

December 13, 2020
Bulletin #50

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

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Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Organist



Revelation to Saint Joseph

***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

Revelation to Saint Joseph

Readings: Eph 3:1-13 and Mt 1:18-25

We know very little about St. Joseph. No memorable word has come down to us from this man, whom we sense to be strong in silent acceptance of the Word which speaks in his heart. The infancy narratives give us some inkling of his inner struggles when, at brief intervals, the angel of the Lord appears to him in a dream. Each time, Joseph is asked to make decisions which involve not merely risks and ambiguities, but his very conscience as a believer. Without seeking to obtain guarantees for his actions, he is content to live with his unanswered questions, thereby simply and imperceptibly arriving at their solutions.

It is surprising that this humble carpenter should have been of noble lineage? Matthew explicitly connects him with the House of David, whom God's grace had chosen from among his father's flocks at Bethlehem. Adverse circumstances had brought the usurper Herod to the throne, in spite of the promises made to the House of David. Joseph must have marveled at the words of the psalmist concerning the Son of David: "He shall say to me: You are my Father, my God, my rock and my salvation" (Ps 89:27). On the day when he is called upon to ratify the work of the Spirit in Mary, it is with quiet dignity that he follows in the footsteps of Abraham, the father of all believers.

Joseph's finest titles are those which the gospel gives him. The husband of the Blessed Virgin was a just man -not by virtue of his own justice, but with the justice which God attributes to those who adhere to his will. And if it is true that "Woman is man's future" (Aragon), it is Mary that Joseph owes the spiritual fatherhood of a Son who comes to him from God alone.

This Weekend, December 12-13: Revelation to Saint Joseph

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

Weekdays Masses

Monday, December 14: No Mass. Pastor's day off

Tuesday, December 15 at 12:05 p.m.:

- ✠ Peter & Emma Peters
- ✠ Lotti Elwartoski (Birthday) by her son Richard
- ✠ Intentions of Steve Linton (Birthday) by his brother Mike

Wednesday, December 16: No Mass

Thursday, December 17 at 12:05 p.m.:

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

Friday, December 18: No Mass

Next Weekend, December 19-20: Genealogy of Jesus

Saturday, December 19 at 4:00 p.m.:

- ✠ Deceased of the Bentz, Fadoul, Sengewalt & Werner Families by Millet & Susie Fadoul
- ✠ Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock Jr.
- ✠ Special Intention

Sunday, December 20 at 10:30 a.m.:

- ✠ Mike Linton by the Women Societ of OLOL
- ✠ John F. Kukula by his wife Mary Rose Kukula
- ✠ Khalil & Sadie & Maria Harb and Annette & Al Togliatti by Jamil Harb (Troy, MI) and GiGi

2020 Christmas Masses Schedule**Thursday, December 24:**

- 4:00 p.m.: **1st Christmas Eve Mass** (Only for senior citizens 65 and older)
- 5:30 p.m.: **2nd Christmas Eve Mass** (For young families under 65 and children)
- 10:00 p.m.: **3rd Christmas Midnight Mass** (For all parishioners)

Friday, December 25th: Christmas Day (Day of Obligation)

- 10:30 a.m.: **Christmas Day Morning Mass** (For all parishioners)

2021 New Year Masses Schedule**Thursday, December 31st, 2020:**

- 4:00 p.m.: **New Year's Eve Mass** (No Midnight Mass)

Friday, Jan. 1st, 2021: New Year's Day (Day of Obligation)

- 10:30 a.m.: **New Year's Day Morning Mass**

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year****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

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!

Great news: We now have stylish face masks that match the "My Heart Beats for Lebanon" tshirt!! The masks are \$10 each and available after mass.

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 & Deceased of Namon & Selema Joseph 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*
- ☼ *Shirley Elias Nickerson by her loving Family*
- ☼ *The Elias: Amelia, Nick, Mary, Helen, Margaret, Rose, Madeline, Jean and Shirley by their loving Family*
- ☼ *Nora Flenn by Theresa & Donzil Gain*

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:	\$669.00 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 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
 January 7: Jacob Fadoul Wilson
 January 10: Marjorie John, Mary Petros
 January 11: Jennifer Klein

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, 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>	
\$1,920.00	Sunday Collection
273.00	2 nd collection
10.00	candles
100.00	Donation to the church
156.00	Christmas Basket and 50/50 raffle
50.00	Christmas poinsettias
20.00	utilities
\$2,529.00	Total Deposits: <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

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

Death is meant to be our true birth, our beginning. Christianity, in contrast to paganism, always blesses

her children's spiritual birth into eternity. In the liturgy, the day on which a saint dies is called his *natilitia*, or birthday. The world celebrates a birthday on the day a person is born to physical life; the Church celebrates it when a person is born to eternal life. There are only three exceptions to this, and they were made for very good reasons: the only physical birthdays in the liturgy are those:

- 1- of Our Divine Lord (December 25);
- 2- of the Blessed Mother (September 8);
- 3- and of Saint John the Baptist (June 24).

This is because each of these births marked a special infusion of Divine Life into the world:

a= Our Lord is Eternal Life;

b= the Blessed Mother, through her Immaculate Conception, participated in that Eternal Life from the first moment of her Conception;

c= and Saint John the Baptist was sanctified in his mother's womb when he was visited by His Lord, still tabernacled within the Blessed Mother.

These three exceptions rather prove than contradict the rule that life comes through death, spirituality through mortification, and the saving of the soul in eternity through the losing of it in time.

Bishop Fulton SHEEN, Peace of Soul, 1949, pp.219-220.

Wisdom: Big Mud Puddles and Sunny Yellow Dandelions

When I look at a patch of dandelions, I see a bunch of weeds that are going to take over my yard. My kids see flowers for Mom and blowing white fluff you can wish on.

When I look at an old drunk and he smiles at me, I see a smelly, dirty person who probably wants money and I look away. My kids see someone smiling at them and they smile back.

When I hear music I love, I know I can't carry a tune and don't have much rhythm so I sit self-consciously and listen. My kids feel the beat and move to it. They sing out the words. If they don't know them, they make up their own.

When I feel wind on my face, I brace myself against it. I feel it messing up my hair and pulling me back when I walk. My kids close their eyes, spread their arms and fly with it, until they fall to the ground laughing.

When I pray, I say thee and thou and grant me this, give me that. My kids say, "*Hi God! Thanks for my toys and my friends. Please keep the bad dreams away tonight. Sorry, I don't want to go to Heaven yet. I would miss my Mommy and Daddy.*"

When I see a mud puddle I step around it. I see muddy shoes and dirty carpets. My kids sit in it. They see dams to build, rivers to cross, and worms to play with.

I wonder if we are given kids to teach or to learn from? No wonder God loves the little children!

Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things.

I wish you Big Mud Puddles and Sunny Yellow Dandelions!!!

Story

“Once upon a time there was a tree who loved a child very much. Every day the child would come, gather its leaves and make a crown out of them to play king of the forest. The child would climb on its trunk, swing on its branches, eat its apples and play hide and seek with the tree. When he was tired, he would sleep in the shade of the tree. The child loved the tree very much and the tree was happy. But time passed, the child grew and the tree was often alone.

One day the child returned to the tree that said to him: “*Come, boy, come and climb on my trunk, swing on my branches, eat my apples, play in my shade and be happy.*” “*I am too big to climb and play,*” said the boy. “*I want to buy things and have fun. I want money Can you give me some money?*” “*I am sorry,*” said the tree, “*but I have no money. I only have leaves and apples. Take my apples and sell them in the city you will have money and you will be happy.*” And so the boy climbed the tree, picked the apples and went to sell them, and the tree was very happy.

But the child stayed away for a long time and the tree was sad. One day the child returned. The tree shook with joy and said, *“Come, boy, climb on my trunk, swing on my branches and be happy.”* *“I am too busy to climb on trees,”* said the boy. *“I want a house to keep me warm, a wife and children. Can you give me a house?”* *“I have no house,”* said the tree. *“The forest is my house, but you can cut my branches and build a house and then you will be happy.”* And so the boy cut the branches and took them away to build his house. And the tree was happy.

But the boy stayed away again for such a long time, and when he returned, the tree was so happy it could barely speak. *“Come, boy,”* it whispered, *“come and play.”* *“I am too old and sad to play,”* said the boy *“I want a boat to go away from here. Can you give me a boat?”* *“Cut my trunk and build a boat,”* said the tree; *“then you can sail and you will be happy.”* The boy cut the trunk, made himself a boat and sailed far away. And the tree was happy, but not really.

After a very long time the boy returned again. *“I am sorry, boy,”* said the tree, *“but I have nothing left to give you. I have no more apples.”* *“My teeth are too weak for the apples,”* said the boy. *“My branches are cut,”* said the tree, *“so you cannot swing on them.”* *“I am too old to swing on your branches,”* said the boy *“My trunk is cut,”* said the tree, *“so you cannot climb on them.”* *“I am too tired to climb,”* said the boy *“I am sorry,”* said the tree; *“I would like to give you something, but I have nothing: I am just an old stump. I am sorry...”* *“I do not need much now,”* said

the boy, *“only a calm place to sit down and rest. I am very tired.”* *“Well, an old stump is good for sitting down and resting. Come, boy, sit down and rest.”* And so the boy did and the tree was happy.”

This is a simple but very significant story, especially if we read it in a Christian vein. The tree is God who with his fatherly love and motherly tenderness is always ready to welcome us in his merciful embrace, to rock us in his arms and restore us in his shade. Every time we return to Him, God is happy, very happy, just like the tree, just as he is sad, very sad, when we go far away. And yet, in his infinite goodness, he does not force us to return; he leaves us free and waits with his faithful and discreet presence. The boy is each one of us, selfish and individualistic, always ready to presume and to receive, but not well disposed to give without something in return, and not very grateful for the graces and gratuitous gifts we receive from the Lord every day. We often knock at his door only when we want to get something! And when we get it, and in abundance, we even forget to say a simple ‘thank you’...

The apples on the tree represent the Sacraments, real food for the body and the spirit, with which the Lord nourishes us. Let us think of the Eucharist in which Christ offers himself to us as broken and shared bread, or Baptism in which the Blessed Trinity comes to dwell in our hearts.

The branches are the Word of God on which to build our spiritual house to warm our hearts and with which we confront ourselves daily in order to draw strength from it.

The trunk represents the three theological virtues: faith, which enables us to sail without any fear of sinking into the tempestuous sea; hope which, like a lifesaver, always keeps us afloat because it never disappoints; charity, Love given to us and to be given back fully, which is the best course of all because it will never end.

The stump is Christ to whom we entrust ourselves to rest, from which we let ourselves be rocked, on whose breast we rest, and at whose feet we sit to contemplate Him.

Whoever wrote this story used the term ‘child’, ‘boy’ from the beginning to the end. It is an invitation to each of us from the Lord to reawaken the limpid, pure, innocent, simple child in us who let himself get obscured along life’s way by the selfish, presumptuous, proud child.

Jesus in fact tells us, ***“If you are not capable of becoming like children, in the newness of heart and life, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.”***

A Time to Laugh (482)

Turned Off Jesus

To show the splendor of the newborn Savior in the church Christmas pageant, an electric light bulb was hidden in the manger. All the stage lights were to be turned off so only the brightness of the manger could be seen, but the boy who controlled the lights got confused, and suddenly all the lights went out.

The tense moment was broken by a little shepherd's loud whisper. "Hey, you just turned off Jesus!"

Which Side I Am On

A little old man was seen every Sunday morning walking to church. He was deaf, so he could not hear a word of the sermon, or the music of the choir, or the hymns sung by the congregation.

A scoffer asked him, "Why do you spend your Sundays in that church when you can't hear a word?" He replied, "I want my neighbors to know which side I'm on."

Church Growth Equation

Hot heads plus cold hearts equal empty churches.

Your Niche

A man had visited church after church trying to find a congenial congregation, and finally he stopped at a little church just as the congregation read with the minister, "We have left undone those things we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done." The man slipped into a pew with a sigh of relief and murmured, "Thank goodness, I've found my crowd at last."

Fads and Popular Religions

Running after religious fanatics who come up with some new or "rediscovered" doctrine reminds me of the old farmer who, when asked what was the matter with his hogs, replied, "When I lost my voice a year ago I could not call them to their feed, so I got a big stick and hammered on the crib. They soon learned that was a call to their corn. They were doing well until three weeks ago when some woodpeckers came in here and went to pounding on the old dead trees. My hogs ran in the direction of the noise, thinking it was my call to their feed. When the hogs came running and squealing, the frightened woodpeckers would fly to another dead tree, and the hogs would run to that part of the woods. They have just about run my hogs to death." I hope the church will cease running after the religious woodpeckers. Much so-called "new thought" is old nonsense.

Who Is Asleep?

When people sleep in church, it may be the minister who needs waking up.