peep through in the spring.

When I hear a really good homily.

When my car finally starts after failing to turn over three times.

When my husband says, “You look tired. Let’s eat out.”

When my luggage arrives when I do.

When the snows stop and the rains begin.

When an old friend calls or writes.

When the teacher says, “He’s (She’s) a good kid, that child of yours.”

When that child says, “He isn’t bad -for a teacher.”

When the last of the zucchini is used and the tomatoes are canned.

When my sisters and I laugh together over childhood memories.

When single parents feel good about their parish.

When a baby is born.

When the pollen season spends itself and I can stop sneezing.

When I can sleep in on Saturday morning.

When the flashing red lights behind me aren’t for me.

When my 17-year-old son asks me to go to a game in which one of his friends is playing and actually sits with me.

When we’re all together for the holidays.

When we realize we’re free to thank God together for these blessings.

## *Mass Intentions*

### This Weekend November 23-24: Announcement to the Blessed Virgin

#### Saturday, November 23 at 4:00 p.m.:

- ✠ John F. Kukula by his wife Mary Rose Kukula
- ✠ Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions

#### Sunday, November 24, at 10:30 a.m.:

- ✠ Karem & Amelia Azar by the Ghaphery Family
- ✠ Harry Seabright & Ernest Truelove & Edwin Sinila (Anniversary) by the family

### Weekday Masses

Monday, November 25: No Mass. Pastor's day off

#### Tuesday, November 26 at Noon:

- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her Last Will
- ✠ Janet Weidman & Jean Lovell by Al & Josephine Weidman

#### Wednesday, November 27 at 5:30 p.m.: Thanksgiving Eve Mass

- ✠ Deceased of the Thomas, Splatt & Nutter families by John & Kathy Thomas (MN)
- ✠ Thanksgiving Mass for Mary Rose Kukula

#### Thursday, November 28 at 9:00 a.m.: Thanksgiving Day Mass

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

#### Friday, November 29 at Noon: No Mass. Msgr. Bakhos one day vacation.

### Next Weekend November 30- December 1: Mary Visits Elizabeth

#### Saturday, November 30 at 4:00 p.m.:

- ✠ Special Intention

#### Sunday, December 1, at 10:30 a.m.:

- ✠ Living & Deceased members of the Nicholas & Nimnoom Ghaphery Family & the David Abraham Ghaphery Family
- ✠ Peter & Emma Peters by the Ghaphery Family

## *Calendar of Parish Events at a Glimpse*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event, Time &amp; Location</i>
Sunday, November 24	<b>Women's Society Meeting</b> – following 10:30 a.m. Mass
Sunday, December 1	<b>Parish Christmas Party</b> – Doors Open 5:00 p.m.; Dinner 5:30 to 9:30
Sat-Sunday, Dec. 7-8	<b>Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament</b>
Sunday, December 15	<b>Children's Parish Christmas Party &amp; Msgr. Bakhos Anniversary Celebration</b>
Sunday, December 29	<b>Hall Rental</b>
Saturday, January 4, 2014	<b>Hall Rental</b>
Saturday, May 31, 2014	<b>Hall Rental</b>

## *2013 Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule*

This year, the Christmas Novena will replace the Rosary and Litany on all Saturdays and Sundays of the Christmas Season starting on Saturday and Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### Tuesday, December 24th: Christmas Eve

- 4:00 p.m.: **Christmas Eve Mass.** (Choir will sing)
- 10:00 p.m.: **Christmas Midnight Mass.** (Choir will sing)

#### Wednesday, December 25th: Christmas Day (Day of Obligation)

- 10:30 a.m.: **Christmas Day Morning Mass.** (Choir will sing)

**Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>: New Year's Eve**4:00 p.m.: **New Year's Eve Mass** (No Midnight Mass)**Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014: New Year's Day (Day of Obligation)**10:30 a.m.: **New Year's Day Morning Mass.*****Next Women's Society Meeting*** –Sunday, November 24, following 10:30 a.m. Mass

The last meeting for the Women's Society will be held on Sunday, November 24, following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Please plan to attend. We will be discussing the final plans for our December events and selecting a date for our 2014 events (Soup & Hoagie Sale, St. Maron Dinner, Lebanese Bake Sale, ...).

***Parish Christmas Dinner Party*** (Sun., Dec. 1; Doors open @ 5:00; Due: Sun., Nov. 24)

Do not miss out on our church's **Annual Christmas Dinner Party**. Mark your calendar now and reserve **Sunday, December 1, from 5:30-9:30 p.m.** Doors will open at **5:00 p.m.**; Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. The ever popular and talented **George Suhon will provide entertainment** from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for your listening and dancing pleasure.

This event is sponsored by Our Lady of Lebanon Women's Society. All parishioners, guests, and friends of Our Lady of Lebanon are welcome to attend and enjoy the evening of food, fun, prizes and entertainment. Invite someone new this year; more people will mean more fun! Pick up an envelope of information at the church entrance if you have not received the information in your mail. Tickets will be available beginning in November for this delicious buffet **catered for the 1<sup>st</sup> time by Ye Olde Alpha.**

--Dinner includes: *Roast Beef Tenderloin & Baked Chicken, Roasted Red Potatoes & Seasoned Green Beans, Mixed Garden Greens Salad or Cranberry Salad, Bread & Butter. Dessert & Coffee* are also included ... and this year for the first time, when you arrive you will receive *two complimentary coupons that may be exchanged for your choice of pop, beer or wine.* (Only eat-in meals will be available.)

--Cost: **\$20.00 each** (This evening of food, fun, prizes and entertainment is valued at over \$40.00)

**--Deadline to purchase Tickets: Sunday, November 24**

--Door Prizes will be drawn throughout the evening.

--Raffle Tickets for a "Chocolate & Wine" Gift Basket and tickets for a 50/50 Raffle will be available: Cost for raffle tickets is \$1.00 each; \$5.00 for 6; \$10.00 for 18. The "Chocolate & Wine" Gift Basket for the Christmas Party contains 1 bottle of each of the following: *Castello Depoggio Moscato, Yellow Tail Shiraz Cabernet, Arrow Sweet Red, Rosso Dolce Moscato, Canyon Oak Cabernet Sauvigno, Dellatorri Moscato, Flip Flop Moscato; and chocolates that include boxes of: Belgian Truffles, Raffaello Coconut Almond Treats, Russell Stover Pecan Delights, Ferrero Rocher Chocolates and 2 Christmas Towels.* It is now on display on the pew at the church entrance.

**Please Note:** Anyone wishing to donate a wrapped Door Prize for the event (valued at about \$10) is asked to bring it to the Church office as soon as possible). The more prizes we have – the merrier the event!

***Christmas Poinsettias Donated (✂) in Memory of:***

✂ A bouquet of yellow roses will decorate the altar of the Blessed Mother in Memory of Helen Fielding by her husband Donald E. Fielding (FL)

✂ Louise N. & Louis H. Kourey, Sr., & Gladys Howard by Lou & Charlotte Kourey & family

✂ John F. Kukula by his wife Mary Rose Kukula

✂ Mary K. Ferris by Tom & Denise Ferris

✂ Louie F. & Alberta M. Lepoxe

✂ Siham Frenn & LaVerne Thomas by Dr. Adel & Diane Frenn & family

✂ Habdo & Dougherty families by Bill & Carol Dougherty

✂ Ralph & Mary Joseph Shipley & Robby Hunter by Thomasina Geimer

✂ Lorena Abraham Matiassek by Adele T. Woodard

✂ Louis & Josephine Joseph by Dee & Al Cinque

✂ Yost & Garvey families by Kay Garvey

✂ A Special Intention by a friend

- ✦ Msgr. Bakhos' parents Adib & Sadie & brother Nadim & sister Mona by Steve & Mike Linton
- ✦ Suzanne Linton by her husband Mike
- ✦ Frances & Joseph Linton by their sons Steve & Mike
- ✦ Sharon Tatalovich by Jay & Liz Murad
- ✦ Deceased members of the Albaugh & Chidiac families by Denny Albaugh
- ✦ Helen Fielding by her husband Donald E. Fielding (FL)
- ✦ Saseen & Schlog Families by Bob & Fran Saseen
- ✦ Bauduin, McCutcheon & Sobota Families by Ann Lee, Peggy and Barb
- ✦ Deceased of the Coury & Gibbons Families by Lucille Coury Gibbons

## *Update on the Steeple Project*

Walters Construction started this project on Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. Its cost is \$135,000. The steeple is constructed in the Fulton shop and transported to our parking lot for roofing work. The brick work is completed on the three towers. The 6-foot golden cross donated by Dr. Al Ghaphery and his Family members has arrived in Wheeling. The carpenters finished the soffits and the painter painted them. Very soon, the steeple will be lifted up by a huge crane and installed into its place with the cross on top of it. All parishioners are invited to take a picture with Msgr. Bakhos and the parish council when the crane lifts up the steeple from the ground. You will be informed about the day and time.

A fundraising project is now underway and a Plaque in the shape of the original church will commemorate the donors' names. Please consider becoming a benefactor of this project by sponsoring one or more "Cap Stones" with a tax deductible donation of \$500 for each stone or sponsoring one or more "Bricks" with a donation of \$100.00 each. In addition to the net profit of the festival, the total amount received and pledges toward the steeple so far: **\$128,051.00 out of \$135,000.00. We paid Walters Construction \$105,680.39 toward the steeple so far.**

### **Steeple Memorial Plaque will read:**

#### **Steeple & Tower "Cap Stone" Level (Over \$500.00)**

The Hess Foundation, Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family, Lindsay Carl, Philip Carl, Emma Carl, Maryann Carl, Larry Breiding, The Ghaphery Family, Jim and Edi Altmeyer and Family, Jimmy & Jocelyn Altmeyer and Family, Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Michael & Nicole Breit, Mike Carl, P.J. & Nikki and Lindsay and Luke Lenz, Sylvia Long, Peggy Palmer, Joe & Nikki Popovich, Bill & Carol Dougherty, Rex & Rita Strawn, Tom & Kathleen George, Peggy Justice, Gary Weisner, Joseph & Frances Linton (Memorial), Sue Linton (Memorial), Mike Linton, Paula Shia Hundley, Cecilia Ellia (Memorial), The Sammie Joseph Family, Adel & Diane Frenn MD, John & Kathleen Kazour, John & Deanna Shiben, Sheila Saab, John "Pete" Palmer (Memorial), Robert Harris, David & Jennifer Frey, Dr. Jack & Rose Palmer, Donald E. & Helen Fielding, Veronica Mushet & Andrew & Aundrea Spain, Women Society of Our Lady of Lebanon, Larry Siebieda Architect, Chorbishop Abraham, Rev. Paul Coury & Mrs. Mounira Midlege, Morgan & William Harris, Jerry McGlumphy, Anonymous,

#### **Body of the Church "Brick" Level (\$100.00 to \$499.00)**

Mark & Kerri Thomas, Catherine Gaudio, Tom & Judy Brock Jr., J.C. Mensore Distributor, Sara McLaughlin Family, Al Depto/Mary C. Davis, Sheriff Pat Butler, Tom Ferris, Michael & Staci Duffy, Richard & Mary Ryncarz, Anna Parea (Memorial), Grisell Funeral Home & Crematory, Fahey Insurance, Pat & Jackie Petros, George A. & Dolores M. Fahey, Phil & Thomasina Geimer, Samuel Simonetti (Memorial), John & Rose Moses (Memorial), Riesbeck Food Markets, Inc., Rajai & Nahla Khoury, Elia Nader & Family, Helen & Bernard Bukowski Family, Denise Ferris, Myron & Cynthia Law, Tony & Najat Naim & Family, A Friend, Michael David, Sadie Ann George & Freda Josephs MN (Memorial), Rouhana & Rahi Families (Memorial), Mary Margaret Blum, Garry & Pauline Ferrell, Linda Hostutler, Madelyn Shia George, George & Patty Fahey, Mary Rose Kukula, Mary Zaid & William K. Stees, Rev. Donald Brice, Kepner Funeral Homes, Angela Nagem & Family, Sam & Della Nazzaro, Rosalie Conti, Kay Garvey, Bob & Fran Saseen, Jerry & Marge Saseen, Frank Lish (Memorial), Rick & Jennifer Frey, Emily Vince, Sadie Harb (Memorial), John & Millie Saab Family (Memorial), Saab M. & Tacla Wakim Saab Family (Memorial), Jim & Sue Brubach, Angela D. Petros, Mary E. Petros, Alvin & Josephine Weidman, Joseph & Patty Pagendarm, The Pagendarm Family, Betty & George Joseph (Memorial), Larry & Becky Ferrera, Julia Tappe, Kenny & Sandy DeMuth, Cecilia Maroon, Kareem & Alice Joseph (Memorial), Stephen Wakim (Memorial), Helen & Wayne Benline, George & Mary Thomas, Evelyn Joseph Goodson, Don & Roberta Henning, Kenneth & Nancy Joseph, George & Jean Weisner, Eva Lee (Thomas) Powell & Family, Our Lady of Lebanon

Cedar Club, Thomas & Sue Jochum, Dick & Rosemary Coury, Denny Albaugh, Mike & Judy Sofka, Eileen Simon, Harold & Adele Storm, Richard & Pamela Obyc, Cater Joseph (Memorial), Bill & Mary Daniel, Carol Burkhart, Mark Alan Schroeder, Larry & Kathy Josephs (MN), Adele Matiassek Woodard, Frank & Anna Marie Duymich,

**Special Thanks for those who donated toward the steeple within their means (amounts under \$100.00):**

*Angela Palmer, Blanche Wakim, Robert & Patricia Jones, Jay & Liz Murad, Elizabeth R. Nelson, Judy Rice, Clara Jean Morris, Patricia Hage Hirsh, Angele Mansor ...*

***Children’s Christmas Party & Msgr. Bakhos Priesthood Anniv.***

*Celebrated Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, following 10:30 a.m. Mass (Note: No donuts this Sunday)*

The Children's Christmas Party, sponsored by the Women’s Society, will be held on Sunday, December 15, after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Santa will make an appearance with a gift bag for each of the children.

No doughnuts will be served after Mass on Sunday, December 15, due to the hall being used for the Children’s Christmas Party.

***Msgr. Bakhos’ 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary to Priesthood*** (Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>)

Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac will celebrate his 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary to the Priesthood on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. The Women’s Society will sponsor a cake to honor him and to celebrate this jubilant occasion. **You are all invited to share with him this event in the Cedar Hall on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> - during the Children’s Christmas Party.** Please join us in wishing Msgr. Bakhos continued blessings in his vocation, as well as assuring him of our continued prayers and gratitude for all his years of service here at Our Lady of Lebanon.

***Your Church Support Last Week***

\$1,194.00	Collection
720.00	Bulletin Ads
39.00	Candles
156.00	Poinsettias
4,650.00	Fundraising – Steeple
210.00	Parking
12.00	Refunds
15.00	Utilities
500.00	Christmas Dinner Party
50.00	Donation to Church – Poor Parish Families
\$7,546.00	<b>Total Deposits</b> <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i>

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

**Please Remember Those Hospitalized Recently in Your Prayers:**

Sandra Dusick, Gloria Sterling, Larry Breiding, Sandra DeMuth, John Shibben, Jasmine Peluchetti, Bob Sengewalt,

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

Jim George Sr., Dolores Fahey, Jill Magers, Mike McCutcheon, Dottie & Bobby Kupchak, Jim Dellget, Bill Stees, Mary Margaret Blum, Jamie Hilligas, Susie Saseen, JoAnne Reed (sister of Sue Brubach & Roberta Henning), James Partridge (cousin of Jim Brubach), Julia Tappe, Barb Sobota, Mary Ryncarz, Bob Saseen, Charles & Robert Gibbons,

***Happy Birthday***

November 24: Jim Brubach, Mickey Kukula  
 November 25: Joe Bauduin  
 November 26: Mary Lish, Laura Wakim  
 November 28: Richard Obyc

December 1:	Jenna Brown, Cathy Kukula Gerhart
December 3:	Joey John
December 4:	Todd Gerhart
December 7:	Christina Committee Zdilla, Lois Nickerson
December 12:	Lou Khourey
December 14:	Joe Betras, Donnie Musilli

## ***Remember Your Church in Your Will***

Please build treasures for yourselves in heaven by remembering your miraculous church in your will. You worked for your money all your life and your soul deserve to benefit from your labor. After your death, those who will happily inherit your assets will surely enjoy spending them on their pleasure. They may remember you in one or two Masses at most and then you will end up as a “forgotten soul” waiting for the Mercy of God at the end of time. Leave part of your money to the church so your donation will become like incense pleasing to God. You will become a “benefactor shining like the sun in the kingdom of heaven” and remembered in the offerings of the Body and Blood at the altar in case you soul ends up in need of redemption or in a place of suffering. Write this sentence in your will, *“I hereby give, and bequeath to Our Lady of Lebanon Church, a non-profit organization located at 2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003, \_\_\_% of the residue of my estate (or the sum of \$\_\_\_). I request that part of this donation be used for the general purpose of the church and the interest or other part be used for Masses on a monthly basis for the salvation of my soul.”*

## ***Donate to the Poor***

Your generous offerings placed in the Poor Box mounted at the back of the church are helping many poor and homeless families through Our Parish Families Assistance Fund. When you give, the Lord sees what you have done for his brothers and sisters and will repay you manifold in your time of need. Much of the poor box money is sent to the Catholic Charity in Wheeling that feed the poor and the homeless of our community.

## ***What’s New?***

### ***Time to Fill the Barrel with Non-Perishable Food*** (Deadline: December 22)

It is now time to fill the barrel placed in our upper lobby (by the small Statue of St. Sharbel) for non-perishable food items to be donated to those who are in need this Holiday Season. Our church will give a monetary gift from the “poor box” donations along with the food items to the needy families with children. Please be generous if you can share your blessings. If you know of anyone in need this Christmas Season, please let Msgr. Bakhos know his or her name.

## ***Around Us***

### ***St. Francis Xavier Holiday Baked Goods Sale*** (Order Deadline: December 15)

What: St. Francis Xavier Church Sale of Homemade Nutbread, Nut Horn cookies, Pierogi, and Apple Butter  
 Call Orders to: 304-845-5565. Leave name & phone number; Orders Due: Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>  
 Make Check to: St. Francis Xavier (**Order Forms are available at Our Lady of Lebanon Church entrance**)  
 Mail to: Libby Magnone, P.O. Box 254, Moundsville, WV 26041 (**Be sure to arrange a pick up date**)

## ***Christmas Reflection: Christmas in Holland***

In Holland the exchange of gifts takes place very early -on Saint Nicholas Eve, December 5th. At that time Saint Nicholas and his servant, Black Peter, visit homes to leave gifts for children. In each house there are presents and wonderful food- candies, cakes, plenty of hot chocolate and gingerbread men in the shape of Saint Nicholas.

He wears the red cap and cape, and he has a white beard. (The Dutch call him *Sinter Klass*, and the American word “Santa Claus” comes from the Dutch pronunciation.) He arrives by boat in the harbor of Amsterdam, where he is greeted by the mayor. He rides into town on a white horse, and Black Peter is nearby with a sack over his shoulder and a birch rod in his hand.

Christmas Eve and Christmas morning are devoted to church services. Later in the day there is a feast, and the children go ice skating on the frozen canals.

## *Christmas Story*

This morning I heard a story on the radio of a woman who was out Christmas shopping with her two children; after many hours of looking at row after row of toys and everything else imaginable, and after hours of hearing both her children asking for everything they saw on those many shelves, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids. She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday season time of the year—overwhelming pressure to go to every party, every housewarming, taste all the holiday food and treats, get that perfect gift for every single person on our shopping list, make sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and the pressure of making sure we respond to everyone who sent us a card.

Finally the elevator doors opened and there was already a crowd in the car. She pushed her way into the car and dragged her two kids in with her and all the bags of stuff. When the doors closed she couldn't take it anymore and stated, "Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot."

From the back of the car everyone heard a quiet, calm voice respond, "Don't worry. We already crucified him."

For the rest of the trip down the elevator it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. Don't forget this year to keep the One who started this whole Christmas thing in your every thought, deed, purchase, and word. If we all did it, just think of how different this whole world would be.

"IN GOD WE TRUST"

## *Famous Quotes: Words to live by*

--Let me tell you the secret that has led me to my goal. My strength lies solely in my tenacity. — *Louie Pasteur*

--The Lord can do great things through those who don't care who gets the credit. — *Helen Pearson*

--Consider the postage stamp: Its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing until it gets there. — *Josh Billings*

--The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one often comes from a strong will, and the other from a strong won't. — *Henry Ward Beecher*

--Lack of will power has caused more failure than lack of intelligence or ability.

— *Flower A. Newhouse*

--I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had absolutely no other place to go. — *Abraham Lincoln*

--If you want the last word, apologize. — *Anonymous*

--The deeds you do today may be the only sermon some people will hear today.

— *St. Francis of Assisi*

--If I did not believe in God, I should still want my doctor, my lawyer, and my banker to do so. — *G. K. Chesterton*

--True holiness consists in doing God's will with a smile. — *Mother Teresa*

--If you believe what you like in the Gospel, and reject what you don't like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself. — *St. Augustine of Hippo*

--A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty. — *Sir Winston Churchill*

--A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows. — *St. Francis of Assisi*

--Every evening I turn my worries over to God. He's going to be up all night anyway.

— *Anonymous*

--The world is full of givers and takers; the takers may eat better, but the givers sleep better. —

*Anonymous*

--Once in the lobby of the Midland Hotel in Manchester when I happened to be in some public disfavor, a man came up to me, grasped my hand and observed: Never forget that only dead fish swim with the stream.

— *Malcolm Muggeridge*



--The family that prays together stays together. (*Motto devised for the Roman Catholic Family Rosary Crusade, 1947, Al Scalpone*)

--The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home.— *St. Augustine of Hippo*

--We can do no great things, only small things with great love. — *Mother Teresa*

--All that we do without offering it to God is wasted. — *St. John Vianney*

--Some rules to live by:

- 1- If you open it — close it.
- 2- If you turn it on — turn it off.
- 3- If you unlock it — lock it.
- 4- If you move it — put it back.
- 5- If it belongs to someone else and you want it — get permission.
- 6- If you borrow it — return it.
- 7- If you don't know how to operate it — leave it alone.
- 8- If you use it — take care of it.
- 9- If you break it — repair it.
- 10- If you can't fix it — call someone who can.
- 11- If you mess it up — clean it up.
- 12- If it will brighten someone's day — say it.

## *Wisdom*

We're a rugged breed, us quads. If we weren't, we wouldn't be around today. Yes, we're a rugged breed; in many ways, we've been blessed with a savvy and spirit that isn't given to everybody. And let me say that this refusal of total or full acceptance of one's disability all hooks up with one thing -- faith, an almost divine faith.

Down in the reception room of the Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, over on the East River at 400 East 34th Street in New York City, there is a bronze plaque that's riveted to the wall. During the months of coming back to the Institute for treatment - two and three times a week - I rolled through that reception room many times, coming and going. But I never quite made the time to pull over to one side and read the words on that plaque that were written, it's said, by an unknown Confederate Soldier. Then one afternoon, I did. I read it, and then I read it again. When I finished it the second time I was near to bursting - not in despair, but with an inner glow that had me straining to grip the arms of my wheelchair. I'd like to share it with you.

### **A Creed For Those Who Have Suffered**

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve.  
 I was made weak, that I might learn to humbly obey...  
 I asked for health, that I might do greater things.  
 I was given infirmity, that I might do better things...  
 I asked for riches, that I might be happy.  
 I was given poverty, that I might be wise...  
 I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men.  
 I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God...  
 I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life.  
 I was given life, that I might enjoy all things...  
 I got nothing I asked for - but everything I had hoped for.  
 Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.  
 I am, among men, most richly blessed!

## *Reflection*

I remembered a village priest in Province who went to the waiting room of the nearby railway junction every night when most people were in bed, because there the lonely gathered, men who had no home, men who could not face home because of what they had done, men who could not speak to any woman but a prostitute,

men and women who were failures because of their own fault or someone else's fault or nobody's fault. He knew Christ must be there; and he wished to be where Christ was, to make visible to these people the Christ Whom they could not see, to take their suffering and their sin upon him, as Christ was, to pray for them, as Christ prayed.

## *A Time to Laugh (170)*

### *Windy and Thirsty*

Three senior citizens were out for a walk together and one made the comment, "It sure is windy!" The second responded, "It's not Wednesday. It's Thursday." Immediately the third chimed in, "I'm thirsty too!"

### *Unfriendly Phones*

Some people are put off when they make a phone call and are greeted with someone spouting off the number they just called. When one such caller placed her call, the secretary at the other end picked up the phone and answered, "555-4664."

"May I speak to Mr. Barrier, please?"

"Certainly. May I tell him who's calling?" asked the secretary.

Impatiently the caller replied, "555-0779!"

### *Nothing Good Enough*

"Before we were married," remarked a wife, "you kept saying 'nothing is good enough for you.'"

### *Mum's Bible*

Four brothers left home for University, and they became successful doctors and lawyers.

One evening, they chatted after having dinner together. They discussed the 95th birthday gifts they were able to give their elderly mother who moved to the Gold Coast.

The first said, "You know I had a big house built for Mum."

The second said, "And I had a large theatre built in the house."

The third said, "And I had my Mercedes dealer deliver an SL600 to her."

The fourth said, "You know how Mum loved reading the Bible and you know she can't read anymore because she can't see very well. I met this Minister who told me about a parrot who could recite the entire Bible. It took ten Ministers almost 8 years to teach him. I had to pledge to contribute \$50,000 a year for five years to the church, but it was worth it.

Mum only has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot will recite it."

The other brothers were impressed. After the celebration Mum sent out her "Thank You" notes.

She wrote: Michael, the house you built is so huge that I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house. Thanks anyway."

"Mervin, I am too old to travel. I stay home; I have my groceries delivered, so I never use the Mercedes. The thought was good. Thanks."

"Mark, you gave me an expensive theater with Dolby sound and it can hold 50 people, but all of my friends are dead, I've lost my hearing, and I'm nearly blind. I'll never use it. Thank you for the gesture just the same."

"Dearest Mitchell, you were the only son to have the good sense to give a little thought to your gift. The chicken was delicious. Thank you so much." --Love, Mum.