

December 25, 2016
Bulletin #52

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

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Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Evelyn Ghaphery, Organist



Christmas

- ***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
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- ***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

Christmas

Readings: Heb 1:1-12 and Lk 2:1-20

The busy season of Advent can be a most crucial one for Christian priests. We find ourselves in competition with the advertisers and store owners for the attention of our congregations. Television ads are preparing people for a holiday while we are preparing people for a holy day.

The Christmas message we proclaim in the midst of the merchandising din of a semi-pagan culture can be summed up in a Gospel passage by St. John: "God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life" (Jn 3:16).

The eternal God, the omnipotent God was born as a baby in a stable cave outside of Bethlehem. This is good news. In fact this is such good news that many men and women believe it is too good to be true.

As a disciple of Jesus, I must first convince myself that "God is with us" is an historical event. I came to understand this truth by reading Romano Guardini's book called, "The Lord." Father Guardini simply explained the miracle by stating "love does such things," Yes, surely God's perfect love can unite heaven and earth, the divine and the human. Once convinced I am obliged to share the miracle of Christmas with my brothers and sisters.

Paradoxically our secular (culture) helps me as a priest in persuading people to accept the true meaning of Christmas. In every human being there is a void, an emptiness, and a longing to be filled. In depths of every human soul there is a desire for love, for meaning, for the eternal. The Christmas event in a unique way reveals God's unconditional love; gives purpose to life and a promise for everlasting life. God has created the human heart for Christmas.

As Catholics, we will celebrate the fullness of the Christmas mystery as we attend Mass. In our belief in bread and wine becoming the Body and Blood of Jesus, we live the Christmas story. We are angels in the sky, shepherds in the stable, wise men come from afar; we are in the real presence of Jesus.

By Father Patrick McDonough, Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in St. Albans.

Merry Christmas From The Heart

The heavenly Christmas Star is shining brightly in the East!!! It is shedding its rays of Joy on us who are waiting impatiently the dwelling of the Divine Child among us poor sinners.

In our Liturgy we exclaim with Saint John Chrysostom, **"O Word of God, who can comprehend that you willingly emptied yourself of your divine glory? Who can explain your miraculous birth from a virgin? Who can repay you for your saving passion which you freely endured? Who can praise your plan of salvation for us? We can only ask of you, O Lover of all people, that this sacrifice which we have offered be accepted on your altar in heaven, the dwelling place of your hidden divinity, in the company of the angels and saints."**

This Christmas coincides with my 25th Anniversary to the Priesthood. I was ordained in Sydney, Australia, on December 21st, 1991.

I am grateful to the Lord for granting me the honor to serve his Holy Altar and for giving me many brothers and sisters like you.

In every parish I served, I made only a handful of big-hearted friends and you are one of them. There is something special about you. I am proud of you and I thank you for being there for me when I needed you the most.

As the **New Year** is also approaching, I wish you all the best in health and success of life. I will pray for your special intentions that the prayers of your heart be answered and your dreams come true.

May our miraculous Blessed Mother extend her mantle of love, comfort and protection over you and your family members and bless the work of your hands.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac

Christmas Reflection:

FEAR IS THE ENEMY OF JOY

“The angel said ..., Do not be afraid, Mary.” Luke 1:30

The words “Do not be afraid” appear in various phrases 365 times in the Bible. (Think of that—one for each day of the year!) Jesus said it many times, in different contexts. “Fear is useless; what you need is trust” (Mark 5:36). Fear is the enemy of joy, so we can be sure Jesus wants us to be free of it. From the very beginning the Angel Gabriel brought us the same message, “Do not be afraid, Mary; I have come to bring you tidings of great joy.”

Advent, the time of preparing for Christmas, is ideal for shedding our fears and increasing our trust. Focus on the present moment. Do not let the past weigh you down, and do not live in dread about the future. Now is the only time you can enjoy life. “The secret of happiness and sanctity rests in our fidelity to the deity of the present moment,” said the French Jesuit spiritual master, John-Pierre de Caussaude.

Additional Christmas Poinsettia

--In Memory of the Wilson and Hodulik Families by Judy Wilson

Divine Liturgy Schedule

This Weekend, December 24-25: Christmas

Saturday, December 24

At 4:00 p.m.: Christmas Children Mass (Choir will sing)

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

✠ Deceased of the Saseen and Schlog Families (Anniversary) by Bob & Fran Saseen

At 10:00 p.m.: Christmas Midnight Mass (Choir will sing)

✠ Joseph Linton (5th Anniversary) by his sons Steve & Mike

Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m.: Christmas Day Mass (Choir will sing)

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

✠ Bill Daniel by Steve & Mary Lish

Weekday Masses

Monday, December 26: No Daily Mass. Msgr. Bakhos Day Off

Tuesday, December 27, at 12:05 p.m.: Martyrdom of Saint Stephen

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

✠ Special Intention of all the Benefactor of Msgr. Bakhos & the church

Wednesday, December 28, at 12:05 p.m.: Visit of the Magi

✠ Special Intention of all the Benefactor of Msgr. Bakhos & the church

Thursday, December 29, at 12:05 p.m.: The Flight into Egypt

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

✠ Special Intention of all the Benefactor of Msgr. Bakhos & the church

Friday, December 30: No Daily Mass. Msgr. Bakhos Day of Vacation

Next Weekend, December 31-January 1, 2017

Saturday, December 31 at 4:00 p.m.: New Year Eve Mass (No Midnight Mass)

✠ Marca (Gaudio) Reinkel by Shirley Bine

✠ Special Intention

Sunday, January 1 at 10:00 a.m.: New Year Day Mass. Circumcision of the Lord Jesus

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

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

Calendar of Parish Events

Removing Christmas Decoration

On Wednesday, January 4th, starting at 9:00 a.m. the parishioners are removing the Christmas decoration from the church and the Cedar Hall. If you have time please join them. Many Thanks.

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

Please Remember Those Hospitalized Recently in Your Prayers

John Shiben, Bill Dougherty, Barb Sobota, Joe McCutcheon, Ray Palotay

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

Regina Hancher, Joe Simon, Eileen Simon, 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

\$1,522.00	Sunday Collection
240.00	Bulletin ads
700.00	Donation to the church
25.00	Christmas Poinsettias
30.00	Parking
610.00	Utilities
30.00	Donation to Poor Families
\$3,157.00	Total Deposits: <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i>

What's New?

--2016 Average Monthly Utilities expenses of our church

Average monthly Electricity	\$793.75
Average monthly Gas	\$435.42
Average monthly Water	\$117.77
Total Monthly expenses	\$1,346.94

Thank You For Your Time

To: Nini Miller, Earl Duffy, Tommi Geimer, Ryan Murad, Rhonda Murad, Jay Murad, Liz Murad, and the young hands of Ava Murad.

Thanks to the volunteers for their faithful monthly work in keeping our home of worship clean and tidy.
Linda Duffy

--2016 Tax Income Statements

According to IRS regulations, all parishioners, who donated in 2016, \$250.00 and over to the church will receive around mid January 2017 a church statement to be used for their tax deduction. In the statement every check number and the amount and the date will be shown. The church will not mail statement to those who donated less than \$250.00 throughout the year unless they request it from Msgr. Bakhos. Thanks for all the benefactors of our church and may God reward you many folds. Remember that you are the blessed hands of the Lord.

Choir Members Needed

Our choir needs more voices. Please see Lou, Robert, Shelly or Mickey if you can help. Talents are not required, just a willingness to sing. By chanting the Mass we help the parishioners to pray twice.

Wisdom: Count your blessings

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following:

There would be:

57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south, 8 would be Africans. 52 would be female, 48 would be male. 70 would be non-white, 30 would be white. 70 would be non-Christian, 30 would be Christian. 6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the United States. 80 would live in substandard housing, 70 would be unable to read, 50 would suffer from malnutrition. 1 would be near death; 1 would be near birth; 1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education; 1 (yes, only 1) would own computer.

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.

And, therefore . . .

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If your parents are still alive and still married, you are very rare, even in the United States.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them, or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer healing touch.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can read this message, you have just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you, and furthermore, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

As you read this and are reminded how life is in the rest of the world, remember just how blessed you really are!