



April 12, 2026
Bulletin #15

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



New Sunday / Divine Mercy Sunday

- ***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: New Sunday / Divine Mercy Sunday

Readings: Is 52:7-12; 2 Cor 5:11-21 and Jn 20:26-31

What does it mean to have Christ among us? How can we be his healing, reconciling, peace-making body? He is present in how we pray and worship together, how we love and support one another, how we act in truth and justice, how we heal wounds and conquer evil.

John of Patmos suffers the tension of “what will be” and “what is” as he awaits the fullness of God’s kingdom. Exiled for bearing witness to Jesus, John is caught between the “distress” of earthly injustice and the “kingly reign” of Christ. Like John, we too are locked in a prison of fear. We are like Thomas, who refuses to believe, because we cannot see or touch Jesus. The voice of Christ arouses us from disbelief. “Peace be with you!” he says. “Do not persist in unbelief. Believe!” With the risen Christ in our midst we need not be afraid. With Christ at the center, the Christian community shines like golden lamp stands. Through the church, the One who is eternally alive sends forth a beacon of hope to a troubled world.

The breath of the Spirit animates us and revives our faith so that, with Jesus, we have the courage to forgive all who wound the body of Christ. With love and compassion we touch the hurts and injuries of our brothers and sisters. These are the “signs and wonders” the world is waiting for. When they see this, they will believe that Jesus is truly Lord of our lives.

Miracles of Jesus (15, 16 & 17)

Miracle #15: When Jesus healed a Dead Girl and a Suffering Woman

While Jesus was saying this, a synagogue leader came. He got down on his knees in front of Jesus. He said, “My daughter has just died. But come and place your hand on her. Then she will live again.” Jesus got up and went with him. So did his disciples. Just then a woman came up behind Jesus. She had a sickness that made her bleed. It had lasted for 12 years. She touched the edge of his clothes. She thought, “I only need to touch his clothes. Then I will be healed.” Jesus turned and saw her. “Dear woman, don’t give up hope,” he said. “Your faith has healed you.” The woman was healed at that moment. When Jesus entered the synagogue leader’s house, he saw the noisy crowd and people playing flutes. He said, “Go away. The girl is not dead. She is sleeping.” But they laughed at him. After the crowd had been sent outside, Jesus went in. He took the girl by the hand, and she got up. News about what Jesus had done spread all over that area. (Matthew 9:18-26)

16th Miracle of Jesus when he healed Two Blind Men

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him. They called out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” When Jesus went indoors, the blind men came to him. He asked them, “Do you believe that I can do this?” “Yes, Lord,” they replied. Then he touched their eyes. He said, “It will happen to you just as you believed.” They could now see again. Jesus strongly warned them, “Be sure that no one knows about this.” But they went out and spread the news. They talked about him all over that area. While they were going out, another man was brought to Jesus. A demon controlled him, and he could not speak. When the demon was driven out, the man spoke. The crowd was amazed. They said, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.” But the Pharisees said, “He drives out demons by the power of the prince of demons.” (Matthew 9:27-34)

The 17th miracle of Jesus when he healed a mute man

While they were going out, another man was brought to Jesus. A demon controlled him, and he could not speak. When the demon was driven out, the man spoke. The crowd was amazed. They said, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.” But the Pharisees said, “He drives out demons by the power of the prince of demons.” (Matthew 9:32-34)

This Weekend Mass Schedule. Sat-Sun. April 11-12

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

✠ Fran Saseen by Tammy Strong

✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne & Family

✠ Tom Quinn by his Family

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

- ✠ Mary Zaid Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone, Tom Ferris by Libby G. Magnone
 ✠ Gerard Joseph (Anniversary) by Larry & becky Ferrera
 ✠ Parents Geo & Rose Fadoul & Joe & Nell Duffy by Earl & Linda Duffy

Weekdays Mass schedule

Monday April 13: No Mass. Pastor's day off.

Tuesday April 14, Mass at Noon:

- ✠ 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

Wednesday April 15: No Mass.

Thursday April 16, Mass at Noon:

- ✠ Robert J. Shutler Jr. (Anniversary) by his sister Janet Shutler
 ✠ Nancy Ferris-Coffield (Anniversary) by Libby G. Magnone
 ☩ Intentions of Carol Dougherty and her daughter Lisa by Lou & Charlotte Kourey

Friday April 17: No Mass.

Next Weekend Mass Schedule. Sat-Sun. April 18-19

Saturday April 18, Mass at 4:00 p.m.:

- ✠ Fran Saseen by Jean Weisner
 ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne & Family
 ✠ Tom Quinn by his Family

Sunday April 19, Mass at 10:30 a.m.:

- ☩ Intentions of the candidates for First Communion and their parents and grandparents
 ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne & Family
 ✠ Tom Quinn by his Family

Diocesan Appeal fulfilled

--NiNi Miller in Memory of Danny and Milly Manners

Coming Events in a Glimpse

Sunday, April 12	Cedar Club meeting after 10:30 am Mass
Sunday, April 19	First Communion celebration
Sunday, May 3	May Crowning
May 9-17	Mothers Day Masses. Remember your mother on her feast day.
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
Saturday, June 6	Rummage Sale from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 9	Mahrajan (Lebanese Festival) See details below

First Communion Celebration (Sunday, April 19)

Dear Parishioners,

Msgr. Bakhos and the parents of the candidates for First Communion 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 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

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.

Mothers' Day Masses, from May 9 until May 17

Masses for the Deceased Mothers and Grandmothers

† Special Remembrance on these special days:

--on May 10: † Ray McLaughlin (Anniversary) by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

--on May 17: † Gladys Howard by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena, Louie Khourey

† Earl Ragase (Birthday) by his wife Mary Ragase

† Deceased mothers & grandmothers of Jamil Harb (MI)

† Louise N. Khourey & Gladys V. Howard by Lou & Charlotte and Emmalena and Louie

† Emily Nader & Nabihah “Lena” Khourey by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Khourey

† Minnie Church Riggs & Cassandra “Cassie” Howard by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Khourey

† Sadie Chidiac (mother), Kathrine & Hasibi (grandmothers) by Msgr. Bakhos

† Mahasen Kazour by her daughter Jocelyne Chahine and Family (Pittsburgh)

† Catherine Arthur by her daughter 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

† Fran Huffman (Anniversary) by Debbie Huffman

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

† Cecilia John & Carol Burns by their loving children Susan and Ron Burns

† Sadie John, Tamamie Joseph & Sarah Burns by their loving grandchildren Susan & Ron Burns

† Sara (Joseph) McLaughlin & Selma Joseph by Mark & Barb McLaughlin & Family

† Mary Miller by Mark & Barb McLaughlin & Family

† Mary (Joseph) Shipley & Salema (Awed) Joseph by Thomasina Geimer

† Cecilia Murad by her daughter Luane Frazier

† Siham Frenn & LaVerne Thomas by Dr. Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn and Andreah, Zack & Christian Riedel

† Mary K. Ferris by her daughter Denise Ferris

† Virginia & Martha Shia and Anna Shia by Sue Jochum & Family

† Edna Jochum by Sue Jochum and Family

† Lenore Albaugh & Leona Albaugh & Anna Bernas by Denny Albaugh

† Helen Schroeder by her son Mark Schroeder & daughter Jane Wine

† Nora Hughes and Margaret Schroeder by Mark Schroeder and Jane Wine

† Shirley Elias Nickerson & Amelia Elias by their Loving Family

† Wanda Nickerson by her Loving Family

† Agnes Jacovetty by George & Patty Fahey

† June Fahey by George & Patty Fahey

† Angela Henning & Anne Bott by Don & Roberta Henning

† Charlotte George (MN) by her daughter Margaret George

† Dolores M. Fahey by Jackie & Pat Petros

- ✠ Betty Lou Petros by Jackie & Pat Petros
- ✠ Chamse Rahi and Marie Rouhana by Alicia & Scott Peklinsky
- ✠ Rose Shedeed-Fadoul & Nell Comer-Duffy by Earl & Linda Duffy
- ✠ Sharon Rose Tipton and Lilly Hebdo by Rose Hebdo-Oberst
- ✠ Sally (Simon) Wodusky by her son Rob Wodusky
- ✠ Mary (Coram) Puperi by her grandson Rob Wodusky
- ✠ Pearl (Nolte) Shutler by her daughter Janet Shutler
- ✠ Isabelle (Frey) Nolte by her great-granddaughter Janet Shutler
- ✠ Clara (Frohnappel) by her granddaughter Janet Shutler
- ✠ Martha Saseen by her son George Saseen
- ✠ Elizabeth Harasuik by her daughter Susan Harasuik-Saseen
- ✠ Lucy Gibbons and Ann Otterbeck and Sadie Coury by Ron & Kim Gibbons
- ✠ Betty Joseph, Teresa Ferrera, Selma Joseph and Grace Veechione by Larry & Becky Ferrera
- ✠ Judy Wilson, Edith Joseph, Diane Russell and Sara McLaughlin by Larry & Becky Ferrera
- ✠ Lottie Elwartoski by her son Richard Elwartoski
- ✠
- ✠
- ✠

Masses for the Living Mothers and Grandmothers

- ✠ Charlotte Khourey by her children Emmalena & Louie
- ✠ My sisters by Msgr. Bakhos
- ✠ Jocelyne Chahine (Pittsburgh) by her children & grandchildren
- ✠ Barb McLaughlin by her grandchildren Nathan & Shane Graney
- ✠ Brenda Riedel & Diane Frenn by Justin Frenn & Andreah & Zack Riedel
- ✠ Brenda Riedel & Diane Frenn by Christian Riedel
- ✠ Nancy Joseph by her daughter Cheryl Tucker & Family
- ✠ Dolores Oser by her daughter Debbie and Mark Huffman
- ✠ Patty Jacovetty Fahey by George Fahey & daughters Lisa & Jennifer
- ✠ Andreah Riedel by Dr. Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn and Zack & Christian Riedel
- ✠ Susan Saseen by her granddaughter Ginny Naswadi
- ✠ Andee Ferrera, Deana Ferrera, Becky Ferrera and Melissa Renzella by grandchildren Danielle Losengo, Lucca, Grace, Mia, Cask, Reid and Larry Ferrera
- ✠
- ✠
- ✠
- ✠
- ✠

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

Diamond Sponsors:

All those generous benefactors who sponsored the 2026 festival with \$200 or more will be recognized in the Ad Book as Diamond sponsors.

5 Cash Door Prizes:

--All guests will be welcomed at the entrance of the festival with good news of five cash prizes donated by generous parishioners. Everyone who submits his/her name and address at the welcome booth, will have a

chance to win \$100 cash. Drawings will take place around 6:00 pm before the Raffle cash prize. Good luck to everyone and many thanks for our generous benefactors.

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

April 11: Randy Weisner
 April 12: Justin Frenn
 April 13: Adel Frenn
 April 14: Mark McLaughlin, Lori Chickos
 April 20: Angela Petros
 April 28: Ann Marie Weisner Serafin
 April 29: Jeannette Wakim
 May 5: Eden DeMuth
 May 6: Nikki Lenz

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>	
\$2,935.00	Sunday Collection
351.00	Holy land 2 nd collection
80.00	Candles
210.00	Donation to the church
\$3,576.00	Total Deposits: May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home! Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Susan Burns, Liz Murad, Mark McLaughlin

Question & Answer (#63)

Question #63: “What kind of sin is cussing?”

Answer: Cursing, also known as cussing or swearing, is a sin against the Second Commandment, “You shall not take the name of the Lord Your God in vain.” This means that we should never use God’s name to express surprise (like, “Oh my G__“!) or anger. Nor should we use words to degrade people, who are made in God’s image, for this is a sin against the Fifth Commandment, which obliges us to respect other people as persons made in God’s image.

Curse words are like little daggers that pierce the heart of our Lord. When said with full understanding of their sinfulness, with sufficient reflection and with full consent of our wills, they are mortal sins.

Fortunately, it is usually a venial sin because most people do not understand the gravity of their action. Here’s why this sin can be considered “mortal.” In this modern age, we do not understand the glory and majesty of God’s name. Several thousand years ago, the Jewish people so honored God’s name, Yahweh, they would not even say it. They came up with a different name for Him — Adonai. It would have been considered blasphemy to even use God’s name correctly, *let alone as a curse word*. To use a name without the proper reverence is to offend the person whose name we are using.

Today, we have become so desensitized to the harsh things the world presents to us we think it is absurd to reverence the name of God. It is not. We need to have reverence for God's name. If we do, our faith will increase. If we do not, we may grow coarse and cold.

Spirituality

One night I had a dream, I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and across the skies flashing scenes from my life. In each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One was mine, and one was the Lord's. When the last scene of my life appeared before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand, and, to my surprise, I noticed that many times along the path of my life there was only one set of footprints. And I noticed that it was the loudest and saddest times in my life. I asked the Lord about it: "*Lord, You said that once I decided to follow You, You would walk with me all the way. But I noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life there was only one set of footprints. I don't understand why You left my side when I needed You most.*"

The Lord said, "*My precious child, I never left you during your time of trial. Where you saw only one set of footprints, I was carrying you.*"

Wisdom

The beginning is the most important part of the work. --Plato

Lots of proverbs and quotations underscore the importance, and the difficulty of beginnings: "A work well begun is half done!" "If you can conceive it and believe it, you can achieve it" (Napoleon Hill). "Every beginning is difficult" - a saying that appears almost word for word in many Languages. *Jeder Anfang ist schwer* (German) and *ogni principio e difficile* (Italian) are just two examples.

The importance of beginnings is obvious. The Torah opens with the Hebrew words *Bereshish Adonai*, meaning "In the beginning, God." When telling a story or filling out a police report, you are advised to "begin at the beginning" The journey of a thousand miles, the proverb assures us, begins with a single step. No first step, no journey. And if the place where we begin strikes another as odd, we shrug our shoulders and explain, "You have to start somewhere."

Without an original vision, the new structure will never get built. Without a fertilized egg, the baby will never be born. Without keying in the first sentence, the book will never be written. In the spiritual training I follow, the person in charge signals us to start our thirty-minute active meditation by saying, "Begin!"

Yet for anyone about to embark on some new project - school, diet, running program, marriage - there is a hesitation, a fear. Procrastination raises its ugly but familiar head, and we put off till tomorrow that which should be started today. In consequence, *manana*, per the Spanish proverb, is the busiest day of the week On the other hand, once we take that first step, the new undertaking seems only half as daunting as our fears. Soon routine helps us continue, and before we know it, we are halfway to our goal. Given gravity it takes a great deal of fuel for a rocket just to lift off. However, thanks to momentum, it takes less and less to reach escape velocity So today's words of wisdom are, "Just begin!"

Story

Years ago, I sat by my phone living the nightmare every military wife fears: waiting to hear if my husband was dead or alive. He was a major in the United States Air Force. After a wonderful, relaxing morning together in our home, he had left to take some pilots up in a C-130 for a check-ride.

I had put our young boys to bed at their usual bedtime. A friend called and I came over because she had heard there was an accident and she feared he could be involved. I called the squadron to speak to him. "He's not here right now," I was told. I called again. Still, he was not there. Two other friends came over during this time. We sat, prayed and awaited word.

"Please God," I prayed, "take his arms or his legs or whatever You want, but give him his life; we need him."

At midnight, I watched the local news. The Air Force reported that there had been a serious accident of a C-130. An undetectable crack in the wing spread during flight and cracked off, causing the engine to explode. The plane was flying at fifteen hundred feet. All seven aboard died. I called the squadron again, "I know it's him," I cried. "I know he died. Please do not send the blue Air Force car. Instead, I asked them to send one of my husband's friends.

Trembling and weak, I went to the door when I heard a car pull up. "It's him, isn't it?" I whispered.

"Yes," he said quietly. Hearing the words hit me like a sledge hammer. I collapsed. Our friend had brought a priest and nurse with him. I sat in the living room for hours with everyone; numb, crying, drained of even my thoughts. By morning, one friend remained. Another priest came to help me tell my sons.

The children began to waken. Taking a deep breath, I went into eleven-year-old room. He looked out the window at the cars and then at me. "Mom," he said, "Daddy died, didn't he?"

I cried and hugged him and explained that the plane his dad was flying had crashed. One by one I told the others: nine, six, and four-year-old. What followed afterwards is a blur. We returned to for the funeral. I chose to buy a house there and plan for the future as a single mother. But first, leaving the boys with their grandparents, I returned to sell our house and tie up loose ends.

That is when I fell apart. For days no one could get me to budge from the house. This had been where he and I had been happy. I could not leave it. Friends called a priest who came over and stayed with me until evening. The numbness had changed into anger. I cried and screamed. "Why did God have to take him?" It wasn't fair. He and I had been good Catholics. Not only did we go to church every Sunday, but we volunteered and provided a good Catholic upbringing for our boys. I even frequently went to daily Mass. "We did everything God wanted us to do," I cried. "Why is He doing this to us?"

Father listened and prayed with me. He offered no answers except to repeatedly tell me, "You are going to be okay." By evening I was ready to leave the house with a friend. In the morning, I went to Mass and prayed the Rosary. I prayed for strength and direction. Without him, I had neither. One thing I did know was that he wanted me to take care of our children and raise them Catholic.

I returned to my house to put our lives together. We settled into a routine, but my heart was not in it. I had no desire to return to daily Mass. Sundays were enough. God had taken away what I loved, why should I do more than the minimum? Still, I prayed and kept asking God for direction and for the emptiness to go away. I felt so alone. The nearest relative was two hundred miles away. My biggest concern was for my boys. A mother could only do so much. I could not take his place.

Soon after we moved in, people started showing up in our lives, from the neighborhood and from church. I returned to daily Mass. I still was not happy with God, but where else could I go? I could not understand His ways, but I knew I needed Him. It took almost two years for me to feel that I was healing. One day I noticed thick dust on the television in the basement. It hit me that I was acting as a custodian to my kids, as if, without him, I could not give completely. With that realization, I put away my wedding ring and bought a mother's ring with four stones. I could not take the place of a father, but I could fully commit myself to my boys.

I became totally involved in their activities. Every night I went from bed to bed, individually praying and talking with each boy as I held his hand. I recruited the husbands of friends and other willing men to serve as role models and help take his place. With four boys and four sets of activities, anytime two activities coincided, I often sent one of the boys to be there for his brother. We even went on family vacations. His void was never completely gone, but it was filled in with Boy Scout leaders, coaches, teachers, family and friends and God. I never stopped missing him, but he was a part of our lives. I could often feel his arms around us. I frequently reminded the boys: "Remember, God sees you and so does dad."

One Sunday after Mass, we went to the education center for doughnuts. Mark overheard someone tell me that the boys were turning out well. When we got into the car, eight-year-old Mark took his hand and turned my face towards him. "It's not because of you that we are doing good," he informed me. "It's because we chose to do good." I chuckled and retold the story often. Years later Mark came to me and said, "Mom, the next time you tell that story, don't forget to add that you taught us how to choose."

I did not choose to lose him, but I did choose to turn back to God and trust Him once again. It was God's grace that kept us going without our husband and father. I thank Him for my wonderful boys and for the giving people He placed in our lives.

Jokes (216)

When the angels speak!!

A priest wanted to keep the church open all day Sunday, but was wary of theft and vandalism.

His solution was to put an intercom between the church and rectory so he could monitor what went on inside the church from the rectory.

One afternoon, he heard a metal-against

sound and figured someone was trying to break into the poor box. In his deepest voice, he spoke into the intercom: "Hello," he said calmly. "This is the Holy Spirit. Can I help you?"

There was a yell and the sound of a dropped tool. The pastor looked out the window and saw the would-be thief in full flight.

My Word, Doctor!

The following quotes were taken from actual medical records dictated by physicians:

"The patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year."

"The patient has been depressed ever since she began seeing me in 1983."

"The patient left the hospital feeling much better except for her original complaints."

Just getting started

Lord, I have been so good today:

I haven't raised my voice to anyone;

I haven't called anyone rude names;

I haven't yelled and screamed or ranted or raved at anyone;

I haven't even broken anything or hurt anybody. But Lord, I'm getting out of bed in about five minutes, and I will probably need your help then.

Where is the problem?

When it was time to name their firstborn, a husband and wife began to quarrel. She wanted to name him after her father; and, he wanted to name him after his. They finally had recourse to the rabbi to settle their dispute.

"What was the name of your father?" the rabbi asked the husband. "Abijah". "And what was your father's name?" he asked his wife. "Abijah". "Then what's the problem?" said the confused rabbi.

Of Cats and Men

I've never understood why women love cats. Cats are independent; they don't listen; and they don't come in when you call them. They like to stay out all night, and when they do come home, they expect to be fed; then want to be left alone to sleep. In other words, every quality that women dislike in a man, they love in a cat.

Better Verbal Skills

A study in *The Washington Post* says that women have better verbal skills than men. I just want to say to the authors of that study: Duh! --Conan O'Brien

Gift Wrap It?

After spending over three hours enduring the long lines, surly clerks, and insane regulations at the Department of Motor Vehicles, I stopped at a toy store to pick up a gift for my son. I brought my selection – a baseball bat – to the cash register.

"Cash or charge?" the clerk asked.

"Cash," I snapped. Then apologizing for my rudeness, I explained, "I've spent the afternoon at the Motor Vehicle Bureau."

"Shall I gift wrap the bat?" the clerk asked sweetly. "Or are you going back there?"