



Special Bulletin

Christmas 2021

Merry Christmas From all of us

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

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

- ***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 Khourey, Rita Strawn, Mary Stees, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad
- ***Organist:** Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D.
- ***Choir Members:** Lou Khourey, Robert Harris, Joe Simon, Shelly Hancher, Holly Stahl
- ***Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer
- ***Altar Server:** Earl Duffy and Joe Roxby
- ***Altar Boy:** Christopher AlKhouri
- ***Cedar Club:** Linda Duffy, President
- ***Women's Society:** Carol Dougherty, President

Glorious Birth of our Lord

Readings: Heb 1:1-12 and Lk 2:1-20

JOY TO THE WORLD THE SAVIOR REIGNS

“While they were there [Bethlehem], the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son.” Luke 2:6-7

The angel proclaimed it to the world, in effect, “Rejoice, again I say, rejoice, for I bring good news of great joy.” (See Luke 2:10)

Pope John Paul II echoed the same refrain two thousand years later: “Joy is the keynote message of Christianity and the recurring motif of the gospels. Go, therefore, and become messengers of joy.”

When Jesus Christ completed his public ministry, he gave a final address to the twelve Apostles saying, “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete” (John 15:11).

Christmas Day is a day of jubilation. Let us rejoice! How can we best honor our Lord for all that has been showered upon us? Blessed Juliana of Norwich gave this answer: “The greatest honor we can give to Almighty God, greater than all our sacrifices and mortifications, is to live gladly, joyfully, because of the knowledge of his love.”

With Mary, let us pray today with all our hearts and minds: “My spirit rejoices in God my savior” (Luke 1:47).

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.

Christmas Masses Schedule

Friday, December 24:

4:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Mass

✠ Deceased of the Saseen & Schlog Families by Fran Saseen

✠ Shirley Nickerson and Deceased of the Elias Family by Tammy Strong

10:00 p.m.: Christmas Midnight Mass

✠ Deceased of the Linton Family: Joe & Frances and Mike & Sue

✠ Intentions of the Benefactors of Msgr Bakhos and the church

Saturday, December 25th: Day of Obligation

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

✠ John F. Kukula by his wife Mary Rose Kukula

✠ Melo Wakim (Birthday) by Chris & Jeannette Wakim and Family

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

✠ Living & Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock Jr.

✠ Philip Geimer by Lou & Charlotte Khourey and Family

Sunday, December 26 at 10:30 a.m.: Praises to the Blessed Mother

✠ Dale Seidler Sr. by his wife Nettie and Family

✠ Philip Geimer by Carol Dougherty

✠ Intentions of Luke Lenz and Deceased of the Hassan and Nassar Families by Dalton Haas

Weekday Masses Schedule

Monday December 27: No Mass. Pastor's day off.

Tuesday December 28 at 12:05 p.m.:

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

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

Wednesday December 29: No Mass. Pastor's day off

Thursday December 30 at 12:05 p.m.:

✠ Living & Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock Jr.

✠ Kathleen Olinski by her sister Mary Ragase and Family

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

4:00 p.m.: New Year's Day Mass

✠ Living & Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock Jr.

✠ Intentions of the Benefactors of Msgr Bakhos and the church

Sunday, January 2, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.: Finding the Lord in the Temple

✠ Julia and Ronald Tappe by Ron and Susan (John) Burns

✠ Living & Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock Jr.

One day Vacation for Msgr Bakhos

After Christmas and New Year, Msgr Bakhos wants to take one day vacation every Tuesday during January. So, there will be only a Mass on Thursday during the week. Weekend Masses on Saturday and Sunday will be on time as usual. I wish you had a wonderful time with your family and friends.

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:

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

January 22: Nick Bedway

January 23: Dale Seidler Jr., Lisa Breiding

January 26: Chris DeMuth

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 Shiben, Patty Fahey, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter), Barbara Hostage, Diana Misko, Barbara Hostage,

Your Church Support Last Week

\$3,106.00	Sunday Collection
61.00	Candles
250.00	Donation to the church
50.00	Poinsettias

65.00	Utilities
\$3,532.00	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?

Parish Condolences: Msgr. Bill Bonczowski

The pastor and the parishioners of Our Lady of Lebanon Church, offer their heartfelt sympathy to the Bonczowski Family and to our Eparchy on the loss of their beloved Msgr Bill. Msgr Bill served our church for six months when Msgr Bakhos was sent in a mission to Denver, Colorado in 2011. May the Blessed Mother intercede for him and lead him to the light of Christ. We extend the parish's condolences to his Family in their time of sorrow.

Many Thanks from Msgr Bakhos

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Words are not enough to express my gratitude and deep thanks to each and everyone of you for attending my 30th Anniversary to the Priesthood last Sunday. I am grateful to the Committee who plan and execute the plan to please all those who attend. Job well done. I am proud of you. The food was delicious, the decoration was excellent and roasting the pastor was the best. Serving the Blessed Mother for more than 20 years here in Wheeling is the greatest honor and serving you my parishioners and friends is also an additional honor for me. I am so lucky to be your servant. Please pray for me as I keep each and everyone of you in my prayers. God bless you all.

--Msgr Bakhos

Many Thanks

--To Mrs. Emily Kawas for donating a poinsettia in Memory of her husband Joseph Kawas

Congratulation

To Shawn Hancher on his graduation from WVU college of fine arts. He has received his Bachelor Degree in music education. He will be attending Grad School at WVU studying orchestral conducting with a graduate assistantship. He would like to thank those who have supported him along his way.

Remembering the Church in Your Last Will

It's amazing how many people will pay money for insurance to protect their families from things that may never happen. They will pay money to protect their loved one's against a car accident that may never happen; liability insurance for a lawsuit that may never be filed; a house fire that may never start. But the truly amazing thing is that they are unwilling to designate any money at all to their Church in a Last Will to be used for the salvation of their soul.

It's truly amazing how many people will save for their retirement here on earth, yet **100 years on earth** is equal to **One Minute in Heaven**. By remembering the Church in your **Last Will**, you can designate any amount of money be deposited in a Stipend Account and the interest (*never touching the principal*) will be used to offer Monthly Masses for the salvation of your poor soul. If you think that you will be forgotten and will become one of the poor souls in Purgatory, the Masses you requested will intercede for you forever.

Plan your own salvation through the pastor of the Church.

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

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: Marriage & Priesthood

The fusion brought about by the sacrament of marriage is as the fusion of fire and iron into the white hot liquid metal that is molded into steel. As the molten metal is being poured from the furnace into the container that will shape it, it is impossible to tell where the fire leaves off and the metal begins. Even more intimately one are husband and wife in the sacrament of marriage, the fire of love in Christ and His sacramental grace.

But there is yet another, an even greater, dimension to a sacramental marriage. A couple are not simply fused into one being of husband and wife; they are fused into Christ Himself. That's what the sacrament does. A sacrament not only infuses our natural lives, it assumes us into the supernatural life, the divine life of Christ, the Son of God. A sacramental marriage is a marriage exalted to a new plane of existence.

(...) Every man ordained a priest shares in the “*ordained*” priesthood of Christ. The priest does not possess his own unique priesthood. There is one priest: Christ the Lord. Each priest shares in Christ's priesthood. The same Christ gives us all the sacraments, including the sacrament of marriage. A couple may marry each other civilly, but when they marry sacramentally, they marry in Christ. The priest is a priest forever, it is true, and a marriage ends with death, but the indissolubility of both priesthood and a sacramental marriage during the lifetime of a spouse is rooted, in part, in the reality that Christ Himself is “*indissoluble*,” always one and invisible.

(...) It has been said that peoples long ago spoke of a vein in the third finger of the left hand, a vein that led directly to the heart. The wedding band then symbolized that each one entering into marriage, encircling that finger with a band of enduring gold, was encircling the heart of the other with a bond of enduring love.

John Cardinal O'CONNOR, Covenant of Love, pp.26-28.

Wisdom: Faith

We're a rugged breed, us quads. If we weren't, we wouldn't be around today. Yes, we're a rugged breed; in many ways, we've been blessed with a savvy and spirit that isn't given to everybody.

And let me say that this refusal of total or full acceptance of one's disability all hooks up with one thing -- faith, an almost divine faith.

Down in the reception room of the Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, over on the East River at 400 East 34th Street in New York City, there is a bronze plaque that's riveted to the wall. During the months of

coming back to the Institute for treatment - two and three times a week - I rolled through that reception room many times, coming and going. But I never quite made the time to pull over to one side and read the words on that plaque that were written, it's said, by an unknown Confederate Soldier. Then one afternoon, I did. I read it, and then I read it again. When I finished it the second time I was near to bursting - not in despair, but with an inner glow that had me straining to grip the arms of my wheelchair. I'd like to share it with you.

A Creed For Those Who Have Suffered

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve.
 I was made weak, that I might learn to humbly obey...
 I asked for health, that I might do greater things.
 I was given infirmity, that I might do better things...
 I asked for riches, that I might be happy.
 I was given poverty, that I might be wise...
 I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men.
 I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God...
 I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life.
 I was given life, that I might enjoy all things...
 I got nothing I asked for - but everything I had hoped for.
 Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
 I am, among men, most richly blessed!

Story: Jesus is left outside

I drive into work listening to gospel music or a pre-recorded sermon on the radio. I get out of the car and walk to the building entrance.

As I open the building door I leave just enough room for me to get in and I leave Jesus standing outside as the door closes behind me. He's standing with His palms on the door glass and watches me as I get on the elevator.

His eyes are sad and He turns and goes to sit on the stone bench. There He'll sit patiently and wait for me for the next 9 hours.

First two hours of work - I fuss and complain about things not going right. Jesus, sitting with his chin in His hand looks upward toward the building wishing He could help me.

By lunchtime - I'm flustered, regretting I work in this place and sputtering bitterness all over folks. Jesus comes around to the side of the building where my cubicle is located. He looks up from the ground trying to get my attention but I can't hear him; my focus is on my problems.

Jesus goes back to the front of the building, sits down and continues to wait for me. He thinks to Himself as He looks up to the third floor, "She went in there defenseless. If only she had taken me in there with her. When will she learn?"

End of the day - I'm pooped, run down, no energy, irritable & frustrated. I leave the building & Jesus gets up happily to greet me but I'm in no mood for Him now. I've just been to hell and back and the last thing I want to do is to be bothered with anyone.

God just actually showed me this is how I've been acting. He showed me each act and worst of all, He let me feel a small portion of how grieved he was because of my actions and attitude. I left Jesus standing outside, almost let the door smack him in His face.

From time to time our jobs overwhelm us and we completely forget to "take Jesus with us". We may not go around cursing anyone out or punching anyone in the face but what are our actions saying about us and about who or whose we are?

We are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. (Mt. 5:13)

We should be bringing peace to our jobs and not be the cause of confusion. We should be the ones to bring our gifts & talents to the table to help in WHATEVER area God has chosen for us to work in.

In Colossians we read, "Whatever you do, work at it with ALL your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." (3:23-24)

A Time to Laugh (537)

Funny though real definitions

School: A place where Papa pays and Son plays.

Life Insurance: A contract that keeps you poor all your life so that you can die Rich.

Nurse: A person who wakes you up to give you sleeping pills.

Marriage: It's an agreement in which a man loses his bachelor degree and a woman gains her masters.

Lecture: An art of transferring information from the notes of the Lecturer to the notes of the students without passing through 'the minds of either'

Boss: Someone who is early when you are late and late when you are early.

Conference: The confusion of one man multiplied by the number present.

Compromise: The art of dividing a cake in such a way that everybody believes he got the biggest piece.

Dictionary: A place where success comes before work.

Conference Room: A place where everybody talks, nobody listens and everybody disagrees later on.

Father: A banker provided by nature.

Tears: The hydraulic force by which masculine willpower is defeated by feminine waterpower.

Politician: One who shakes your hand before elections and your Confidence after.

Doctor: A person who kills your ills by pills, and kills you by bills.

Classic: Books, which people praise, but do not read.

Smile: A curve that can set a lot of things straight.

Office: A place where you can relax after your strenuous home life.

Yawn: The only time some married men ever get to open their mouth.

Etc.: A sign to make others believe that you know more than you actually do.

Committee: Individuals who can do nothing individually and sit to decide that nothing can be done together.

Experience: The name men give to their mistakes.

Atom Bomb: An invention to end all inventions.

Philosopher: A fool who torments himself during life, to be wise after death.

God Is Watching the Apples

At a recent church luncheon buffet line, next to the apples was a sign that read: "Apples-take one per person. Remember, God is watching."

A little further down the line next to the cookies, someone had scrawled with a crayon: "Cookies-take all you want. God is watching the apples."

If You Think about It, Things Are Tough

Henry was looking so glum and depressed that a friend asked, "Henry, what's the matter with you? You look like you've lost your last friend."

Henry responded, "What's the matter? I'll tell you. Remember two weeks ago, my Aunt Molly died and left me fifty thousand dollars?"

His friend said, "Yes, I remember. What's so awful?"

"What's so awful, you ask! Remember last week, my Uncle David died and left me a hundred thousand dollars?"

His friend said he remembered that too and asked, "What's so bad about that?"

With a sad face Henry responded, "What's bad about it? This week I inherited nothing."

The Lord gives us many gifts each day. We have many reasons to be joyful and happy. Yet many times we are not happy with what we have because we are disappointed that we do not have more.

Getting What She Deserves

A woman with a very nasty attitude had spent almost two hours browsing through the store. The longer she shopped, the more she complained and criticized. Finally, she said, "Why is it that I never get what I ask for in here?" "Perhaps, madam," said the exhausted clerk, "it's because we are too polite."