



June 22, 2025

Bulletin #25

## ***Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church***

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Monsignor Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



### ***3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Pentecost***

- \***Weekend Masses:** Saturdays: Mass at 4:00 p.m. and Sundays: Mass at 10:30 a.m.
  - \***Weekday Masses:** Mondays and Wednesdays and Fridays: No Mass. Pastor's office work.  
Tuesdays and Thursdays Mass at 12:00 Noon
  - \***Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:** Every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday and Sunday of the month after Mass.
  - \***Confession:** Saturday: 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. or any other time by appointment.
  - \***Baptism:** Please call the Pastor as soon as 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 Kourey, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad, Gary Weisner.
  - \***Choir Members:** Lou Kourey, Robert Harris, Joe Simon, Shelly Hancher, Holly Stahl.
  - \***Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer
  - \***Altar Servers:** Joe Roxby and Christopher AlKhouri
  - \***Cedar Club:** Linda Duffy, President
  - \***Women's Society:** Jeannette Wakim, President
- † † † † † † †
- \***Bulletin Announcements:**  
Submit all Bulletin Information to Msgr. Bakhos by Noon on Tuesday every week.
  - \***New Parishioners:**  
We welcome you with great joy & invite you to officially register as one of our parishioners.
  - \***Remember the Church in your Last Will & Testament:** Her prayers will accompany you to heaven.

## *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Pentecot*

Readings: Prov. 8:22-36; 1Cor 2:1-10 and Jn 14:21-27

Which of us does not keep in the depth of our heart a nostalgic longing for a home, a haven of peace and rest, a place where we can recover from life's storms? Jesus was aware of this human longing. In preparing his disciples for the day of his departure, he tells them he is going ahead in order to prepare a dwelling-place for them at their journey's end. How strange are his expressions: "I am the way"; "I am the gate", spoken in anticipation of the Easter experience with the purpose of lighting up its deep significance.

"You know the way to the place where I am going...". The confusion of Thomas and Philip is understandable. They wished to localize this way -to know exactly this place where the Father may be seen. But no route-map is required; Jesus is the way to the Father, and he must be followed. Yet further -whoever has seen Jesus has seen the Father. And Jesus is the way because he is the truth and the life. He is the truth because he is the very incarnation and expression of the Absolute which we human beings seek and for whom we were made. He is the life, by the gift which he makes continually of himself, and by the works he rouses believers to do. In the last analysis, Jesus is the way, the truth and the life because he is one with God. He is in the Father and the Father is in Him.

If we wish to keep our faith in all its purity, we must always remember that it is "Christian". That means that we do not believe in a "faceless" God -on the contrary! God has shown us his face in Jesus Christ. So, we are taught to recognize him in the face of Jesus of Nazareth, who has "entered before us" behind the veil. It is by continuing here on earth the work of the Son, by seeing his face in the disfigured faces of men, whose sufferings he has shared by his death on the cross, that we journey with him to our own final dwelling-place. Indeed, "you will guide us along the path of life; you will open the door of your home to us, O Lord!"

## *Fathers' Masses continued until Sunday, June 22*

### *Masses for the Deceased Fathers and Grandfathers*

Special Remembrance on special days:

On June 14: † Earl & Helen Ragase by Mary Ragase

† Pearl (Nolte) Shutler (Anniversary) by her daughter Janet Shutler

† Rosemarie Henry (Birthday) by Patrick and Laurie Henry

† Robert "Henk" Henry (Birthday) by Patrick and Laurie Henry

On June 15: † Mary Miller (Birthday) by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

† Mary Stees (Birthday) by Denise Ferris

On June 19: † Alois Marchy (Anniversary) by Mary Ragase

† Denise Ferris (Birthday) by Libby G. Magnone

On June 21: † Cathy (Sharp) Howard (Anniversary) by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt

† Mariam Joseph (Anniversary) by the Weisner and Joseph Families

On June 22: † Sara (Joseph) McLaughlin (Birthday) by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

† Mary Zaid Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone, Tom Ferris by Libby G. Magnone

† Habib Khourey, Louis Khourey Sr., & Nassif Nader by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Khourey

† Charles "Pud" Howard, Bruce Cody Riggs and Franklin C. Howard by Lou & Charlotte & Family

† Adib Chidiac (father) & Nadim Chidiac (brother) and my grandfathers by Msgr. Bakhos

† Aziz Kazour and Youssef Chahine by Jocelyne Chahine and Family (Pittsburgh)

† Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

† Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

† Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family

† Ray McLaughlin, Sr. and Elias Joseph by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

† John Miller by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

† Dana Burkhart by his wife Carol Burkhart

† Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

† Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

- † Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- † Robert J. Shutler, Sr. and Harry J. Nolte and Fred Shutler by Janet Shutler
- † Harry F. Nolte by Janet Shutler
- † Alfred Felici by Francie Felicie and children Stephanie Richards and Brian Felici
- † Donald A. Nickerson Sr. and Albert Nickerson by their Loving Family
- † Nimon Joseph and Maroon Habeb by Jean Weisner and Family
- † William Schweiger by Mary Lee & Dennis Porter
- † Hurry Porter by Mary Lee & Dennis Porter
- † George Saseen by his son George Saseen
- † Steve Harasuik by his daughter Susan Saseen
- † Thomas Ferris by Denise Ferris
- † Mike Joseph and Alphonse Joseph by Vickie Joseph
- † Albert Valles and Clay Allen by Vickie Joseph
- † Joseph Bott and John Henning by Don & Roberta Henning
- † George A. Fahey by Jackie & Pat Petros
- † Philip G. Petros by Jackie & Pat Petros
- † Thomas Jochum Jr. and Sr. by Sue, children and grandchildren
- † Tim and Gus Shia by their children and grandchildren
- † Robert Armstrong by Bob & Paula Gibbons
- † Abdo Ferris, Nicholai Magnone, Tom Ferris, Ted Ferris, Wm. Magnone, John Ferris, Greg Ferris, Ray Young, Sr. by Libby G. Magnone
- † Tony George and Sam George by Margaret George (MN)
- † Albert Stiles by Margaret George (MN)
- † Elias Frenn and Jim Thomas by Dr. Adel, Diane and Justin Frenn
- † Robert and Charles by Carol Dougherty (OK)
- † William Dougherty by Lisa Kennedy
- † George Alan Weisner by Mary Beth Weisner
- † Al Schroeder by his son Mark Schroeder and his daughter Jane Wine
- † Ray Palotay by the Palotay and Jarrett Families
- † Fred Oser by Debbie & Mark Huffman
- † Allen Huffman by Debbie & Mark Huffman
- † Barkett Coury and Al Otterbeck and Sadie Coury by Ron & Kim Gibbons
- † Joseph Duffy and George Fadoul by Earl & Linda Duffy
- † Angelo Palsinelli by Rosalie Conti
- † Michael T. Hatty, Louis M. Hatty and Joseph P. Hatty by Judge Michael P. Hatty & Family
- † Richard Frazier by his wife Luane and sons Rick and John
- † Vincent Jacovetty by Patricia & George Fahey
- † Dennis Fahey by George & Patricia Fahey
- † Albert Togliatti by GiGi Rice
- † Khalil Harb by GiGi Rice
- † Robert Glaser by his Family
- † Albert Boehm by his Family
- † Melo Wakim and John G. Wakim by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- † William M. Yeater Jr and William M. Yeater Sr. by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- † Lawrence J. Belt by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family
- † George Popovich, Mike Popovich by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- † Augie Montalbano, Don Fielding, Stan Fielding, Nick Stan, Joe Montalbano by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- † Donald Vince and Constantine (Gus) Shia by their Children and grandchildren
- † Samuel John Hebdo by Rose (Hebdo) Oberst
- † John T. John and D. William Burns by their loving children Susan and Ron Burns
- † Thomas John, David Joseph and Donald Burns by their loving grandchildren Susan and Ron Burns

- ✠ Danny Manners by NiNi Miller
- ✠ Abdoo Saseen and Bernard Connell by Jim & Pat Saseen Connell
- ✠ Robert “Herk” Henry and James Henry by Patrick Henry
- ✠ Tim Stanton and William Sayre by Mr. & Mrs. Mike Sofka
- ✠ Steve Sofka by Mr. & Mrs. Mike Sofka
- ✠ Samuel Elias by Mike & Terri Golebiewski
- ✠ Alphonse Golebiewski by Mike & Terri Golebiewski
- ✠ Rudy Porchiran and Joe Ragus by Kathleen George and Family
- ✠ Paul Hankish by Rose Hankish
- ✠ George Lenz by Nicky Lenz and Family
- ✠ George Popovich and Augie Montalbano by his granddaughter Nicky and Family
- ✠ Walter Elwartoski by his son Richard Elwartoski
- ✠ Constantino Cetorelli by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ✠ Friend Blake by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ✠ Josef Siembieda by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ✠ Nicola Caputi by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ✠ Orval A. Blake Sr. by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ✠ Matthew Siebieda by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ✠ Russell Wetzel by Rusty Wetzel
- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt

### *Masses for the Living Fathers and Grandfathers*

- ✠ Louis H. Khourey by his children Emmalena and Louie
- ✠ George Saseen by his granddaughter Ginny Naswadi
- ✠ Louis Valles by Vickie Joseph
- ✠ Trent Jochum by Alec, Sarah and Katie
- ✠ Nick Magnone, Bill Stees, Josh McDowell, John Ferris, Nicky Magnone, Chuck Rayl, Travis Wayt by Libby G. Magnone
- ✠ Dr. Adel Frenn by Diane and Justin Frenn and Andreah, Zack & Christian Riedel
- ✠ Chris Wakim by Laura Chapman and Jackson and Eloise and Chris (Nathan) Wakim
- ✠ Joe Popovich by Nikki Popovich, PJ, Nikki J, Lindsay and Luke Lenz
- ✠ PJ Lenz by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- ✠ PJ Lenz by his wife Nicky and children Lindsay and Luke
- ✠ Joe Popovich by his daughter Nicky and Family
- ✠ Larry Siebieda by Jeremy Siebieda and Kathy Logan
- ✠ Butch Dennis by Annette Wetzel
- ✠ Mark McLaughlin by his children Brad and Kristen and grandchildren Nathan and Shane

### ***Weekdays Mass Schedule***

**Monday, June 23:** No Mass. Pastors’ day off.

**Tuesday, June 24 Mass at 12:00 Noon:**

- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

**Wednesday, June 25:** No Mass. Pastors’ office work.

**Thursday, June 26 Mass at 12:00 Noon:**

- ✠ Tom & mary K. Ferris by their daughter Denise
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family
- ✠ John Shibben by his wife Dee Shibben

**Friday, June 27:** No Mass. Visitation of the sick.

## ***Next Weekend, Sat-Sun. June 28-29: Feast of Saints Peter and Paul***

### **Saturday, June 28 Mass at 4:00 p.m.:**

- ✠ Bob Sengewalt (Birthday) by Dave and Debbie Sengewalt
- ✠ Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family

### **Sunday, June 29 Mass at 10:30 a.m.:**

- ✠ Deceased of the Rouhana and Rahi Families by the Peklinsky, Storm, Howarth and Rahi Families
- ✠ Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family

## ***Spring Bake Sale Financial Report***

Sales \$10,632.41 – Expenses \$2,906.10 = Net Profit \$7,726.31

Many thanks to all the volunteers and helpers who made this event a great success.

## ***Rummage Sale (Sat. June 21 and Sat. June 28)***

Our parish rummage sale is set for Saturday, June 21 st and again on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm. Please no more drop off's at this time. Thank you.

## ***Coming Parish Events***

Sunday, June 22	Cedar Club Meeting after 10:30 a.m. Mass in Cedar Hall
Food Handling Classes	June 26 (Please call Jeannette 304-551-3934 for information) July 1, 16 and 24 (Please call Jeannette 304-551-3934 for information) August 5 (Please call Jeannette 304-551-3934 for information)
Fall Bake Sale	???????

## ***Food handling Classes***

Many Thanks for all the volunteers at the church and at the festival. The Health Department requires all people involving with serving food to be certified. Please see the schedule below and attend one of the classes as soon as you can. For more information call Jeannette Wakim

Date	Day	Time	Location
June 26	Thursday	10:00 am	City Building
July 1	Tuesday	6:00 pm	City Building
July 16	Wednesday	4:00 pm	White Palace
July 24	Thursday	10:30 pm	City Building
August 5	Tuesday	6:00 pm	City Building

## ***Festival (Mahrajan) News (Sunday, August 10 from 11 to 6pm)***

--**Outdoor Mass** at Oglebay at 10:00 a.m. Booths open after Mass. No Mass at the church on August 10th.

--**Table Reservations** (ready to be reserved):

1-Under the Tent = \$130. One (1) table and eight (8) chairs under the tent.

2-Open-air = \$65. One (1) wooden picnic table in open-air (under the trees).

Reservation due date: May 15, 2025. Please call Msgr. Bakhos at 304-233-1688 to reserve a table.

--**50/50 RAFFLE Tickets \$10,000 Prize** (Ready for sale):

...The festival 50/50 Raffle tickets are now ready for sale for \$20 per ticket! We have only printed 1,000 tickets. If all tickets are sold, there is an opportunity to win \$10,000 Cash! Tickets can be purchased from Monsignor Bakhos at 304-233-1688. Once received, Monsignor will fill-out the raffle ticket and mail the stub to the buyer. THANK YOU for helping us defraying the expenses of the Festival.

**--Youth Dance Troupe:** We are calling all parish youth interested in the OLOL Dance Troup practices for the Festival will begin on Sunday, June 1, immediately following 10:30 a.m, Mass. Please contact Mariana Alkhouri at 304-231-6234. If you are interested. Yalla!

## ***Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month***

June 23:	Mary Beth Weisner
June 27:	Lindsay Lenz
July 3:	Larry Ferrera
July 5:	Bill Committee
July 10:	Andee Ferrera
July 11:	Allison Duffy-Totterdale, Justin Wilson
July 12:	Shaun Hancher, Deana Ferrera
July 14:	Chloe Imer
July 15:	Denny Albaugh
July 16:	Payton Wilson, Pam Obyc
July 20:	Shirley George
July 22:	Grace Klein, Mark Boehm

## ***Your Church Support Last Week***

\$683.00	Sunday Collection
49.00	Candles
120.00	Donation to the church
1,525.00	Mahrajan
336.00	Bake sale
\$2,713.00	Total Deposits: May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home! Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Susan Burns, Liz Murad, Mark McLaughlin

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

(Note: Please call Msgr. Bakhos if you need your name added to our Prayer List. HIPPA regulations), Earl & Linda Duffy, Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Mary Ragase, Becky Ferrera, Gavin Hancher, Monroe DeLuca, Sally Sengewalt, Mary Zigler (sister of Lillian Siebieda), Dolores Oser, Anthony Wakim, Fran Saseen, Sandra DeMuth, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Patty Olinsky, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter), Denny Albaugh, Rita Rae Sage,

## ***What's New?***

### ***Parish Condolences: William (Bill) Blazier***

The pastor and the parishioners of Our Lady of Lebanon Church, offer their heartfelt sympathy to the Blazier Family on the loss of their beloved Bill. Bill and his wife Louise were the helpers of Linda Duffy and Luane Frazier in preparing our Rummage Sales for years. Msgr. Bakhos celebrated the funeral service on Saturday, June 21st. May the Blessed Mother intercede for him and his his wife and lead them both to the light of Christ. We extend the parish's condolences to his Family in their time of sorrow.

## ***From our Diocese***

The Maronite Servants of Christ the Light will host a Discernment Retreat Weekend (June 6-8th) at their Mother of the Light Convent, 856 Tucker Rd Dartmouth, MA. Please share the information with your communities for those who may be interested. Also, if anyone would like to contact the other religious congregations, please give them the following information:

Antonine Sisters: Sister Samia Abou-Shakra at [anto9srs@aol.com](mailto:anto9srs@aol.com)

Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family: Sister Rose Therese Tannous at [rosetheresetannous@gmail.com](mailto:rosetheresetannous@gmail.com)

With sincere best wishes and prayers, I remain  
Yours in Christ, Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon

## *Around Us*

### *Eucharist Adoration*

Where: St. Michael Church will have (Corpus Christi Sunday)

When: Sunday, June 22nd 12:30pm–5:00pm. *(after the Eucharistic procession around the neighborhood)*

Please join us for this special prayerful event as we thank God for the gift of His Body and Blood.

*Adoration will be held in the church.*

### *Lebanese FunFest*

Where: St. Maron church at 1555 S. Meridian Road in Youngstown, OH 44511

When: Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

-Entertainment: live music featuring two popular bands, The Vegas Band on Saturday, and RDNA on Sunday,

-Menu: Lebanese foods and a full premium bar including rare, crafted bourbons.

-Games, a \$3000 raffle, and a Kids' area with bounce houses and games.

Admission and parking are free.

## *Question & Answer (#21)*

Question #21: “How do we know Jesus even existed?”

Answer: How do we know George Washington or Abraham Lincoln ever existed? We were not there. We rely on history and records from that period. So too with Christ. The primary record of His existence is the Bible. Although we Christians usually think of the Bible as the Word of God, we should remember much of it is a historical record as well. The New Testament documents in particular give us vital historical information about Jesus, even though they aren't intended to be extensive biographies in the modern sense.

The New Testament picture of Jesus is supported by non-Christian historical sources, although there aren't many of these that survived from the time of the early Church. The probable reason for such scant non-Christian historical evidence is that the Romans, who were the main historians of the time, would not have been concerned with a small outpost of their empire like Palestine. The Jewish historian Josephus does record the existence of Jesus and the fact He was executed under Pontius Pilate. This corroborates the New Testament account.

## *Giving in Scriptures*

### *A Steward and a Seedling*

During the early eighteenth century, a notable French botanist named Bernard de Jussieu was inspired by the Bibles mention some 75 times of the native “cedars of Lebanon,” to bring one back to his own country. He traveled by ship, and picked up a cedar seedling without difficulty. However, bad weather delayed the return of his ship. The captain limited every passenger to a glass of water per day.

Now, what would most people do? Certainly no one would blame him for simply discarding his tiny cedar for lack of fresh water. However, de Jussieu felt such a responsibility for the seedling that he gave it some of his own water ration each day. He planted it in the royal gardens in Paris, where it lived for a century. Are we given such a choice in our daily lives? It's rarely so obvious, but God does expect us to sacrifice our own comfort to help others. Money given to victims of natural disasters is money we can't spend in our favorite restaurant. Time spent delivering Thanksgiving baskets is time we can't spend on our vacations. Even using a talent such as singing in the choir means that we can't sleep in Sunday mornings. But God and our own hearts tell us that our sacrifice is worth it. I think Bernard de Jussieu had the same feeling of satisfaction as he watched his cedar grow that present-day Christian stewards have when they see or hear about the results of their giving. Like seedlings, our gifts may be small at first, but can grow into something wonderful.

## *Spirituality: Looking Inside One's Soul*

A man puts his money in a bank and his securities and valuables in a vault or safe. A man buys insurance on his home and on his life to protect himself and his loved ones against loss and poverty.

People put burglar alarms on their homes and pay taxes for police protection against thieves.

All these things are good and commendable. But how many people do you know who prove by their constant, day by day manner of living that they are convinced that the most important affair in life is the savings of their soul?

We are not forgetting about the need of working to provide food and shelter and to obtain security for the future and to have the money to pay for recreation and amusement and all the good, God-given things in life. Time must be devoted to providing these things. But there is a much greater need for all people in all the rush of living to find the time, again and again, to stop and think and ask themselves: "Why am I doing all this really? What is it all doing to me? What am I getting out of it, not just for life, but for eternity? What am I doing with my soul which will live forever?"

When you are dealing with your soul you are dealing with yourself. Your soul makes you what you are; and when you work for or neglect your soul, you are working for or neglecting yourself. When you decide the eternal condition of your soul, you are deciding the eternal condition of yourself. No one else can save your soul for you. Others can HELP you save your soul, by prayer, encouragement, and good advice. God also helps you by his wonderful gifts of grace. But if, at the moment when time runs out for you, your soul is not in His friendship, even God cannot save you. The final choice lies with you and you alone.

## *Wisdom: In your wallet*

7 Things You Should Have in Your Wallet, 10 You Shouldn't

**If your wallet gets stolen, whether it's an inconvenience or a catastrophe will depend on what you've got in there.**

You get up from a crowded restaurant and realize your purse or back pocket feels a bit lighter. Like a brick, it hits you: Someone's lifted your wallet.

You know you've lost your cash. Are they already using your credit cards? Have they figured out your PIN number yet?

Hopefully this has never happened to you, but it happens to someone else. Fair warning: Be prepared. Clean out your wallet.

If you know what to keep, and what not to keep, in your pocket, wallet, or purse, you'll radically reduce the financial damage and odds of identity theft if you do ever find your pockets a little lighter.

**1. Credit card:** A credit card is good to have around for emergencies. Pick the card with the best interest rate or rewards and stash it in your wallet. If you've got one with a great rewards program, and you never carry a balance, use it for as many purchases as possible. If you do carry a balance, use one with a low interest rate, but use it as little as possible.

**2. Debit card:** I want to avoid the temptation of credit cards and the inconvenience of cash, so I always keep my debit card handy and use it for most purchases.

**3. Emergency cash:** If it were up to me, every place would take plastic, but some places don't. Keep a small amount of cash in your wallet for emergencies or little purchases. For example, last weekend I didn't catch the bus and had to hail a cab. He only took cash. Luckily I had \$40 in my wallet.

I've also gone to a restaurant without realizing they only took cash until I finished my meal and got the bill. Having cash avoided an embarrassing moment. And now that merchants can require minimums to use plastic, cash can also keep you from spending more than you intended.

**4. Contact information:** If your wallet is lost, hopefully a good Samaritan will return it. If you're in an accident, hopefully someone will be able to contact your family. Your driver's license or other ID helps, but only if it has the current address. Plus, it won't show who to contact in case of emergency. Keep a list of important contacts (phone number only).

**5. Reward cards:** Grocery and drugstore reward cards can deliver big savings and points for gift cards or bigger savings later. Keep them in your wallet and use them.

**6. Almost-expired coupons:** I can't tell you how many times I let a coupon expire because I forgot I had it. Now I go through my coupons once a week. Anything expiring within the next seven days I store in my wallet so I remember to use it (hopefully).

**7. Identification:** It seems like common sense, but always make sure you've got your driver's license or state ID. You'll get slapped with a hefty fine if you get pulled over without it, or just face an embarrassing moment in the checkout line if they ask for it.

*What you should NEVER have in your wallet...*

**1. Social Security card:** Your Social Security card is the gateway to identity theft. If your wallet is lost or stolen with your Social Security number inside, anyone can steal your identity, open credit cards, or apply for loans in your name. And while you're extracting your Social Security card, look for anything with your Social Security number on it and store it in a safe place.

**2. Birth certificate:** Your birth certificate is another easy way for identity thieves to impersonate you. Keep it at home in a fireproof safe or in a safe deposit box at the bank.

**3. PIN numbers:** I have a friend who writes her PIN number on the back of her ATM card. Big mistake. If your wallet is lost or stolen and the PIN number to your ATM or debit card is inside, you can kiss your checking account balance goodbye. If you have to write these numbers down, keep them at home.

**4. Passwords:** Another friend keeps his passwords on a post-it note in his wallet. He says it isn't risky, but think of it like this: Your wallet is stolen. Inside the thief finds your ATM card and a note with your password on it. Now all he has to do is log on to your bank's site, use your ATM card number to request your login name, and type in your password. Presto! He can transfer money, order cashier's checks, and send international money orders all before you realize your wallet is gone.

**5. Spare keys:** No one wants to be locked out of their car – or their house – so keeping spare keys in your wallet seems like a good idea...until your wallet is stolen. Now the thief has your money, your address, access to your house, and a convenient way to get there. Scary, no?

**6. Blank checks:** If someone gets hold of blank checks, it won't be hard to forge your name and cash them. I once had a roommate sign a check for me when I couldn't get to the bank. She even went through the drive-through and my bank cashed it. Clearly, you can't rely on tellers to protect your money. Carry a debit card, not checks.

**7. Extra credit cards:** A wallet full of credit cards is just a wallet full of temptation that can lead to a mountain of debt. It will also compound the hassle should your wallet get stolen. Play it safe and remove the temptation – keep the extra cards locked up at home and you'll have less hassle if you get ripped off and less temptation if you don't. That being said, if you're going on vacation, always take more than one credit card in case you lose one.

**8. ATM card:** Your debit card doubles as an ATM card. You can use it to pull out cash at an ATM or to make purchases using your PIN number. If you've got your debit card, you don't also need your ATM card. Leave it at home. If your wallet does get stolen, it's one less card to worry about.

**9. Gift cards:** Obviously, if you're going to use it, carry it. But if you're not, that's the first thing a thief will use.

**10. Receipts:** In addition to being bulky and taking up space, receipts could theoretically help a thief put your credit card or account information together. In addition, if you need them for work, taxes, warranties, or returns, don't risk losing them by carrying them around.

**Keep copies of what's in your wallet:** If you've got access to a copy machine or scanner, take a minute right now and copy everything you've got in your wallet, front and back. Keep it at home in a safe place and should your wallet get stolen, you'll know exactly what you've lost and who to call to replace it.

### *Story: unexpected miracle*

Five years after the miraculous events in her family's life, Kim still can't talk about it without breaking down in tears the events are so incredible to her. While seeking healing for her son's cancer, the miracle she personally experienced took her completely by surprise.

One day in August 1995, Chris, who had graduated from High School the previous spring, came home and told his parents that he had a lump on the side of his neck. "I wasn't feeling bad," Chris recalls, so I didn't

think much of it.” But for his parents what they hoped was a swollen gland turned out to be their worst nightmare. “The doctor came out and said it was cancer, said Kim, forty—eight. “Holy smokes, it hit us so hard.” They had found two lumps and Chris was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s lymphoma. The course of treatment decided on was a rigorous forty rounds of radiation—twenty to the upper body and twenty to the lower body.

“You suddenly find God,” Kim explained. “I was raised Catholic and my parents were very good role models. I continued to go to church and my husband converted when we married, but I had issues with the Church. I was a marginal Catholic—confession wasn’t high on my priority list, the Rosary was a mindless prayer and the Church was outdated on the contraception thing.”

So, when one of Kim’s best friends called with a suggestion, it totally blew her away. Judy told Kim she knew of a man, named Francis, who had the wounds of Christ in his hands. Judy urged her to take Chris to him. I expect nothing less than a miracle,” she told Kim. “I felt so confused, Kim said. After gathering her thoughts, Kim said, she presented the information to her family. She asked Chris, who had undergone his first four radiation treatments, if he wanted to go. To her surprise he answered, “Oh, sure, Mom.”

“I didn’t even know what a stigmatist was,” Chris confessed. I never had any doubts that God exists and is still in the miracle—working business. My practical side said, “Go,” what do you have to lose? Still, Kim hesitated, “We really need to talk to someone who knows about this.”

Kim decided to check with her pastor of twenty-five years is an incredible priest,” she said. When the pastor said he had never heard of the man, Kim remembers asking, “Gee, Father, what should we do? I don’t know what I was hoping to hear.”

What she heard was, “Oh, I’d go! I’d go in a minute. I believe that God gives special gifts to people. While you’re there, you’ll know if he is real. And if he is, ask him to come to our church sometime—we have a lot of sick people who could use his services. The pastor later said, “At that time, they needed all the prayer they could get. I thought, if he could help, all the better.”

“He is the reason we went,” Kim said. “God truly used him that day. If he had said no, we wouldn’t have gone.” Kim and Chris drove to where Francis the man with the wounds of Christ was visiting his brother. Chris’ older brother was playing football for the State that day and his father had injured his back; neither could make the 10 a.m. appointment. When they came into the family room there were a few other people listening to Francis’ explanation of his wounds.

“All of a sudden I see his hands with these huge wounds on the palms about the size of a silver dollar,” Kim remembered. “They are these deep, deep purple-red, scabbed-over wounds. On the back of his hands were band-aids and you could see blood under them.” He explained that every night he suffers the passion of our Lord, for the sins of the flesh, sometime between the hours of midnight and 3 a.m. “He told us, that is the time when a great deal of the sins of the flesh are committed,” said Kim. When he began to explain the suffering, “He broke down crying like I have never heard anyone else cry.

After Francis regained his composure, Chris’ brother told those gathered that his brother would pray with them in a separate room if they wished. “A man went in first and I was kind of relieved,” said Kim. “I didn’t know what to make of it all.”

Chris volunteered to go next and was in there for quite some time. “We prayed and he puts his hands on my head,” Chris recounted. “I got a chill that felt more electric than cold. It shot straight through and I felt completely relaxed.”

When he came out, Kim went in. Francis told her that she didn’t need to pray out loud because God would hear her prayer. “I totally felt I was in God’s hands,” said Kim. “I remember crying like a baby. I couldn’t stop. It was a feeling I will never forget. I had never experienced anything like that in my life.”

Kim said that when she and Chris got into the car she was still crying. She reached into her pocket to grab a tissue Francis had given her in the house. “I went to wipe my eye and I caught a whiff of something perfumy,” she said. “I don’t wear perfume because I’m allergic to it.” She checked the tissue and there was no lotion on it. “Then I smelled my hands and it was on my hands and Chris’ hands too. It was very flowery like roses. At that time, I didn’t know about roses being a sign of Mary.”

“It smelled like a whole flower shop,” Chris added, “it was so strong. The mother and son didn’t have much time to ponder the scent (which continued into the next day) because of what happened next. “We were about five minutes down the road,” recalled Chris, who added that he was in the habit of frequently feeling his

neck. "I had checked the lump that morning and it was huge, even larger than it had been before. About the time we first smelled the roses my hand automatically went across my neck.

"I felt again and it began to register that the lump was not there. I said, 'Mom, it's gone, and she said, 'What's gone? I said, 'The lump is gone.'" As soon as the family arrived home, they checked Chris for any sign of the tumor. "The lump was definitely gone," said Kim. Five years later, Chris has no signs of Hodgkin's.

As miraculous as Chris' healing was, Kim was shocked by her own personal healing. "God physically healed Chris, but He gave me a spiritual conversion I didn't even know I needed," she said. Once a marginal Catholic, Kim is now a daily Communicant and also prays the rosary every day. "I shortchanged all of my family because of my skepticism," Kim confessed.

I wasn't solid in my faith and I was so verbal about it. People who see me now say, "Boy, have you changed." And the changes weren't limited just to Kim. "I watched my husband grow in his faith. I watched my boys grow in their faith so incredibly. I see in them such strong Catholics."

Chris is very aware of the impact all this has had on his spiritual life. I have always been strong in my belief, but it is completely cemented now," he said. For the family, the greatest miracle has definitely been their conversion of faith.

"God has done this for others to witness," said Kim. "And this is for everyone."

## *Jokes (172)*

### ***Truth***

"I long to learn spirituality," said a neighbor to Mulla Nasruddin, "Would you come over to my house and talk to me about it?"

Nasruddin did not commit himself. He saw that the man did, indeed, have a spark of intelligence above the average, but he also realized that he was under the delusion that mysticism can be transmitted to another by word of mouth.

Some days later the neighbor called from his roof. "Mullah, I you're your help to blow my fire. The embers are going out."

"Why, of course," said Nasruddin, "My breath is at your disposal, come over to my house and you can have as much of it as you can take away."

### ***Truth***

A conductor was rehearsing with his orchestra and said to the trumpet player: "I think this part calls for a more Wagnerian approach, if you get what I mean. Something more assertive, so to speak. More accentuated, with more body, more depth, more...."

The trumpet player interrupted: "Do you want it louder, sir?" All that the poor conductor could say was: "Yes, that's what I meant!"

### ***The Self***

A disciple came to Maruf KARKHI, the Muslim Master, and said: "I have been talking to people about you. The Jews say you are one of their own. The Christians consider you to be one of their saints. And the Muslims look upon you as a glory to Islam."

Maruf replied: "That's what they say here in when I lived in Jerusalem the Jews dubbed me a Christian; the Christians, a Muslim; and the Muslims, a Jew."

"Then what are we to think of you?"

"Think of me as a man who said this about himself: Those who do not understand me revere me. Those who revile me do not understand me either."

### ***The Saints***

Nesterius the Great, one of the holy Fathers of the Egyptian Desert, was one day walking in the desert with a large number of disciples who revered him as a man of God.

Suddenly a dragon appeared before them and they all ran away. Many years later, as Nesterius lay dying, one of the disciples said to him: "Father, were you also frightened the day we saw the dragon?"

“No,” said the dying man. “Then why did you run away with the rest of us?”

“I thought it better to flee the dragon, so I would not have to flee from the spirit of vanity later.”

## *Famous Quotes (64)*

--“Women are told today they can have it all: career, marriage, children. You need a total commitment to make it work. Take a close look at your child. He doesn’t want to be bright, talented, chic or smart: any of those things. He just wants you to love him. He will be the one who pays the price for your wanting to have it all ... There are two keys: one, believe in yourself; two, love. You must ooze it from every pore. Love your work, your husband and your child, not just to hear his needs, but to feel his needs. For your husband you must reserve that thirtieth hour of the day when he has you all alone to himself. If you wonder when you’ll get time to rest, well, you can sleep in your old age if you live that long.” (Beverly Sills)

--“Life is short and we never have enough time for gladdening the hearts of those who travel the way with us. O, be swift to love! Make haste to be kind.” (Henri F. Amiel)

--“If you have a friend worth loving, Love him. Yes, and let him know that you love him, ere life’s evening, tinge his brow with sunset glow. Why should good words ne’er be said, of a friend till he is dead?” (Daniel W. Hoyt)

--“If you love me, let it appear.” (Saint Augustine)

--“Talk not of wasted affection! Affection never was wasted.” (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)

--“Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation for it is better to be alone than in bad company.” (George Washington)

--“Forsake not an old friend; for the new is not comparable to him: a new friend is as new wine; when it is old, you shall drink it with pleasure.” (Old Testament)

--“Better fare hard with good men than feast it with bad.” (Thomas Fuller)

--If you can’t win, make the fellow ahead of you break the record.

--Always imitate the behavior of the winners when you lose.

--No pain, no palm; no thorns, no throne; no gall, no glory; no cross, no crown. (W. Penn)

--Complain to one who can help you. (Yugoslav proverb)

--Learn to accept in silence the minor aggravations, cultivate the gift of taciturnity, and consume your own smoke with an extra draft of hard work, so that those about you may not be annoyed with the dust and soot of your complaints. (Sir William Osler)

--“Complaining is good for you as long as you’re not complaining to the person you’re complaining about.” (Lynn Johnston)

--“Don’t tell your problems to people: 80% don’t care and the other 20% are glad you have them.” (Former football coach Lou Holtz)

--Learn how to pay compliments. Start with the members of your family, and you will find it will become easier later in life to compliment others. It’s a great asset. (Letitia Baldrige)

--Don’t tell a woman she’s pretty; tell her there’s no other woman like her, and all roads will open to you. (Jules Renard)

--When you cannot get a compliment any other way pay yourself one. (Mark Twain)

--The best way to turn a woman’s head is to tell her she has a beautiful profile. (Sacha Guitry)

--When you don’t know much about a subject you’re explaining, compliment the person you are explaining to on knowing all about it and he will think that you do, too. (Don Marquis)

--See not evil in others and good in yourself, but the good in the other and the failings in yourself.

--If you would be pope, you must think of nothing else. (Spanish proverb)

--Don’t try to do two or more things at once. Set priorities so that you are not worrying about something else while you are attending to the task at hand.

--Arrange your work space so that your eyes aren’t drawn to other jobs that need to be done. The time you invest to organize your space will be paid back with improved efficiency. Don’t put unreasonable demands on your attention span.