

November 29, 2020

Bulletin #48

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

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

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Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Organist



Mary visits Elizabeth

***Weekend Masses:**

Saturday at 4:00 p.m. [Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass]

Sunday at 10:30 a.m. [Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass]

***Weekday Masses:**

Tuesday and Thursday at 12:05 p.m. [Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass]

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday No Mass. Pastor's office work.

***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 Kourey, Rita Strawn, Mary Stees, Susan (John) Burns

***Choir Members:**

Lou Kourey, Robert Harris, Joe Simon, Shelly Hancher, Ted Olinski, Holly Porter

***Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer

***Altar Servers:**

Earl Duffy, Dalton Haas

***Altar Boys:**

Shaun Hancher, Christopher AlKhouri

***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

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

Mary visits Elizabeth

Readings: Eph 1:1-14 and Lk 1:39-45

“Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.”

A seemingly minor event is so filled with meaning for us. The angel told Mary of her cousin’s conception. And Mary, setting aside all the concerns that her own pregnancy brought into her life and the life of others dear and near to her, immediately -”with haste”- made the long and difficult journey into the hill country. Her concern was all for her aged cousin. And because she had said a complete “YES” to God and was indeed filled with God himself, her very presence brought such blessings that her little cousin began to dance in his mother’s womb.

At the same time, Mary herself received great blessings in this visit. Her cousin, with prophetic insight, was able to confirm all that the angel had said to her. The two women found in each other one who could be fully with her in the wondrous experience they were each going through. For us, this event is a wonderful promise, a sacramental witness to the role of Mary in our lives and in the lives of all in need. She will come, bearing her Son. The Spirit will be poured out. And in this light we will understand far better and know more fully the joy of our mission in God’s Slavic plan. In the liturgical mystery of the season, Jesus is now hidden again in the womb of Mary. Let us welcome them into our lives this day that they may bring us the joy of Advent and prepare us for the even greater joys of Christmas.

Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Mary. Bring your Son into my life.

This Weekend, November 28-29: Mary visits Elizabeth

Saturday, November 28 at 4:00 p.m.:

- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Dengewalt
- ✠ Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock Jr.
- ✠ Special Intention

Sunday, November 29 at 10:30 a.m.:

- ✠ Khalil & Sadie & Maria Harb and Annette & Al Togliatti by Jamil Harb (Troy, MI) and GiGi
- ✠ Bill Dougherty by his wife Carol
- ✠ Mike Linton by Lou & Charlotte Khourey

Weekdays Masses

Monday, November 30: No Mass. Pastor’s day off

Tuesday, December 1 at 12:05 p.m.:

- ✠ Isabel Ferris Wolfe (Annversary) by Mary Zaid Stees and Libby G. Magnone
- ✠ Khalil & Sadie & Maria Harb and Annette & Al Togliatti by Jamil Harb (Troy, MI) and GiGi
- ✠ Deceased Family Members of Rosella Saseen and Sylvia Long by their last will

Wednesday, December 2: No Mass

Thursday, December 3 at 12:05 p.m.:

- ✠ Cathy Sharp Howard (Birthday) by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- ✠ George Weisner by Kenny & Nancy Joseph
- ✠ Mike Linton by Libby Magnone

Friday, December 4: No Mass

Next Weekend, December 5-6: Birth of John the Baptist

Saturday, December 5 at 4:00 p.m.:

- ✠ Jean Bentz and Billy Bentz (Birthday) by Millet & Susie Fadoul
- ✠ Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock Jr.
- ✠ Special Intention

Sunday, December 6 at 10:30 a.m.:

- ✠ Siham Frenn (Anniversary) by Dr Adel, Diane, Andreah & Zack and Justin
- ✠ Living & Deceased members of the Nicholas & Nimnoom Ghaphery Family and the David Abraham Ghaphery Family
- ✠ Bill Dougherty by his wife Carol

Calendar of Events

Christmas Basket & 50/50	Drawing: Sunday, December 20, 2020 after Mass
Bulletin ad renewal	Please renew your ad at the back of the bulletin by sending your payment

The Most Beautiful T-Shirts

T-shirts have arrived and are on-sale now while supplies last. Priced at \$20 each, the proceeds will support our church. The shirt illustrates an electrocardiogram (EKG) with heart and Cedar Tree. *"My heart beats for Lebanon"*. The shirt is made of premium cotton fabric and is very stylish. Sizes include: S, M, L, XL, 2X and 3X. Shirts will be available for purchase and pickup before or after mass on Sunday, or call Susan at 304-218-3028. The shirt makes a wonderful Christmas gift!

Christmas Poinsettias in Memory of:

- ✠ Leslie McGlumphy by Jerry McGlumphy & Children
- ✠ Bill Dougherty by his wife Carol
- ✠ *Mary K. & Thomas Ferris by Denise Ferris*
- ✠ *Patricia Gompers by Matt & Vickie Gompers*
- ✠ *Don & Emilie Vince by Matt & Vickie Gompers*
- ✠ *Louis N. & Louis H. Khourey, Sr. & Gladys Howard by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family*
- ✠ *Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt and Family*
- ✠ *Silvio Perilli by the Perilli Family*
- ✠ *The Habdo Family by Carol Dougherty*
- ✠ *George & Martha Saseen by George & Susan Saseen & Children*
- ✠ *Ralph & Mary J. Shipley & Selma Joseph & Deceased Family by Thomasina*
- ✠ *Robert Hunter Jr. & Robby Hunter III by Thomasina*
- ✠ *In honor of Kenny & Nancy Joseph*
- ✠ *George Weisner by Jean Weisner & Family*
- ✠ *Deceased of the Saseen & Schlog Families by Fran Saseen*
- ✠ *Deceased family of Elias & Selma Joseph by Mark & Barb McLaughlin*
- ✠ *Deceased family of Ray & Sara McLaughlin by Mark & Barb McLaughlin*
- ✠
- ✠

Christmas Basket & 50/50 Raffle

Dear parishioners and friends,

A Christmas Gift Basket and a 50/50 Raffle will be your Christmas gift this year. You will receive letters by mail. The Christmas Basket includes these precious items:

- 8 cloth Christmas napkins, red with silver accents;
- 3 kitchen towels, 1 Christmas, 2 red;
- 2 red & white striped oven mitts;
- A box of Belgium truffles;
- A box of assorted pralines;
- A box of peppermint bark.

Other items will be added to the basket. Good luck

Christmas 50/50 Winner Prize:	\$633.00 cash. Good Luck. Drawing on Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020
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Lower your 2020 Income Tax Bill

Dear Parishioners and benefactors,

The CARES Act passed by Congress a few months ago has certain tax benefits for Parishioners who choose to donate to their Churches. This will help to benefit all Parishioners who make their end of year charitable giving decisions. The Act allows a personal tax deduction of \$300.00 in charitable contributions, even to those who do not itemize. A more important and substantial benefit of the Act, is that Parishioners can deduct 100% of their charitable contributions from their adjusted gross income. In years past, the most one could deduct was 60%. This means that every Dollar the parishioners give to their Church can be fully written off on their taxes.

One way to lower your income tax bill for this year is to make charitable contributions, which can be deducted from your income if you are planning to itemize your deductions when you file your 2020 income tax. Gifts you make to charities, such as **Our Lady of Lebanon Church**, are tax deductible. But in order for you to claim the deduction on your tax return for **2020**, you must make the gift this year. That is important to keep in mind if you are planning on making a year-end gift. For example, if you are going to give money using a check, be sure the date on the check is on or before December 31st, 2020. Also, be sure to give the check to the church on or before that date. The IRS requires that you have a letter or receipt from the church that received the gift. By the **end of January 2021** all donors will receive a statement from **the Church** stating their names and the amount of gift received –through checks or weekly offering envelopes- from **January 1st, 2020 until December 31st, 2020**. It is wise to keep the church statement with your tax records, in case the IRS questions your itemized deductions.

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:

December 3:	Joey John
December 7:	Christina Committee Zdilla
December 12:	Lou Khourey
December 19:	Chris Wakim
December 21:	Millet C. Faddoul Jr.
December 22:	Millet C. Fadoul
December 25:	Shelly Hancher
December 27:	Luke Lenz, Jay Murad
December 29:	Jeff Bentz

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)

Hailey John (granddaughter of Marge John, Louis “Butch” Elias, Dennis Porter, Mary Thomas, Jack Hogan (infant son of Mark & Michaela Hogan & great nephew of Lou Khourey), Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, John Shiben, Laura Lee Hunter, Al Depto, Don Henning, Shirley & Jim George, Patty Fahey, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter), Mary Jo Terry, Barbara Hostage, Phil Geimer,

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$1,322.00	Sunday Collection
20.00	Bake sale
150.00	Donation to the church
215.00	Christmas Basket and 50/50 raffle
110.00	Christmas poinsettias

\$1,817.00

Total Deposits: *May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!*
 The Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Mary Stees, Linda Duffy, Susan Burns

What's New

No Choir because of COVID-19

Due to the recent increasing number of covid-19 in Ohio and Marshall counties and according to the directives of our Diocese, Msgr. Bakhos and the choir organist and members decided to put the choir on hold for a while until it is safe for all who are singing in the choir loft. We will miss the beautiful sound of the choir but it is better to be safe than sorry.

Many Thanks

--To the dedicated and responsible parishioners who sanitized the pews and every possible touched items on the way to Mass. May God reward you abundantly.

--To those of you who are wearing Masks properly at all times that you are inside Our Lady of Lebanon Church Building. This is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other flu & bacteria. Please note that your Nose & Mouth are to be covered at ALL times – especially when you are within 6 feet of another person.

Spirituality: The 15 Curia Ailments of Pope Francis

- 1- Feeling immortal, immune, indispensable,
- 2- Working too hard,
- 3- Spiritually, mentally hardened,
- 4- Planning too much,
- 5- No coordination,
- 6- “spiritual Alzheimer’s” (*forgotten Lord, here and now, passions, whims and manias, build walls, enslaved to idols*)
- 7- Being rivals or boastful,
- 8- “existential schizophrenia” (*double life, spiritual emptiness, only bureaucratic work, losing contact with reality and people*)
- 9- “terrorism of gossip”,
- 10- Glorifying bosses (*court superiors, careerism and opportunism*)
- 11- Indifferent to others (*joy in other’s fall, not helping*)
- 12- “funeral face” (*theatrical severity, pessimism*)
- 13- Wanting more,
- 14- Forming closed circles,
- 15- Seeking worldly profit and showing off (*multiply powers, discrediting others, show selves more capable than others.*)

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: God will find you

(Rev. John Powell, a professor at Loyola University in Chicago writes about a student in his Theology of Faith class named Tommy.)

Some twelve years ago, I stood watching my university students' file into the classroom for our first session in the Theology of Faith. That was the day I first saw Tommy. My eyes and my mind both blinked.

He was combing his long flaxen hair, which hung six inches below his shoulders. It was the first time I had ever seen a boy with hair that long. I guess it was just coming into fashion then. I know in my mind that it isn't what's on your head but what's in it that counts; but on that day, I was unprepared and my emotions flipped. I immediately filed Tommy under "S" for strange ... very strange.

Tommy turned out to be the "atheist in residence" in my Theology of Faith course. He constantly objected to, smirked at, or whined about the possibility of an unconditionally loving Father/God. We lived with each other in relative peace for one semester, although I admit he was for me at times a serious pain in the back pew.

When he came up at the end of the course to turn in his final exam, he asked in a cynical tone, "Do you think I'll ever find God?"

I decided instantly on a little shock therapy. "No!" I said very emphatically. Why not?" he responded, "I thought that was the product you were pushing."

I let him get five steps from the classroom door and then called out, "Tommy! I don't think you'll ever find Him, but I am absolutely certain that He will find you!" He shrugged a little and left my class and my life.

I felt slightly disappointed at the thought that he had missed my clever line "He will find you! At least I thought it was clever.

Later I heard that Tommy had graduated and I was duly grateful. Then a sad report came. I heard that Tommy had terminal cancer. Before I could search him out, he came to see me. When he walked into my office, his body was very badly wasted and the long hair had all fallen out as a result of chemotherapy. But his eyes were bright and his voice was firm, for the first time, I believe "Tommy, I've thought about you so often. I hear you are sick," I blurted out.

"Oh, yes, very sick. I have cancer in both lungs. It's a matter of weeks."

"Can you talk about it, Tom?" I asked.

"Sure, what would you like to know?" he replied.

"What's it like to be only twenty-four and dying?"

"Well, it could be worse."

"Like what?"

"Well, like being fifty and having no values or ideals; like being fifty and thinking that booze, seducing women, and making money are the real biggies' in life."

I began to look through my mental file cabinet under 'S' where I had filed Tommy as strange. (It seems as though everybody I try to reject by classification, God sends back into my life to educate me.)

"But what I really came to see you about," Tom said, "is something you said to me on the last day of class." (He remembered!) He continued, "I asked you if you thought I would ever find God and you said, 'No!' which surprised me.

Then you said, 'But He will find you.' I thought about that a lot, even though my search for God was hardly

intense at that time. (My clever line. He thought about that a lot!)

"But when the doctors removed a lump from my groin and told me that it was malignant, that's when I got serious about locating God. And when the malignancy spread into my vital organs, I really began banging bloody fists against the bronze doors of heaven. But God did not come out. In fact, nothing happened. Did you ever try anything for a long time with great effort and with no success? You get psychologically glutted, fed up with trying. And then you quit."

"Well, one day I woke up, and instead of throwing a few more futile appeals over that high brick wall to a God who may be or may not be there, I just quit. I decided that I didn't really care about God, about an after life, or anything like that. I decided to spend what time I had left doing something more profitable. I thought about you and your class and I remembered something else you had said: "The essential sadness is to go through life without loving. But it would be almost equally sad to go through life and leave this world without ever telling those you loved that you had loved them."

"So, I began with the hardest one, my Dad. He was reading the newspaper when I approached him. "Dad." "Yes, what?" he asked without lowering the newspaper. "Dad, I would like to talk with you." "Well, talk." "I mean . It's really important". The newspaper came down three slow inches. "What is it?"

"Dad, I love you--I just wanted you to know that."

Tom smiled at me and said it with obvious satisfaction, as though he felt a warm and secret joy flowing inside of him. "The newspaper fluttered to the floor. Then my father did two things I could never remember him ever doing before. He cried and he hugged me. We talked all night, even though he had to go to work the next morning. It felt so good to be close to my father, to see his tears, to feel his hug, to hear him say that he loved me."

"It was easier with my mother and little brother. They cried with me, too, and we hugged each other, and started saying real nice things to each other.

We shared the things we had been keeping secret for so many years.

"I was only sorry about one thing --- that I had waited so long. Here I was, just beginning to open up to all the people I had actually been close to. "Then, one day I turned around and God was there. He didn't come to me when I pleaded with Him. I guess I was like an animal trainer holding out a hoop, 'C'mon, jump through. C'mon, I'll give You three days, three weeks.'

"Apparently God does things in His own way and at His own hour. But the important thing is that He was there. He found me! You were right He found me even after I stopped looking for Him."

"Tommy," I practically gasped, "I think you are saying something very important and much more universal than you realize. To me, at least, you are saying that the surest way to find God is not to make Him a private possession, a problem solver, or an instant consolation in time of need, but rather by opening to love. You know, the Apostle John said that. He said: 'God is love, and anyone who lives in love is living with God and God is living in him.' Tom, could I ask you a favor? You know, when I had you in class you were a real pain. But (laughingly) you can make it all up to me now. Would you come into my present Theology of Faith course and tell them that

you have just told me? If I told them the same thing it wouldn't be half as effective as if you were to tell it."

"Ooh I was ready for you, but I don't know if I'm ready for your class."

"Tom, think about it If and when you are ready, give me a call. In a few days, Tom called, said he was ready for the class, that he wanted to do that for God and for me. So we scheduled a date. However, he never made it.

He had another appointment, far more important than the one with me and my class. Of course, his life was not really ended by his death, only changed. He made the great step from faith into vision. He found a life far more beautiful than the eye of man has ever seen or the ear of man has ever heard or the mind of man has ever imagined. Before he died, we talked one last time.

"I'm not going to make it to your class," he said.

"I know, Tom."

"Will you tell them for me? Will you tell the whole world for me?"

"I will, Tom. I'll tell them. I'll do my best."

So, to all of you who have been kind enough to read this simple story about God's love, thank you for listening. And to you, Tommy, somewhere in the sunlit, verdant hills of heaven --- I told them, Tommy as best I could.

A Time to Laugh (480)

Little Boy at Church

The pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names with small American flags mounted on either side of it.

The seven year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."

"Good morning Pastor, what is this?" he asked the pastor.

The pastor said, "Well, son, it's a memorial plaque to all the young men and women who died in the Service."

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear, asked,

"Which service, the 8:30 or the 10:45?"

Love in a Mental Hospital

Just because someone doesn't love you the way you want them to, doesn't mean they don't love you with all that they have.

Jim and Edna were both patients in a mental hospital. One day while they were walking past the hospital swimming pool, Jim suddenly jumped into the deep end. He sank to the bottom of the pool and stayed there.

Edna promptly jumped in to save him. She swam to the bottom and pulled Jim out.

When the Head Nurse Director became aware of Edna's heroic act, she immediately ordered her to be discharged from the hospital, as she now considered her mentally stable.

She went to tell Edna the news: "Edna, I have good news and bad news. The good news is you're being discharged. Since you were able to rationally respond to a crisis by jumping in and saving the life of another patient, I have concluded that your act displays sound judgment and that you have a sound mind.

The bad news is Jim, the patient you saved, hung himself in the bathroom with his bathrobe belt right after you saved him. I am so sorry, but he's dead."

Edna replied, "He didn't hang himself, I put him there to dry. How soon can I go home?"

Better to Mow Indoors

A little boy received a toy lawn mower for Christmas. He pretended to use it in the house but was well aware that he was not really mowing the carpet. He looked forward to the day he would get to take it outside and "mow" the real grass. When summer came the boy's father invited him out to help mow the lawn. The boy excitedly dragged his toy mower outside to assist his father. The boy lasted about two minutes and announced, "I think I'll go back inside and mow the carpet. It's too hot out here."

Unpredictable Children

Children are unpredictable—you never know how far up the wall they're going to drive you.

Born in a Barn

A four-year-old girl often forgot to close the door when coming in from outside. Finally, her father scolded her, "Shut that door! Were you born in a barn?"

She looked at her father and replied softly, "No, but Jesus was."