



January 9, 2022

Bulletin #2

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

Rectory: 304-233-1688 • Fax: 304-233-4714

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Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



Epiphany (Baptism of our Lord)

***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

Epiphany (Baptism of our Lord)

Readings: Ti 2:11-37 and Lk 3:15-22

“John was in the wilderness baptizing and proclaiming a baptism of penance for the forgiveness of sins”

The Church ends this Joyous season of Christmas with the recounting of Jesus' baptism. We are moving into Epiphany Season and today's readings dampen our spirits a bit. True, we hear the poetry of Isaiah that sets the stage for the coming of a Messiah. True, we hear John's prophecy, and we hear the voice from heaven declaring: ***“You are my Son, the Beloved.”*** True, these are beautiful and inspiring stories. But they cause us to think of Great Lent.

It is that whole symbolism of baptism thing, the plunging into the waters of chaos and death, dying to self in order to rise a new creation. All of Lent draws us to baptism, to go out into the wilderness and face our demons, so that we can ultimately conquer them and journey to Jerusalem to die with Christ.

The romance of new birth ends and the reality of 2 o'clock feedings weary our souls. The decorations are stored away and the winter blahs chill our hearts. We're not yet ready for these stories of the man Jesus. We want to enjoy the stories of the child Jesus a little longer, gradually adjust to his growing and maturing and beginning his short-lived career. But we are plunged, as in baptism; plunged into the reality of Christian discipleship.

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, Jan. 8-9: Epiphany (Baptism of our Lord)

Saturday January 8 at 4:00 p.m.: Epiphany (Blessing of the Holy Water)

- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ Deceased of the Thomas, Splatt & Nutter Families by John & Kathy Thomas (MN)
- ✠ Special Intentions of A Friend

Sunday, January 9 at 10:30 p.m.: Epiphany (Blessing of the Holy Water)

- ✠ Bill Dougherty by his wife Carol Dougherty
- ✠ Vincent and Agnes Jacovetty (Anniversary) by George & Patty (Jacovetty) Fahey

Weekday Masses Schedule

Monday January 10: No Mass. Electrical work at the church.

Tuesday January 11: No Mass. Electrical work at the church.

Wednesday January 12: No Mass. Electrical work at the church.

Thursday January 13 at 12:05 p.m.:

- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, and her son Mark by her last will
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will

Friday January 14: No Mass. Pastor's day off

Next Weekend, Jan. 15-16: Epiphany (Baptism of our Lord)

Saturday January 15 at 4:00 p.m.:

- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by his grandchildren: Jeff, Courtney and Patrick
- ✠ Chuck Gibbons by Carol Dougherty
- ✠ Special Intentions of A Friend

Sunday, January 16 at 10:30 p.m.:

✠ Donald Vince (Birthday) by his children and grandchildren

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

Mass Time change in January

After Christmas and New Year, some electrical work will be done in the church. So, Msgr Bakhos wants to give the electricians enough time to work without interruption. No Mass all Tuesdays in 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.

Announcement for Synod Consultations

Synod

In preparation for the Synod of Bishops that will take place in the Vatican in October 2023, Pope Francis has invited all Catholics around the world to offer their opinions regarding how the Church should journey together in its mission of evangelization in the future. This is the first time in Church history that lay people of all ages are given the opportunity to participate and voice their opinions about how the church should work more closely together. We should all take this invitation from Pope Francis very seriously and do our part. On behalf of Bishop Elias A. Zaidan, I urge each and every one of you to participate in this Synodal process.

Everyone will have the opportunity to offer feedback in the next 3 months, through the end of March. Feedback will be collected for 10 topics that Pope Francis selected, which are all related to the theme of “*journeying together in our mission of evangelization*”.

You can offer your feedback in two ways. First, you can participate in Synod consultation events which will be organized and facilitated by members in our parish. Second, you can provide your feedback electronically through Google Forms. If you prefer, you can also print, complete, and submit these Google forms by mail or by hand to our church office.

Sign up information for consultation events and links to Google Forms are available in **our bulletin and on our web site**. Do not miss your once in a lifetime chance to make a difference in the future of our church.

If you have any questions or want more information, please reach out to Msgr Bakhos at 304-233-1688

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:

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

January 28: Nikki Popovich

February 2: David John

February 4: Lindsay Carl

February 9: Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Michael DiFabrizio

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, Mary Stees, Diane Palotay, Rex & Rita Strawn, Viola J. Yeater (mother of Jeannette Wakim), Mary Thomas, Jack Hogan (infant son of Mark & Michaela Hogan & great nephew of Lou Kourey), Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, John Shibben, Patty Fahey, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter)

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$1,947.00	Sunday Collection
67.00	Candles

198.00	Utilities
\$2,212.00	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?

Carol Dougherty moved to Oaklahoma

Mrs. Carol Dougherty, the president of the Women Society, moved to Oaklahoma City to live closer to her only daughter Lisa and her Family. We wish her all the best in life.

The Khourey's moved to Florida for the winter

Lou & Charlotte Khourey moved to Florida for the winter months. We wish them and their family all the best.

Many Thanks

--To Ron Gibbons for fixing some locks in the church. Job well done.

--To Randy Weisner for fixing the chimes. Job well done.

--To Gary and Ron Weisner for designing the new electrical system in the church building. They are working over time to afford more power to the church building. May the Blessed Mother reward you in good health and long life. Your parents are the blessed tree that brought you to this life. We are proud of you.

Church statement for tax deduction

All parishioners who donated over \$250.00 to the church during 2021 will receive a church statement to be used for their tax deduction. Money donated to the church via checks or envelopes are recorded and shown with the statement. We are extremely meticulous but in case of discrepancy, please call Msgr Bakhos at 304-233-1688. Thank you for your generosity to the church and to the pastor.

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. In case we can celebrate outside because of the corona virus, there will be only one day festival instead of two. More details will be published in the coming bulletins.

Spirituality: Mass as wedding

“The place is adorned, crowned with glory, for this is the festal day of the Wedding; new is the Bridal Chamber, Christ is the Bridegroom, the ‘Watchers’ are exulting, men are giving thanks. The altar is established, robed in truth; the priest is standing, he kindles the fire. He takes bread and gives the Body, he receives wine and distributes the Blood. The altar of stones supports our hope and the pure priest calls on the Spirit. The gathered people cries out ‘Holy’, the King hears and makes mercy flow” --Chorbishop BALAI [5th Century]

Wisdom: Family

I ran into a stranger as he passed by, Oh excuse me please was my reply.

He said, Please excuse me too; I wasn't watching for you.

We were very polite, this stranger and I.

We went on our way and we said good-bye.

But at home a different story is told,

How we treat our loved ones, young and old.

Later that day, cooking the evening meal, My son stood beside me very still.
 When I turned, I nearly knocked him down.
 Move out of the way, I said with a frown.
 He walked away, his little heart broken.
 I didn't realize how harshly I'd spoken.
 While I lay awake in bed, God's still small voice came to me and said,
 While dealing with a stranger, common courtesy you use,
 but the children you love, you seem to abuse.
 Go and look on the kitchen floor, You'll find some flowers there by the door.
 Those are the flowers he brought for you.
 He picked them himself: pink, yellow and blue.
 He stood very quietly not to spoil the surprise, you never saw the tears that filled his little.
 By this time, I felt very small, And now my tears began to fall.
 I quietly went and knelt by his bed; Wake up, little one, wake up, I said.
 Are these the flowers you picked for me?
 He smiled, I found 'em, out by the tree.
 I picked 'em because they're pretty like you.
 I knew you'd like 'em, especially the blue.
 I said, Son, I'm very sorry for the way I acted today;
 I shouldn't have yelled at you that way.
 He said, Oh, Mom, that's okay. I love you anyway.
 I said, Son, I love you too, and I do like the flowers, especially the blue.

FAMILY

Are you aware that if we died tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of days. But the family we left behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives. And come to think of it, we pour ourselves more into work than into our own family, an unwise investment indeed, don't you think? So what is behind the story?

Do you know what the word FAMILY means?

FAMILY = (F)ATHER (A)ND (M)OTHER (I) (L)OVE (Y)OU

Story: Jesus loves you

Every Sunday afternoon, after the morning service at their church, the Pastor and his eleven-year-old son would go out into their town and hand out Gospel Tracts.

This particular Sunday afternoon, as it came time for the Pastor and his son to go to the streets with their tracts, it was very cold outside as well as pouring down rain. The boy bundled up in his warmest and driest clothes and said--- "OK dad, I'm ready."

His Pastor dad asked---"Ready for what?" "Dad, it's time we gather our tracts together and go out." Dad responds, "Son, it's very cold outside and it's pouring down rain." The boy gives his dad a surprised look, asking "But Dad, aren't people still going to Hell, even though it's raining?"

Dad answers, "Son, I am not going out in this weather." Despondently, the boy ask, "Dad, can I go? Please?"

His father hesitated for a moment then said, "Son, you can go. Here are the tracts, be careful son." "Thanks Dad! " And with that, he was off and out into the rain.

This eleven-year-old boy walked the streets of the town going door to door and handing everybody he met in the street a Gospel Tract. After two hours of walking in the rain, he was soaking, bone-chilled wet and down to his VERY LAST TRACT.

He stopped on a corner and looked for someone to hand a tract to, but the streets were totally deserted. Then he turned toward the first home he saw and started up the sidewalk to the front door and rang the doorbell. He rang the bell, but nobody answered. He rang it again and again, but still no one answered. He waited but still no answer. Finally, this eleven-year-old trooper turned to leave, but something stopped him. Again, he turned to the door and rang the bell and knocked loudly on the door with his fist. He waited, something holding him there on the front porch. He rang again, and this time the door slowly opened. Standing in the doorway was a very

sad-looking elderly lady. She softly asked "What can I do for you son?" With radiant eyes and a smile that lit up her world, this little boy said, "Ma'am, I'm sorry if I disturbed you, but I just want to tell you that JESUS REALLY DOES LOVE YOU, and I came to give you my very last Gospel Tract which will tell you all about JESUS and His great LOVE."

With that, he handed her his last tract, and turned to leave. She called to him as he departed. "Thank you, son! And God Bless You!" Well, the following Sunday morning in church Pastor Dad was in the pulpit. As the service began, he asked, "Does anybody have a testimony or want to say anything?" Slowly, in the back row of the church, an elderly lady stood to her feet. As she began to speak, a look of glorious radiance came from her face as she, "No one in this church knows me. I've never been here before.

You see, before last Sunday I was not a Christian. My husband passed on some time ago, leaving me totally alone in this world. Last Sunday, being a particularly cold and rainy day, it was even more so in my heart that I came to the end of the line where I no longer had any hope or will to live. So I took a rope and a chair and ascended the stairway into the attic of my home.

I fastened the rope securely to a rafter in the roof, then stood on the chair and fastened the other end of the rope around my neck. Standing on that chair, so lonely and brokenhearted I was about to leap off, when suddenly the loud ringing of my doorbell downstairs startled me. I thought, "I'll wait a minute, and whoever it is will go away." I waited and waited, but the ringing doorbell seemed to get louder and more insistent, and then the person ringing also started knocking loudly. I thought to myself again, "Who on earth could this be?! Nobody ever rings my bell or comes to see me."

I loosened the rope from my neck and started for the front door, all the while the bell rang louder and louder. When I opened the door and looked, I could hardly believe my eyes, for there on my front porch was the most radiant and angelic little boy I had ever seen in my life. His SMILE, oh, I could never describe it to you! And the words that came from his mouth caused my heart, that had long been dead, TO LEAP TO LIFE as he exclaimed with a cherub-like voice, "Ma'am, I just came to tell you that JESUS REALLY DOES LOVE YOU." Then he gave me this Gospel Tract that I now hold in my hand. As the little angel disappeared back out into the cold and rain, I closed my door and read slowly every word of this Gospel Tract. Then I went up to my attic to get my rope and chair. I wouldn't be needing them anymore. You see, "I am now a Happy Child of the KING and since the address of your church was on the back of this Gospel Tract, I have come hereto, personally say THANK YOU TO God's little angel who came just in the nick of time and, by so doing, spared my soul from eternity in hell."

There was not a dry eye in the church. And as shouts of praise and honor to THE KING resounded off the very rafters of the building, Pastor Dad descended from the pulpit to the front pew where the little angel was seated. He took his son in his arms and sobbed uncontrollably. Probably no church has had a more glorious moment, And probably this universe has never seen a Papa that was more filled with love & honor for his son... Except for One. This Father also allowed His Son to go out into a cold and dark world. He received His Son back with joy unspeakable, and as all of heaven shouted praises and honor to The King, The Father sat His beloved Son on a throne far above all principality and power and every name that is named.

A Time to Laugh (539)

Kirk and His Boss

I once was pretty popular and I was bragging to my boss one day... "You know, I know everyone there is to know. Just name someone, anyone, and I know them." Tired of my boasting, my boss called my bluff, "Okay. Kirk, how about Tom Cruise?" "Sure, yes, Tom and I are old friends, and I can prove it." So, my boss and I fly out to Hollywood and knock on Tom Cruise's door and sure enough. Tom Cruise shouts, "Kirk! Great to see You! You and your friend come right in and join me for lunch!"

Although impressed, my boss was still skeptical. After we leave Cruse's house, he tells me that he thinks my knowing Cruse was just lucky. 'No. Just name anyone else.' I said. "President Bush, my Boss quickly retorts. 'Yep', I said. 'I know him. Let's fly out to Washington.' So, off we go. At the White House, Bush spots me on the tour and motions me and my boss over, saying, "Kirk, what a surprise. I was just on my way to a meeting, but you and your friend come on in and let's have a cup of coffee first and we'll catch up.

Well, my boss is very shaken by now, but still not totally convinced. After we leave the White House grounds, he expresses his doubts to me, and I again implore him to name anyone else. "The new Pope." my boss replies. "Sure!" I say, 'I've known the Pope a long time.' So, off we fly to Rome. My boss and I are assembled with the masses in Vatican Square when I said, "this will never work. I can't catch the Pope's eye among all these people. Tell you what, I know all the guards, so let me just go upstairs and I'll come out on the balcony with the Pope." I disappeared into the crowd headed toward St. Peter's. Sure enough, half an hour later, I emerged with the Pope on the balcony. But by the time I returned. I found that my Boss has had a heart attack, and is surrounded by paramedics! Working my way to my boss' side, I asked him, "What happened?"

My boss looks up and says. 'I was doing fine until you and the Pope came out on the balcony and the Japanese tourist next to me asked, 'Who's that on the balcony with Kirk?'"

Maternal Guilt

God invented guilt so mothers could be everywhere at once.

We're in the Money

A couple had installed a fancy horn system on their car that played various tunes. This unfortunate couple had the embarrassment of having their fancy horn system get stuck at a most inopportune time, while in a procession of cars that had come to a stop all at the same time. Their horn inadvertently began to play the tune "We're in the Money." The circumstance was the graveside service of their grandmother. The crowd was not amused.

The Voice from Above

Two big city coaches from the University of Washington were snooping around in Washington State country. It was winter, and they heard that one of the specialties of the area was ice fishing, so they decided to try their hand at it. They went to a sporting goods store and bought all the necessary paraphernalia-lines, poles, lures, bait, a small power saw, a tent, a camp stove-the whole bit-and then they found some ice, pitched their tent, and started to cut a hole in the ice. Just as they got into the spirit of the thing, a loud, awesome voice from above proclaimed, "There's no fish under the ice."

Well, that stopped them for a minute, and they looked quizzically at each other; but then, embarrassed to acknowledge this eerie voice to each other, they turned back to their saw and the ice. Just as they got going again they heard the voice again: "There's no fish under the ice."

They stole embarrassed looks at each other but kept on sawing. Now, a third time, even louder than before, the booming voice thundered at them: "There's no fish under the ice."

Finally, one of them could stand it no longer, stood up, and cried out, "Is that you, Lord?"

And the voice boomed out, "No, this is the manager of the ice skating rink."