



December 10, 2023

Bulletin #50

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



Birth of John the Baptist

- *Weekend Masses: Saturdays: Mass at 4:00 p.m.
Sundays: Mass at 10:30 a.m.
- *Weekday Masses: Mondays and Wednesdays and Fridays: No Mass. Pastor's office work.
Tuesdays and Thursdays Mass at 12:00 Noon
- *Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament: Every 1st Saturday and Sunday of the month after Mass.
- *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, Mary Stees, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad.
- *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: 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.

Birth of John the Baptist

Readings: 1 Sam 9:1-23; Gal 4:21-5:1 and Lk 1:57-66

From the days of John the Baptizer until now, the kingdom of heaven suffered violence, and the violent bear it away. The words of this divine reflection should be most carefully considered by us. For we must find out how the kingdom of heaven suffers violence. Who dares to counsel violence against heaven? And again we must ask, if the kingdom of heaven suffered violence, why has it suffered this violence from the days of John the Baptizer, and not also before? But when the law said: if any man has done this or that, let him die, it is plain to all who read, that it punished sinners of all kinds with the penalties of its own sternness, but it did not return them to life, through repentance. But when John the Baptizer, preceding the forgiveness of the redeemer, preached repentance, so that the sinner who was dead through sin might live through being converted, truly has the kingdom of heaven suffered violence since the days of John the Baptizer.

For what is the kingdom of heaven unless the dwelling place of the Just? For to the Just alone are due the rewards of the heavenly city, so that only the humble, the chaste, the gentle, and the merciful may come to heavenly joys. When any one therefore, either swollen with pride, or soiled by the evil deeds of the flesh, or inflamed with anger, or undutiful through inhumanity, has returned to penance after these offense, and receives life eternal, this sinner makes entry into another's kingdom. And so from the days of John the Baptizer the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take possession of it; for he who has imposed repentance upon sinners, what has he done but taught them to do violence to the kingdom of heaven?

Salvation Army Angel Tree at OLOL Church:

Every child deserves to experience the joy of Christmas morning.

The Salvation Army Angel Tree program helps provide Christmas gifts for hundreds of thousands of children around the country each year. This year, Our Lady of Lebanon Church is participating in the Angel Tree Program. A Christmas Tree has been placed in the foyer near the church entrance. Hanging from the tree are 20 tags representing a child in need in the Wheeling WV area. On the tag will be the age and gender of the child along with a few gift ideas. If you would like to sponsor a child in need, please take a tag, purchase gifts base on the child's need (listed on the tag) and return the gifts without wrapping them to Our Lady of Lebanon Church by **Sunday, December 3rd and 10th**. Your generosity will prove joy and love to a child on Christmas morning. If you have questions, please contact Susan John, Liz Murad, or any OLOL Parish Council member. Once it has been registered and accepted as an **Angel** their Christmas wish list is shared with donors in your community who purchase gifts of new clothing and toys. The gifts are distributed to the family to place under their family Christmas tree.

Creating your legacy

How can you manage your charitable giving more efficiently to benefit the charities you love and support, like our church established by our ancestors since 1906? The Parish Council opened an Endowment Fund Account designated exclusively for the church maintenance for years to come. All donations are tax deductible. Please let us keep our beautiful church well maintained and donate anytime toward this account or put the church in writing in your last will. To donate, please call the church office at 304-233-1688. May the Blessed Mother reward you in this life and in the next.

--Monsignor Bakhos, pastor.

This Weekend: Sat.-Sun., Dec 9-10: Birth of John the Baptist

Saturday, December 9, Mass at 4:00 p.m. followed by Christmas Novena

✠ Bob Sengewalt (Anniversary) by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt

✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne

✠ Linda Hostutler by Carol Dougherty (Ok)

Sunday, December 10, Mass at 10:30 a.m. followed by Christmas Novena

✠ Linda Hostutler by Lou and Charlotte Khourey and Family

✠ Angelo Polsinelli (Anniversary) by his daughter Rosalie Conti

Weekdays Mass Schedule

<u>Monday, December 11:</u>	No Mass. Msgr Bakhos on vacation
<u>Tuesday, December 12:</u>	No Mass. Msgr Bakhos on vacation
<u>Wednesday, December 13 :</u>	No Mass. Msgr Bakhos on vacation
<u>Thursday, December 14:</u>	No Mass. Msgr Bakhos on vacation
<u>Friday, December 15:</u>	No Mass. Msgr Bakhos on vacation

Next Weekend: Sat.-Sun., Dec 16-17: Revelation to St. Joseph

Saturday, December 16, Mass at 4:00 p.m. followed by Christmas Novena

- ✠ Joann Ferrera Slack (Anniversary) and Lawrence Ferrera Sr. (Birthday) by Larry & Becky Ferrera
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ Lottie Elwartoski (Birthday) by her son Richard

Sunday, December 17, Mass at 10:30 a.m. followed by Christmas Novena

- ✠ Linda Hostutler by Gary Weisner
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- ✠ John Shibben by Denna Shibben

A Celebration Honoring Monsignor Bakhos

Msgr. Bakhos will celebrate his 32nd Anniversary to the Priesthood on Sunday, December 17th. He was ordained in Sydney, Australia on December 21st, 1991. Monsignor Bakhos has faithfully served the community and parishioners of Our Lady of Lebanon Church for over 22 years. Please join us for a breakfast on Sunday, Dec 17th at 11:30 am (after mass) to celebrate Monsignor Bakhos on this very special occasion. Members of the Parish Council and Women Society and Cedar Club

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
- ✠ Tom & Mary K. Ferris by Denise Ferris
- ✠ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Denise Ferris
- ✠ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Janet Shutler
- ✠ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Frank & Anna Marie Duymich
- ✠ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Michael Duymich
- ✠ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ✠ In honor of the Blessed Mother by
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Philip Geimer by his wife Thomasina
- ✠ 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 honor of the Blessed Mother by Joe & Nikki Popovich
- ✠ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Dr. & Mrs Nabiel Alkhouri and Family
- ✠ In Loving Memory of the deceased of the Murad and Tatalovich Families by Jay & Liz Murad
- ✠ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Stephanie Richards
- ✠ In Loving memory of Shirley Elias Nickerson and the Deceased members of the Elias Family by their Family
- ✠ In Loving Memory of the Schlog and Saseen Families by Fran Saseen
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Ray & Sara McLaughlin by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Elias & Selma Joseph Family by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- ✠ In Loving Memory of John & Mary Miller by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- ✠ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Jean Weisner
- ✠ In honor of the Blessed Mother by Earl & Linda Duffy
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt and Family

- ☼ In Loving Memory of Abdo & Dorothy Saseen by Jim & Pat Connell
- ☼ In Loving Memory of Danny & Millie Manner by NiNi Miller
- ☼ In Loving Memory of Chamse Rahi and the Deceased members of the Rouhana and Rahi Families by their Families

Christmas Masses Schedule

Sunday, December 24:

- 10:30 a.m.: Normal Sunday Mass
- 4:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Mass
- 10:00 p.m.: Christmas Midnight Mass

Monday, December 25th: Day of Obligation

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

New Year Masses Schedule

Sunday, December 31st, 2023:

- 10:30 a.m.: Normal Sunday Mass
- 4:00 p.m.: New Year's Eve Mass (No Midnight Mass)

Monday, January 1st, 2024: New Year's Day (Day of Obligation)

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

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:

- December 12: Lou Khourey
- December 19: Chris Wakim
- December 21: Millet C. Faddoul Jr.
- December 22: Millet C. Fadoul
- December 25: Shelly Hancher
- December 27: Luke Lenz, Jay Murad
- January 1: Nancy Joseph
- January 6: Gina Stees
- January 7: Jacob Fadoul Wilson
- January 10: Marjorie John, Mary Petros-Hill

Your Church Support Last Week

\$1,599.00	Sunday Collection
371.00	2 nd collection to our Patriarch
150.00	Bulletin Ads
48.00	Candles
25.00	Coffee hour
30.00	Christmas Dinner
60.00	Christmas Poinsettias
\$2,283.00	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)

Anthony Wakim, Frank Duymich, Earl Duffy, Fran Saseen, Mary Stees, Rex Strawn, Sandra DeMuth, Ken Imer, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Jamie Stoneking (nephew of Charlotte and Lou Khourey), Patty Olinsky, Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Earl Ragase, Patrick Sengewalt, Renee Beabout (daughter of

Marge John), Jack Hogan (infant son of Mark & Michaela Hogan & great nephew of Lou Kourey), Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter),

What's New?

Bulletin Ad Page

We are preparing the ad page at the back of our weekly bulletin. It is a good way to advertise your business and to support the church in defraying the cost of printing the bulletins. Please call Msgr Bakhos or Charlotte at 304-639-1372 if you would like to place a personal or business ad. Cost is \$120.00 for a single space ad (2.5 inches x 1.5 inches) for the entire year. You can purchase more adjacent ads.

Christmas Gift from our Church Gift Shop

Order your Christmas Gifts to your family and friends from our Gift Shop. Please call 304-233-1688

Aprons	\$25.00
Born & Raised T-shirt	\$25.00
Heartbeat T-shirt	\$25.00
Dry Fit Festival T-shirt (youth)	\$25.00
Dry Fit Festival T-shirt (adult)	\$30.00
Festival Golf Shirt (youth)	\$35.00
Festival Golf Shirt (adult)	\$40.00

Rummage Sale Items Drop off all Year Long

Please bring with you to the church all the items you wish to donate toward the Rummage Sale. Items are accepted all year long. The Cedar Club and the Women Society raise funds to cover the expensive Building Insurance of our church. Any donation is accepted and helpful. We will open the basement door for you anytime. Please call 304-233-1688

Spirituality: Give the best you have

People are often unreasonable, irrational and self-centered; forgive them anyway.
 If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfishness or ulterior motives; be kind anyway.
 If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies; succeed anyway.
 If you are honest and sincere, people may deceive you; be honest and sincere anyway.
 What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight; create anyway.
 If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous; be happy anyway.
 The good you do today will often be forgotten; do good anyway.
 Give the best you have, and it may never be enough; give your best anyway.
 In the final analysis, it is between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway.
 Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Wisdom: Positive note

I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.
 I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.
 I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life.
 I've learned that making a "living" is not the same thing as making a "life."
 I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance.
 I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.
 I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone.

People love that human touch: holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.

I've learned that you should pass this on to someone you care about.

I just did. Sometimes they just need a little something to make them smile.

Note: people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Story: The power of Prayer

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom should I fear? (Ps 27)

My Visit to Tommy Hamill July 5, 2004 by Fr. Antonio El-Feghali

On April 11, 2004, I was in St. Sharbel Parish in Warren, Michigan, when I saw Tommy Hamill on the TV. It was Easter. Tommy Hamill was kidnapped on April 9, 2004. It was Good Friday.

“This was out of my hand. I trusted that God would work this out.” Tommy said. When I saw this guy, I felt like fire in my heart to pray for his freedom. I started praying asking the Lord on his day of resurrection to deliver this man from his captors: “Lord, as you set Peter free from the prison, I believe that you can set Tommy free.”

His captors said to him: “If you deny your faith and become Muslim, we will offer you a woman and a store in Baghdad.” Tommy said to them: “I have my God and He has a Son and his name is Jesus Christ, and I stand by my God. I am a Christian and I’ve been with my wife for 17 years. My God will bring me back to my country.”

Tommy thought about St. Peter who was in prison and how the angel of the Lord set him free. After hearing that, the captors wouldn’t talk to him for three days. They were very upset.

I kept praying for Tommy, and when I heard about the Italian hostage who got killed by his captors, I intensified my prayers: “Lord Jesus, don’t let Tommy die before he comes to know you. Let him experience your mercy and love.”

Tommy said to me: “I wasn’t anxious, no fear. I felt the peace of the Lord.” He felt the presence of God and the prayers of his family and those who love him. One day, his captors left the room leaving their weapons on the table. The devil tried to tempt Tommy saying: “If you use these weapons and kill them, you will be free.” But Tommy rejected the devil’s suggestion, saying: “I did not come to Iraq to take lives but to do good. I am not a soldier but a worker. I believe that God will set me free at the proper time.”

On May 2, 2004, Tommy escaped his captors. “After hearing the sound of the Humvees nearby. He kicked down a metal- plate door propped up by a piece of wood and made a stumbling dash across tomato fields with only socks on his feet. He was shouting I’m an American, I’m an American POW and he was waving his shirt above his head.”

It was Sunday. I was in St. Sharbel Parish Warren, Michigan, when I heard the good news that Tommy escaped his captors. It is hard to express the joy I felt that day. God answered the prayers of many people.

Tommy came home. When you pray for someone, you build a strong spiritual relationship with this person.

Therefore, I decided to go and visit him. It was on July 5, 2004, when I went with my friend Gary to see Tommy.

Tommy welcomed us. He shared his story with us and I shared mine with him. I offered him the Imitation of Christ book to be his companion in his journey. Tommy’s experience was the beginning of a journey with the Lord. God is preparing him for something great.

Tommy forgave his captors. He would like to see them one day. He said, “I would like to go back one day and thank my captors because they treated me well. They never mistreated me.”

During his captivity, he was feeling peace. His peace and his zero fear made his captors confused.

Tommy and Kelly offered us dinner. And after dinner, we prayed together in private. Kelly told me that she had a dream on the same day her husband was captured. Tommy came into her dream saying: “I am OK”. Kelly had another dream before he was released. He said to her: “Don’t worry, I’m gonna be home soon.” Kelly was

completely at peace. His mother had a dream weeks before he was captured: "Something bad is gonna happen but everything will be OK." The mother said that on Good Friday, the day Tommy was kidnapped, the very special antique clock started ringing and ringing and ringing like Church bells without any reason. Tommy is a very humble person. He is not a preacher. He is not a minister. "I don't know what to talk," he said. But people are moved to tears when he speaks about his experience with God during his captivity. There is a power that comes out of him.

"Tommy, your experience is the beginning of a long spiritual journey with the Lord. God is preparing you for the mission in his Church."

What we learn from your experience, Tommy, is to have Faith in God, to cry out to Him when we are in trouble, and to trust in Him, in the way he leads us to salvation.

What I personally learned from the whole experience was the power of prayer. When you pray for someone, you build a strong spiritual relationship with this person.

A Time to Laugh (91)

Driving with long hair

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was minister, if they could discuss his use of the car. His father said to him: "*I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your bible a little, and get your hair cut, then we will talk about it.*"

A month later the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss his use of the car. His father said: "*Son, I'm real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your bible diligently, but you didn't get hair cut!*" The young man waited a moment and replied: "*You know dad, I've been thinking about that. You know Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair.*" His father replied: "*Yes son, and they walked everywhere they went!*"

Sparrows' shooting

The Ministry of Agriculture decreed that sparrows were a menace to the crops and should be exterminated. When this was done hoards of insects descended on the harvest and began to ravage the crops, whereupon the Ministry of Agriculture came up with the idea of costly pesticides. The pesticides made the food expensive. They also made it a hazard to health. Too late it was discovered that it was the sparrows who, though feeding on the crops, managed to keep the food wholesome and inexpensive.

A Blonde Joke

A blonde goes to the post office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.

She says to the clerk, "May I have 50 Christmas stamps?"

The clerk says, "What denomination?"

The woman says, "God help us. Has it come to this?"

Give me 6 Catholic, 12 Presbyterian, 10 Lutheran and 22 Baptists."

Act of Mercy

A Brother once put this question to one of the elders: "*There are two brothers, one of whom remains praying in his cell, fasting six days a week and practicing much austerity. The other spends all his time taking care of the sick. Which one's work is more pleasing to God?*"

The elder replied: "*If the brother who fasts and prays were to hang himself up by the nose, he would not equal even one act of kindness of the one who takes care of the sick.*"

Famous Quotes (1)

Ability:

--Ability is what will get you to the top if the boss has no daughter.

--What one cannot, another can. (William Davenant)

--The greatest ability in business is to get along with others and influence their actions. (John Hancock)

- There is no need to show your ability before everyone. (Baltasar Gracian)
- Everyone excels in something in which another falls. (Latin proverb)
- Executive ability is deciding quickly and getting somebody else to do the work. (John G. Pollard)
- They are able because they think they are able. (Virgil)
- It's pretty hard to be efficient without being obnoxious. (Kin Hubbard)
- Any donkey can kick down a barn, but it takes a good carpenter to build one. (Sam Rayburn)

Absence:

- Absence makes the heart grow fonder. (T H Bayly)
- Presents, I often say, endear absents. (Charles Lamb)
- I was court-martialled in my absence, and sentenced to death in my absence, so I said they could shoot me in my absence. (Brendan Behan)
- Heart soon forgets what the eye sees not.
- Out of sight, out of mind. (Homer)
- Absence diminishes little passions and increases great ones just as the wind blows out a candle and fans a fire. (La Rochefoucauld)
- The absent are always wrong. (English proverb)
- It is easier to abstain than to restrain. (French proverb)

Absurdity:

- There is nothing so absurd or ridiculous that has not at some time been said by some philosopher. (Oliver Goldsmith)

Abuse:

- There is more credit in being abused by fools than praised by rogues. (F. E. Smith)
- A fly, Sir may sting a stately horse and make him wince; but one is but an insect, and the other is a horse still. (Samuel Johnson)
- Abuse is the weapon of the vulgar. (Samuel Griswold Goodrich)
- There are none more abusive to others than they that lie most open to it themselves; but the humor goes round, and he that laughs at me today will have somebody to laugh at him tomorrow. (Seneca)

Academia:

- The average Ph.D. thesis is nothing but the transference of bones from one graveyard to another. (J. Frank Dobie)

Accidents:

- The best insurance against car accidents is a Sunday afternoon nap.
- After you've heard two eyewitness accounts of an auto accident, you begin to worry about history.

Accounts:

- Budget a mathematical confirmation of your suspicions. (A. A. Latimer)