

December 4, 2016
Bulletin #49

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

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Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Evelyn Ghaphery, Organist



Birth of John the Baptist

***Weekend Masses:** **Saturday evening at 4:00 p.m.** [*Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass*]
Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. [*Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass*]

***Weekday Masses:** **Monday No Mass**
Tuesday to Thursday at 9:05 a.m. [*Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass*]

***Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:** **First Saturday of the month at 3:30 p.m.**
First Sunday of the month after 10:30 a.m. 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, Mike Linton, Rita Strawn, P.J. Lenz, Mary Stees

***Choir Members:** Earl Duffy, George Thomas, Lou Khourey, Robert Harris, Shelly Hancher, Ted Olinski

***Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer

***Sacristan:** Mike Linton

***Altar Boys:** Dalton Haas, Shaun Hancher & Luke Lenz

***Cedar Club:** Linda Duffy, President 304-242-6853

***Women's Society:** Sandra Dusick, President 304-232-7395



***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

***Cedar Hall Rental Fees:** Call the Church Office at 304-233-1688 or 304-639-1372

***Parking:** Saturday & Sunday parishioners may park in both lots; Monday-Friday park **ONLY** in the 3 Alley spaces

***Remember the Church in your Last Will & Testament:** Her prayers will accompany you to heaven

Birth of John the Baptist

Readings: Gal 4:21-5:1 and Lk 1:57-66

How were names given in the time of Jesus? What is the significance of John's name?

Luke's story of the circumcision of John the Baptist is obviously designed to highlight the unique status foretold of him by the angel Gabriel in the opening scene of the gospel (1:13-20). It also reveals some of the factors that may have influenced the naming of children in Jewish society.

Actually, the data currently available to us for Jewish naming practices in the 1st century is relatively sparse, and Luke's account tends to raise further questions rather than confirming well-known facts. For example, apart from Luke, there is no contemporary evidence that male children were named at the time of their circumcision. In the Hebrew Bible, Sons are typically named at birth (Gen 4:1; 21:3; 25:25-26). On the theory that Luke was not of Jewish but of Greek ethnic background, some scholars have suggested that the evangelist has superimposed his own cultural assumptions on the tradition, since Greek children were named some days after their birth.

It is also curious that those witnessing the circumcision propose naming the child after his father. Their taking initiative serves a dramatic purpose, of course, since it allows Luke to set up the tension that will be resolved through the miraculous restoration of speech to Zechariah (1:63-64). But their suggestion is strange, as it was uncommon (though not entirely unprecedented) for a son to take his father's name. More commonly the grandfather's name would be given.

In any case, what is most significant about this story is Elizabeth's role, because she was not privy to Gabriel's prophecy that the child would be named John (1:13). Perhaps Zechariah indicated this to his wife in writing prior to the circumcision. More likely, Elizabeth's choice was made independently, intending her son's name to express what his birth meant. Elizabeth, remember, had been barren. When she realized she was pregnant, she remarked: "So has the Lord done for me at a time when he has seen fit to take away my disgrace before others" (1:25). Elizabeth's recognition of the divine favor bestowed upon her is reflected in the meaning of the name she chooses for her son. In Hebrew, Yehohanan (John) means "Yahweh has shown favor."

The aptness of the name derives not only from this, but also from the larger role God has arranged for John to play in the salvation of Israel. As Zechariah himself proclaims when his tongue is loosed, "you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High ... because of the tender mercy of our God" (1:76,78). "John" was a fairly common name among Jews of the Second Temple period, as it is today in many cultures. At some point in their lives, people ask what their own names mean.

Luke's gospel shows that names can also tell stories, or contribute to them. Perhaps names can also inspire their bearers to further realize their own stories. Your name calls you to find and bring to maturity your true self, you true identity.

Divine Liturgy Schedule

This Weekend, December 3-4: Birth of John the Baptist

Saturday, December 3:

At 3:30 p.m.: Christmas Novena

at 4:00 p.m.:

✠ Cathy Sharp Howard (Birthday) by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt

✠ Emilia & Peter Misko by the Hostage Family

Sunday, December 4, at 10:30 a.m.: Christmas Novena after Mass

✠ Siham Frenn and Evelyn Hall (Anniversary) by Dr Adel, Diane, Andreah & Justin Frenn

✠ Eugene Blum (Anniversary) by Mary Margaret Blum

✠ Living & Deceased members of the Nicholas & Nimnoom Ghaphery Family & the David Abraham Ghaphery Family

Weekday Masses

Monday, December 5: No Daily Mass. Msgr. Bakhos Day Off

Tuesday, December 6, at 12:05 p.m.:

✠ Deceased of the Thomas, Splatt & Nutter Families by John & Kathy Thomas (MN)

Wednesday, December 7, at 12:05 p.m.:

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

✠ Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions

Thursday, December 8, at 12:05 p.m.: Immaculate Conception

✠ Living & Deceased members of the Nicholas & Nimnoom Ghaphery Family & the David

Abraham Ghaphery Family

Friday, December 9: No Daily Mass. Msgr. Bakhos Day of Vacation***Next Weekend, December 10-11: Revelation to Saint Joseph*****Saturday, December 10:**

At 3:30 p.m.: Christmas Novena

at 4:00 p.m.:

✠ Special Intention

Sunday, December 11, at 10:30 a.m.: Christmas Novena after Mass

✠ Louis Seabright by Steve and Mike Linton

✠ Dale Seidler Sr., by his wife Nettie and Family

Calendar of Parish Events

Msgr. Bakhos 25th Anniversary & Parish Christmas Party	<i>Sunday, December 4th, with singer John Mensore and pianist Dan Marrin</i>
Children's Christmas Party	<i>Sunday, December 11th, after Mass</i>

Christmas Poinsettia in Memory of:

A bouquet of yellow roses will decorate the altar of the Blessed Mother in Memory of Helen Fielding by her husband Donald Fielding, Florida.

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

✠ John F. Kukula by his wife Mary Rose & Cathy & Todd & Mick

✠ Suzanne Linton by husband Mike

✠ Frances & Joseph Linton by sons Steve & Mike

✠ John & Mary Ritts by John & Opal Ritts

✠ Msgr. Bakhos' parents Adib & Sadie, his sister Mona & his brother Nadim by Steve & Mike Linton

✠ The deceased of our parish by Steve & Mike Linton

✠ Rachel Nader Farrah by Emilie Kawas

✠ Joseph Kawas by Emilie Kawas

✠ Rosine & Latif Thomas by Nellie Magyar & Family

✠ Helen Fielding by her husband Donald (Florida) [2 Poinsettias]

✠ A Friend for a special intention

✠ For the Habdo & Dougherty Families by Bill & Carol Dougherty

✠ Mr. & Mrs. John T. John by their daughter Maryann Carl

✠ Ralph & Mary J. Shipley & Robby Hunter & the Deceased Family of Thomasina Geimer

✠ For the Schlog and Saseen Families by Bob & Fran Saseen

✠ Sharon Tatalovich by Jay & Liz Murad

✠ In Honor of Joe & Nikki Popovich

✠ In honor of Nick & Judy Bedway

✠ Danny & Milly Manners by their daughter NiNi Miller

✠ Nimon and Miriam Joseph Family by the Weisner and Joseph Families

✠ The Bine and Gaudio Families by Shirley Bine

✠ Abdo & Dorothy Saseen by Jim & Pat Saseen Connell

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

Please Remember Those Hospitalized Recently in Your Prayers

Regina Hancher, Joe Simon, Eileen Simon,

Also Please Pray for Those Who Asked Us to Pray for Them

George Weisner, Shirley George, Marge John, Peggy Justice, Diane Palotay, Mary Blum, Jim George, Virginia & Dolores Joseph, Riyanna Robbins, Jim Dellget, Barb Sobota, Betty Shia, Jim Thomas (father of Diane Frenn), Carrie Jane (Powell) Parodi

Your Church Support Last Week

\$1,471.00	Sunday Collection
80.00	Candles
50.00	Christmas Poinsettias
330.00	Parking
450.00	Christmas Party / Silver Jubilee Anniversary of Msgr. Bakhos
635.00	Utilities
30.00	Donation to Poor Families
\$3,046.00	Total Deposits: <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i>

What's New?

Results are in:

Congratulations to Shaun Hancher for making 1st Chair Tuba in the WV All-State Band. He has also been accepted into the School of Music at WVU where he will study to become a Music Educator! So very proud of him!

Christmas Novena

During the weekends of December we will celebrate the Christmas Novena in order to prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord. It will take place on Saturday, before Mass at 3:30 p.m. and on Sunday after the 10:30 am Mass. Please try your best to attend.

Holiday Food Barrell *(Now thru December 18th, 2016)*

Please bring items for the needy of our parish and place it in the Holiday Barrel for those in need at the entrance of the church. As soon as we can fill a few boxes of food, it will be distributed. If you know of anyone in need, please tell Msgr. Bakhos or send him a note with their name, phone & address.

Parish Project *(October 30th thru November 27th, Five Weeks)*

The Winter Freeze Shelter is part of a community effort to help our fellow man, woman and child during the upcoming cold months. In a small way, each and everyone of us can help by collecting a few things from the following list: Bottled water, canned food, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, paper plates, cups, bowls, band aids, antibiotic ointment, Ibuprofen, tissues, gauze, foot powder, back packs, socks, gently used twin XL and regular fitted sheets, feminine products, razors, etc. All items can be placed in the marked container in back of the church by December 4th. It will be delivered to the Youth Service System for the Winter Freeze Program. As you know, "a little bit goes a long way". Thank you for caring and helping!

Many Thanks

To all those generous and bighearted parishioners who prepared for the Christmas and Silver Jubilee Party and for decorating the church for Christmas. Msgr. Bakhos appreciates so much those who donated expensive items and labor. We are overwhelmed by the number of people coming from everywhere to attend the Party.

Maronites! Who are they?

Maronites = Catholics of the East.

Latins = Catholics of the West. We are all Catholics.

God And Lebanon

Lebanon holds a very prominent and unchallenged place in the Bible. In chapter after chapter, we find references which reveal the eternal inseparable bond that exists between God and Lebanon.

The testimony of the Holy Bible, the most distinguished of all mankind's books of faith, is everlastingly present in the human consciousness of people in every corner of the world. And Lebanon, which is mentioned seventy times in the Bible, remains as everlastingly present in human consciousness as does the Holy Book itself.

It was in Lebanon that Christ performed "the first of His miraculous signs" and "thus revealed His glory" (John 2:11). It is in this chapter that we follow the footsteps of Christ in Galilee, where He attended a wedding in Cana (in south Lebanon) and, upon the request of His mother, "transformed water into wine." At first, He refused, saying "My time has not yet come," but then He accepted, realizing that the time had indeed come for Him to reveal himself as God. It was here and on that day that the Church of Christ on earth was established, transforming the wedding celebration of Cana into a celebration of salvation for all mankind.

It was also in south Lebanon, near Sidon, that Christ decided to extend his ministry of salvation beyond the house of Israel to become the Savior God of the universe. This happened in his encounter with the Canaanite (Lebanese) woman, who pleaded for His help on behalf of all those with no hope for salvation and to whom He replied, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel" (Matthew 15: 21-28) ,(Mark 7:24-30) . In that moment, the God of the universe responded to the Canaanite : "O woman great is your faith" , and decided to take the bread destined for the children of Israel and cast it out across the entire world to all nations. It was as though Christ had remembered His Phoenician ancestry -- through Athlia who was the wife of Joram , the son of Joshafat, King of Judea, and the daughter of Isabel who was the daughter of Ethbaal, King of Tyre -and chose to launch His universal mission of salvation from the same land.

The most beautiful transformation, viewed as an event where heaven and earth embraced, occurred on Mount Hermon in Lebanon, known as Jabal El Sheikh. There, Christ was transfigured. His face, glowing as brilliantly as the sun, suddenly appeared to all as the incarnate light of the Lord of Heavens and Earth and Savior of Mankind. On this mountain in Lebanon, from a voice in the clouds, came this glorious confirmation to all those who denied Christ as God: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." (John 12:25) , (Luke 9:28-43) , (Matthew 17:1-8) .

When Christ sent His disciples out into the world to spread His Word, it was in Lebanon - in the diocese of Marjayoun in Caesarea Philippi - that He handed over the Keys of the Church , "the keys of the kingdom of heaven" to Peter (Matthew 16:13) , (Mark 8:27) .

All this has made Lebanon a blessed and sacred land. Christ lived His most gratifying , pleasant and significant days during His missions of preaching in Lebanon. In contrast, He endured the bitterness of exile as a child, the suffering of persecution and finally the profound pain of crucifixion and death in Palestine.