



December 5, 2021
Bulletin #49

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

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Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. 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, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad

***Choir Members:**

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

***Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer

***Altar Server:**

Earl Duffy and Joe Roxby

***Altar Boy:**

Christopher AlKhoury

***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

How were names given in the time of Jesus? What is the significance of John's name?

Luke's story of the circumcision of John the Baptist is obviously designed to highlight the unique status foretold of him by the angel Gabriel in the opening scene of the gospel (1:13-20). It also reveals some of the factors that may have influenced the naming of children in Jewish society.

Actually, the data currently available to us for Jewish naming practices in the 1st century is relatively sparse, and Luke's account tends to raise further questions rather than confirming well-known facts. For example, apart from Luke, there is no contemporary evidence that male children were named at the time of their circumcision. In the Hebrew Bible, Sons are typically named at birth (Gen 4:1; 21:3; 25:25-26). On the theory that Luke was not of Jewish but of Greek ethnic background, some scholars have suggested that the evangelist has superimposed his own cultural assumptions on the tradition, since Greek children were named some days after their birth.

It is also curious that those witnessing the circumcision propose naming the child after his father. Their taking initiative serves a dramatic purpose, of course, since it allows Luke to set up the tension that will be resolved through the miraculous restoration of speech to Zechariah (1:63-64). But their suggestion is strange, as it was uncommon (though not entirely unprecedented) for a son to take his father's name. More commonly the grandfather's name would be given.

In any case, what is most significant about this story is Elizabeth's role, because she was not privy to Gabriel's prophecy that the child would be named John (1:13). Perhaps Zechariah indicated this to his wife in writing prior to the circumcision. More likely, Elizabeth's choice was made independently, intending her son's name to express what his birth meant. Elizabeth, remember, had been barren. When she realized she was pregnant, she remarked: "So has the Lord done for me at a time when he has seen fit to take away my disgrace before others" (1:25). Elizabeth's recognition of the divine favor bestowed upon her is reflected in the meaning of the name she chooses for her son. In Hebrew, Yehohanan (John) means "Yahweh has shown favor."

The aptness of the name derives not only from this, but also from the larger role God has arranged for John to play in the salvation of Israel. As Zechariah himself proclaims when his tongue is loosed, "you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High ... because of the tender mercy of our God" (1:76,78). "John" was a fairly common name among Jews of the Second Temple period, as it is today in many cultures. At some point in their lives, people ask what their own names mean.

Luke's gospel shows that names can also tell stories, or contribute to them. Perhaps names can also inspire their bearers to further realize their own stories. Your name calls you to find and bring to maturity your true self, you true identity.

Stay Safe & keep others safe

Our Lady of Lebanon church urges all parishioners to mask up inside the church premises, get tested when appropriate and stay home when ill. Also, we remind everyone to get coronavirus vaccinations or booster shots. By following these rules, we protect ourselves and others from corona virus and its variances.

This Weekend, Dec. 4-5: Birth of John the Baptist

Saturday December 4:

at 3:40 p.m.: Christmas Novena

at 4:00 p.m.: Mass

✠ Cathy (Sharp) Howard (Birthday) by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt

✠ Bod Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt

✠ Special Intentions of A Friend

Sunday, December 5:

at 10:10 a.m.: Christmas Novena

at 10:30 p.m.: Mass

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- ✠ Living & Deceased members of the Nicholas & Nimnoom Ghaphery Family and the David Abraham Ghaphery Family
- ✠ Siham Frenn (Anniversary) by Dr. Adel, Diane, Justin and Andreah & Zack Riedel
- ✠ Living & Deceased of the Duffy and Fadoul and Shedeed Families by Earl & Linda Duffy

Weekday Masses Schedule

Monday December 6: No Mass. Pastor's day off.

Tuesday December 7 at 12:05 p.m.:

- ✠ Kathleen Olinski by her sister Mary Ragase
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will.

Wednesday December 8 at 12:05 p.m.: Immaculate Conception feast day

- ✠ Living & Deceased members of the Nicholas & Nimnoom Ghaphery Family and the David Abraham Ghaphery Family
- ✠ Living & Deceased of Tom Brock Jr.

Thursday December 9 at 12:05 p.m.:

- ✠ Living & Deceased of Tom Brock Jr.
- ✠ Khalil & Sadie & Maria Harb and Annette & Al Togliatti by Jamil Harb (Troy, MI)
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, and her son Mark by her last will

Friday, December 10: No Mass. Pastor's day off.

Next Weekend, Dec. 11-12: Revelation to St. Joseph

Saturday December 11:

at 3:40 p.m.: Christmas Novena

at 4:00 p.m.: Mass

- ✠ Jean and Billy Bentz (Birthday) and Susie Fadoul by Millet Fadoul
- ✠ Bod Sengewalt (Anniversary) by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- ✠ Special Intentions of A Friend

Sunday, December 12:

at 10:10 a.m.: Christmas Novena

at 10:30 p.m.: Mass

- ✠ Deceased members of the Hassan and Nassar Families by Dalton
- ✠ Living & Deceased of Tom Brock Jr.

Christmas Novena (Starts on Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 4-5)

In preparation for the coming of our Savior, we will start the Christmas Novena during all the weekend Masses of December that precede Christmas. Please come little bit early and share in the spiritual uplifting of the Christmas season. (See mass schedule above)

30th Anniversary to the Priesthood (Sunday, Dec. 19 after 10: 30 am Mass)

This year, Msgr. Bakhos reached his 70th Birthday (February 9th) and his 30th Anniversary to the priesthood will be on (December 21). He was ordained in Sydney, Australia on December 21, 1991. He designed the church of Saint Joseph in Croydon -which is a suburb of Sydney, Australia- and he handled the building project to the parish council over there before he moved to the United States in 1994. He served in Lawrence (Massachusetts), Dayton (Ohio), St. Paul (Minnesota), in many Missions and he spent the last 20 years serving Our Lady of Lebanon in Wheeling. A brunch will be served on Sunday, December 19th following the 10:30 am Mass at the Cedar Hall. All parishioners and Friends are cordially invited to attend. Please call Linda at 304-242-6853 and

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let her know how many guests are attending so that the ladies can prepare food for everyone. Please plan to attend because Msgr. Bakhos likes to see you there.

Christmas Poinsettias in Memory of:

Please donate toward decorating the altar with poinsettias during Christmas. Every poinsettia cost \$25.00

- ☼ Louis N. & Louis H. Khourey, Sr. & Gladys Howard by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family
- ☼ In Honor of Chris Wakim and Family
- ☼ In Honor of the Yeater Family by Jeannette & Chris Wakim
- ☼ In Honor of Frank & Anna Marie and Michael Duymich
- ☼ In Honor of Joe & Nikki Popovich and Family
- ☼ In Loving memory of John & Cecilia John by Ron & Susan (John) Burns
- ☼ In Loving memory of The Elias & Nickerson Families by Tammy Strong
- ☼ In Loving memory of the Saseen & Schlog Families by Fran Saseen
- ☼ In Loving memory of Ralph & Mary Joseph Shipley by Thomasina Geimer
- ☼ In Loving memory of Robert Hunter Jr. & Robby Hunter III by Thomasina Geimer
- ☼ In Loving memory of Danny & Milly Manners by their daughter NiNi Miller
- ☼ In Loving memory of Bill Dougherty by his wife Carol
- ☼ In Loving memory of the Habdo Family by Carol Dougherty
- ☼ In Loving memory of Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt and Family
- ☼ In Loving memory of George Weisner by his son Gary Weisner
- ☼ In Honor of Gary Weisner
- ☼ In Loving memory of the Joseph and McLaughlin Families by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

Christmas Masses Schedule

Friday, December 24:

4:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Mass

10:00 p.m.: Christmas Midnight Mass

Saturday, December 25th: Day of Obligation

10:30 a.m.: Christmas Day Morning Mass

4:00 p.m.: Christmas Day Evening Mass

New Year Masses Schedule

Friday, December 31st, 2021:

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

Saturday, January 1st, 2022: New Year's Day (Day of Obligation)

4:00 p.m.: New Year's Day Mass (No Choir)

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:

December 7: Christina Committee Zdilla

December 12: Lou Khourey

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

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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)
 Mark Boehm, Angela & John Carpec, Carol Dougherty, Shirley George, John Frazier, Dennis Porter, Mary Stees, Diane Palotay, Rex & Rita Strawn, Nick & Judy Bedway, Viola J. Yeater (mother of Jeannette Wakim), Louis “Butch” Elias, Mary Thomas, Jack Hogan (infant son of Mark & Michaela Hogan & great nephew of Lou Khourey), Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, John Shibben, Patty Fahey, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter), Barbara Hostage, Phil Geimer, Diana Misko, Barbara Hostage,

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$1,457.00	Sunday Collection
120.00	Bulletin ads
107.00	Christmas poinsettias
43.00	Candles
1,000.00	Donation to the church
50.00	utilities
\$2,777.00	Total Deposits: <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i> Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Mary Stees, Linda Duffy, Susan Burns, Liz Murad

What's New?

Bulletin Ads

If you wish to place a memorial Ad or business Ad on the back of our 2022 weekly church bulletin, please contact Msgr. Bakhos 304-233-1688 or Charlotte 304-639-1372 for more information.

Lower your 2021 Income Tax Bill

Dear Parishioners and benefactors,

The CARES Act passed by Congress 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.

So, 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 2021 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 **2021**, 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, 2021. 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 2022** 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, 2021 until December 31st, 2021**. It is wise to keep the church statement with your tax records, in case the IRS questions your itemized deductions.

Help needed to sanitize pews

Dear parishioners,

Our goal is to protect you inside and outside the church. We are asking for two volunteers after every Mass to help sanitizing the pews and railings and door handles, etc. Please stay after Mass in the church for five minutes and join those who are sanitizing. May the Blessed Mother protect you and reward you. Msgr Bakhos

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2022 Mahrajan (Festival) *(Sunday, August 14, 2022)*

Dear Parishioners, The Mahrajan committee decided to have the 2022 Mahrajan at Oglebay Park on Sunday, August 14, 2022. There will be only one day festival instead of two. More details will be published in the coming bulletins.

Spirituality: Love

“I have placed you in the midst of your fellows that you may do to them what you cannot do to Me, that is to say that you may love your neighbor of free grace without expecting any return from him, and what you do to him I count as done to Me.”
(Dialogue, St. Catherine of Sienna)

Wisdom: Encourage-Discourage

Words that Discourage

I'm ready to give up on you.
 You Can't do anything right.
 That's a good paper, but You are so clumsy.
 Here, let me do it for you.
 No, do it his way, stupid.
 John can do it. Why can't you?
 I've explained that a thousand times.
 When are you going to grow up?
 I told you this would happen.
 Why don't you ever listen?
 You have rocks in your head.
 I won't like you.
 Why are you always a slow poke?
 Everybody knows that.
 Boys don't cry.
 You aren't hurt.
 You are a bully, liar, cheat, etc.
 You are wrong.
 You will never pass like that.
 You are not good at reading.
 What am I going to do with you?
 You are a hopeless case.
 If you don't try harder, you are going to fail.
 What are you, a sissy?
 Cheater, Liar.
 You are driving me crazy.
 Why can't you be as good as....
 I knew you couldn't do it.

Words that Encourage

Everybody makes mistakes.
 You are the kind who can do it.
 Failure is no crime.
 You are improving.
 I like the way you are listening.
 You try it. You can do it.

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That is very nice work.

That is really great.

I appreciate your considerate behavior.

Keep up the good work.

What a neat idea.

Your work is really improving.

I feel so good inside when you work so nicely together.

Your help is really appreciated.

Please, tell your ideas to everyone. That's an excellent idea.

When you do nice things for others, I get a very good feeling.

It's marvelous to see you so alert.

That was a very kind deed.

I could listen to you read (sing, etc.) all day.

I know that's very hard.

I understand how you must feel.

I'm glad you are interested in good work.

Nice going. Hard work does get results.

That's great.

Your kindness is so refreshing.

What a nice smile you have.

I'm glad that you decided to try.

Story: Jesus and Ruth

THE LETTER: *Ruth went to her mail box and there was only one letter. She picked it up and looked at it before opening, but then she looked at the envelope again. There was no stamp, no postmark, only her name and address. She read the letter:*

***“Dear Ruth, I am going to be in your neighborhood Saturday afternoon and I'd like to stop by for a visit.
Love always, Jesus”***

Her hands were shaking as she placed the letter on the table. ***“Why would the Lord want to visit me? I'm nobody special. I don't have anything to offer.”*** With that thought, Ruth remembered her empty kitchen cabinets. ***“Oh my goodness, I really don't have anything to offer. I'll have to run down to the store and buy something for dinner.”*** She reached for her purse and counted out its contents. Five dollars and forty cents. ***“Well, I can get some bread and cold cuts, at least.”*** She threw on her coat and hurried out the door. A loaf of French bread, a half-pound of sliced turkey, and a carton of milk... leaving Ruth with grand total of twelve cents to last her until Monday.

Nonetheless, she felt good as she headed home, her meager offerings tucked under her arm. ***“Hey lady, can you help us, lady?”*** Ruth had been so absorbed in her dinner plans, she hadn't even noticed two figures huddled in the alleyway. A man and a woman, both of them dressed in little more than rags.

“Look lady, I ain't got a job, ya know, and my wife and I have been living out here on the street, and, well, now it's getting cold and we're getting kinda hungry and, well, if you could help us, lady, we'd really appreciate it.” Ruth looked at them both. They were dirty, they were smelled bad and, frankly, she was certain that they could get some kind of work if they really wanted to. ***“Sir, I'd like to help you, but I'm a poor woman myself. All I have is a few cold cuts and some bread, and I'm having an important guest for dinner tonight and I was planning on serving that to him.”*** ***“Yeah, well, okay lady, I understand. Thanks anyway.”*** The man put his arm around the woman's shoulders, turned and headed back into the alley. As she watched them leave, Ruth felt a familiar twinge in her heart.

“Sir, wait!” The couple stopped and turned as she ran down the alley after them, ***“Look, why don't you take this food. I'll figure out something else to serve my guest.”*** She handed the man her grocery bag. ***“Thank***

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you lady. Thank you very much!" "Yes, thank you!" it was the man's wife, and Ruth could see now that she was shivering. "You know, I've got another coat at home. Here, why don't you take this one." Ruth unbuttoned her jacket and slipped it over the woman's shoulder.

Then smiling, she turned and walked back to the street.... without her coat and with nothing to serve her guest. "Thank you lady! Thank you very much!" Ruth was chilled by the time she reached her front door, and worried too. The Lord was coming to visit and she didn't have anything to offer him. She fumbled through her purse for the door key, but as she did, she noticed another envelope in her mailbox. "That's odd. The mailman doesn't usually come twice in one day." She took the envelope out of the box and opened it.

"Dear Ruth, It was so good to see you again. Thank you for the lovely meal. And thank you, too, for the beautiful coat.
Love always, Jesus."

A Time to Laugh (534)

Good Golf Day

The secret of good golf is to hit the ball hard, straight, and not too often.

Hitting Fewer Spectators

I know I am getting better at golf because I am hitting fewer spectators. (Gerald Ford)

Taking a Second Shot

It was a sunny Saturday morning, just perfect for golf, and a man was beginning his preswing routine, visualizing his upcoming shot, when a voice came over the clubhouse loudspeaker: "Would the gentleman on the ladies' tee back up to the men's tee, please!"

The man was still deep in his routine, seemingly impervious to the interruption. Again the announcement: "Would the *man* on the *women's* tee kindly back up to the men's tee!"

That was too much for the man. He broke his stance, lowered his club back to the ground, and raised his voice: "Would the announcer in the clubhouse kindly be quiet and let me play rtiy second shot?"

No Game like Golf

Golf is a simple sport. All you do is go out with three friends, play eighteen holes, and return with three enemies.

Extra Golf Pants

A man was golfing with his buddies. He reached into his bag for a club, and an extra pair of pants fell out of the bag. His friends were curious why he had an extra pair of pants in his golf bag. The man explained, "Oh, I always bring an extra pair of pants when I golf... just in case I get a hole in one."

Doctor's Privilege

A man and his wife were playing golf on the ninth green when she collapsed from what appeared to be a heart attack.

"I need help!" the woman gasped.

Her husband ran off and told her he would get help. A few minutes later the man returned and began to make his putt into the ninth hole.

His wife looked up from the ground and asked him what he thought he was doing.

The man told his wife, "Don't worry, I found a doctor. I'm just finishing my putt while we wait."

"But where is the doctor?" the woman asked with all the strength she could muster.

The man walked a short distance to the next tee, teed his ball, and drove it toward the tenth hole. He then answered, "I found a doctor on the sixth hole."

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The woman probed, "You found a doctor on the sixth hole and came back by yourself. Where is that doctor?"

"He won't be very long," the man answered confidently. "The guys on the seventh and eighth holes agreed to let him play through."