

December 9, 2018

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

We celebrate Eucharist and evangelize via Catholic doctrine.



Birth of St. 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 and Friday No Mass
Tuesday thru Thursday at 12:05 p.m. [*Rosary 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, Lou Khourey, Robert Harris, Shelly Hancher, Ted Olinski, Natalie Horner
- ***Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer
- ***Sacristan:** Mike Linton
- ***Altar Boys:** Dalton Haas, Shaun Hancher, Christopher AlKhouri & Luke Lenz
- ***Cedar Club:** Linda Duffy, President
- ***Women's Society:** Carol Dougherty, 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
- ***Cedar Hall Rental Fees:** Call the Church Office at 304-233-1688 or 304-639-1372
- ***Parking adjacent to church** is for parishioners and visitors all the time.
- ***Remember the Church in your Last Will & Testament:** Her prayers will accompany you to heaven

Birth of St. John the Baptist

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

Today's Gospel contains two interesting points both connected intimately to the naming of this new baby. "***He is to be called John***", says his mother Elizabeth. But how did she know that? Her husband, having spoken not a word in months, could not have told her. Women being illiterate in those times, he could not have written the name for her. Scripture does not record Elizabeth having been visited by an angel who told her. But she knew.

The other is: once Zechariah confirmed his wife's response in writing - "***His name is John***"- his tongue was loosed. Why, or why then? He at once praised God. But wouldn't he have that if he'd been allowed to speak earlier? In fact, wasn't he already doing that without speaking?

As we ponder these points, we can readily understand why "***Fear came over all their neighbors***", and all wondered what would become of the child named John, because "***Indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.***"

Christmas Poinsettias 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.

These Poinsettias were donated in Memory of:

- ☼ *Louis N. & Louis H. Khourey, Sr. & Gladys Howard by Lou and Charlotte Khourey and Family*
- ☼ *In honor of Tom & Denise Ferris and in Memory of Mary K. Ferris*
- ☼ *LaVerne Thomas and Evelyn Hall by Dr Adel, Diane, Andreah & Justin Frenn*
- ☼ *Elias & Siham Frenn by Dr Adel, Diane, Andreah & Justin Frenn*
- ☼ *The Rohana and Rahi Families by Alicia Peklinsky*
- ☼ *Don & Emily Vince and Patricia Gompers by Matt & Vicki Gompers*
- ☼ *Bob Sengewalt by the Sengewalt Family*
- ☼ *For a "Special Intention" by A Friend*
- ☼ *Bill and Mary Daniel by Rebecca & Michael DiFabrizio*
- ☼ *Suzanne Linton by husband Mike*
- ☼ *Frances & Joseph Linton by sons Steve & Mike*
- ☼ *The deceased of our parish by Steve & Mike Linton*
- ☼ *Msgr. Bakhos' parents Adib & Sadie, his sister Mona & his brother Nadim by Steve & Mike Linton*
- ☼ *Rick Frazier by his wife Luane*
- ☼ *The Saseen and Schlog Families by M.F.Saseen and sons*
- ☼ *The Habdo and Dougherty Families by Carol & Bill Dougherty*
- ☼ *Ralph and Mary J. Shipley and Robby Hunter by Thomasina Geimer*
- ☼ *In honor of Dr. Alkhouri and his Family*
- ☼ *Shirley Elias Nickerson and Nicholas & Amelia Elias, aunts: Mary, Jean, Helen, Margaret, Rosie & Madeline by their Family Tammy, Robbie, Don, Lori, Emma & Elijah*
- ☼ *Danny & Milly Manners by their daughter Nini Miller*
- ☼ *Nimon and Miriam Joseph Family by the Weisner and Joseph Families*
- ☼ *Deceased of the Thomas Moses, Kenneth DeMuth and Stephen Rushkevich by Sandra DeMuth*
- ☼

Divine Liturgy Schedule

***This Weekend, Dec. 8-9: The Immaculate Conception
Birth of St. John the Baptist***

**Saturday December 8: Immaculate Conception
at 3:30 p.m.: Christmas Novena**

at 4:00 p.m.: Mass

- ✠ Living & Deceased members of the Nicholas & Nimnoom Ghaphery Family & the David Abraham Ghaphery Family
- ✠ Sharlet Purpura by Millet & Susie Fadoul
- ✠ Special Intention

Sunday, December 9: Birth of St. John the Baptist**at 10:00 a.m.: Christmas Novena****at 10:30 a.m.: Mass**

- ✠ Dale Seidler Sr. by his wife Nettie and Family
- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by his wife Sally

Weekdays Masses**Monday December 10:** No Mass. Pastor's Day off**Tuesday December 11:** No Mass. Pastor's day of vacation**Wednesday December 12 at 12:05 p.m.:**

- ✠ Bob Sengewalt (Anniversary) by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- ✠ Mother of Jocelyn Chahine (Mahasen Kazour) by Mary Thomas

Thursday November 13 at 12:05 p.m.:

- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her Will

Friday, December 14: No Mass. Pastor's Day off***Next Weekend, Dec. 15-16: Revelation to St. Joseph*****Saturday December 15:****at 3:30 p.m.: Christmas Novena****at 4:00 p.m.: Mass**

- ✠ Peter & Emma Peters
- ✠ Rita & Fred John
- ✠ Lottie Elwartoski (Birthday) by her son Richard

Sunday, December 16:**at 10:00 a.m.: Christmas Novena****at 10:30 a.m.: Mass**

- ✠ Intentions of Steve Linton (Birthday) by his brother Mike Linton
- ✠ Mother of Jocelyn Chahine (Mahasen Kazour) by Bill & Carol Dougherty

Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule**Monday, December 24:**4:00 p.m.: **Christmas Children Mass** (Choir will sing)10:00 p.m.: **Christmas Midnight Mass** (Choir will sing)**Tuesday, December 25: (Christmas is a Day of Obligation)**10:30 a.m.: **Christmas Day Morning Mass** (No Choir)**Monday, December 31st:**4:00 p.m.: **New Year's Eve Mass** (No Midnight Mass)**Tuesday, January 1, 2019: (New Year is a Day of Obligation)**10:30 a.m.: **New Year's Day Morning Mass*****Calendar of Parish Events***

<p>Christmas Party <i>Sunday, Dec.9th</i></p>	<p>--December 9: Those who attend the Christmas Party will receive 2 beverage coupons which can be used to select wine, beer or pop. We wish to thank Rex & Rita Strawn for the donation of wine for our Christmas Party. Each person can choose to use 1 or 2 of their complimentary beverage tickets to enjoy a glass of wine.</p> <p>--If anyone else would like to donate some pop or beer, please contact Carol Dougherty so she can let you know the quantity needed.</p> <p>All Women's Society members are asked to bring a donated item for the Christmas Basket as soon as possible. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to seeing you all at the party.</p>
<p>Christmas Party Program <i>Sunday, Dec.9th</i></p>	<p>4:00 p.m.: Doors open 5:00 p.m.: Buffet Dinner catered by Ye Olde Alpha Restaurant, Wheeling Menu : Grilled sirloin of beef and lemon chicken, mixed greens salad and cranberry salad, roasted red potatoes, grilled mixed vegetables, bread and Honey Butter, and brownies and cookies for dessert. Two free beverages. Live Entertainment by DJ Jim Laurine after Dinner. Cost: \$20.00</p>
<p>Children Santa Party <i>Sunday, Dec. 16th</i></p>	<p>The Women's Society welcomes the children of OLOL Church to visit with Santa in the Cedar Hall immediately following Mass. Santa will give each child a treat and a light snack. Please plan to come and bring all the children of our parish. (All Women's Society members are asked to bring a bag of candy to be divided for the children .)</p>
<p>Hall Rental</p>	<p><i>Saturday, December 22nd (5-9 p.m.</i></p>
<p>Christmas Basket Drawing, Dec. 23rd.</p>	<p><i>The Christmas Basket Drawing will be held on Sunday, December 23rd.</i></p>
<p>Msgr. Bakhos 27th Anniversary <i>Sunday, Dec 23rd</i></p>	<p>On Sunday December 23, the Women's Society invites you to join them following Mass to celebrate Msgr. Bakhos 27th Anniversary to the Priesthood. Cake will be served to celebrate the occasion.</p>

Birthdays' Wishes in the Coming Month:

December 12: Lou Khourey
December 19: Chris Wakim
December 22: Millet C. Fadoul
December 24: Paula Moses Neavin
December 25: Shelly Hancher
December 27: Luke Lenz, Jay Murad
December 29: Jeff Bentz
January 1: Nancy Joseph
January 3: Rosemary Coury
January 6: Gina Stees
January 7: Jacob Fadoul Wilson

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)
Robert A. Nader, (uncle of Lou Khourey), Joe Simon, Jim McGlumphy, Patty Fahey, Phil Geimer, Bill Dougherty, John Frazier (son of Luane Frazier), Austin Strawn (grandson of Rex Strawn), Debbie Crumpler

(sister of Nini Miller), Shirley & Jim George, Justin Frenn, Sandra Dusick, John Shibben, Diane Palotay, Jim Thomas (father of Diane Frenn), Mike O’Kane (brother-in-law of Nikki Popovich)

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$1,851.00	Sunday Collection
327.00	2 nd collection
360.00	Bulletin ads
15.00	Candles
21.00	Coffee Hour
380.00	Christmas Dinner Dance
1,100.00	Donation to church
20.00	Christmas Poinsettias
50.00	Hall rental
60.00	Parking
30.00	Donation to the poor
\$4,214.00	Total Deposits: <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i> The Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Mary Stees, Linda Duffy & Mike Linton

What’s New?

Many Thanks

To all the ladies and gentlemen who decorated for the Christmas Party and the church and lobby. It is so beautiful.

Mamool Molds for sale

Dear Ladies of the church,

If you need 4-shape Mamool Mold like those used in the kitchen please put your order with Msgr Bakhos. Cost \$15.00 each.

Christmas Novena *(All Saturdays and Sundays before Christmas ½ hour before Mass)*

Christmas Novena will replace the Rosary and Litany on all Saturdays and Sundays during December until Christmas. It is a good way to prepare ourselves spiritually to the coming of our Lord. Please come early half hour early and attend the beautiful prayers and Benediction of the Novena.

Holiday Food Barrell *(Now thru December 18th, 2018)*

Please bring items for the needy of our Parish and put them in the Holiday Barrell placed at the entrance of the church. As soon as we can fill few boxes of food, it will be distributed to needy people on your behalf. Please be the Santa Clause this year and instill a Christmas Joy in the hearts of the less fortunate among us.

Pita Bread and other items for Sale at the Church:

There are 8 frozen packages of large pita bread available. Also Burghol #1 and #2 are available. Please see Mike Linton or one of the Ladies of our church to purchase some.



Christmas Story

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past 10 years or so.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas---oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it... overspending...the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma---the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike.

The inspiration came in an unusual way. Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was wrestling at the junior level at the school he attended; and shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church, mostly black. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford. Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. And as each of their boys got up from the mat, he swaggered around in his tatters with false bravado, a kind of street pride that couldn't acknowledge defeat.

Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, 'I wish just one of them could have won,' he said. 'They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them.'

Mike loved kids--all kids--and he knew them, having coached little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came. That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church.

On Christmas Eve, I placed the envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done and that this was his gift from me. His smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year and in succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition---one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on. The envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning and our children, ignoring their new toys, would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents.

As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the envelope never lost its allure. The story doesn't end there.

You see, we lost Mike last year. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree, and in the morning, it was joined by three more.

Each of our children, unbeknownst to the others, had placed an envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing around the tree with wide-eyed anticipation watching as their fathers take down the envelope. Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit, will always be with us.

May we all remember Christ, and 'give' in a Christ-like manner. After all, he is the reason for the season, and the true 'Christmas spirit' this year and always.

God bless

A Time to Laugh (388)

West Virginia

Because of our mountains, we have rivers. The oldest river in the Western Hemisphere, the New River (quite appropriately named, don't you think) ends in West Virginia. We have the Gauley River, which confluence's with the New River in a magnificent cascade to form the Kanawha River, which in turn flows through the center of the state, and directly through the capital city of Charleston, the largest city in West Virginia. These rivers in addition to the Cheat, Blackwater, Tygart, Monon! gahela, Ohio and countless others offer tremendous recreational opportunities.

The tallest building in Charleston is barely 25 floors tall, which, if you think about it, is a plus; how could you possibly build a skyscraper more beautiful than a mountain?

The capital city stretches throughout the long river valley encompassing both hill and dale.

The Charleston airport, the largest in the state, sits on top of a mountain. The crime rate in Charleston, including the entire population of the Kanawha Valley (around 200,000), reflects that of the entire state, the lowest in America. No more than a handful of murders are committed each year.

Charleston has no subway systems, but truth be known, you can get from one end of town to the other, even in rush hour traffic, in less than ten minutes.

There are three major interstate systems going through Charleston, the smallest city in America to make such a claim.

The entire state has six different interstate systems, meaning, from Charleston, you can reach Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Louisville or Charlotte in four hours or less....

Ah, but once you leave the interstates, the drive becomes a thing of wonder. Two lane roads, winding up and down the mountains, offer amazing views and historic places, small towns, poor in wealth but rich in history. West Virginia is the birthplace of Mother's Day, in Grafton; and Father's Day, in Fairmont.

We have the oldest covered bridge still in use. We have walnut festivals. strawberry festivals, apple festivals and pumpkin festivals and buckwheat festivals, and arts and crafts fairs and stern wheel regattas and ramp dinners.

We have Bridge Day, on the New River Gorge bridge over 800 feet above the New River; the only standing structure in the United States that, one day a year, allows parachuting and bungee jumping.

We have college basketball, and minor league baseball and hockey, and, just like all of America, Friday night high school football.

We have white water rafting, and skiing, and hiking, and caves, and waterfalls, and camping in every direction.

We have Sundays where a leisurely drive in the car can take eight hours, and only cover 100 miles.

We have bed and breakfasts, and resorts, and golf courses, and museums, and the Greenbrier Hotel. West Virginia has more natural beauty and wonder than any person could ever imagine.

We have all of this, and yet our greatest asset is our people.

West Virginians are good people. We care about each other. We talk to our neighbors over the backyard fence.

We grow tomatoes for the entire neighborhood.

We turn around in each other's driveways, and yell "howdy" when we do.

We sit on the porch on warm summer evenings, listening to crickets, and watching kids catch fireflies.

We loan a hammer, or a cup of sugar. We don't take two-hour lunches, but we do spend a few minutes each day with a cup of coffee, and our feet up on our desk, shooting the breeze.

We rarely get in a hurry. We have relatives just down the street. We don't just loan someone a socket wrench, we help them fix their car.

We share recipes, and gardening tips, and our last cup of coffee. We baby sit each other's kids, we house sit each other's dogs while we're on vacation, and we loan each other our cars if we have to get to the drugstore.

We ask each other if we need anything as we're going to the market.

We celebrate each of her accomplishments, and we cry over each other's disappointments.

We are a friendly folk. We are West Virginians.

Mountaineers are always free. Free to take the time to enjoy life, and hold each moment in our hearts, forever.