

January 1, 2017

Bulletin #1

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

Rectory: 304-233-1688 • Fax: 304-233-4714

E-Mail: ololwv@comcast.net • Web Site: www.ololwv.com

Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Evelyn Ghaphery, Organist



New Year 2017

- ***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

New Year 2017

Readings: Eph 2:1-11 and Jn 14:27-31

As we move toward our future with God, we struggle to be faithful to what was handed on to us from the past. We cannot do this on our own. We need the vision of those who stood closest to Jesus. We need the Spirit to guide and direct our decisions and judgments. We need the entire people of God: priests and lay people alike to work to bring about God's reign. With Christ in our midst, we have a light to guide us on our way.

Jesus promised to dwell forever with those who live in love and fidelity to his word, but he did not leave a blueprint as to how this would be done. Though he is removed from our sight, we must not be distressed. We are at peace, for we have another "Advocate, the Holy Spirit" (Jn 14:26a), whom God has sent in Christ's name. The Spirit will teach us everything and remind us of all that Christ has said. When we struggle to comprehend the lessons of the past, we can say with the apostles, "It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" (Acts 15:28a). Led by the Spirit, we will continue to celebrate the living Christ among us.

New Year Resolutions

New Year's Day is the time for resolutions. It's the time when we resolve to make changes so that things will not be as they were before. So, in this tradition, I would like to suggest three resolutions for a happy and blessed New Year. I call them "Pull back," "Pick up," and "Put down."

First: Pull back.

Dr. Gerald Jampolsky wrote a book a few years ago entitled, *Love Is Letting Go of Fear*. In that book he asks this question: "Have you ever given yourself the opportunity of going through just one day concentrating on totally accepting everyone and making no judgments?" He goes on to say, "Everything we think or say reacts on us like a boomerang. When we send out judgment, in the form of criticism, fury, or other attack-thoughts, they come back to us. When we send out only love, it comes back to us."

So I suggest this. Try this once a month: for one day, suspend all judgments. Spend one day of acceptance. Pull back from judging, and just look and accept. See the difference it makes in your life. Pull back.

Second: Pick up.

Pick up on what others have started. Some of you have known losses. You've lost spouses, you've lost children, you've lost relationships, you've lost health, you've lost equilibrium. You name it -there are losses scattered all over the landscape. But you have your choice about these losses. Your choice is either to turn in on yourself and forever cry "woe is me," or you can pick up on those who turn tragedy into discipleship. Remember the story of a little Japanese girl who was one of those kids who was caught in the bombing of Hiroshima, and who saw her mother and father and her family destroyed before her; and she herself had severe radiation burns.

She was in a hospital, fundamentally waiting to die, and she knew she didn't have long. But instead of bemoaning the tragedy, she said: "This can never happen again to people. People can't be this cruel to one another. So each day I'm going to cut out and make a white crane, and I'm going to send it to somebody and ask them to be a disciple for peace." Well, she did that every day for 683 days and then she died. And those who knew this little girl had their choice. They could be so outraged over the bombings that they'd be consumed by a desire to go out and bomb the rest of the world in revenge, or they could pick up on what she started, and they did. And so they made a 684th white crane, and a 685th, and so on ad infinitum, and those white cranes still go throughout the world saying that life can be better.

Instead of getting angry and blowing up the world, do something to make life better: say "no" to drugs, say "no" to sexual promiscuity. Instead of only being angry at drunk drivers, join M.A.D.D., Mothers Against Drunk Driving. There are homeless people to house, there are hungry people to feed. There are cranes to be cut out and sent. It's a good resolution, isn't it? Pick up on what others have done. Continue the decent people's love and spirit which will turn the world around.

Third: Put down.

Put down last year's garbage. A woman relates this story: I was telling my new workplace friend, Alice, about how awful my former boss had been, when she laughed and said, "So forget him. Why not just enjoy it here?" Then she went on to tell me a little story about herself.

I'm reminded of the time I moved a few years ago, she began. I was making enough money to have a professional mover pack for me, and when he asked what I wanted him to pack, I just waved my arm and said "Everything!" So when I got to my new place, I saw that he had taken me literally. Along with my furniture he had packed up all my trash bins as well, and there I was in my beautiful new place with all my old garbage, including old newspapers, empty ketchup bottles, and grapefruit peels!

It's a little story, all right, but it packs a big meaning. You have a beautiful New Year ahead of you. Leave the emotional garbage behind.

So, there you are. Three succinct New Year's resolutions: Pull back. Pick up. Put down. Pull back from judgment. Pick up on the positive. Put down the emotional garbage. That should make for a Happy New Year.

New Year: Prayer for peace

O Lord, the God of peace, You who have created men and shown them Your benevolence, so that they might share as sons in Your glory, we bless You and we give You thanks, because You have sent us Jesus, Your well-beloved Son, and, through the mystery of His resurrection, You have made Him the worker of all salvation, the source of all peace, the bond of all brotherhood.

We give You thanks for the desires, the efforts, the achievements stirred up by Your spirit of peace in our time, to replace hate by love, mistrust by understanding, indifference by reliance on each other. Open our minds and our hearts ever wider to the real demands of the love of all our brothers so that we may become peacemakers more completely. Remember, O Father of mercy, all those who struggle, suffer and die, to bring forth a world of closer brotherhood. May Your kingdom of justice, of peace and of love, come to men of every race and every tongue and may the earth be filled with Your glory. Amen. (Pope Paul VI)

Divine Liturgy Schedule

This 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 10:30 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

Weekday Masses

Monday, January 2: No Daily Mass. Msgr. Bakhos Day Off

Tuesday, January 3, at 12:05 p.m.:

✠ Nicholas Abraham Ghaphery Sr.

Wednesday, January 4, 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, January 5, at 12:05 p.m.:

✠ Intention of the persecuted Christians in the Middle East by Pam Lantz

Friday, January 6 at 12:05 p.m.: Epiphany of our Lord. Blessing of the Holy Water

✠ Intentions of the Benefactors of Msgr Bakhos and the church

Next Weekend, January 7-8: First Sunday of Epiphany

Saturday, January 7

At 3:30 p.m.: Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament**At 4:00 p.m.:**

✠ Special Intention

Sunday, January 8 at 10:30 a.m.: Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass

✠ Josephine Condelli (Birthday) by Sylvia Long

✠ Shirley Dietz (Anniversary) by Sandra Dusick

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 Shibben, 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

\$2,997.00	Sunday Collection
81.00	Candles
2,100.00	Donation to the church
100.00	Mahrajan
210.00	Parking
70.00	Utilities
200.00	Donation to Poor Families
\$5,758.00	Total Deposits: <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i>

What's New?***2016 Tax Income Statements***

According to IRS regulations, all parishioners, who donated in 2016, the amount of \$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 parishioners to pray twice.

Reflections: Every Time a Bell Rings

Sometimes bells ring loudly and clearly, while at other times they ring softly and delicately. Do you stop to listen to the innuendos, or do the sounds of bells become an accepted background for living?

As I sat in my sunroom on a beautiful, frosty morning enjoying the peace, my solar chimes began to ring, reminding me that the sun was shining. I felt happy and thought about the importance of bells through the ages and their meaning to us now as they bring joy and inspiration to our lives.

Before the common person could read or write, people relied on village bells to convey important messages. They were signals to those working in the fields that it was time to eat or end their day's work. Vendors used bells to announce their arrival in towns to sell their wares, and bells also called children to school. In some rural areas, bells are still attached to animals' necks by herders so that those who stray can be found.

Bells remind us of time and of those things that are timeless, universal, and eternal. Clocks chime the hours of the day. Alarm clocks jar us from a good night's sleep, telling us to wake up and greet the new day with optimism. Doorbells can be exciting sounds as we greet family and friends. Dinner bells remind us that it's time to gather for refreshment and to count our many blessings.

Bells call us to worship and toll when someone dies. Wind chimes remind us to pay attention to the air around us that is the breath of life. The Liberty Bell is a reminder to cherish our precious freedom. Singing bowls from Tibet can be a call to meditate and attune to the great vibrations of the universe. Bell choirs bring joy to the spirit through the eternal medium of music.

Perhaps the most important message of the bell is that it is asking us if we know what time it is. Are we in the morning, noon, or evening of our lives? We can be truly alive and excited and look forward to making the most of each new day.

In the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*, when a tiny bell on the Christmas tree rings, the little girl tells her father, "Teacher says that every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings."

Listen to the pulsating bell in your heart that awakens the angel in each of us. Spread your wings, and let your spirit ring!