



March 15, 2026

Bulletin #11

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



Sunday of the Paralytic

- ***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.

Gospel Reflection: Sunday of the Paralytic

Readings: Is 35:1-10; 1Tim 5:24-6:5 and Mk 2:1-12

“Who can forgive sins but God?”

How can sins be rightly remitted unless the very One against whom one has sinned grants the pardon? If Christ forgives sins, Christ must be truly God because no one can forgive sins but God alone.

In their ministry of the forgiveness of sin, pastors do not exercise the right of some independent power. For not in their own name but in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit do they forgive sins. They ask, the Godhead forgives. The service is enabled by humans, but the gift comes from the Power on high.

“Which is easier to say?”

The physician’s art, according to Democritus, heals the diseases of the body; wisdom frees the soul from its obsessions. But the good Instructor, Wisdom, who is the Word of the Father who assumed human flesh, cares for the whole nature of his creature. The all-sufficient Physician of humanity, the Savior, heals both body and soul conjointly. “Stand up,” he commanded the paralytic; “take the bed on which you lie, and go home”; and immediately the paralytic received strength.

Meditation for Lent: The great Chasm

Scripture: "Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours." (Luke 16:26)

Reflection: Distance is not just a matter of feet, yards, 01 miles. Distance also applies to the vast gap between good and evil, truth and falsity, beauty and ugliness. So great is the separation here that there is no passing over from one to the other.

Jesus is again telling stories. Here we have the anonymous rich man and poor Lazarus. In death, as in life, they are separated geographically and spiritually. While living the rich man has his wealth, wardrobe, and comfort; old Lazarus has nada, and even his health fails him. And we know the rest of the story: Lazarus winds up in the bosom of Abraham, whereas the uncaring rich man is in torment and despair. Even though a request is made to send someone to warn the rich man's brothers, Abraham states that enough warnings have been given through the Mosaic law and the mighty prophets.

And what is the message of the prophets? For a starter we can turn to Jeremiah. He reminds us of the consequences of our actions because it is the Lord himself who probes our mind and tests our heart. God challenges us to think of the needs of others and their well-being; more, God calls us to have compassionate hearts so that we reach out to the poor and the hurting. This outward thinking and deep fellow-feeling flow out from our being near the living waters of God's grace. If our soul, like a tree, is planted near the living water of divine grace, we will bear fruit, fruit that will last. There is a certain urgency about the Lenten season. We keep hearing that "now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation." Taking this to heart, each of us might ask what are the chasms and gaps in our lives. Is there a gap between hearing the word of God and actually living it? Is there a considerable distance (a light year, for example) between our mind (our thinking) and our heart (our feeling) and our behavior (deeds of commission or omission)?

Meditation: What role do the prophets and the law of Moses play in your life? What have been some moments of repentance on your faith journey and what brought them about?

Prayer: Loving God, help us to listen attentively to your word and to the presence of the One who was raised from the dead, Christ Jesus. We have gaps in our lives between your will and our own. It is only through your grace and mercy that we can bridge the "ought" and the "is." Grant us the grace of repentance through the gift of your Holy Spirit.

Miracles of Jesus (3, 4 & 5)

Third miracle of Jesus when he Drove Out an Evil Spirit

Jesus and those with him went to Capernaum. When the Sabbath day came, he went into the synagogue. There he began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching. That’s because he taught them like one who had authority. He did not talk like the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue cried out. He was

controlled by an evil spirit. He said, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the Holy One of God!" "Be quiet!" said Jesus firmly. "Come out of him!" The evil spirit shook the man wildly. Then it came out of him with a scream. All the people were amazed. So, they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching! And with so much authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits, and they obey him." (Mark 1:21-27)

Fourth miracle of Jesus when he healed the mother-in-law of Peter

When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law. She was lying in bed. She had a fever. Jesus touched her hand, and the fever left her. She got up and began to serve him. (Matthew 8:14-15)

Fifth miracle of Jesus when he healed many sick people

When evening came, many people controlled by demons were brought to Jesus. He drove out the spirits with a word. He healed all who were sick. This happened so that what Isaiah the prophet had said would come true. He had said, "He suffered the things we should have suffered. He took on himself the sicknesses that should have been ours." (Isaiah 53:4) (Matthew 8:16-17)

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

The Lenten Appeal for the Eparchy (Diocese) of Our Lady of Lebanon is currently underway. A letter from Bishop A. Elias Zaidan regarding the Appeal will be sent to every family, and copies are also accessible online at www.eparchy.org. The Eparchy counts on your support to uphold our Maronite parishes, to train our future Maronite priests, and to continue charitable efforts at home and abroad. We encourage every family to take part in the Appeal and to give generously. Also you received letter from our church for the same Appeal. Donations can be made to our church or to the Eparchy (Diocese). Please consider supporting your Eparchy. Thank you!

Many Thanks for those who fulfilled their 2026 Diocesan Appeal:

In Honor of: Randy Weisner, Thomasina Geimer, George & Patty Fahey, Angele Mansor (OH), Earl & Linda Duffy, Timothy & Diane Pack, Dr. MaryAnn Cater, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sofka, Lou & Charlotte Kourey and Family, GiGi Rice,

In Memory of:

- Dr. A.D.Ghaphery donated \$500.00 in Memory of his Parents & Family Members
- Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac in Memory of his parents & Family members
- Assad Rahi in Memory of his wife Chamse Rahi
- Denny Albaugh in Memory of the Deceased Members of the Albaugh Family
- Janet D. Shutler in Memory of the Deceased Members of the Shutler and Nolte Families
- Jean Weisner in Memory of the Deceased Members of the Weisner & Joseph Families
- Ron & Kim Gibbons in Memory of the Gibbons & Otterbeck Families
- Mark Schroeder in Memory of his parents Helen & Al Schroeder
- Frank & Anna Marie Duymich in Memory of their parents Frank Sr. & Mary Lou Duymich
- Debbie Huffman in Memory of Freddie Oser
- Dennis & Mary Lee Porter in Memory of the Schweizer & Porter Families
- Scott & Alicia Peklinsky in Memory of Chamse Rahi
- Susan John in Memory of John T. & Cecilia John
- Al Depto and Mary C. Davis in Memory of Shirley Bine
- Millet L. Fadoul in Memory of Susie Marie Fadoul
- Bill & Tricia Committee in Memory of Fred & Rita John, Fred John Jr., & Michael John
- David & Greg John In Memory of their mother Cecilia John
- Sue Jochum in Memory of the Shia & Jochum Families
- Jack Palmer DDS in Memory of Pete & Peggy Palmer & Dr. Joe Palmer
- Marge John in Memory of the Joseph John Family
- Cathy Goodson in Memory of her mother Evelyn Goodson
- Sharon & Thomas Beatty in Memory of Susie Fadoul
- Dr. Adel & Diane Frenn in Memory of the Frenn & Thomas Families
- Luane Frazier in Memory of her beloved husband Richard W. Frazier
- Denise Ferris in Memory of her parents Tom & Mary K. Ferris

--Dee Shiben in Memory of her husband John E. Shiben
 --Jackie & Pat petros in memory of Geo & Dolores Fahey & Phil & Betty Lou Petros
 --Elsie Renzella in Memory of Nicole & Filomena Renzella & Family
 --Rob Wodusky in Memory of his mother Mary (Coram) Puperi
 --Judy Bedway in Memory of her husband Nick Bedway
 --Anna Bris in Memory of her father Ronald Bris
 --Nancy Joseph in Memory of Kenny, Bryan Joseph
 --John Ritts in Memory of his wife Opal Ritts
 --Joe Roxby in Memory of his mother Eugene Roxby
 --Gary Weisner in Memory of Linda Hostutler
 --Carol Burkhart in Memory of her husband Dana Burkhart & her mother Catherine Arthur
 --Nettie Seidler in Memory of the Abraham & Mary George Family
 --Juliette Ghaphery-Breit in memory of her husband William Breit
 --Nick A. Ghaphery, Jr. in Memory of his mother Nimnoon & his sister Wadad
 --Mark & Barb McLaughlin in Memory of the Elias & Selma Joseph & Sara McLaughlin Families
 --Janet Jaqway in Memory of Frederick Jaqway, George Pack, Jr and Barbara Pack
 --Mary Rose Kukula in Memory of her husband John F. Kukula
 --Mary Ragase in Memory of the Deceased members of the Ragase and Olinski Families
 --Dunya & Aaron Schultz in Memory of Greg Schultz and Teta Antoinette Rofa
 --Ron Weisner in Memory of Deceased members of the Weisner and Joseph Families
 --Becky & Larry Ferrera in Memory of Lawrence & Teresa Ferrera and George & Betty Joseph
 --Jim & Pat Saseen-Connell in Memory of Abdo & Dorothy Saseen
 --Carol Dougherty in Memory of Saada Habdo
 --Joe & Nikki Popovich in Memory of the Popovich and Montalbano Families
 --Mary Beth Weisner in memory of her father George Alan Weisner

Mass Schedule, next Weekend: Sat. 14 and Sunday 15

Saturday, March 14, Mass at 4:00 p.m.:

† Vincent Blake (Birthday) by Larry & Lillian Siebieda & Mary Blake Sigler & Family
 † Fran Saseen by Patricia Day and Liesl Rowe
 † Noel Foreman by his wife Anne & Family

Sunday, March 15, Mass at 10:30 a.m.:

† Mary Zaid Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone, Tom Ferris by Libby G. Magnone
 † Merle McConn (Birthday) by Mary Ragase
 † Mary Joseph Shipley (Anniversary) & Robby Hunter III by Thomasina Geimer

Next Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, March 16: No Mass. Pastor's day off.

Tuesday, March 17, Mass at Noon:

† William Stees (Birthday) by Libby Magnone
 † Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will
 † Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

Wednesday, March 18: No Mass.

Thursday, March 19, Mass at noon: Saint Joseph feast Day

† Robert J. Shutler, Sr. (Anniversary) by his daughter Janet Shutler
 † Tom & Mary K. Ferris by their daughter Denise Ferris
 † Caroline Stees McDowell (Birthday) by Libby Magnone

Friday, March 20, Mass at 5:30 followed by Stations of the Cross

† Tom Quinn by his Family
 † Noel Foreman by his wife Anne & Family

✠ Fran Saseen by Patricia Day & Liesl Rowe

Mass Schedule, next Weekend: Sat. 21 and Sunday 22

Saturday, March 21, Mass at 4:00 p.m.:

✠ Earl A. Ragase (Anniversary) by Mary Ragase

✠ Allen Huffman (Anniversary) by Debbie Huffman

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

Sunday, March 22, Mass at 10:30 a.m.:

✠ Michael & Annette & Gene Howard by Lou & Charlotte and Emmalena and Louie Khourey

✠ Fran Saseen by Patricia Day & Liesl Rowe

✠ Tom Quinn by his Family

Coming Events in a Glimpse

March 15	Cedar Club meeting after 10:30 am Mass
March 19	Saint Joseph feast Day. Mass at noon
March 29	Palm Sunday
April 5	Easter Sunday
April 19	First Communion celebration. See below
May 11-16	Spring Bake Sale Monday, May 11: Onion Prep Tuesday, May 12: Prep meat, roll kibbee balls Wednesday, May 13: Bake kibbee Thursday, May 14: Bake meat pies Saturday, May 16: Pick up orders
Sunday, August 9	Mahrajan (Lebanese Festival) See details below

First Communion Celebration (Sunday, April 19)

Dear Parishioners,

Msgr. Bakhos and the parents of the three candidates for First Communion (Eloise Chapman, Miriam Sable and Blaze Smay) cordially invite you to the celebration of the First Communion. It will take place on Sunday, April 19th during Mass. A complimentary brunch sponsored by their parents will be served to all parishioners after Mass. A special table decorated in white will be set in the middle of the Hall for the three candidates. Please let the candidates feel very "special" on their First Communion and make it a day to remember all their lives by bringing to everyone of them a small gift or a small monetary present in an envelope. They will appreciate you welcoming them to the community. A box of envelopes will be available in the Cedar Hall. --Msgr. Bakhos



Easter Lillies Donated in Memory of:

Please donate \$25.00 to sponsor a lilly or a hyacinth toward decoration the Tomb of Christ and the altar of the church at Easter. The following generous parishioners donated Easter Flowers In Loving Memory of:

✠ Gladys Howard & Louise N. & Louis H. Khourey, Sr. by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family

✠ Tom & Mary K. Ferris by their daughter Denise Ferris

✠ Adib & Sadie (parents), Nadim (brother), Mona (sister) by Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac

✠ Pearl Shutler by her daughter Janet Shutler

✠ Opal Ritts by her husband John Ritts

✠ John & Mary Ritts by their son John Ritts

✠ John T. & Cecilia John by Ron & Susan Burns

✠ Philip Geimer & all the Deceased Family members of Thomasina Geimer

✠ Rick Frazier by his wife Luane Frazier

- ✂ Mary Stees by Jay & liz Murad
- ✂ George & Martha Saseen and Steve & Elizabeth Harasuik by George & Susan Saseen and Family
- ✂ Shirley Elias Nickerson and Deceased members of the Elias Family by Tammy Strong
- ✂ Nimon & Mariam Joseph Family by the Joseph and Weisner Families
- ✂ Kenny Joseph by his wife Nancy and the Tucker Family
- ✂ In honor of Dennis & Mary Lee Porter
- ✂ In honor of Chris & Jeannette Wakim & Family
- ✂ In honor of Anthony & Amanda Sable and Family
- ✂ In honor of Frank & Anna Marie Duymich
- ✂ In honor of Michael Duymich
- ✂ In honor of Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ✂ In honor of Dr. Nabel & Nisrine Alkhouri & Family
- ✂ In honor of Veronica Mushet
- ✂ In Honor of Janet Shutler
- ✂ In honor of Alicia Peklinsky Family
- ✂ In Honor of Debbie Huffman

May Crowning Procession (Sunday, May 3rd after Mass)

The May Queen this year will be Eloise Chapman, the daughter of Matt and Senator Laura Wakim-Chappman. She is the granddaughter of Chris and Jeannette Wakim. The procession will take place on Sunday, May 3rd after Mass. All parishioners are invited to a complimentary brunch sponsored by the parents and grandparents of the May Queen.

Lebanese Festival News (Sunday, August 9 from 11 to 6 pm)

Outdoor Mass (Sunday Mass will be at 10:00 am not 10:30 am at Oglebay Park. There will be no Mass at the church that Sunday.)

Volunteers:

--If you are able to volunteer 2 hours at the festival, please call Msgr. Bakhos at 304-233-1688. Thanks

Inflatable Booth:

--Many Thanks to Tracy Shia and Molly Powell for accepting the responsibility to be the chairpersons of the Inflatables.

Diamond Sponsors:

If you are blessed and able to sponsor one of the four inflatables for the children to play, your name will be published in the Ad Book on the Diamond Level. With your generosity, children can play all day long for \$5.00 instead of \$50.00 if we hire an inflatable company. Let us make everyone happy. Donation is \$450.00

--1st Diamond Sponsor: Rob Wodusky sponsored the first inflatable. Many Thanks and May God bless you.

--2nd Diamond Sponsors: sponsored by anonymous couple. Many Thanks and May God bless you.

--3rd Diamond Sponsor: ??????????

--4th Diamond Sponsor: ??????????????????

Golden Sponsors:

--Don & Lori Nickerson donated a \$100 door prize in Honor of their children Emma & Eli (Golden Sponsors)

No Canope or Pop-ups at the Festival:

The Festival committee decided not to allow anyone to bring his/her own canope or pop-up tent to the festival ground -that is rented by the church- for insurance and safety reasons. The committee will ask the owners to remove their pop-up immediately.

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month

March 15: Shelby Imer

March 16: Mia Ferrera

March 18: Kenny Imer, Bill Stees, Patrick Petros
 March 21: Caroline Stees McDowell
 March 22: Jennifer Imer
 March 26: Joseph John
 March 30: Greg John
 April 1: Patrick Sengewalt
 April 6: Ronald Weisner
 April 8: Jesse John

Stations of the Cross (Fridays during Lent)

Every Friday during Lent, we celebrate the Mass at 5:30 p.m. It will be followed by the Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Cross. The “Stations of the Cross” is a devotion which consists of following the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ by recalling the fourteen prominent events that took place from the time of the trial under Pontius Pilate until His death and burial on Mount Calvary. Many Thanks to these generous families who sponsored light Lenten meal dinners for social hour after the Stations of the Cross. If any other family wants to participate in the meal for social hour, please ask and join the families listed below.

Date:	Volunteers Who are sponsoring the Light Meals on Fridays during Lent:
5 th Friday, March 20	Meal Sponsors: Ron & Kim Gibbons and Msgr Bakhos ✓
6 th Friday, March 27	Meal Sponsors: Dr. Nabil & Nisrine Alkhouri ✓
Good Friday, April 3	Meal Sponsors: The Cedar Club & Parishioners
Easter Sunday, April 5	Happy Easter

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)

Lisa Kennedy (daughter of Carol Dougherty, OK), Joe Popovich, Earl & Linda Duffy, Nini Miller, Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Mary Ragase, Mary Zigler (sister of Lillian Siebieda), Dolores Oser, Anthony Wakim, Sandra DeMuth, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter), Denny Albaugh, Rita Rae Sage, John Frazier. (son of Luane Frazier),

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$681.00	Sunday Collection
600.00	Diocesan Appeal
66.00	Candles
37.00	Coffee hour
409.00	Donation to the church
278.00	Utilities
\$2071.00	Total Deposits: May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home! Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Susan Burns, Liz Murad, Mark McLaughlin

Question & Answer (#59)

Question #59: “Is it wrong to practice something like guitar or surfing more than you practice your religion?”
 Answer: By “practicing your religion,” I assume you mean the actual number of minutes or hours in prayer, in study, at church. No, you are not necessarily required to pray more minutes each day than you go surfing.

We are physical creatures that need relaxation, laughter, friendship and physical activity. Surfing and guitar playing can actually glorify God if they are done in an excellent manner. We can even practice our faith by doing these types of things if the motive for doing them and the way we do them are correct. They can be offered to God for His glory.

There is not a quota of minutes one has to pray or play each day. Simply keep the following principles in mind: (1) You should strive to want to do God's will more than your own. (2) Keep all activities, including your eventual career, in balance with other aspects of life. These activities should not interfere with family relationships or keeping up your basic religious requirements. (3) Your faith should be an integral part of your life in all activities. People should know you are a person of integrity no matter what activity you are doing. (4) Challenge yourself to grow in prayer and understanding of God. (5) Set some goals that balance your growth in faith with your growth in life's other activities. (e.g., read one religious book for every secular book you read.) Perhaps you could pray 10 extra minutes every day you go surfing. And, (6) stay in a state of grace.

If you keep this type of concern for spiritual growth in mind, you will be on an excellent course towards holiness.

Spirituality

THE EUCHARIST UNITES US TO JESUS CHRIST and INCREASES OUR LOVE FOR OUR NEIGHBOUR

Communion does indeed lavish upon us actual grace to love our brothers generously and sincerely. Do not suffer, then, ill-will or spite or hatred against your neighbor to be in your heart; that would be directly to counteract the action of Jesus within you. But that is not enough. At the time of Communion and afterwards, beg for the conversion of sinners, fervor for the lukewarm, health for the sick, and deliverance for the dead. When infinite love comes to you, it can refuse you nothing for the souls that are a thousand times more dear to it than to yourselves.

--From The Cure D'Ars, p.59

THE EUCHARIST INCREASES SANCTIFYING GRACE IN US

When Jesus entered the house of Elizabeth, although he was imprisoned in Mary's womb, he sanctified both mother and child; and Elizabeth exclaimed, 'Whence comes so great a happiness to me, that the Mother of my God deigns to come to me?' I leave you to consider how much greater is the happiness of him who receives Jesus Christ in Holy Communion, not like Elizabeth, into his house, but into the depths of his heart, to be its protecting Master, not six months, as in Elizabeth's case, but all through life." --From The Cure D'Ars, p.62

St Cyril says that the Eucharist, by kindling the ardors of charity in the soul, calms the disordered inclinations of our flesh, diminishes the fire of concupiscence, and strengthens our piety. It puts the devil to flight, so that he cannot excite our imagination or our senses by unwholesome images or dangerous impulses; it assures to us abundant graces, which remove occasions apt to awake our passions, and surrounds us with a special Providence. This is why St Bernard says, speaking to his monks "If any one among you no longer feels violent assaults of anger, envy, lust, or other disordered desires, let him render thanks to the Body and Blood of Christ; it is the virtue of the Sacrament which is working in him."

Strengthened by the Eucharist, one can no longer offend the good God; the soul is all embalmed with our Lord's precious Blood. (p.69)

Wisdom

Michael is the kind of guy you love to hate. He is always in a good mood and always has something positive to say: When someone would ask him how he was doing, He would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!" He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Michael was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Michael and asked him, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?" Michael replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood.

Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it.

Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life.

"Yeah, right, it's not that easy," I protested.

"Yes, it is," Michael said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people affect your mood. Your bottom line: It's your choice how you live life." I reflected on what Michael said. Soon thereafter, I left the Tower Industry to start my own business.

We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it. Several years later, I heard that Michael was involved in a serious accident, falling some 60 feet from a communications tower. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Michael was released from the hospital with rods placed in his back. I saw Michael about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied. "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Wanna see my scars?" I declined to see his wounds, but I did ask him what had gone through his mind as the accident took place. The first thing that went through my mind was the well-being of my soon to be born daughter," Michael replied. "Then, as I lay on the ground, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or I could choose to die. I chose to live." Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" I asked. Michael continued, "...the paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read 'he's a dead man. I knew I needed to take action.'" "What did you do?" I asked. "Well, there was a big burly nurse shouting questions at me," said Michael. "She asked if I was allergic to anything. "Yes, I replied." The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, "Gravity." Over their laughter, I told them, "I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead." Michael lived, thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude. I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully. Attitude, after all, is everything. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. After all today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.

ENJOY LIFE - IT'S THE ONLY ONE YOU GET !!!

Story

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house. The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live.

The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely. As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment. Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him.

There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been valuable. A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before. What was the point of this?

"Look at it." He said. "Read what it says." She read the words "United States of America." "No, not that; read further." "One cent?" "No, keep reading." "In God we Trust?" "Yes!" "And?" "And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him! Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me, lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!"

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I

had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message. It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful... And God is patient...

Jokes (212)

Do unto Others:

Christianity says: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Buddhism says: "Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful."

Taoism says: "Regard your neighbor's gain as your own, and your neighbor's loss as your own loss."

Islam says: "No one of you is a believer until you desire for your brother and sister that which you desire for yourself."

Judaism says: "What is hateful to you, do not to another."

Grammar Schammer:

A Linguistic professor was lecturing to his class one day. "In English," the professor said, "a double negative forms a positive. In some languages, though, such as Russian, a double negative is still a negative. However, there is no language where a double positive can form a negative." A voice from the back of the room piped up, "Yeah, right."

Appreciating age:

Think you're old to try something new? Consider these examples:

-Actor George BURNS won his first Oscar at 80.

-Golda MEIR was 71 when she became Prime Minister of Israel.

-At age 96, playwright George Bernard SHAW broke his leg when he fell out of a tree he was trimming in his backyard.

-Painter Grandma Moses didn't start painting until she was 80 She completed more than 1,500 paintings after that; 25% of those were produced when she was past 100.

-Michelangelo was 71 when he painted the Sistine Chapel.

-Physician and humanitarian Albert SCHWEITZER was still performing operations in his African hospital at 89.

-Doc Counsilman, at 58, became the oldest person ever to swim the English Channel.

-S.I.Hayakawa retired as president of San Francisco State University at 70, then was elected to the U.S.Senate.

-Casey STENGEL didn't retire from managing the New York Mets until he was 75.

On Hold with God

As a mother and daughter walked out of church one Sunday morning, the mother said, "That was a nice service. I really liked the soft piano music during the prayer."

The little girl turned and asked her mother, "That was a piano?"

The mother nodded, and the little girl said, "Oh. I thought God had put us on hold."

We need never fear that God will put us on hold. Our God reaches down and enters our trials and struggles with us. Our God is with us to the ends of the earth through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.