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)

Season of Resurrection
4th 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: At Noon. Please refer to the Mass schedule on page 3 of this bulletin for Mass times and changes due to special events. Thank you for your cooperation.

*Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament: Every 1st Saturday of the month at 3:30 pm & 1st Sunday after Communion

*Miraculous Medal Novena: Every 2nd Sunday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

*Reconciliation: 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 277-3230, Linda Duffy 242-6853, Tom George 336-7142, P.J. Lenz 242-5606 and Carol Dougherty (740) 782-0146

*Choir Members: Rita Thomas Strawn, Shirley George, Allison Duffy, George Thomas, Ted Olinski, Earl Duffy, Lou Khourey, Robert Vawter, Jody & Abbie Seabright

*Cedar Club: Linda Duffy, President 242-6853

*Women’s Society: Sandra Dusick, President 232-7395

*Please support Our Lady of Lebanon Church by patronizing our Advertisers

*Bulletin Announcements: Submit all Bulletin Information to Fr. Bakhos. Deadline: Every Tuesday by Noon

*Remember the Church in your Last Will – Her prayers will accompany you to heaven

*New Parishioners: We welcome you with great joy and invite you to be officially listed as one of our parishioners

*If you support the Church and need a Bulletin mailed to you, please call the Rectory

*Parking: Saturday & Sunday—all spaces for parishioners; Monday through Friday—park ONLY in the 3 ALLEY spaces
**Gospel Reflection: 4th Sunday of Resurrection**

**Readings:** Heb 13:18-25 & Jn 21:1-14

When we do not experience Jesus in our midst, we get discouraged. We want to return to our former way of life. “We’re with you,” others are quick to say. But we soon learn that we cannot make it without Jesus. Our self-guided enterprises are doomed to failure. Then in the darkness of our confusion and disbelief, we hear a familiar voice. “It is the Lord,” we cry. We immerse ourselves in Christ’s radiant light. “Come and eat your meal,” Jesus invites us. In the breaking of the bread, we recognize the risen Lord once again. Jesus does not chide us. He simply asks, “Do you love me?” If we answer, “YES,” we must be Christ’s presence in the world by loving and feeding his flock.

It is hard work to speak about Christ in a dark and disbelieving world. Many voices order us to be silent. We have no choice but to obey -not human authority but God’s. Filled with the Spirit, we stand before judge and jury. Boldly we proclaim Jesus’ message of repentance and forgiveness. When we speak in his name we discover that we are not alone. We are surrounded by a myriad of witnesses. Countless voices proclaim: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!” For a Christian, death is not defeat but victory. All who believe share in Christ’s honor, glory and praise. With all of creation we cry: “Amen!”

**Mass Intentions**

**THIS WEEKEND, April 12-13: “4th Week of Resurrection”**

**Saturday, April 12, at 4:00 p.m.:**
- Steve & Margaret Schlog (Birthday & Anniversary) by Bob & Fran Saseen
- Helen Saseen (on her Birthday) by her daughter Rosella Saseen

**Sunday, April 13, at 10:30 a.m.:**
- Dale Seidler, Sr. by his wife Nettie & Family
- Helen Fielding by her husband Don (FL) and a special intention

**Weekday Masses**

**Monday, April 14:** No Mass
**Tuesday, April 15:** No Mass

**Wednesday, April 16, at Noon:**
- Helen Jalad Orosz by Martha Ruggiero
- Sadie Chidiac by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Khourey

**Thursday, April 17, at Noon:**
- Helen Jalad Orosz by the Women Society of Our Lady of Lebanon
- Helen Fielding by her husband Don (FL) and a special intention

**Friday, April 18, at Noon:**
- Helen Jalad Orosz by George & Mary Thomas
- Pete Kowalczyk (brother) by Michaeline Custer

**NEXT WEEKEND, April 19-20: “5th Week of Resurrection”**

**Saturday, April 19, at 4:00 p.m.:**
- Mark Long (on his Anniversary) by his mother Sylvia Long
- Salomi Vasanthi Jayasekera by Ashley Jayasekera

**Sunday, April 20, at 10:30 a.m.:**
- Helen Jalad Orosz by Jim & Shirley George
- Alma B. Elias by Georgette Joseph
Donations Toward the Building Project

Donations towards the Building Project during March 2008: $23,235.00

Building Project Items to Be Sponsored

Every little bit helps! We ask all parishioners and friends of our parish to make a generous sacrifice and now commit to sponsor some of the items listed below. The names of those who sponsor the tables, chairs and bricks will be written in the Golden Cedar Book displayed next to the Cedar Tree of Life. If you or your family members are able to sponsor an item, please contact any member of the parish council or the pastor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items to Be Sponsored</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Table for new Cedar Hall (need 25 tables)</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Chairs for new Cedar Hall (need 200 chairs)</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 bricks in the new façade (need 20,000 bricks)</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 bricks in the new façade (need 20,000 bricks)</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 bricks in the new façade (need 20,000 bricks)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 bricks in the new façade (need 20,000 bricks)</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Generous Donors of This Month:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donations Received</th>
<th>Gem Level Requested</th>
<th>Donor’s Name &amp; Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$6,250</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>The Schenk Charitable Trust (3.27.2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$110</td>
<td></td>
<td>Women Society - 50/50 Fundraising (3.30.2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$110</td>
<td>Sponsor</td>
<td>Patty Smith sponsor 22 bricks (3.30.2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$65</td>
<td>Sapphire</td>
<td>Mike &amp; Nicole Breit (NC) (3.31.2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Sponsor</td>
<td>Mary Margaret Blum sponsor 25 bricks (4.3.2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$600</td>
<td>Sponsor</td>
<td>Kay Garvey sponsor 1 table and 4 chairs (4.5.2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500</td>
<td>Alexandrite</td>
<td>Mike Simon (4.6.2008)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

May all generous parishioners, friends and benefactors be rewarded in good health and heavenly bliss.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Event:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, April 13</td>
<td>Spring Lebanese Bake Sale – <strong>Order Deadline</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, April 14</td>
<td>Cedar Club Meeting – <strong>7:00 p.m.in the Church Hall</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 19</td>
<td>Cedar Club Movie: <strong>Facing the Giants</strong> – see Bulletin note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, April 20</td>
<td>Women’s Society Meeting – <strong>11:30 a.m.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, April 20</td>
<td>Extra Movie Night: <strong>The Ninth Day</strong> – see Bulletin note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun.-Thur., April 20-24</td>
<td>Spring Lebanese Bake Sale – <strong>Work Days</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, April 27</td>
<td><strong>1st Communion:</strong> Ashley Musilli and Kenley George during 10:30 a.m. Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, April 27</td>
<td>50/50 Building Fund Raffle Drawing – <strong>after 10:30 a.m. Mass</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 4</td>
<td>May Crowning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat.-Fri., May 10-16</td>
<td><strong>Week of Mother’s Day Masses</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 18</td>
<td>Spaghetti Dinner – <strong>11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 18</td>
<td>Women’s Society Raffle: “Wine &amp; Dine” Gift Basket – <strong>at Spaghetti Dinner</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 7</td>
<td><strong>Parish Rummage Sale</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, June 20</td>
<td>Picnic in the Parking Lot – <strong>6:30-9:00 p.m.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, August 10</td>
<td><strong>2008 Mahrajan at Oglebay Park</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spring Lebanese Bake Sale  
(Order By: Sunday, April 13; Pick Up Orders: April 23-24)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order Deadline</th>
<th>Sunday, April 13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spinach Preparation</td>
<td>Sunday, April 20, 11:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baking to Fill Orders</td>
<td>Monday to Thursday, April 21-24, 9:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order Pick Up Dates</td>
<td>Wednesday &amp; Thursday, April 23 &amp; 24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring Lebanese Bake Sale Order Forms are available. The Women’s Society of our Church has scheduled its Spring Lebanese Bake Sale of Spinach Pies, Meat Pies, Sweet (Sesame) Bread, and Zattar Bread. Complete an order form from the Church entrance and return it by mail or place it in the collection basket. All those who helped in the past are asked to help us again on the baking days listed above. Please come and join in the camaraderie! **Note:** Please save large clean paper grocery bags for use in packing our orders.

**Cedar Club Meeting** (Monday, April 14th, 7:00 p.m.)

The next meeting is on Monday, April 14th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall. Come and join the fellowship and bring your ideas for future events. All are welcome. Our hostess for the evening will be Linda King.

**Movie Night Now Featuring:**  
*Facing the Giants*  
(Saturday, April 19th)

Due to the changed release date of *The Bucket List* movie the Cedar Club will show in its place: *Facing the Giants*. It touches on the struggles of a high school coach and team. With the power of faith, they discover their own strengths to never give up and never back down. A good family movie. Rated PG-13.

Please bring an appetizer or snack to share. The Cedar Club will provide popcorn & beverages. Admission is FREE. Appetizer and snack buffet at 5:30 p.m. Showtime: 6:15 p.m. Please come and enjoy the show!

**Women’s Society Meeting** (Sunday, April 20th, after Mass)

Plan to join the Women’s Society for their next meeting scheduled for Sunday, April 20th, after Mass. They will make plans for events in May.

**Extra Movie Night Featuring:**  
*The Ninth Day*  
(Sunday, April 20th)

A movie titled *The Ninth Day* will be shown on Sunday as requested by Fr. Bakhos for the parish and all friends. Based on a true story about a priest put into a concentration camp for speaking out against the Nazis. Fr. Kremer is later released, only to learn that he is being forced to convince the Bishop of Luxembourg to work with Nazi occupiers. Gestapo Gebhardt is under pressure to have the priest succeed – or suffer an unwanted transfer. The priest's trial is ultimately a story of faith and courage in the face of certain.

Please bring an appetizer or snack to share with the parishioners. The Cedar Club will provide popcorn & beverages. Admission is FREE. Appetizer and snack buffet at 5:30 p.m. Showtime: 6:15 p.m. Please come and enjoy the show!

**First Communion** (Sunday, April 27th, during 10:30 a.m. Mass)

Ashley Musilli, daughter of Tara and Donnie (granddaughter of Jim & Shirley George) and Kenley George daughter of Beth and Chris (granddaughter of Tom & Kathleen George) will celebrate their First Communion on Sunday, April 27th during 10:30 Mass. Fr. Bakhos started preparing the two smart candidates in September 2007 and he is happy to give them their first Communion which is the Body and Blood of Christ on Sunday, April 27th. May our prayers be for them.

**Monthly 50/50 Building Fund Raffle**  
(Drawing: Sunday, April 27)

The Women’s Society continues to sponsor the Monthly 50/50 Building Fund Raffle. The drawing – from entries received from the canary yellow April tickets provided at the entrance of the church, and in the weekly church bulletin – will take place in the Social Hall following mass on Sunday, April 27.

Proceeds will benefit the Building Fund. Raffle Tickets are $1.00 each or 6 for $5.00. 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.*
For more information or additional tickets, contact the church office at (304) 233-1688. Your generosity and cooperation enhances our Church. Congratulations and many thanks to Patricia Smith of Benwood who won the March 50/50 Raffle. She donated her prize of $110 back to our church to sponsor 22 bricks in the new façade of the building project.

**Mother’s Day Masses** (Saturday, May 10th, to Friday, May 16th)

The best gift of love we can offer to our ONLY mother, who brought us to this life, is a Mass offered for her good health and long life, if she is still alive, OR for the repose of her soul, if she has passed away. Our Lady of Lebanon Church is dedicating one week of prayers (5 days of Masses) for MOTHERS for the occasion of Mothers’ Day, Sunday, May 11. All intentions will be published in the bulletin in the order received from now until May 11. Please pray for the soul of your mother.

**Mother’s Day: A Mother’s Treasure**

What is a mother’s love, after all? Perhaps it is her ability to keep holding on, to treasure everything we give her, even when we forget to say “Thanks.” It doesn’t seem to matter if we do or do not reclaim whatever we gave her. A mother’s joy is not in the thing but in the holding.

Mothers don’t hold on to the things we give them. What they’re really holding on to is that we trust them with our treasures. It’s our trust they cherish most. It’s our trust they retain even as they return our treasures to us. For mothers, the real treasure is not the thing, but the trust. Bottles may break, blankets may become threadbare, teddy bears may fall apart, and gum may get swallowed, but trust is a treasure forever.

**For the Repose of the Souls of Our Departed Mothers & Grandmothers:**

Sadie Chidiac(mother) on her 40th Day memorial by her son Fr. Bakhos (pastor)
Louise N. Khoury & Gladys Howard by their children Lou & Charlotte and grandchildren
   Emmalena & Louie
Living and Deceased members of the Nicholas & Nimnoon Ghaphery Family and the David Abraham Ghaphery Family by the Ghaphery Family
Nimnoon Ghaphery by the Ghaphery Family
Helen Fielding by her husband Don (FL) and a special intention
Helen Fielding by her children and grandchildren and great grandchildren
Mary Shipley by her daughter and granddaughter
Mary Sengewalt by the Sengewalt Family
Sally Malatinski by her daughter Sandra Dusick

**For Good Health and Long Life of Our Living Mothers & Grandmothers:**

My married sisters by Fr. Bakhos
Charlotte Khoury by her husband Lou and her children Emmalena & Louie
Diane Frenn by her children Andreah & Justin Frenn

**40-Day Mass for Fr. Bakhos’ Mother: Sadie Chidiac**

On Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 11th, we will remember all living and deceased mothers and grandmothers and especially Fr. Bakhos’ mother, Sadie Chidiac, on the occasion of her 40th Day memorial.

**Spaghetti Dinner** (Sunday, May 18, 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.)

Mark your calendars now and plan to enjoy our Spring Spaghetti Dinner. More information will come in upcoming bulletins.

"**Wine & Dine" Gift Basket Raffle** (Sunday, May 18th, at the Spaghetti Dinner)

The Women’s Society of Our Lady of Lebanon Church will sponsor a “Wine & Dine" gift basket to be raffled at 5:00 p.m. during the Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, May 18. Green tickets for the "Wine & Dine" Gift
Basket are available now at $1.00 each or 6 for $5.00 from Women's Society members, at the church entrance or from our Weekly Bulletins. Proceeds from the gift basket raffles will benefit our Building Project.

This beautiful basket contains: Italian wine, a variety of pasta, pasta sauce, Italian vinegar, and many other items which will make it possible for the winner to have a great Italian meal (or two or three...).

We thank each of you from the bottom of our heart for the blessing of your cooperation with each raffle and event – whether you buy raffle tickets, sponsor an item, make a donation or offer your talents and time.

**Parish Rummage Sale** *(Saturday, June 7th, 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.)*

It’s time for our annual Cedar club Rummage Sale. Clean out your closets, clear out your basements and donate any gently used items you may have. This is our biggest fundraiser and we need your help to guarantee its success. Donations will be accepted in the church hall on June 2 and 3 from 6-9 p.m. and on June 4, 5, and 6 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Picnic in the Parking Lot** *(Friday, June 20th, 6:30-9:00 p.m.)*

Mark your calendars now for this highlight of our spring activities. Look for more info in later bulletins.

### Happy Birthday to Those Born in April

| April 13: | Adel Frenn |
| April 14: | Mark McLaughlin |
| April 15: | Megan Voellinger |
| April 20: | Craig Haas |
| April 28: | Ann Marie Weisner-Serain |
| April 29: | Betty Joseph, Linda Hostutler |
| April 30: | Cecilia Ammar |

### Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

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

Chuck Coury, Louis Betras, Austin Musilli, the father of Nesrin AlKhouri (overseas), Patti Smith, Eleanor Thomas, Louis John, Richard Straughn (brother of Pat Smith), Sue Jochum, Mike Sobota, John John, Rosella Saseen, Betty Jo & Joseph Perry (parents of Danielle Lavoie), Mary Piko, Morgan Harris, Irene Schuler, Diane Palotay, Bob Wiles, Shipley Shipley,

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

Waneta Acker, Deb Yochum, Shannon Adler, Mary Thomas, Katherine Siebieda, Bonnie Shaw (St. Clairsville), Judy Miller (Martins Ferry), Annette Tysk (friend of Susie Fadoul), Amelia Misko (sister of Eva Powell), Anna Nicholas, Zhoee Khoury (Mother of Dr. Rajai Khoury), Theresa Sofka, Martha Ruggiero and her son Philip, Jennie Bedway, Betty Joseph, Ralph Sengewalt, Joe Linton, Bernard Olako, Sr., Debbie Laughlin (Columbus), Virginia Khourely Bryan (aunt of Lou Khoury), Mary Rynarcz (Shadyside), Alice (Thomas) Holmes, Leona Albaugh, Manell Brice (Arlington), Rose Mary Bris-Roybal (Albuquerque), Clara Joseph-Malone (daughter of Josephine Joseph), John Vawter and his mother (brother and mother of Dr. Rob Vawter)

**Your Church Support Last Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$981</td>
<td>Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500</td>
<td>Fundraising (cook books)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$60</td>
<td>Utilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>$54</td>
<td>Candles</td>
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<td>$1,265</td>
<td>Building Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$19</td>
<td>St. Maron Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,125</td>
<td>Mahrajan (Ad Book)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15</td>
<td>Flowers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$4,059</td>
<td>Total. May God reward you many fold</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What’s New?

From Fr. Bakhos’ Desk: Death of My Mother

My mother, Sadie Chidiac (86), died of old age in the hospital in Lebanon on Monday, April 7, 2008. My mom was born in Kobayat, North Lebanon in 1923. She was preceded to death by my youngest sister Mona (35 years old) in 2003 and by my father Adib in 2006. In addition to me, she is survived by one son and seven daughters and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The Mass of Christian Burial took place on Tuesday, April 8 at 3:00 p.m. at Our Lady Church, Kobayat, North Lebanon. I appreciate your prayers.

--Fr. Bakhos Chidiac

Congratulations on Your Wedding

Shelly Strawn and Terry Wood Condon were united in marriage Saturday, April 12 in Greensboro, NC, where they will reside. Shelly is the daughter of Rex Strawn. We wish the young couple a happy and long life together.

A New Baby Boy

Our warmest wishes and congratulations go out to Kristen Albaugh, daughter of our parishioner Danny Albaugh, on the birth of her son Kayden Fortney. May the Lord God and his Blessed Mother bless him and grant him a healthy life and bright future.

Parishioner Mary Jennie Bedway Has Moved

Parishioner Mary Jennie Bedway has moved to: Marian Manor Corp. Nursing Facility, 2695 Winchester Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15220-4099. Anyone wishing to keep in touch is encouraged to visit or write to her at this address.

Parish Cookbook Re-Printed

By popular demand, Our Lady of Lebanon Church Parish Cookbook (with the red cover) has been reprinted. The book is filled with 155 delicious Lebanese and American recipes from our parishioners, friends and families. Cost is only $12.00. Please call the rectory at 233-1688 to order.

Food Items for Sale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olives Kalamata</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tahini</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat #1, fine</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Nuts</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat #2, medium</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Poor Box

Please consider sharing your blessings with the brothers and sisters of Christ who knock at our door daily. Many people in the area need assistance in many ways. Some are in dire need some are not, but God alone knows what’s in each one’s heart. The Poor Box is located at the rear of the church near the Holy Water font. Fr. Bakhos is using his judgment to help the poor on your behalf and asks each of them to pray for you.

Around Us

Slovak Style Luncheon (Sunday, April 20, 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (or until sold out)

Where: St. John Parish, 622 Main Street, Rosary Hall, Benwood
Cost: Adult $7.00; Child $3.00, (under 3 free)

Bus Trip to Our Lady of Consolation & Bible Museum (Sat., May 17)

Who: Join with the Christian Mothers of St. Michael Church
What: A 1-day bus trip to the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation; and a stop and tour of the Bible Museum in Massillon, OH
When: Saturday, May 17; leaves St. Michael Church at 7 a.m.; returns at 9 p.m.
Cost: $90 (includes mass, Shrine donation, & lunch – dinner cost not included)
Info: Call Rosie Kluth at 242-0479; Reservations deadline is April 26
Maronites = Catholics of the East

East and West (9)

What all Catholics should know about Eastern Catholic Churches

Jesus prays, at the Last Supper, in John’s Gospel, that his followers might “all be one.” Before his ascension, he commissioned his disciples out to preach the gospel “to the whole world” (see Mk 16:15). But, as the Church brought the Christian faith to lands near and far, it strained to maintain common understandings among various peoples.

Early Christianity suffered from disagreements about the nature of Christ’s divinity and the understanding of the Trinity. Two early Church Councils – one at Nicea in 325 and another at Constantinople in 381 – set Church teaching on these crucial dogmas, which have been handed down to us in the Nicene Creed. Centuries of wear and tear resulted in the East-West schism of 1054, between what came to be known as “Catholicism” and “Orthodoxy.” Centuries later, Catholicism fractured with the Reformation in 16th-century Europe. The new terms were “Roman Catholicism” and “Protestantism.” All along the way, the papacy sought to strengthen its central governing authority.

For Catholics, the branches of the Church are properly called the Latin Church and the Eastern Churches. There are two separate codes of canon law, one for the Oriental, or Eastern Churches in union with Rome and another for the Latin, or Western Church (which we usually term the Roman Catholic Church). Each of these legal codes recognizes the supreme authority of the Roman pontiff, the pope in Rome.

Today, those in full communion with Rome are rediscovering their common ancestry and better recognizing each other as more than distant relations. But while liturgical practice in the West is fairly uniform, a complex pattern of governance and liturgical practice remains in the East, bound to both history and geography.

Patriarchates

The first large branches in the Catholic family tree appear in the fourth century. The Roman Emperor Constantine, who legalized Christianity, transferred his – and its – headquarters from Rome to the ancient city of Byzantium in the year 330. He renamed this city Constantinople. (We now know it as Istanbul. Turkey.) There were three other important centers of the Roman Empire: Rome, Antioch in Syria, and Alexandria in Egypt. The bishops of these four great cities of Rome, Constantinople, Antioch and Alexandria attained greater preeminence over time, especially at the Council of Constantinople in 381. There the Bishop of Constantinople received honorary status, after the Bishop of Rome.

Rome had been the center of a vast empire, and the site of martyrdom for Sts. Peter and Paul. But the East was growing in prominence.

At the Council of Chalcedon in 451, the Bishops of Constantinople and of Jerusalem received territorial authority over their respective areas. Eventually, Rome, Constantinople, Antioch, Alexandria and Jerusalem came to be known as patriarchates, that is, Church territories headed by a patriarch.

Coincidentally, Christianity spread beyond the Roman Empire. Syriac speaking Christians looked to Edessa in East Syria as their center.

In four of the original patriarchates, Rome, Constantinople, Antioch, Alexandria – and in Edessa– we find the origins of major liturgical families of the Catholic Church, some Eastern and some Western.

Eastern Churches

The 11th-century East-West split created a complex situation. A large part of the problem was the supreme authority of Rome over other patriarchal Churches. What we know of as Orthodoxy ensued in most of the Christian East. Virtually all the Eastern Churches broke communion with Rome at some point, and present Eastern Catholic Churches are the result of efforts to restore that communion either spontaneously or because of the work of Catholic missionaries.

At present, there are 22 separate ecclesial groupings of the East that recognize the supreme authority of Rome. In some cases, parts of these communions – 21 are “Churches” – are locally administered by a Western
Patriarchal: The six patriarchal Eastern Catholic Churches are: Armenian, Chaldean, Coptic, Maronite, Melkite and Syrian. Their patriarchs, along with their synods (assemblies of bishops), enjoy superior authority in their respective churches.

Major Archepiscopal: In these, the Ukrainian, the Syro-Malabar and the Syro – Malankar Churches, a major archbishop is essentially the same as a patriarch, although his election, unlike a patriarch’s, must be approved by the Roman pontiff.

Metropolitan: The Ethiopian (or Abyssinian), the Romanian and the Ruthenian Churches are distinct in that their Metropolitan, that is, principal bishop, must request the pallium – his sign of authority – from the pope rather than by election from his Church. In these cases the local synod must provide three nominees to the pope, who makes the final choice.

Others: Nine Eastern Catholic Churches are none of the above. In law they are called “sui iuris” and are a separate category of churches. For the most part they are a single diocese or eparchy: the Albanian, Belarussian, Bulgarian, Greek, Hungarian, Italo-Albanian, Slovak, Russian, and churches of the former Yugoslavia—once called Krizevci, but now including separate apostolic exarchates for Macedonia and Serbia/Montenegro. These nine do not have the highly developed hierarchical structures of the other 12. The pope grants authority to the bishop who governs these churches.

The Eastern Churches in union with Rome were once called “uniate,” but this term is seen as non-complimentary since it implies an unequal status. The Eastern Churches are still mistakenly called “Eastern-rite” Churches, a reference to their various liturgical histories. They are most properly called Eastern Churches, or Eastern Catholic Churches.

Liturgical Families of the East

Eastern Catholic Churches belong to distinct liturgical families. Understanding these families helps us to understand that the differences among the Churches have mostly to do with local cultures. The distinct liturgical families relate to the three major Eastern patriarchates (Constantinople, Antioch and Alexandria) and to Edessa. These in turn influenced other Churches in the Christian East, especially in Chaldea (modern-day Iran) and Armenia. Some of the Eastern Catholic Churches are reunited from the Eastern Churches that separated from Rome during the fifth century, or in 1054, or at other times in the Church’s long history. (The years in parentheses note the approximate dates of reunion with Rome.)

The Antiochian liturgical family has two branches: West Syrian and East Syrian. Antioch was founded by St. Peter, and St. James is credited for its liturgy, which is celebrated in the ancient Syriac language that Jesus spoke, Aramaic, as well as in local vernacular. The West Syrian Churches are the Maronite (which claims always to have been in union with Rome), Syriac (1781), and Syro-Malankarese (1930). The East Syrian, whose liturgy shows the influence of Edessa, are the Chaldean (1692), and Syro-Malankarese (16th century). The Syro-Malankarese finds roots in the evangelization of St. Thomas in India.

The Alexandrian liturgical family includes the Coptic (1741) and the Ethiopian (1846). Its liturgy is attributed to St. Mark the Evangelist, and is variously celebrated in Coptic (Ancient Egyptian) and Arabic in Egypt and the Near East, and in Geez (Ethiopian) in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and Jerusalem.

The Byzantine liturgical family, by far the largest of the liturgical traditions of the East, is related to the Patriarchate of Constantinople. As we trace the lineage of each Byzantine tradition, we find close relations among those Churches linked by geography and/or language.

The oldest Byzantine or Constantinopolitan liturgies are those of the Greek (mid-19th century) and Melkite communions. The Patriarchal Melkite Church (18th century) actually began in the Antiochian tradition, but now celebrates liturgy in Greek as well as several local vernacular languages. The Byzantine Slav liturgical family celebrates the liturgy in Old Slavonic and the local vernacular, and comprises the Belarusian (17th century), Bulgarian (1861), Hungarian (1646), the churches of the former Yugoslavia, including Krizevci (1611), Russian (1905), Ruthenian (17th century), Slovak Ukrainian (1595).
The *sui iuris* Albanian (1628) and Italo-Albanian (or Italo-Greek, which never separated), and the Metropolitan Romanian Church (1697) tend to use the vernacular despite their Greek roots. All Byzantine Churches celebrate the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom on Sundays and holy days, and the Liturgy of St. Basil during Lent.

Some scholars consider the Armenian rite, celebrated by the Patriarchal Armenian Church in classical Armenian, as its own rite. The Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia converted to Catholicism at the time of the Crusades, but this did not include the majority of Armenians located north of there, in modern eastern Turkey and the Republic of Armenia. Armenian Catholics are found throughout the Middle East and in Argentina, France and the United States.

**Western Church**

The Latin or Western Church is what we know of as the Roman Catholic Church, joined fully and wholly to the Catholic Churches and ecclesial communions of the East. We often recite four words which signify our belief in the unity of the Church—one, holy, Catholic and apostolic—every time we say the Nicene Creed at Sunday Mass. The words refer to our Church’s unity, its sanctified and sanctifying nature, its universality and its relation to the Twelve Apostles.

Christians understand the term *Church* to mean a territorial assembly of the faithful. Yet the Catholic Church is worldwide. Particular, or local, Churches exist in the West as archdioceses, dioceses or patriarchates, and the heads of these particular churches are called archbishops, bishops or patriarchs.

Pope Pius V, whose pontificate lasted from 1566 to 1572, imposed the liturgical rite of Rome on the Latin Church, in response to the confusion that preceded the Protestant Reformation. A few other Western rites already hundreds of years old were allowed to remain active. In succeeding centuries, a few additional rites or observances have been created or added for the Western Church.

For the most part, Roman Catholics participate in Roman-rite liturgy, codified by the Missale Romanum, established at the Council of Trent and updated by Pope John Paul II, in response to the Second Vatican Council (1962-65).

**One Church**

The Catholic Church counts over one billion persons, slightly more than half of the total number of Christians in the world, or 16 percent of the world population. Most belong to the Latin Church and worship according to the Roman rite. But there are 16 million members of Eastern Catholic Churches, of whom approximately 7,650,000 worship according to the Byzantine tradition, and 8,300,000 according to various other ancient Eastern Christian traditions, such as the Armenian, Coptic and Syriac traditions.

All, East and West, belong to the one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church.

**Special-Use Rites**

Some rites exist not so much for geographical, but for other reasons. Here are two:

**Anglican rite:** This “special use” rite among Roman Catholics in the United States is the modified Anglican rite for those who come to the Roman Catholic Church yet wish to observe some of their own traditions. Pope John Paul II approved the Anglican Rite in 1980.

**“Tridentine rite”:** There really is no Tridentine rite, despite the popular use of the term. What is called the Tridentine rite is the Roman rite as revised by Pope Pius V and the Council of Trent (*Tridentine is a form of the Italian Trent*), and has been revised through the reforms of the Second Vatican Council. While special permissions to observe the Roman rite in the earlier form exist, it is usually referred to as “the observance or the rites of 1962.” The special permissions are intended only for those unable to live comfortably with the reform of the Roman rite directed by Pope Paul VI and mandated by the Second Vatican Council. A Vatican commission called “*Ecclesia Dei*” exercises authority in giving bishops permission to use this observance.

**Western Liturgical Rites:**

Many are unaware that there is more than one rite (i.e. the Roman rite) in the Western Church. Here is a list of five such rites, each of which is linked to a geographical area:
AMBROSIAN RITE. This ancient rite, linked to St. Ambrose (340-397), bishop of Milan, belongs to the family of Western European Latin rites. Many of these rites are extinct, including the Campano-Beneventan rite, the Aquileian rite and the Ravennan rite. While Ambrose can be called its “founder,” there were many others (e.g., Simplicianus and Eusebius) who subsequently developed the liturgy in Milan into the Ambrosian rite, today celebrated in Milan and beyond, even into parts of Switzerland.

BRAGAN RITE. The Bragan rite used in Braga, Portugal, can be traced to the eighth century. Its tangled origins include at least four roots: 1) the early Latin rite; 2) the Mozarabic rite (see below) which held sway for many years; 3) Gallican rites (i.e., from the Goths) brought by monastic reformers; and 4) the Roman rite, never completely adopted at Braga. (Pope Pius V specifically excluded the Bragan rite from the reforms of Trent.) This rite is an inculturated form of the Latin rite for Portugal, as the Ambrosian is for Milan.

MOZARABIC RITE. This sixth to 11th-century Latin rite of the Iberian Peninsula is now mostly replaced by the Roman rite, except in Toledo, Spain, and a few other places. Its complex history includes several basic influences: 1) Latin, but not exclusively Roman; 2) Gallican and 3) local. The Mozarabic rite and its replacement (twice) by the Roman rite became a symbol of nationalism, independence from Rome and local cultural development and survival.

ROMAN RITE. The Roman rite is the universally observed rite of the Latin Patriarch of the West, mandated by the Second Vatican Council and approved by Pope Paul VI, and is the rite most Roman Catholics are familiar with. The most recent edition of the Missale Romanum was promulgated during the Jubilee Year, 2000.

ZAIREAN RITE. This is technically not a rite, but an “observance” within the Roman rite. Requested by the Bishops of Zaire in 1988, this African inculturation of the Roman rite includes the use of dance for all processions. It may be used wherever Zaireans gather for Mass. It is paralleled somewhat by another adaptation of the Roman rite found in India, in which dance and other gestures are permitted as legitimate growth of the Roman rite.

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**Story: Information Please**

When I was quite young, my father had one of the first telephones in our neighborhood. I remember well, the polished old case fastened to the wall and the shiny receiver on the side of the box.

I was too little to reach the telephone, but used to listen with fascination when my mother would talk to it. Then I discovered that somewhere inside the wonderful device lived an amazing person and her name was "Information Please" and there was nothing she did not know. "Information Please" could supply anybody's number and the correct time.

My first personal experience with this genie-in-a-bottle came one day while my mother was visiting a neighbor. Amusing myself at the tool bench in the basement. I whacked my finger with a hammer. The pain was terrible but, there didn't seem to be any reason in crying because there was no one home to give me sympathy. I walked around the house sucking my throbbing finger, finally arriving at the stairway. The telephone! Quickly, I ran for the footstool in the parlor and held it to my ear.

"Information Please" I said into the mouthpiece just above my head. A click or two and a small clear voice spoke into my ear. "Information."

"I hurt my finger" I wailed into the phone. The tears came readily enough now that I had an audience.

"Isn't your mother home?" came the question.

"Nobody's home but me," I blubbered.

"Are you bleeding?" the voice asked.

"No," I replied. "I hit my finger with a hammer and it hurts."

"Can you open your icebox?" she asked. I said I could.

"Then chip off a piece of ice and hold it to your finger," said the voice.

After that, I called "Information Please" for everything. I asked her for help with my geography and she told me where Philadelphia was. She helped me with my math. She told me that my pet chipmunk, which I had caught in the park just the day before, would eat fruit and nuts.
Then there was the time Petey, our pet canary died. I called "Information Please" and told her the sad story. She listened, then said the usual thing grown ups say to soothe a child. But, I was inconsolable. I asked her, "Why is it that birds should sing so beautifully and bring joy to all families, only to end up as a heap of feathers on the bottom of a cage?"

She must have sensed my deep concern, for she said quietly, "Paul, you must remember that there are other worlds to sing in." Somehow, I felt better.

Another day I was on the telephone. "Information Please." "Information," said the now familiar voice. "How do you spell fix?" I asked.

All this took place in a small town in the Pacific Northwest. When I was nine years old, we moved across the country to Boston. I missed my friend very much. "Information Please" belonged in that old wooden box back home and somehow I never thought of trying the tall, new shiny phone that sat on the table in the hall.

As I grew into my teens, the memories of those childhood conversations never really left me. Often, in moments of doubt and perplexity I would recall the serene sense of security I had then. I appreciated now how patient, understanding and kind she was to have spent her time on a telephone with a little boy.

A few years later, on my way west to college, my plane put down in Seattle. I had about half-an-hour or so between planes. I spent 15 minutes or so on the phone with my sister, who lived there now. Then, without thinking about what I was doing, I dialed my hometown operator and said, "Information Please." Miraculously, I heard the small clear voice I knew so well. "Information." I hadn't planned this, but I heard myself saying, "Could you please tell me how to spell fix?" There was a long pause. Then came the soft spoken answer, "I guess our finger must be healed by now." I laughed, "So it's really still you," I said. "I wonder if you have any idea how much you meant to me during that time?" "I wonder," she said, "if you know how much your calls meant to me. I never had any children and I used to look forward to your calls." I told her how often I had thought of her over the years and asked if I could call her again when I came back to visit my sister. "Please do," she said. "Just ask for Sally."

Three months later I was back in Seattle. A different voice answered, "Information." I asked for Sally. "Are you a friend?" she said. "Yes, a very old friend," I answered. "I'm sorry to have to tell you this," she said. "Sally had been working part time in the last few years because she was sick. She died five weeks ago." Before I could hang up she said, "Wait a minute. Are you Paul?" "Yes". "Well, Sally left a message for you. She wrote it down in case you called. Let me read it to you."

The note said, "Tell him I still say there are other worlds to sing in. He'll know what I mean." I thanked her and hung up. I knew what Sally meant. Never under estimate the impression you make on others.

**A Time to Laugh (130)**

**A Priest And A Bus Driver**

A priest and a bus driver both died and went to heaven at the same time. They get to the pearly gates where St. Peter greets them. He motions to the priest, and they both hop in a jeep and go out the back door. There are about 50 acres of rolling hills with a little cottage on the knoll. St. Peter turns to the priest and says, "This will be yours for eternity. A perfect little cottage, right next to a wishing well. Anything you wish on that wishing well will come true guarantied."

The priest says, "Oh, thank you so much. This I shall enjoy!"

St. Peter drops off the priest, goes back to the pearly gates and motions to the bus driver. They hop in a stretch limo and go out the front door. There are about 500 acres of land, with mountains and lakes and rivers. There is a huge castle on one of the mountains with about 200 rooms. St. Peter says, "This will be yours for eternity. You can live in that castle with servants to wait on you hand and foot, and you can have everything you want."

The bus driver looks and St. Peter and says "Well, now, don't think I'm not grateful, but shouldn't the priest get all this, not me? Shouldn't I get the cottage and 50 acres instead?" St. Peter just laughs and says, "The reason you get all this is because when the priest preached, everyone fell asleep. Now, when you drove your bus, people prayed!"