



January 22, 2023

Bulletin #4

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



3rd Sunday of Epiphany

***Weekday Masses:** Mondays and Wednesdays: No Mass. Pastor's office work.
Tuesdays and Thursday at 12:00 Noon [*Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass*]
Fridays: No Mass. Pastoral visitations.

- ***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, Mary Stees, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad
- ***Choir Members:** Lou Kourey, 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:** Jeannette Wakim, 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

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Readings: Num 21:4-9; Gal 3:23-39 and Jn 3:1-16

For the most part we see Jesus surrounded by the ordinary people, but here we see him in contact with one of the aristocracy of Jerusalem. There are certain things that we know about Nicodemus.

Nicodemus must have been wealthy. When Jesus died Nicodemus brought for his body “a mixture of myrrh and aloes about a hundred pound weight” (*John 19: 39*), and only a wealthy man could have brought that.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee. In many ways the Pharisees were the best people in the whole country. There were never more than 6,000 of them. They formed a brotherhood by taking a pledge in front of three witnesses that they would spend all their lives observing every detail of the scribal law.

What exactly did that mean? To the Jew the Law was the most sacred thing in all the world. The Law was the first five books of the Old Testament. They believed it to be the perfect word of God. To add one word to it or to take one word away from it was a deadly sin. Now if the Law is the perfect and complete word of God, that must mean that it contained everything a man need know for the living of a good life, if not explicitly, then implicitly. If it was not there in so many words, it must be possible to deduce it. The Law as it stood consisted of great, wide, noble principles which a man had to work out for himself.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, and it is astonishing that a man who regarded goodness in that light and who had given himself to that kind of life in the conviction that he was pleasing God should wish to talk to Jesus at all.

Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews. This is to say that he was a member of the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was a court of seventy members and was the supreme court of the Jews. It had religious jurisdiction over every Jew in the world; and one of its duties was to examine and deal with anyone suspected of being a false prophet. Again it is amazing that Nicodemus should come to Jesus at all.

It was by night that Nicodemus came to Jesus. There were probably two reasons for that:

- 1- It may have been a sign of caution. Nicodemus quite frankly may not have wished to commit himself by coming to Jesus by day. We must not condemn him. The wonder is that with his background, he came to Jesus at all. It was infinitely better to come at night than not at all. It is a miracle of grace that Nicodemus overcame his prejudices and his upbringing and his whole view of life enough to come to Jesus.
- 2- But there may be another reason. The rabbis declared that the best time to study the law was at night when a man was undisturbed. Throughout the day, Jesus was surrounded by crowds of people all the time. It may well be that Nicodemus came to Jesus by night because he wanted an absolutely private and completely undisturbed time with Jesus.

Nicodemus was a puzzled man, a man with many honors and yet with something lacking in his life. He came to Jesus for a talk so that somehow in the darkness of the night he might find light.

This Weekend: Jan.21-22: 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Saturday, January 21 at 4:00 p.m.:

✠ John Shiben by Denna Shiben

✠ Mike & Sue Linton & their parents Joe & Frances Linton by Steve Linton

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

Sunday, January 22 at 10:30 a.m.:

✠ Jim George Sr., by his wife Shirley and Family

✠ John Shiben by John & Tulane Mensore

✠ Mike & Sue Linton & their parents Joe & Frances Linton by Steve Linton

Next Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, January 23: No Mass. Pastor's Day off.

Tuesday, January 24 Mass at Noon:

- ✠ Elizabeth Ferris Magnone (Anniversary) by Mary Stees and Libby G. Magnone
- ✠ John Shibben by Sharon Bishop
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

Wednesday, January 25: No Mass. Office work.

Thursday, January 26 Mass at Noon:

- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- ✠ Mike & Sue Linton & their parents Joe & Frances Linton by Steve Linton
- ✠ John Shibben by William and Mary Beth Yaeger

Friday, January 27: No Mass. Visitation of the sick.

Next Weekend: Jan.28-29: Sunday of the Priests

Saturday, January 28 at 4:00 p.m.:

- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ Living & Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock Jr.
- † Special Intention

Sunday, January 29 at 10:30 a.m.:

- ✠ Laura Wakim by the Wakim Family
- ✠ John Shibben by John & Tulane Mensore
- ✠ Mike & Sue Linton & their parents Joe & Frances Linton by Steve Linton

Schedule of Coming Events:

Sunday, February 5	LOL Women's Society Meeting in Cedar Hall after 10:30 a.m. Mass
Monday, February 6	Cedar Club Meeting in Cedar Hall at 6:00 p.m. (Election of Officers)
February 11-17	Week of the Faithful Departed. Remember your parents and beloved ones.
Sunday, February 12	Valentine Dinner Dance at Noon in the Cedar Hall (parishioners only)

2022 Ash Distribution Schedule

Ash Monday, February 20:

12:05 p.m.: Mass & Blessing with Ash

5:30 p.m.: Mass & Blessing with Ash

Ash Wednesday, February 22:

12:05 p.m.: Mass & Blessing with Ash

5:30 p.m.: Mass & Blessing with Ash

Stations of the Cross & Light Dinner (starting Friday, February 24)

Every Friday during Lent, we celebrate the Mass at 5:30 p.m. Mass will be followed by the Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Cross. The "*Stations of the Cross*" is a devotion which consists of following the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ by recalling the fourteen prominent events that took place from the time of the trial under Pontius Pilate until His death and burial on Mount Calvary.

Date:	Volunteers Who Sponsor the Light Meals on Fridays during Lent:
1 st Friday, Feb. 24	Meal Sponsor: Dr. & Mrs Nabiél Alkhouri
2 nd Friday, March 3	Meal Sponsors: Susan John
3 rd Friday, March 10	Meal Sponsors: Chris & Jeannette Wakim
4 th Friday, March 17	Meal Sponsor: Mary Stees and Libby Magnone
5 th Friday, March 24	Meal Sponsors: Liz & Jay Murad
6 th Friday, March 31	Meal Sponsor: ???
Good Friday, April 7	Meal Sponsor: The Cedar Club & Parishioners

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:

January 23: Dale Seidler Jr.
 January 26: Chris DeMuth
 January 28: Nikki Popovich
 February 2: David John
 February 4: Lindsay Carl
 February 9: Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Michael DiFabrizio
 February 10: Sandra DeMuth
 February 11: Charlotte Khourey
 February 14: Diane Frenn
 February 15: Nettie Seidler
 February 16: Dave Sengewalt
 February 17: Rebecca DiFabrizio
 February 21: Louie Khourey, Dennis Porter

Your Church Support Last Week

\$1,168.00	Sunday Collection
43.00	Candles
14.00	Coffee hour
160.00	Donation to the church
260.00	Valentine Party
\$1,645.00	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

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)

Tammy Strong, Patty Olinsky, Earl Ragase, Bettie Jane Fadoul, Patrick Sengewalt, Renee Beabout (daughter of Marge John), Mary Stees, Rex Strawn, Viola J. Yeater (mother of Jeannette Wakim), Mary Thomas, Jack Hogan (infant son of Mark & Michaela Hogan & great nephew of Lou Khourey), Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter),

What's New?

Parish Condolences: Jim Thomas

The pastor and the parishioners of Our Lady of Lebanon Church, offer their heartfelt sympathy to the Thomas Family on the loss of their beloved Jim. Jim was the father of our beloved parishioner Diane Frenn. He passed away in Pittsburgh last week. 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 especially Dr. Frenn and his family.

Discernment Weekend *(March 24-26, 2023)*

Wondering if the Lord is calling you to the priesthood in the Maronite church? Men aged 18-40 are invited for the weekend of fellowship, prayer, discussion and discernment on March 24-26, 2023 at the Maronite Seminary, Washington, DC. Information: 202-723-8831

Mahrajan Update *(Sunday, August 13, 2023)*

Next year's date: Next year we will celebrate our 90th Lebanese Festival (Mahrajan) at Oglebay Park on Sunday, August 13, 2023.

Mahrajan Mailing List:

If you have a friend or know someone who would be interested in receiving correspondence about next year's Festival, please submit their addresses to Msgr. Bakhos.

Spirituality: Mary, mother of hope

Maronites, like many other Eastern Catholic Churches, have a long-lasting and deep devotion to Mary harkening back to Saint Ephrem and the Fathers. They live in hope, imploring Mary as their Mother to intercede for them. In Scripture, the Chosen People of the Old Covenant lived in hope and yearned for the Messiah and the Mother of the Messiah. Her birth would usher His coming. Mary's roots are in the Old Testament and all the women prefigured her, announced her coming and were signposts of God's providence and love for His children.

Mary, Mother of Charity

Charity, God's Love and Grace poured in our heart, is the Christian gift to the world per excellence. The Beatitudes bring forth the love of God in ways that no human heart could have conceived, none except the woman who conceived in her heart and bore in her flesh love incarnate. Mary was a charitable person, a teacher by her example, and a powerful intercessor.

Mary, Mother of Faith

Mary stood at the foot of the Cross and did not fail the test. She continued to believe in Her Son and Redeemer even when nailed on the Cross. Mary's walk, like Abraham's walk, was in the dark night of the faith. Mary was a example of living faith, and a model of faith in our modern life. Mary's faith never failed and neither will our faith fail as long as we stand next to her at the foot of the Cross and we say with the apostles, "I believe, O Lord, strengthen my unbelief"

Wisdom: Life shovels dirt

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway, it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey. He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They each grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well.

At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement, he quieted down. A few shovel loads later, the farmer looked down the well, and was astonished at what he saw. As every shovel of dirt hit his back, the donkey did something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up. As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed, as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off.

The Moral:

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a stepping stone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up!

Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

1. Free your heart from hatred.
2. Free your mind from worries.
3. Live simply.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less.

Story: Mom's wisdom

My Mom is in her seventies, and has seen a lot in her lifetime. She faced challenges that we all face one way or the other. She has seen successes and many happy times throughout her life.

Recently, we were talking and I asked her if she could give me just three pieces of advice to live my life what would they be. After some thought, she said she would have to think about it. It surprised me that she wanted time to think about it. She always was free with her advice sometimes even when I didn't want to hear it.

I arrived at her house the next day where she handed me a piece of paper with her three pieces of wisdom written out. She explained to me that if she was only able to give me three, that these three were the most important.

As I read them, I realized the importance of what she was telling me. She wasn't telling me to save my money, nor was she telling me to work hard. Her 3 most important things to live a happy life were truly pieces of wisdom.

What were they? Here is the wisdom my Mom shared with me:

1. Make each new day count by helping someone or just making someone smile.
2. Don't dwell on life's troubles, think of the good times.
3. Don't worry about things you can't do anything about.

This was an interesting thing to do. Perhaps, like me, you have someone in your life that has been there for you, no matter what. My Mom has always been one of my biggest supporters and the wisdom she has given me over the years has helped shaped the person I am today.

Ask that person in your life to give you three pieces of advice to live a good life. You may be pleasantly surprised by the answers you get.

A Time to Laugh (46)

Spirituality

An American preacher in Beijing asked the waiter in a restaurant what Religion was for the Chinese.

The waiter took him out to the balcony and asked, "What do you see, sir?" "I see a street and houses and people walking and buses and taxis plying."

"What else?" "Trees." "What else?" "The wind is blowing."

The Chinese extended his arms and exclaimed, "that is religion, sir!"

(You're searching for it the way someone searches for sight with open eyes! It is too clear that it is hard to see.)

Human Nature

A former inmate of a Nazi concentration camp was visiting a friend who had shared the ordeal with him. "Have you forgiven the Nazis?" he asked his friend.

"Yes." "Well, I haven't. I'm still consumed with hatred for them."

"In that case," said his friend gently, "they still have you in prison."

(Our enemies are not those who hate us but those whom we hate.)

Innocence

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was? The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

Oooooooooooooooooops!

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother has several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head.

She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?" Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Momma, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

Human Nature

A passenger on a train was giving the dining car waiter his order. "For dessert," he said, "I'll have tarts and ice-cream." The waiter said they had no tarts. The man exploded. "What? No tarts? That's absurd. I am one of the biggest customers this rail road has. Each year I organize trips for thousands of tourists and I have hundred of

tons of freight transported on it. And when I myself travel on the line I cannot get a simple thing like tarts! I'll take this up with the chairman himself." The chef called the waiter aside and said, "We can get him the tarts at the next stop."

Right after the next stop the waiter was back again. "I'm happy to inform you, sir, that our chef has worked on these tarts especially for you. He hopes you will like them. And, with them, we would like to offer you this seventy-five old brandy, compliments of the line."

The passenger threw his napkin on the table, made a fist and shouted.

"To hell with the tarts! I'd rather be angry!"

Relationships

It was their golden wedding and the couple were kept busy all day with the celebrations and the crowds of relatives and friends who dropped in to congratulate them. So they were grateful when, towards evening, they were able to be alone on the porch watching the sunset, relaxing after the tiring day.

The old man gazed fondly at his wife and said, "Agatha, I'm proud of you!"

"What was that you said?" asked the old lady. "You know I'm hard of hearing. Say it louder." "I said I'm proud of you." "That's all right," she replied with a dismissive gesture. "I'm tired of you, too."

(Perfect listening is listening not so much to others as to oneself. Perfect sight is seeing not others so much as oneself.)

Famous Quotes (45)

Animals:

--To his dog, every man is Napoleon; hence the constant popularity of dogs. (Aldous Huxley)

Answers:

--Answers are what we have for other people's problems.

--No answer is also an answer. (Danish proverb)

Anticipation:

--If pleasures are greatest in anticipation, just remember that this is also true of trouble. (Elbert Hubbard)

--A man's delight in looking forward to and hoping for some particular satisfaction is a part of the pleasure flowing out of it, enjoyed in advance. But this is afterward deducted, for the more we look forward to anything, the less we enjoy it when it comes. (Arthur Schopenhauer)

--We love to expect, and when expectation is either disappointed or gratified, we want to be again expecting. (Samuel Johnson)

--Nothing is so wretched or foolish as to anticipate misfortunes. What madness is to be expecting evil before it comes. (Seneca)

--If there's one thing I know, it's that God does love a good joke.

--Oxymoron Definition: A rhetorical figure in which incongruous or contradictory terms are combined.

EXAMPLE: Removing the Ten Commandments from the courthouse while

making people in court swear to "tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God." ... while your hand is on the Bible!

--Question: If you could live forever, would you and why? Answer: "I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever, then we would live forever, but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever," (Miss Alabama in the 1994 Miss USA contest.)

--"Instead of getting married again, I'm going to find a woman I don't like and just give her a house." (Drew Carey)

--"The problem with the designated driver program, it's not a desirable job, but if you ever get sucked into doing it, have fun with it. At the end of the night, drop them off at the wrong house." (Rod Stewart)

--"What do people mean when they say the computer went down on them?" (Jeff Foxworthy)

--When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.

--The best sermons are lived, not preached.

--Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.

- Don't judge folks by their relatives.
- Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
- Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.
- Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't botherin' you none.
- Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.
- If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.
- Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.
- The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'.
- Always drink upstream from the herd.
- Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.
- Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.
- If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.
- Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.