

December 6, 2020

Bulletin #49

## ***Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church***

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Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Organist



### ***Birth of St. John the Baptist***

**\*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

## ***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.***"

## ***Immaculate Conception: Mary, the New Eve, Mother of the Living***

The Fathers of the Church often compared Adam and Eve to Jesus and Mary. As we know, Eve became the occasion of death for mankind, and through her, death came into the world. Mary on the other hand, became the occasion of life through whom Life Himself was born for us. Homage to Mary's holiness took wings in the second century with the conviction of her role as the "new Eve" associated with Christ, the "new Adam" (Saints Justin and Irenaeus). Close to the new Adam, Mary is the new Eve. "It is not good for man to live alone, I will make a suitable companion to help him" (Gen. 2:18). By her participation in the sufferings of Christ, Mary endured once again the pain of giving birth, but this time to a renewed and redeemed humanity, the fruit of the mystery of the Cross. (Rev 12: 2, Jn 9: 25-27) She suffered at the Cross because she sacrificed her Son to become our mother!

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will strike at your head. while you strike at his heel" (Gen 3:15). This passage is fulfilled in Mary as we see in the Book of Revelation (chapter 12: 1-6) "She gave birth to a son destined to rule all the nations." In many statues of Mary, she is often shown with a serpent at her feet, symbol that she has defeated evil. In God's words to Eve and to the serpent, we find the opposite to be true with Mary.

**By Archbishop Francis M. Zayek**

## ***This 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 Dougherthy by his wife Carol

## ***Weekdays Masses***

**Monday, December 7: No Mass. Pastor's day off**

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

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

**Ghaphery Family**

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

† Khalil & Sadie & Maria Harb and Annette & Al Togliatti by Jamil Harb (Troy, MI) and GiGi

**Wednesday, December 9: No Mass****Thursday, December 10 at 12:05 p.m.:**

† Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock Jr.

† Khalil & Sadie & Maria Harb and Annette & Al Togliatti by Jamil Harb (Troy, MI) and GiGi

† Mike Linton by the Parishioners of OLOL

**Friday, December 11: No Mass**

## ***Next Weekend, December 12-13: Birth of John the Baptist***

**Saturday, December 12 at 4:00 p.m.:**

† Bob Sengewalt (Anniversary) by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt

† Deceased Family Members of Rosella Saseen and Sylvia Long by their last will

† Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock Jr.

† Special Intention

**Sunday, December 13 at 10:30 a.m.:**

† Mike Linton by Sandra DeMuth

† Dale Seidler Sr. by his wife Nettie and Family

## ***Calendar of Events***

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

## ***Bulletin Ads***

There is one additional space available for anyone to place a Business Ad or Personal Memorial Ad on the back of Our Lady of Lebanon's Weekly Church Bulletin. Size is 2 1/2" across by 1 3/4 tall. Cost is \$120 for the complete 2021 year. Payment needs to be made by December 15 at the latest.

If you are interested, please write your Name & Phone Number on a note & give it to Msgr. Bakhos. Or you may call Msgr. at 304-233-1688 or Charlotte @ cell: 304-639-1372 or home: 303-277-3230. If no answer, please leave a message with your name & phone number.

## ***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*
- ☼ *Danny & Milly Mannus by their daughter NiNi Miller*
- ☼

## ***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

<b>Christmas 50/50 Winner Prize:</b>	<b>\$664.00 cash. Good Luck. Drawing on Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020</b>
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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 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 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
January 1:	Nancy Joseph
January 3:	Rosemary Coury
January 6:	Gina Stees

## ***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,

<b><i>Your Church Support Last Week</i></b>	
\$883.00	Sunday Collection
120.00	Bulletin ad
78.00	candles
250.00	Donation to the church
70.00	Christmas Basket and 50/50 raffle
30.00	Christmas poinsettias
\$1431.00	<b>Total Deposits:</b> <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i> 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: Death***

The perspective on death robs us of our shoddy views of living. If we think about death, we shake ourselves out of our fantasy that the universe is not a moral one. In treating schizophrenia, a violent electric shock is sometimes applied to the head of the patient; the schizophrenic is so alarmed, so threatened, that in order to escape what seems like dissolution the mind puts off its fantasy and the patient is thrust back into the real world. Meditation on death has something of that effect on the spiritual system. It breaks the spell that

made us think that pleasure is everything, that we ought to go on making more money or building more buildings, that religion is for the feebleminded, and other such illusions.

When we contemplate the death of self, the citadel of self is bound to be attacked. We glimpse our own inner being and its poverty. Each of us comes into life with fists closed, set for aggressiveness and acquisition, but when we abandon life, our hands are open; there is nothing on earth that we need, nothing the soul can take with it that could not be taken away after any shipwreck -its own works. Because meditation on our final end takes the mind off the present self, it destroys excessive egocentricity and lessens our fears and anxieties. For fears diminish as we cease to think of ourselves in our immediate aspect and adjust our minds, instead, to the larger landscape of eternity.

*Bishop Fulton SHEEN, Peace of Soul, 1949, p.218.*

## ***Wisdom: The Center of the Bible***

This is pretty strange or odd how it worked out this way.

What is the shortest chapter in the Bible? Answer - Psalms 117

What is the longest chapter in the Bible? Answer - Psalms 119

Which chapter is in the center of the Bible? Answer - Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118

Add these numbers up and you get 1188

What is the center verse in the Bible? Answer - Psalms 118:8

Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives? The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the center of His will, just send them to the center of His Word!

Psalms 118:8 "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."

Now isn't that odd how this worked out (or was God in the center of it)?

## ***Story: An awesome God***

One night I had worked hard to help a mother in the labor ward; but in spite of all we could do she died leaving us with a tiny premature baby and a crying two-year-old daughter.

We would have difficulty keeping the baby alive, as we had no incubator. (We had no electricity to run an incubator.) We also had no special feeding facilities.

Although we lived on the equator, nights were often chilly with treacherous drafts. One student midwife went for the box we had for such babies and the cotton wool the baby would be wrapped in. Another went to stoke up the fire and fill a hot water bottle. She came back shortly in distress to tell me that in filling the bottle, it had burst. Rubber perishes easily in tropical climates.

"*And it is our last hot water bottle!*" she exclaimed. As in the West it is no good crying over spilled milk, so in Central Africa it might be considered no good crying over burst water bottles. They do not grow on trees, and there are no drugstores down forest pathways.

"*All right,*" I said, "*put the baby as near the fire as you safely can, and sleep between the baby and the door to keep it free from drafts. Your job is to keep the baby warm.*"

The following noon, as I did most days, I went to have prayers with any of the orphanage children who chose to gather with me. I gave the youngsters various suggestions of things to pray about and told them about the tiny baby. I explained our problem about keeping the baby warm enough, mentioning the hot water bottle. The baby could so easily die if it got chills. I also told them of the two-year-old sister, crying because her mother had died.

During the prayer time, one ten-year-old girl, Ruth, prayed with the usual blunt conciseness of our African children. "*Please, God,*" she prayed, "*Send us a water bottle. It'll be no good tomorrow, God, as the baby will be dead, so please send it this afternoon.*"

While I gasped inwardly at the audacity of the prayer, she added by way of a corollary, "*And while You*

*are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl so she'll know You really love her?"* As often with children's prayers, I was put on the spot. Could I honestly say, "Amen?" I just did not believe that God could do this. Oh, yes, I know that He can do everything. The Bible says so. But there are limits, aren't there?

The only way God could answer this particular prayer would be by sending me a parcel from the homeland. I had been in Africa for almost four years at that time, and I had never, ever received a parcel from home.

Anyway, if anyone did send me a parcel, who would put in a hot water bottle? I lived on the equator! Halfway through the afternoon, while I was teaching in the nurses' training school, a message was sent that there was a car at my front door. By the time I reached home, the car had gone, but there, on the verandah, was a large twenty-two pound parcel. I felt tears pricking my eyes. I could not open the parcel alone, so I sent for the orphanage children.

Together we pulled off the string, carefully undoing each knot. We folded the paper, taking care not to tear it unduly. Excitement was mounting.

Some thirty or forty pairs of eyes were focused on the large cardboard box. From the top, I lifted out brightly colored, knitted jerseys. Eyes sparkled as I gave them out. Then there were the knitted bandages for the leprosy patients, and the children looked a little bored. Then came a box of mixed raisins and sultanas-that would make a batch of buns for the weekend. Then, as I put my hand in again, I felt the.....could it really be?

I grasped it and pulled it out-yes, a brand-new, rubber hot water bottle I cried. I had not asked God to send it; I had not truly believed that He could. Ruth was in the front row of the children. She rushed forward, crying out, "*If God has sent the bottle, He must have sent the dolly, too!*" Rummaging down to the bottom of the box, she pulled out the small, beautifully dressed dolly. Her eyes shone! She had never doubted. Looking up at me, she asked: "*Can I go over with you, Mummy, and give this dolly to that little girl, so she'll know that Jesus really loves her?*"

That parcel had been on the way for five whole months. Packed up by my former Sunday school class, whose leader had heard and obeyed God's prompting to send a hot water bottle, even to the equator. And one of the girls had put in a dolly for an African child-five months before-in answer to the believing prayer of a ten-year-old to bring it "*that afternoon.*"

## *A Time to Laugh (481)*

### *The Pushy Church*

Just a few days before Christmas two women stood looking into a department store window at a large display of the manger scene with clay figures of the baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, and the animals. Disgustedly, one woman said, "Look at that, the church trying to horn in on Christmas!"

### *The Christmas Tree*

While I was getting my "Christmas haircut," my barber shared with me an incident that had happened a few days before. He was cutting the hair of a little boy while the boy's father was waiting for him. The boy was fascinated by the barbershop's Christmas tree, which was adorned with lights and decorations. He turned to his father and asked, "Daddy, why can't we have a Christmas tree in our house?"

The father very gently said, "Jewish houses don't have Christmas trees."

The little boy thought for a moment and then with a frown on his face replied, "Daddy, why did we have to buy a Jewish house?"

### *Watch Your Step*

A small country church was having their yearly Christmas cantata. Part of the ritual of their cantata was that they always marched in singing "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and departed singing "hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

A large floor furnace heated the building, and the grating for the furnace was right in the center of the aisle. As the choir began their processional, they marched precisely up the aisle, each person three pews behind the other.

Just as the last alto got midway up the aisle, she stepped on the grating of the floor furnace. She had bought a new pair of heels to wear for the Christmas program, and unfortunately, the pencil thin heel of her shoe went through the grating and stuck there. She shook her foot hard several times, but the shoe remained stuck. The man in line behind her was getting close. Even though she was stunned, she played it cool. She slipped her foot out of the shoe and went limping up the aisle with only one shoe on.

The man coming behind looked down and realized what had happened. He knew if the shoe was left sticking there, it would cause the congregation to break into laughter. Thinking quickly, he reached down, grabbed the shoe, and gave it a strong twist.

To his amazement, the entire floor grate came up with the shoe. He went into a mild state of shock and dazedly marched up the aisle in time with the music, with the floor grate and shoe in hand.

You guessed it! The next man in line fell into the hole.

## ***Not My Birthday***

Five-year-old Billy was showing his Christmas presents to Grandma when she asked, “Did you get everything you wanted for Christmas?”

Billy thought for a moment before he answered, “No, I didn’t, Grandma. But that’s okay. It wasn’t my birthday.”