



October 5, 2025

Bulletin #40

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

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Monsignor Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



3rd Sunday after the Holy Cross

- ***Weekend Masses:** Saturdays: Mass at 4:00 p.m. and Sundays: Mass at 10:30 a.m.
 - ***Weekday Masses:** Tuesdays and Thursdays Mass at 12:00 Noon
Mondays and Wednesdays and Fridays: No Mass. Pastor's office work.
 - ***Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:** Every 1st 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 Khourey, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad, Gary Weisner.
 - ***Choir Members:** Lou Khourey, 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.

3rd Sunday after the Holy Cross

Readings: Dan 7:9-14; Phil 3:17-4:1 and Mt 24:23-31

If the day and the hour of the coming of Christ are known to none save God, then all life must be a constant preparation for that coming. And, if that is so, there are certain basic sins.

- 1- To live without watchfulness invites disaster. A thief does not send a letter saying when he is going to burgle a house; his principal weapon in his nefarious undertakings is surprise; therefore a householder who has valuables in his house must maintain a constant guard. But to get this picture right, we must remember that the watching of the Christian for the coming of Christ is not that of terror-stricken fear and shivering apprehension; it is the watching of eager expectation for the coming of glory and joy.
- 2- The spirit which leads to disaster is the spirit which says there is plenty of time. It is the comfortable delusion of the servant that he will have plenty of time to put things to rights before his master returns. There is a fable which tells of three apprentice devils who were coming to this earth to finish their apprenticeship. They were talking to Satan, the chief of the devils, about their plans -to tempt and ruin men. The first said, "I will tell them there is no God." Satan said, "That will not delude many, for they know that there is a God." The second said, "I will tell them there is no hell." Satan answered, "You will deceive no one that way; men know even now that there is a hell for sin." The third said, "I will tell men there is no hurry." "Go," said Satan, "and you will ruin them by the thousand." The most dangerous of all delusions is that there is plenty of time. The most dangerous day in a man's life is when he learns that there is such a word as *tomorrow*. There are things which must not be put off, for no man knows if for him tomorrow will ever come.
- 3- Rejection is based on failure in duty, and reward is based on fidelity. The servant who fulfilled his duty faithfully was given a still greater place; and the servant who failed was dealt with in severity. The inevitable conclusion is that, when he comes, Jesus Christ can find us employed in no better and greater task than in doing our duty.

Mass Schedule, this Weekend: Sat.-Sunday, October 4-5

3rd Sunday after the Holy Cross

Saturday, October 4, Mass at 4:00 p.m.: Mass will be followed by Benediction

✠ Kenny Joseph by Phil Emmerth

✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne & Family

✠ Lucy Gibbons & Martha Ruggiero by Rosemary & Jim Carroll

Sunday, October 5, Mass at 10:30 a.m.: Mass will be followed by Benediction

✠ Louise N. & Louis H. Khourey, Sr. By Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Khourey

✠ Kenny Joseph by Ann Barker

Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, October 6: No Mass. Pastor's day off.

Tuesday, October 7, Mass at Noon: Saints Sarkis & Bakhos feast day

✠ Kenny Joseph by Ann Barker

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

✠ Nancy Ferris Coffield (Birthday) by Libby G. magnone

Wednesday, October 8: No Mass. Office Work.

Thursday, October 9, Mass at Noon:

✠ Kenny Joseph by Phil Emmerth

✠ Robert & Laurel Kate Matiasek by their last Will

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

Friday, October 10: No Mass. Office Work.

Mass Schedule, next Weekend: Sat.-Sunday, October 11-12
4th Sunday after the Holy Cross

Saturday, October 11, Mass at 4:00 p.m.:

✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt

✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne & Family

✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will

✠ Special Intention

Sunday, October 12, Mass at 10:30 a.m.:

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

✠ Susie Marie Fadoul (Birthday) by Millet, Janet, Jonathan and husband Millet C.

✠ Kenny Joseph by Janet & Jeremy Andrews

Coming Parish Events

Saturday, October 11	First Comunion class at 11:00 am inside the church
Sunday, October 19	Women Society meeting after 10:30 am Mass We welcome Kathy Boehm and Molly Powell as new members
Wednesday, October 22	10:00 am Chicken and Rice cooking class Lunch will be served after the class RSVP: call Jeannette at 304-551-3934 for proper preparations
November 10 thru 15 th	Monday, November 10: dicing onions Tuesday, November 11: Browning meat Wednesday, November 12: Baking kibbee Thursday, November 13: Meat Pies Saturday, November 15: Orders pick-up

Mahrajan Updating

Golden Sponsors needed

--In the next Mahrajan 2026, We will welcome our guests at the entrance Arch and offer them four or five \$100.00 cash Door Prizes in return of having their addresses in order to keep them informed about our festival program, food and activities.

-1st Prize will be given in Honor of Don & Lori Nickerson (Their names will be written on the Golden Level in Ad Book)

-2nd and 3rd Prizes will be given in Honor of Rose Hebdo-Oberst (Ohio) (Her name will be written on the Diamond Level in Ad Book)

-4th Prize of \$100 will be given in Honor of Hankish Family by Rose Hankish: (Her name will be written on the Golden Level in Ad Book)

-5th Prize of \$100 will be given in Honor of: **(Please sponsor me)**

Other Donations

--The Festival needs lot of donations to cover some related expenses like treating the football team and the volunteers with a dinner. If you are blessed by God with wealth, your name will be written in the Ad Book on three levels: Diamond \$200 and over, Golden \$100-\$199 and Silver under \$99. Your generosity will keep the tradition going. Please call Msgr Bakhos at 304-233-1688 to make your donation. May God reward you many folds.

All Souls Two Week Masses (From November 1st until November 9th)

The weekend Masses will be followed by the Prayer of Incense for the Repose of All Souls.

If you need to add your deceased parents or beloved ones to All Souls Masses, please write their names and

hand your note to Msgr Bakhos.

Special day remembrance during these two week Masses for All Souls:

Sunday, November 2:

✠ Steve & Elizabeth Harasuik (Wedding Anniversary) by George & Susan Saseen and Family

Sunday, November 9:

✠ Sara (Joseph) McLaughlin (Anniversary) by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

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

Masses for All Souls

✠ Deceased of the Kourey & Howard Families by Lou & Charlotte Kourey & Emmalena & Louie

✠ Virginia Kourey Bryan & Deceased of the Nabihah & Habib Kourey Family by the Kourey Family

✠ Deceased of the Nader Family by Lou & Charlotte Kourey & Emmalena & Louie

✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will

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

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

✠ Youssef Chahine by his wife Jocelyne and Family (PA)

✠ Deceased of the Chidiac Family by Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac

✠ John Shiben by his wife Dee

✠ Khalil & Sadie & Maria Harb & Annette & Al Togliatti by Jamil Harb (Troy, MI)

✠ Sarah Harb (sister of Benefactor Jamil Harb) by the Family

✠ Najla Nassar and Nawal El-Hage by Anthony & Rena Nassar and Family

✠ Tom & Mary K. Ferris by their daughter Denise

✠ Deceased of the Gibbons & Otterbecks Families by Ron & Kim Gibbons

✠ Deceased of the Coury Family by Ron & Kim Gibbons

✠ Helen & Al Schroeder by their son Mark & daughter Jane Wine

✠ Suzanne Bush by Mark Schroeder

✠ Martha Paul by Mark Schroeder

✠ Frank Schroeder by Mark Schroeder

✠ Deceased Members of Sara (Joseph) McLaughlin Family by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

✠ John & Mary Miller by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

✠ Deceased Members of Elias & Selma Joseph Family by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

✠ Mike Joseph by his wife Vickie Joseph

✠ Alphonse Joseph by Vickie Joseph

✠ Georgette Joseph by Vickie Joseph

✠ Mildred Daniel by Vickie Joseph

✠ Sam Daniel by Vickie Joseph

✠ Rosemary Coury by Dick Coury

✠ Eva Coury by Dick Coury

✠ Marianna Khoury by Dick Coury

✠ Attorney Edward Khoury by Dick Coury

✠ Attorney Clinton Coury by Dick Coury

✠ Thomas A. & Mary K. Ferris by their daughter Denise Ferris

✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne & Family

✠ Mary Piko & Lottie Elwartoski by Marcia Laughlin

✠ George & Martha Saseen by George & Susan Saseen & Family

✠ Steve & Elizabeth Harasuik by George & Susan Saseen & Family

✠ Debbie Saseen by George & Susan Saseen & Family

✠ Bill Dougherty by his wife Carol Dougherty (OK)

✠ Deceased of the Habdo Family by Carol Dougherty (OK)

✠ Elias & Siham Frenn by Dr. Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn & Zack, Andreah & Christian Riedel

✠ Jim & LaVerne Thomas by Dr. Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn & Zack, Andreah & Christian Riedel

✠ Deceased of the Rahi and Rouhana Families by Alicia & Scott Peklinski

- † Kenny Joseph by his wife Nancy Joseph & the Tucker Family
- † Bryan Joseph (grandson) by Nancy Joseph & the Tucker Family
- † Martha Ruggiero and Lucy Gibbons by Rose Marie & Jim Carroll
- † Abdoo & Dorothy Saseen by Jim & Pat Connell
- † Bernard & Marie Connell by Jim & Pat Connell
- † Deceased of the Bott Family by Don & Roberta Henning
- † Deceased of the Henning Family by Don & Roberta Henning
- † Dolores & George A. Fahey by Jackie & Pat Petros
- † Philip & Betty Lou Petros by Jackie & Pat Petros
- † Alfred Felici by Francie Felici and Brian Felici & Stephanie Richards & Families
- † Deceased of the Glaser & Boehm Families by the Family
- † Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt & Family
- † Cathy (Sharp) Howard by Dave and Debbie Sengewalt and Family
- † Deceased members of the Shutler Family by Janet Shutler
- † Deceased members of the Nolte Family by Janet Shutler
- † Dolores and Reszo Palotay by the Palotay Family
- † Diane Palotay by the Palotay Family
- † Jerrie Williams by the Palotay Family
- † Walter Elwartoski by his son Richard Elwartoski
- † Lottie Elwartoski by her son Richard Elwartoski
- † Samuel J. Hebdo by his daughter Rose Oberst
- † Vincent & Agnes Jacovetty by Patty & George Fahey
- † Dennis & Jane Fahey by George & Patty Fahey
- † Jim Fahey by George & Patty Fahey
- † Sam, Robert & Vincent Lee Jacovetty by George & Patty Fahey
- † Richard W. Frazier by his wife Luane & two sons & three grandsons
- † Cecilia Anne Murad by her daughter Luane Frazier
- † Tony & Charlotte George by the George Family (MN)
- † Michael George and Greg George by the George Family (MN)
- † Sam & Maryanna George by the George Family (MN)
- † Albert & Beatrice Stiles by the George Family (MN)
- † Gerard Olinski by Mary Ragase
- † Helen & Earl Ragase by Mary Ragase
- † Earl Ragase by Mary Ragase
- † Merle McConn by Mary Ragase
- † Stanley & Rose Olinski by Mary Ragase
- † Lorraine & Alois Marchy by Mary Ragase
- † Kathleen & Rosalie Olinski by Mary Ragase
- † Susie Marie Fadoul by her husband Millet & Family
- † George Alan Weisner by Jean Weisner & Family
- † Nimon & Mariam Joseph Family by the Weisner & Joseph Families
- † Deceased of the Maroon & Mary Catherine Habeb Families by the Weisner & Joseph Families
- † Forgotten Souls in Purgatory by Jean Weisner
- † Deceased of the Weisner, Bishop & Schmeichel Families by Jean Weisner & Family
- † Betty Abraham, Clara Carter, Evelyn Goodson & Kenny Joseph by Jean Weisner & Family
- † Ethyl Brinkman and Bevlah Laas by Jean Weisner and Family
- † Linda Hostutler by Gary Weisner
- † Deceased of Anna & Gus Shia Family by Sue Jochum and Family
- † Tim, Ginny and Martha Shia by Sue Jochum and Family
- † Tom Jochum by Sue Jochum & Family
- † Tom & Edna Jochum by Sue Jochum & Family

- ✠ Phillip Geimer by his wife Thomasina Geimer
- ✠ Ralph & Mary (Joseph) Shipley by Thomasina Geimer
- ✠ Nicholas Bedway Jr. by Judy
- ✠ Michelle Bedway by Mums
- ✠ Shirley Elias Nickerson and Deceased of the Nickerson and Elias Families by Tammy Strong & Family
- ✠ Amelia Elias and Nicholas Elias by Tammy Strong & Family
- ✠ Wanda and Albert Nickerson by Tammy Strong & Family
- ✠ Donald A. Nickerson Sr., by Tammy Strong & Family
- ✠ Robert “Bob” Saseen by Robbie, Fran and Tammy

Congratulations on your 20th Wedding Anniversary

Jay and Liz Murad are celebrating their 20th Wedding Anniversary on October 8th, 2025. They will receive a special Blessing from Msgr. Bakhos at the church on Sunday, October 12th during the 10:30 am Mass. We thank the blessed couple for all what they have done and still doing for the church. Congratulations and many years of happy life together with all our prayers. –Msgr Bakhos

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month

- October 6: Joe Popovich, Frank Duymich
- October 10: Linda Duffy
- October 15: Denise “Nini” Miller
- October 16: Karen John, Natalie DeMuth Mulvey
- October 20: Courtney Sengewalt
- October 24: Jonathan D. Fadoul
- October 27: Holly (Porter) Stahl
- October 30: Michael Duffy, Andreah Frenn Riedel
- November 4: Libby G. Magnone
- November 8: Mark Wilson
- November 9: Liz Murad, Cindy Thomas

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$1,820.00	Sunday Collection
44.00	Candles
35.00	Coffee hour
25.00	Mahrajan
\$1,924.00	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)
 Joe Popovich, Earl & Linda Duffy, Nini Miller, Fran Saseen, Becky Ferrera, Marge John, Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Mary Ragase, Gavin Hancher, Monroe DeLuca, Sally Sengewalt, Mary Zigler (sister of Lillian Siebieda), Dolores Oser, Anthony Wakim, Sandra DeMuth, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Patty Olinsky, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter), Denny Albaugh, Rita Rae Sage,

Around Us

Priesthood Discernment Weekend

The Office of Vocations of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles and the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn will hold a discernment weekend from Friday, October 31st to Sunday, November 2nd, at the Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary in Washington, DC.

If you know of anyone discerning a vocation to the priesthood, or if anyone wants more information, please fill out the following form: <https://forms.gle/vS767wXLcavCcsDH9>

This is an opportunity for those discerning their vocation to experience a weekend in the life of a seminarian by joining the Divine Liturgy, Adoration, meals, prayers, and spending time together at the Seminary.

For more information, please ask Msgr. Bakhos

Young Adults Conference

All young adults in our parish are encouraged to attend the MYA Eparchial Conference in Houston, TX, October 24–26. Please **register ASAP at www.ololmya.org**

Question & Answer (#35)

Question #35: Five Ways God Uses Problems

The problems you face will either defeat you or develop you -depending on how you respond to them. Unfortunately, most people fail to see how God wants to use problems for good in our lives. Here are five ways God wants to use the problems in your life:

1. God uses problems to **DIRECT** you. Sometimes God must light a fire under you to get you moving. Problems often point us in a new direction and motivate us to change. Is God trying to get your attention? “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

2. God uses problems to **INSPECT** you. People are like tea bags... if you want to know what’s inside them, just drop them into hot ever water! Has God tested your faith with a problem? What do problems reveal about you? “When you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience” (James 1:2-3).

3. God uses problems to **CORRECT** you. Some lessons we learn only through pain and failure. It’s likely that as a child your parents told you not to touch a hot stove. But you probably learned by being burned. Sometimes we only learn the value of something by losing it. “It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn your statutes” (Psalm 119:72).

4. God uses problems to **PROTECT** you. A problem can be a blessing in disguise if it prevents you from being harmed by something more serious. Last year a friend was fired for refusing to do something unethical that his boss had asked him to do. His unemployment was a problem -but it saved him from being convicted and sent to prison a year later when management’s actions were eventually discovered. “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good” (Genesis 50:20).

5. God uses problems to **PERFECT** you. Problems, when responded to correctly, are character builders. God is far more interested in your character than your comfort. Your relationship to God and your character are the only two things you’re going to take with you into eternity. “We can rejoice when we run into problems... they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady” (Romans 5:3-4).

Here’s the point: God is at work in your life -even when you don’t recognize it or understand it. But it’s so much easier when you surrender to his plan for your life.

It is never easy going through life’s hurts and difficulties. There are many ways that Jesus will bring a conclusion to the brokenness that a person carries. Jesus has good ears; He can hear even the tiniest whisper in your heart, that you need help. He honors that deep request from within your personal life. Please take the first step and bring your pain to Him. You have nothing to fear from Him. Jesus is good at healing. “They carried to Him all those afflicted with various diseases and racked with pain: the possessed, the lunatics, the paralyzed. He cured them all” (Matthew 4:24).

Spirituality: A Christian

What is a Christian?

A Christian is:

a mind through which Christ think,
 a heart through which Christ loves,
 a voice through which Christ speaks,
 and a hand through which Christ helps. -E C. McKenzie

Wisdom: why women cry?

A little boy asked his mother, "Why are you crying?" "Because I'm a woman," she told him. "I don't understand," he said. His Mom just hugged him and said, "And you never will." Later the little boy asked his father, "Why does mother seem to cry for no reason?" "All women cry for no reason," was all his dad could say. The little boy grew up and became a man, still wondering why women cry. Finally, he put in a call to God. When God got on the phone, he asked, "God, why do women cry so easily?" God said: "When I made the woman, she had to be special. I made her shoulders strong enough to carry the weight of the world, yet gentle enough to give comfort. I gave her an inner strength to endure childbirth and the rejection that many times comes from her children. I gave her a hardness that allows her to keep going when everyone else gives up, and take care of her family through sickness and fatigue without complaining. I gave her the sensitivity to love her children under any and all circumstances, even when her child has hurt her very badly. I gave her strength to carry her husband through his faults and fashioned her from his rib to protect his heart. I gave her wisdom to know that a good husband never hurts his wife, but sometimes tests her strengths and her resolve to stand beside him unfalteringly. And finally, I gave her a tear to shed. This is hers exclusively to use whenever it is needed." "You see my son," said God, "the beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the figure that she carries, or the way she combs her hair. The beauty of a woman must be seen in her eyes, because that is the doorway to her heart - the place where love resides."

Story: Let the Music out

Three neighborhood boys, Salvator, Julio and Antonio, lived and played in Cremona, Italy, around the mid-1600s. Salvator had a beautiful tenor voice and Julio played the violin in accompaniment as they strolled the piazzas. Antonio also liked music and would have loved to sing along, but his voice squeaked like a creaky door hinge. All the children made fun of him whenever he tried to sing. Yet Antonio was not without talent. His most prized possession was the pocketknife his grandfather had given him. He was always whittling away on some piece of wood. In fact, Antonio made some very nice things with his whittling.

As the time for the annual festival approached, the houses and streets gradually became festooned with beautiful decorations for spring. Dressed in their finest clothes, people filled the streets. On festival day, Salvator and Julio planned to go to the cathedral where they would play and sing in the crowded plaza.

"Would you like to come with us?" they called to Antonio, who sat on his stoop whittling on a piece of wood. "Who cares if you can't sing? We'd like to have you come with us anyway."

"Sure, I'd like to come along," Antonio replied. "The festival is so much fun."

The three boys went off to the cathedral. As they walked along, Antonio kept thinking about their remark about his not being able to sing. It made him cry in his heart, because he loved music as much as they did, even if his voice did squeak a little.

When they arrived at the plaza, Julio began to play the violin while Salvator sang with his melodious voice. People stopped to listen, and most of them left a coin or two for the shabbily dressed boys. An elderly man stepped out from the crowd. He complimented them and placed a shiny coin into Salvator's hand. He was quickly lost in the milling crowd.

Salvator opened his hand and gasped, "Look! It's a gold coin." He clenched it between his teeth to make sure. All three boys were excited and passed the coin back and forth, examining it. They all agreed that it was a real gold piece.

"But he can well afford it," said Julio. "You know, he's the great Amati."

Antonio asked sheepishly, "And who is Amati? Why is he so great?"

Both boys laughed as they said, "You've never heard of Amati?"

"Of course he hasn't," said Julio. "He knows nothing about music makers. He has a squeaky voice and is just a whittler of wood." Julio went on, "For your information, Antonio, Amati happens to be a great violin maker, probably the best in all of Italy or even the entire world, and he even lives here in our city."

As Antonio walked home that evening, his heart was very heavy. It seemed that he had been laughed at too often for his squeaky voice and his whittling. So, very early the next morning, Antonio left his home, carrying his precious whittling knife. His pockets were stuffed with some of the things he had made—a pretty bird, a flute, several statues and a small boat. He was determined to find the home of the great Amati.

Eventually, Antonio found the house and gently knocked on the front door. When a servant opened it, the great master heard Antonio's squeaky voice and came to see what he wanted so early in the morning.

"I brought these for you to see, sir," replied Antonio, as he emptied his pockets of the assortment of items that he had carved. "I hope you will look at these and tell me if I have enough talent to learn how to make violins, too."

Amati carefully picked up and examined each piece, and invited Antonio into his house. "What is your name?" he asked. "Antonio, sir," he squeaked.

"And why do you want to make violins?" inquired Amati, now quite serious.

Impulsively Antonio blurted, "Because I love music, but I cannot sing with a voice that sounds like a squeaky door hinge. You heard how good my friends are yesterday in front of the cathedral. I, too, want to make music come alive."

Leaning forward and looking Antonio in the eyes, Amati said, "The thing that matters most is the song in the heart. There are many ways of making music—some people play the violin, others sing, still others paint wonderful pictures. Each helps to add to the splendor of the world. You are a whittler, but your song shall be as noble as any."

These words made Antonio very happy, and he never forgot this message of hope. In a very short while, Antonio became a student of the great artist. Very early, every morning, he went to Amati's workshop, where he listened and learned and watched his teacher. After many years, there was not one secret about the making of a violin, with all of its seventy different parts, that he did not know. By the time he was twenty-two years old, his master allowed him to put his own name on a violin he had made.

For the rest of life, Antonio Stradivari made violins—more than 1,100 of them—trying to make each one better and more beautiful than the one before. Anyone who owns a Stradivarius violin owns a treasure, a masterpiece of art.

We may not be able to sing, play, whittle or make a violin, but if we really want to, we will find a way to let the music out of our hearts and to praise God with it.

Jokes (187)

Education

The family settled down for dinner at the restaurant. The waitress first took the order of the adults, then turned to the seven-year-old. "What will you have?" she asked.

The boy looked around the table timidly and said: "I would like to have a hot dog." Before the waitress could write down the order the mother interrupted. "No hot dogs," she said. "Get him a steak with mashed potatoes and carrots."

The waitress ignored her, "Do you want ketchup or mustard on your hot dog?" she asked the boy. "Ketchup." "Coming up in a minute," said the waitress as she started for the kitchen.

There was a stunned silence when she left. Finally the boy looked at everyone present and said: "Know what? She thinks I'm real!"

On the Beach!!!

Little Mary was on the beach with her mother. "Mummy, may I play in the sand?" "No, darling, you'll only soil your clean clothes." "May I wade in the water?" "No, you'll get wet and catch a cold." "May I play with the other children?" "No, you'll get lost in the crowd." "Mummy, buy me an ice cream." "No, it's bad for your throat."

Little Mary began to cry. Mother turned to a woman who was standing nearby and said: "For heaven's sake! Have you ever seen such a neurotic child?"

Dog & Drug

A man began to give large doses of cod-liver oil to his Dobberman because he had been told that the stuff was good for dogs. Each day he would hold the head of the protesting dog between his knees, force its jaws open and pour the liquid down its throat.

One day the dog broke loose and split the oil on the floor, then, to the man's great surprise, it returned to lick the spoon. That's when he discovered that what the dog had been fighting was not the oil but his method of administering it.

Maternal Guilt

God invented guilt so mothers could be everywhere at once.

We're in the Money

A couple had installed a fancy horn system on their car that played various tunes. This unfortunate couple had the embarrassment of having their fancy horn system get stuck at a most inopportune time, while in a procession of cars that had come to a stop all at the same time. Their horn inadvertently began to play the tune "We're in the Money." The circumstance was the graveside service of their grandmother. The crowd was not amused.

Famous Quotes (77)

--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.

Even if you are under pressure, time spent taking a regular break will increase your overall productivity. But make it a real break; don't just switch to another demanding task. . . . Lack of sleep is a major reason for poor concentration. Learn to take catnaps or use a meditation technique instead of a drug to help you to keep going until you get a good night's rest. —William Bennett, M.D.

--If you would be pungent, be brief; for it is with words as with sunbeams—the more they are condensed, the deeper they burn. —Robert Southey

--When you've got a thing to say, Say it! Don't take half a day.

--When your tale's got little in it, Crowd the whole thing in a minute! —Joel Chandler Harris

--Make yourself necessary to somebody. Do not make life hard to any. —Ralph Waldo Emerson

--Be neither too remote nor too familiar. —Charles, Prince of Wales

--Be civil to all; sociable to many; familiar with few; friend to one; enemy to none. —Benjamin Franklin

--Don't be too sweet, lest you be eaten up; don't be too bitter lest you be spewed out. —Jewish proverb

--My code of life and conduct is simply this; work hard; play to the allowable limit; disregard equally the good and bad opinion of others; never do a friend a dirty trick; . . . never grow indignant over anything; . . . live the moment to the utmost of its possibilities; . . . and be satisfied with life always, but never with oneself.

—George Jean Nathan