



December 17, 2023

Bulletin #51

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



Revelation to Joseph

- *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.

Revelation to Joseph

Readings: Is 7:10-16; Eph 3:1-13 and Mt 1:18-25

When we are in trouble and in darkness, God comes to save us. God plumbs the depths of our despair and raises us to the highest heavens, yet we are fearful when the transcendent God touches our lives. We prefer to trust our own ability to save ourselves. But God does not give up; the sign is given regardless of our stubborn refusal to believe. Like Joseph we hear the consolation of God's messenger, "Do not be afraid!" The promise is more than we can ask or imagine: A child shall be born whose name is Emmanuel God is with us.

This is the Gospel promised long ago through the prophets. By the power of the Holy Spirit, God becomes flesh in the womb of the virgin Mary. Through Jesus, God is en-fleshed in each of us.

Because of God's mercy, we who are Christ's can speak words of grace and peace to a weary world. God gives us a sign; we do not have to ask. This child, a descendant of human kings, is the Son of God who has the power to raise us from the dead. "Let the Lord enter! He is king of glory!"

For Reflection: Has God's Son taken flesh in my life? How can I share this good news'?

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 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

Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, December 18: No Mass. Msgr Bakhos on vacation

Tuesday, December 19 Mass at Noon:

- ✠ Deceased of the Thomas, Splatt & Nutter Families by John & Kathy Thomas (MN)
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, and her son Mark by her last will
- ✠ Linda Hostutler by Gary Weisner

Wednesday, December 20 : No Mass. Office Work

Thursday, December 21 Mass at Noon:

- ✠ Bill Dougherty by his wife Carol (OK)
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- ✠ Lorraine & Alois Marchy by Mary Ragase

Friday, December 22: No Mass. Visitation of the Sick

Next Weekend: Sat.-Sun., Dec 23-24: Genealogy Sunday

Saturday, December 23, Mass at 4:00 p.m. followed by Christmas Novena

- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by his wife Sally

- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ John F. Kukula by his wife Mary Rose Kukula
- ✠ Special Intention

Sunday, December 24, Masses:

1st Mass at 10:30 a.m.: Normal Sunday Mass followed by Christmas Novena

- ✠ Mike & Sue Linton and their parents Joe and Frances Linton by Steve Linton
- ✠ John Shibben by Denna O. Shibben (FL)

2nd Mass at 4:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Mass

- ✠ Deceased of the Saseen and Schlog Families by Fran Saseen
- ✠ Susie Marie Fadoul (Anniversary) by her Children: Janet, Millet C., Jonathan and Millet Lou
- ✠ Shirley Elias Nickerson and the Deceased of the Elias Family by Tammy Strong

3rd Mass at 10:00 p.m.: Christmas Midnight Mass

- ✠ Tony Matesic (Anniversary) by Rosalie Conti
- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- ✠ John Shibben by Denna O. Shibben (FL)

Monday, December 25: 10:30 am Christmas Day Mass

- ✠ Melo Wakim by the Wakim Family
- ✠ John Shibben by Denna O. Shibben (FL)

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 Nabil 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

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 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

January 11: Jennifer Klein

Your Church Support Last Week

\$3,111.00	Sunday Collection
72.00	Candles
43.00	Coffee hour
1,200.00	Donation to the church
25.00	Christmas Poinsettias
362.00	Utilities
\$4,813.00	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 Khourey), Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter),

What's New?

Winner of the 50/50 Prize at Christmas Dinner

Judy Wilson, friend of Becky Ferrera, won the 50/50 Prize. Congratulations.

Lower your 2023 Income Tax Bill

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 2023 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 **2023**, 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, 2023. Also, be sure to give the check to the church on or before that date. If your gift is **\$250** or more, and you plan to claim the gift as a deduction on your tax return, the IRS requires that you have a letter or receipt from the church that received the gift. By the end of January **2024** all donors -who donated \$250 or more- 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, 2023 until December 31st, 2023**. It is wise to keep the church statement with your tax records, in case the IRS questions your itemized deductions.

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: God and Enemy

The enemy in your mind says you don't have what it takes;

God says you do have what it takes. Whom are you going to believe?

The enemy says you're not able to succeed; God says you can do all things through Christ.

The enemy says you'll never get out of debt; God says not only are you going to get out of debt, you will lend and not borrow.

The enemy says you're never going to get well; God says He will restore your health.

The enemy says you'll never amount to anything; God says He will raise you up and make your life significant.

The enemy says your problems are too big, there's no hope; God says He will solve those problems; moreover, He will turn those problems around and use them for your good.

So, start believing what God says about you, and start thinking God's thoughts. God's thoughts will fill you with faith and hope and victory. God's thoughts will build you up and encourage you. They will give you the strength you need to keep on keeping on. God's thoughts will give you that can-do mentality.

Wisdom: Possibilities

Longfellow could take a worthless piece of paper, write a poem on it, and it was worth \$6,000... that is GENIUS.

Rockefeller could sign his name to a piece of paper and it was worth millions... that is CAPITAL.

The government can take some paper, print it, and make it worth \$100.00 that is MONEY.

A mechanic can take material worth \$5.00, and make an article out of it worth \$50.00.... that is SKILL.

God can take a broken life, fill it with the spirit of Christ, and make it a blessing to humanity.... That is REDEMPTION.

Story: The Power of Prayer: 26 guards

Have you ever felt the urge to pray for someone and then just put it on a list and said, "I'll pray for him or her later?" Or has anyone ever called you and said, "I need you to pray for me, I have this need?" Read the following story, it may change the way what you may think about prayer and also the way you pray.

A missionary of Furlough told this true story while visiting his home church in Michigan. While serving at a small field hospital in Africa.

"Every two weeks I traveled by bicycle through the jungle to a nearby city for supplies. This was a journey of two days and required camping overnight at the halfway point. On one of these journeys, I arrived in the city where I planned to collect money from a bank, purchase medicine and supplies, and then begin my two-day journey back to the field hospital.

Upon arrival in the city, I observed two men fighting, one of whom had been seriously injured. I treated him for his injuries and at the same time talked to him about the Lord. I then traveled two days, camping overnight, and arrived home without incident. Two weeks later I repeated my journey. Upon arriving in the city, I was approached by the young man I had treated. He told me that he had known I carried money and medicines. He said, 'Some friends and I followed you into the jungle, knowing you would camp overnight. We planned to kill you and take your money and drugs. But just as we were about to move into your camp, we saw that you were surrounded by 26 armed guards.

At this, I laughed and said that I was certainly all alone in that jungle campsite. The young man pressed the point, however, and said, 'No Sir, I was not the only person to see the guards. My five friends also saw them, and we all counted them. It was because of those guards that we were afraid and left you alone.' At this point in the sermon, one of the men in the congregation jumped to his feet and interrupted the missionary and asked if he could tell him the exact day this happened. The missionary told the congregation the date, and the man who interrupted told him this story: "On the night of your incident in Africa, it was morning here and I was preparing to go play golf. I was about to putt when I felt the urge to pray for you. In fact, the urging of the Lord was so strong, I called men in this church to meet with me here in the sanctuary to pray for you. Would all of those men who met with me on that day stand up?"

The men who had met together to pray that day stood up. The missionary wasn't concerned with who they were, he was too busy counting how many men he saw. There were 26."

This story is an incredible example of how the Spirit of the Lord moves in mysterious ways. If you ever hear such prodding, go along with it. Nothing is ever hurt by prayer except the gates of hell. As the above true story clearly illustrates, "with God all things are possible." More importantly, how God hears and answers the prayers of the faithful. Who says God does not work in mysterious ways?

I asked the Lord to bless you as I prayed for you today. To guide you and protect you as you go along your way.... His love is always with you, His promises are true, and when we give Him our cares you know He will see us through. So when the road you're traveling on seems difficult at best, just remember I'm here praying, and God will do the rest.

A Time to Laugh (92)

Deciding On A Career

An older couple had a son, who was still living with his parents. The parents were a little worried, as the son was still unable to decide about his career path, so they decided to do a small test.

They took a ten-dollar bill, a Bible, and a bottle of whiskey, and put them on the front hall table. Then they hid, hoping he would think they weren't at home.

The father told the mother, "If he takes the money, he will be a businessman, if he takes the Bible, he will be a priest, but if he takes the bottle of whiskey, I'm afraid our son will be a drunkard."

So, the parents took their place in the nearby closet and waited nervously. Peeping through the keyhole they saw their son arrive home. He saw the note they had left, saying they'd be home later. Then, he took the 10-dollar bill, looked at it against the light, and slid it in his pocket. After that, he took the Bible, flicked through it, and took it also.

Finally, he grabbed the bottle, opened it, and took an appreciative whiff to be assured of the quality. Then he left for his room, carrying all the three items. The father slapped his forehead, and said: "Darn! It's even worse than I ever imagined." "What do you mean?" his wife inquired. "Our son is going to be a politician!" replied the concerned father.

If You Don't Understand Life, Just Ask the Kids:

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait." Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus."

Always Ask the Kids

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

Famous Quotes (2)

Accuracy:

--Even a stopped clock is right twice a day. (Anonymous)

Accusation:

--Accuse to affirm another's guilt or unworth; most commonly as a justification of ourselves for having wronged him. (Ambrose Bierce)

Achievement:

--Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly. (Robert F Kennedy)

--I'm a slow walker, but I never walk back. (Abraham Lincoln)

--For a man to achieve all that is demanded of him he must regard himself as greater than he is. (Johann Goethe)

--When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion. (Ethiopian proverb)

--Every calling is great when greatly pursued. (Oliver Wendell Holmes)

--Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do. (John Wooden)

--The harder you work, the luckier you get. (Gary Player)

--There is no such thing as a great talent without great willpower. Behold the turtle. He makes progress only when he sticks his neck out. (James B. Conant)

--Three great essentials to achieve anything worthwhile are, first, hard work; second, stick-to-itiveness; third, common sense. (Thomas Edison)

Acting:

--Acting is a question of absorbing other people's personalities and adding some of your own experience. (Paul Newman)

Action:

--The shortest answer is doing. (Lord Herbert)

--Nothing will ever be attempted if all possible objections must be first overcome. (Samuel Johnson)

--I want to see you shoot the way you shout. (Theodore Roosevelt)

--I shall tell you a great secret, my friend. Do not wait for the last judgment, it takes place every day.

(Albert Camus)

--Action takes precedence over study. (Judah Hanasi)

--Action is eloquence. (William Shakespeare)

--Action makes more fortunes than caution. (Luc de Clapiers)

--Actions speak louder than words.

--If a soldier or a laborer complains of the hardship of his lot, set him to do nothing. (Blaise Pascal)

--The way to get things done is not to mind who gets the credit of doing them. (Benjamin Jowett)

--If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing badly. (G. K Chesterton)

--The actions of men are the best interpreters of their thoughts. (John Locke)

--It is by acts and not by ideas that people live. (Anatole France)

Activity:

--Lose no time; be always employed in something useful. (Benjamin Franklin)

--Activity is contagious. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)