

December 25, 2020

Bulletin #52

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



Special Bulletin Christmas 2020

***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 Jesus

Readings: Heb 1:3-14 and Lk 2:1-20

Christmas comes early in the commercial world. The Halloween goodies are barely gone from the shelves of the department stores and supermarkets before the Christmas ornaments, wreaths, toys, and holiday foods appear. By the time Advent comes along, we may be tired of Christmas -unless we focus on trying to answer the question: *“What are we waiting for?”*

A lady learned quite a lesson some years back at Christmastide. Newly widowed, she threw herself into preparations for Christmas. Though her job kept her busy, and the upkeep of the house now rested solely on her shoulders, she made up her mind that she would *“do”* Christmas the way she always had. She would do all the decorating, write out all the cards, select and personally wrap all the presents, cook a huge dinner for the extended family, and on and on.

She tried so hard to make Christmas her way. Then on Christmas Eve, she came down with a bad case of the flu. She spent Christmas day in bed. And for the first time in the busy holiday season, she had some peace and quite. In those quiet hours, she realized that Christmas is not about rushing around, not about doing and doing and doing until you get completely exhausted.

From her couch, she looked over at the crèche with the delicately formed statues of Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus, and she began to weep. Right there before her was the reason for Christmas, and she had almost missed it.

You’ve heard the saying: *“Jesus is the reason for the season!”* Whatever helps us to focus on that reality is good for us. Whatever distracts us from that reality cannot be good for us.

Jesus has already come. During this season, we read that he indeed was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, fulfilling the prophecies of old. Does Jesus Christ come again every time we celebrate Christmas? A Christian is one who follows Jesus, who walks with Jesus, not because of a personal decision or because of an emotional need -or to be forgiven or to be included or to be loved- but because of a *“call from above.”* During Advent, this period when we wait -in prayer and in silence and in reflection- for that wondrous Christmas feast, focus on rebirth. Ask Jesus Christ to be reborn in you -spiritually, powerfully. Ask Jesus -who came to us as a human person in order to understand us, and in order that we might understand him- to come again! Ask Jesus Christ to light the fire of love that he once offered to us, as infants or as adults. As we light candles to demonstrate the need for God’s light to shine upon us as Christians, let us ask Jesus Christ to light a fire in our heart. What are we waiting for? For Jesus Christ to reawaken us, to revive our love. Let us prepare to welcome him anew.

Merry Christmas My Parishioners & Friends

My Dear Parishioners & Friends,

May the infant Jesus, born of this Christmas Day, bring peace into your souls and abundant blessings into your homes. May every heart be opened to the Infant Prince of Peace by a fervent reception of the Sacrament of His love.

This Christmas wish is sent to you together with grateful thanks for your very kind cooperation and generous support to me and to the Church. May the grace and peace of the Infant Savior and His Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, be felt in your families this Christmas and during the years to come . You and your family members are remembered in my daily prayer.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Msgr. Bakhos

Christmas Prayer: Jesus’ Birth

“My Lord, this day gladdens kings, priests and prophets, for on it were fulfilled and realized all their words. Since today the Virgin has given birth to Emmanuel in Bethlehem, the word Isaiah spoke was accomplished today.

He who registers the peoples was born there; the psalm that David sang has been fulfilled today.

The word that Micah spoke was realized today, for a shepherd went out from Ephrata, and his staff herded souls.

“Behold, a star shone forth from Jacob, and a prince arose from Israel.”

The prophecy that Balaam spoke found its meaning today.

The hidden light descended, and its beauty shone forth from a body; the dawn of which Zechariah spoke lights up Bethlehem today.” Glory to You, Son of our Creator! --Saint Ephrem

Christmas Reflections: When Christ was born

Oh, sleeping town of Bethlehem, beyond your hills afar,

There sounds the holy angel's song, and burns the shining star.

What wondrous gift has blessed this night? What brought this celebration?

The birth of Christ the King it was, the dawning of salvation!

Christmastide in the Village

'Twas winter... the snowflakes were falling upon the earth's wintry brow,

The miniature snowflakes from Heaven slipped out of the hands of each cloud.

They fell on the hills and the valleys, alighted on our village small;

The white, winter wonderland captured the hearts of the villagers... all.

As twilight crept over the village and slowly the night shadows fell;

Sounding like heavenly music were the chimes of the village church bell.

Lit candles appeared in the windows, casting a warm, friendly glow;

Obscuring the wintertime darkness by their rays on the new-fallen snow.

'Twas winter... the snowflakes were falling and white was the countryside earth;

This was the time of rejoicing, the time of our dear Savior's birth.

For the portals of Heaven had opened, the true light to earth had long come.

'Twas again Christmastide in the village,

"Peace on Earth" was each villager's song.

This Weekend, December 26-27: Flight to Egypt

Saturday, December 26 at 4:00 p.m.:

✠ Kathleen Olinski and Alois Marchy by Mary Olinski-Ragase

✠ Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock Jr.

✠ Intentions and good health of Mary Olinski-Ragase

Sunday, December 27 at 10:30 a.m.:

✠ Living & Deceased of the Duffy and Fadoul Families by Earl & Linda Duffy

✠ Lucille Gibbons by Nettie Seidler

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

Weekdays Masses

Monday, December 28: No Mass. Pastor's day off

Tuesday, December 29: No Mass. Pastor's day off

Wednesday, December 30: No Mass. Pastor's day off

2021 New Year Masses Schedule

Thursday, December 31st, 2020:

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

✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her Will

✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, and her son Mark by her last will

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

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

✠ Sister Mary DiDomenico by Earl & Linda Duffy

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

✠ Kathleen Olinski and Alois Marchy by Mary Olinski-Ragase

Next Weekend, January 2-3: Finding Jesus in the Temple

Saturday, January 2 at 4:00 p.m.:

✠ Bob Sengewalt by his wife Sally Sengewalt

✠ Kathleen Olinski and Alois Marchy by Mary Olinski-Ragase

✠ Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock Jr.

Sunday, January 3 at 10:30 a.m.:

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

✠ Nicholas Abraham Ghaphery Sr.

Maronites! Who are they?

Maronites = Catholics of the East.

Latins = Catholics of the West. We are all Catholics

Why so many Rites in the Church?

Causes of the Multiplicity of the Rites

Since the day of Pentecost, as we just mentioned in the previous chapter, the apostles began to edify and organize new Christian communities in various areas. This organization did not proceed without problems. The first problem was the persecutions by local governments. But also, and even during the apostolic age itself, the infant Church had to face doctrinal disagreements among Christians. Though the actual presence of Christ was still fresh in the memories, the disciples soon set to squabbling about the interpretation and application of His teachings. To discuss the conflict that was causing the confusion and dissension among the local Churches, special councils were convoked among the bishops. In the general or ecumenical councils, the consensus or approval of the Pope was always required. In some cases, however, the Supreme Pontiff gave personally, i.e. without the convocation of a council, the solution of the controversial matter by a letter sent to the churches in questions.

Specifically, the problem is particularism versus universalism or diversity versus uniformity which the Church had to face from her beginning. Indeed, the first case is the conflict between Peter and Paul about the converted Gentiles. The Council of Jerusalem, convened to settle the dispute and decided in favor of the universalism of the Church. Peter and Paul agreed but this kind of agreement didn't always occur among the heads of the Christian communities, in all the ecclesiastical assemblies gathered later, in various localities and periods, to solve the crises affecting the Church life.

Many factors provoked this differentiation of the point of view vis-à-vis the doctrine taught by Christ, as well as vis-à-vis the way of celebrating the ecclesiastical services and ruling the Christian communities. These factors are political and social as well as doctrinal and philosophical. We mention them in two categories:

- 1- Ethnic causes,
- 2- Ecclesiastical causes.

Story: (John 3:16)

In the city of Chicago, one cold, dark night, a blizzard was setting in. A little boy was selling

newspapers on the corner; the people were in and out of the cold. The little boy was so cold that he wasn't trying to sell many papers. He walked up to a policeman and said, *"Mister, you wouldn't happen to know where a poor boy could find a warm place to sleep tonight would you? You see, I sleep in a box up around the corner there and down the alley and it's awful cold in there for tonight. Sure would be nice to have a warm place to stay."* The policeman looked down at the little boy and said, *"You go down the street to that big white house and you knock on the door. When they come out the door you just say John 3:16, and they will let you in."*

So he did. He walked up the steps and knocked on the door, and a lady answered. He looked up and said, *"John 3:16."* The lady said, *"Come on in, Son."* She took him in and she sat him down in a split bottom rocker in front of a great big old fireplace, and she went off. The boy sat there for a while and thought to himself: John 3:16...I don't understand it, but it sure makes a cold boy warm. Later she came back and asked him *"Are you hungry?"* He said, *"Well, just a little. I haven't eaten in a couple of days, and I guess I could stand a little bit of food."* The lady took him in the kitchen and sat him down to a table full of wonderful food. He ate and ate until he couldn't eat any more. Then he thought to himself: John 3:16... Boy, I sure don't understand it but it sure makes a hungry boy full. She took him upstairs to a bathroom to a huge bathtub filled with warm water, and he sat there and soaked for a while. As he soaked, he thought to himself: John 3:16... I sure don't understand it, but it sure makes a dirty boy clean. You know, I've not had a bath, a real bath, in my whole life. The only bath I ever had was when I stood in front of that big old fire hydrant as they flushed it out. The lady came in and got him. She took him to a room, tucked him into a big old feather bed, pulled the covers up around his neck, kissed him goodnight and turned out the lights. As he lay in the darkness and looked out the window at the snow coming down on that cold night, he thought to himself: John 3:16... I don't understand it but it sure makes a tired boy rested. The next morning the lady came back up and took him down again to that same big table full of food. After he ate, she took him back to that same big old split bottom rocker in front of the fireplace and picked up a big old Bible. She sat down in front of him and looked into his young face. *"Do you understand John 3:16?"* she asked gently. He replied, *"No, Ma'am, I don't. The first time I ever heard it was last night when the policeman told me to use it."* She opened the Bible to John 3:16 and began to explain to him about Jesus. Right there, in front of that big old fireplace, he gave his heart and life to Jesus. He sat there and thought: John 3:16. ... I don't understand it, but it sure makes a lost boy feel safe.

You know, I have to confess I don't understand it either, how God was willing to send His Son to die for me, and how Jesus would agree to do such a thing. I don't understand the agony of the Father and every angel in heaven as they watched Jesus suffer and die. I don't understand the intense love for ME that kept Jesus on the cross till the end. I don't understand it, but it sure does make life worth living.

(Author Unknown)

John 3:16: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

A Time to Laugh

Big John In The Old West

A bar owner in the Old West has just hired a timid new bartender. The owner of the establishment is giving his new hire some instructions on running the place. He tells the timid man, "If you ever hear that Big John is coming to town, drop everything and run for the hills!! He's the meanest, biggest, nastiest outlaw who ever lived!!"

A few weeks pass uneventfully. But one afternoon, a local cowhand comes running through town yelling, "Big John is coming to town!! Run for your lives!!!"

When the bartender exits the saloon to start running, he's knocked to the ground by several townspeople scurrying out of town. As he's picking himself up, he sees a large man approaching the saloon, probably about seven feet tall, muscular, grunting and growling as he walks.

He stomps up to the door, orders the poor barkeeper inside, and demands, "I want a beer NOW!!" He pounds his heavy fist on the bar, splitting it in half. The bartender nervously hands the big man a beer, hands

shaking. He takes the beer, rips the top of the bottle off with his teeth, and downs the beer in one gulp.

As the poor timid bartender cowers behind the bar, the big man gets up to leave. "Do you want another beer?" the bartender calls out.

"Dang it, I don't have time!!" the big man yells. "I gotta get out of town!!! Didn't ya hear Big John is a-comin'???"

The Young Business Man On The Phone

A young businessman had just started his own firm. He'd rented a beautiful office and had it furnished with antiques. Sitting there, he saw a man come into the outer office. Wishing to appear busy, the businessman picked up the phone and started to pretend he had a big deal working.

He threw huge figures around and made giant commitments. Finally, he hung up and asked the visitor, "Can I help you?"

The man said, "Sure. I've come to install the phone!"

Wisdom: Thank You

I woke up this morning, and knew that today,
 The sun would not be shining, and the clouds would be gray.
As I stepped outside, rain fell upon my head.
My car wouldn't start, so I walked to school instead.
 I forgot all of my assignments, I failed all of my tests.
 I dropped my head in disgust, and asked the Lord for one request.
"Lord, why is it that, things won't go my way?"
He gently replied, "Dear child it is because you didn't thank me yesterday."
 I woke you up and enabled, you to see the sun again.
 I gave you shelter, protected your family, and even let you make a new friend.
I blessed you far, greater than I ever had before.
But you were too busy, to thank me once more.
 You didn't feel sick, because I maintained your health.
 You had money in your pocket, because I maintained your wealth.
You had shoes on your feet and clothes to wear, too.
You had plenty of food to eat, and what did you do?
 You ignored me and went about your tasks.
 But when you wanted something you never hesitated to ask.
I was there when you needed me and that wasn't too long ago.
But when things started going your way, it was me you did not know.
 As if that weren't enough, I provided your favorite luxuries.
 This was something I didn't have to do -they weren't even necessities.
And when it was time to get on your knees and show your gratitude,
You decided that after such a fulfilling day, you weren't in the mood.
 So I decided to give you just a little test.
 To show you how it would feel to stop being blessed."
I began to realize what the Lord was saying.
And when I got home, I fell to my knees and started praying.
 He said, "My child, you have learned and you know I do forgive.
 But remember to remember this day as long as you shall live.
I love filling your life with joy, and your pain I'll alleviate it.
 But just a **simple thank you** would show how much you appreciate it."

Spirituality

Message from Our Lady of Fatima

Our Lady of Fatima said:

FASHIONS: "Certain fashions will be introduced that will offend My Son very much!" (Message in 1917)

HELL: "More souls go to hell because of sins of the flesh than for any other reason!" (Sins against the 6th Commandment.)

BAD MARRIAGE: "Many marriages are not good; they do not please Our Lord and are not of God."

PUNISHMENT OF THE WORLD: "The Blessed Mother can no longer restrain the Hand of Her Divine Son from striking the world with just punishment for its many crimes."

FIVE WARNINGS: "If my requests are not granted, Russia will scatter her errors throughout the world, provoking wars and persecution of the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, and various nations will be destroyed!" (Message in 1917)

AMEND: "I have come to warn the faithful to amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins. They must not continue to offend Our Lord who is already deeply offended."

ROSARY: "Say the Rosary every day, to obtain peace for the world. Add after each decade the following prayer: "Oh My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy."

PRAY: "Pray, pray, a great deal, and make sacrifices for sinners for many souls go to hell because they have no one to make sacrifices and pray for them."

IMMACULATE HEART DEVOTION: "God wishes to establish in the world the devotion to My IMMACULATE HEART. If people do what I tell you, many souls will be saved and there will be peace."

WORLD PEACE: "Tell everybody that God gives graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Tell them to ask graces from her, and that the Heart of Jesus wishes to be venerable together with the Immaculate Heart of Mary, for the Lord has confided the peace of the world to her."

WAR: "War is a punishment from God for sins."

FINAL PEACE: "In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph. Russia will be converted, and there will be peace!"

What's New ?

Statement for your tax deduction

By mid January 2021, all those who donated -from January 1st until December 31st, 2020- the sum of \$250.00 or more to our church will receive from the church a statement and a detailed copy of their donations in order to be used for tax deduction. Those who donated less than \$250.00 will not receive a statement unless requested by them. Checks used to purchase food or items from the church are not tax deductible. Only \$250 or more are tax deductible according to the IRS. We appreciate all your donations and may God reward you abundantly.

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.