



January 7, 2024

Bulletin #1

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

- *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.

Epiphany

Readings: Is 40:6-11; 2Cor 10:1-11 and Jn 1:29-34

Faithful to his role as Precursor, John the Baptist has just skillfully turned the attention of the men sent from Jerusalem to enquire about him away from his own self. *“There stands among you the one unknown to you.”* John himself is only the *“Voice”* of the *“Word”* who is coming after him.

According to the Jewish tradition, the Messiah had to remain hidden until Elijah had anointed him and made him known publicly to Israel. Before baptizing his cousin, John himself was unaware that Jesus was the Messiah. But he has seen and he bears witness. He has seen the Spirit come down and rest on Jesus in the Jordan. In the light of the scriptures he has sensed that he was the Lamb of future atonements, the Servant chosen by God to baptize in the Spirit. *“He is the Son of God!”*

From the outset, in its presentation of Jesus, the fourth Gospel heralds the baptism of death which he must accept to take away the sins of the world, the fire which he has come to bring on the earth. But it also suggests the immeasurable greatness that is his divine pre-existence acknowledged by the Baptist: *“he existed before me.”* The exceptional destinies of some individuals may be compared to those rivers whose power is only revealed far downstream from their source.

There are two ways of simplifying our thinking about Jesus Christ and avoiding the witness which we must bear him after the example of John. We can either raise Jesus to heaven and proclaim him God, but a God who cannot be reached, and whose salvation remains limited to the life beyond in eternity. Or we can bring him down to earth, and see in him no more than a man among men, no doubt closer and more a brother, but deprived of his Father and cut off from the Spirit. But Christ can neither be bound to earth nor confined to heaven. *“Whatever our state, let us place Jesus between God and ourselves.”* (Bossuet)

2023 church Statement for Tax Deduction

Dear Parishioners and Benefactors,

By January 15, 2024, you will receive from the church a statement for your use in itemizing deductions on your 2023 tax return reflecting the total of your donations to the Church made by checks or money via envelopes. Only donors who contributed \$250 or more will receive a statement like this according to the IRS. However, checks written to the Church for the purchase of items, souvenirs, dinners, advertising, etc., cannot be included because they are not considered by the IRS as charitable donations. If you do not file a tax return or you do not itemize deductions, disregard the statement. However, the church keeps very accurate record of every donation by date and check numbers. Please call the rectory at 304-233-1688 to have a copy of your record. We appreciate your donations and we thank you for supporting your Church. --Monsignor Bakhos, Pastor

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., January 6-7: Epiphany

Saturday, January 6, Mass at 4:00 p.m.: Blessing of the Holy Water (Epiphany)

✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne

✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

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

Sunday, January 7 Mass at 10:30 a.m.: Blessing of the Holy Water (Epiphany)

✠ Dolores Cinque (daughter of Josephine Joseph) by Carol Dougherty (OK)

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

Weekdays Mass Schedule

- Monday, January 8:** No Mass. Pastor’s Day Off.
- Tuesday, January 9:** No Mass. Post Christmas vacation for pastor
- Wednesday, January 10:** No Mass. Post Christmas vacation for pastor
- Thursday, January 11:** No Mass. Post Christmas vacation for pastor
- Friday, January 12:** No Mass. Post Christmas vacation for pastor

Next Weekend: Sat.-Sun., Jan. 13-14: 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Saturday, January 13, Mass at 4:00 p.m.:

- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will

Sunday, January 14 Mass at 10:30 a.m.:

- ✠ Jim Thomas (1st Anniversary) by Dr Adel, Diane, Justin and Andreah & Zack Riedel
- ✠ Mike & Sue Linton & their parents Joe and Frances Linton by Steve Linton
- ✠ John Shibben by Denna O. Shibben (FL)

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:

- January 7: Jacob Fadoul Wilson
- January 10: Marjorie John, Mary Petros-Hill
- January 11: Jennifer Klein
- January 23: Dale Seidler Jr.
- January 28: Nikki Popovich
- February 2: David John
- February 4: Lindsay Carl

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$1,053.00	Sunday Collection
87.00	Candles
26.00	Coffee hour
275.00	Donation to the church
\$1,441.00	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)

Sally Sengewalt, Anthony Wakim, Frank Duymich, Earl Duffy, Fran Saseen, Mary Stees, Rex Strawn, Sandra DeMuth, Ken Imer, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Patty Olinsky, Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Earl Ragase, Patrick Sengewalt, Renee Beabout (daughter of Marge John), Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter),

What’s New?

Congratulations on Your Baptism: Paige Lucille McGreal

Michael & Amy McGreal granted to their daughter Paige Lucille the honor to be the adopted daughter of God through the sacrament of Baptism, last Saturday, December 30th, at Our Lady of Lebanon Church. Godparents were: Matthew & Sierra Kosch. Paige Lucy is the great-granddaughter of late Lucille Gibbons. May Saint Sharbel, the patron saint of Paige, protect her and grant her along with her parents, godparents, and grandparents, good health and bright future.

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

Around Us

Pro-Life Eucharistic Adoration (Friday, January 19)

‘Pro-Life: With Every Woman, For Every Child.’

In conjunction with the Walk for Life in Washington, DC, St. Michael Church will have Eucharist Adoration and an hourly Pro-Life rosary, on Friday, January 19th. from 8:00am – 8:00pm

All are welcome to come and pray for unborn babies, their mothers, and your own special intentions.

Spirituality: Is God Hard to find?

God is easy to discover in at least a confused and primitive sort of way through every striving and aspiration of our will and our heart. For the great difference between an animal and a human is that an animal can have its desires satisfied but a human cannot. All that any animal wants is to have its *immediate* needs granted; this is never the case with man. Man is animated by an urge, an unquenchable desire to enlarge his vision and to know the ultimate meaning of things. If he were only an animal, he would never use symbols, for what are these but attempts to transcend the visible? No, he is a “metaphysical animal,” a being ever longing for answers to the last question. The natural tendency of the intellect toward truth and of the will toward love would alone signify that there is in man a natural desire for God. There is not a single striving or pursuit or yearning of the human heart, even in the midst of the most sensual pleasures, that is not a dim grasping after the Infinite. As the stomach yearns for food and the eye for light and the ear for harmony, so the soul craves God.

(...) If then, God is so easy to find and can be discovered either through the beauty of the stars or in every tiny pleasure of earth, which like a seashell speaks of the ocean of Divinity, why is it that so few souls come to Him? The fault is on our side, not God’s. Most souls are like people living in a dark room during the daytime and complaining that the light is hard to find -when all that they need do to discover it is to raise the blinds.
--Bishop Fulton SHEEN, *Peace of Soul*, pp.52-53.

Wisdom: Pray and Do

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end war; for we know that You have made the world in a way that man must find his own path to peace within himself and with his neighbor.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation; for you have already given us resources with which to feed the entire world if we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out prejudice; for You have already given us eyes with which to see the good in all men if we would only use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair; for You have already given us the power to clear away slums and to give hope if we would only use our power justly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease; for You have already given us great minds with which to search out cures and healing if we would only use them constructively.

Therefore, we pray to You instead, O God for strength, determination, and willpower, to do instead of just to pray, to become instead of merely to wish.

Story: Prince with crooked back

There once was a handsome prince who had a crooked back. This defect kept him from attaining his full potential as the kind of prince he dreamt to be. One day the king had the best sculptor in the land carve a statue of the prince. It portrayed him, however, not with a crooked back but with a straight back. The king placed the statue in the prince's private garden. And whenever the prince gazed at it, his heart would quicken.

Months passed, and people began to say, "Do you notice, the prince's back doesn't seem as crooked as it was."

When the prince overheard this remark, he gained more confidence in himself. Now he began to spend hours studying the statue and meditating on his personal dream. Then one day a remarkable thing happened. The prince reached high overhead, stretching himself. Suddenly, he was standing straight and tall, just like the statue.

You, too, were born to royalty, to be a prince or a princess. But is there a defect keeping you from attaining your full potential as the kind of person you dream to be?

A Time to Laugh (97)

Ferrari

A hip young man goes out and buys the best car available: a brand new Ferrari GTO. It is also the most expensive car in the world, and it costs him \$500,000. He takes it out for a spin and stops for a red light. An old man on a moped (looking about 75 years old) pulls up next to him. The old man looks over at the sleek, shiny car and asks, "What kind of car ya' got there, sonny?" The young man replies, "A Ferrari GTO. It cost half a million dollars!" "That's a lot of money," says the old man. "Why does it cost so much?" "Because this car can do up to 320 miles an hour!" states the young dude proudly. The moped driver asks, "Mind if I take a look inside?" "No problem," replies the owner. So, the old man pokes his head in the window and looks around. Then sitting back on his moped, the old man says, "That's a pretty nice car, all right ... but I'll stick with my moped!" Just then the light changes so the guy decides to show the old man just what this car can do. He floors it, and within 30 seconds the speedometer reads 160mph. Suddenly, he notices a dot in his rearview mirror. It seems to be getting closer! He slows down to see what it could be and suddenly, whhhooooosshhh! Something whips by him, going much faster!!!! "What on earth could be going faster than my Ferrari?!" the young man asks himself. He floors the accelerator and takes the Ferrari up to 250 mph. Then, up ahead of him, he sees that it's the old man on the moped. Amazed that the moped could pass his Ferrari he gives it some more gas and passes the moped at 275 mph. whoooooosh! He's feeling pretty good until he looks in his mirror and sees the old man gaining on him again. Astounded by the speed of this old guy he floors the gas pedal and takes the Ferrari all the way up to 320 mph. Not ten seconds later he sees the moped bearing down on him again. The Ferrari is flat out and there's nothing he can do. Suddenly the moped plows into the back of his Ferrari, demolishing the rear end. The young man jumps out, and unbelievably, the old man is still alive!!! He runs up to the mangled man and says, "Oh my God! Is there anything I can do for you?" The old man whispers with his dying breath, "Unhook...my suspenders from your side-view mirror!"

Catholic heart attack

A man suffered a serious heart attack and had an open heart bypass surgery.

He awakened from the surgery to find himself in the care of nuns at a Catholic Hospital. As he was recovering, a nun asked him questions regarding how he was going to pay for his treatment. She asked if he had health insurance. He replied, in a raspy voice, "No health insurance." The nun asked if he had money in the bank. He replied, "No money in the bank." The nun asked, "Do you have a relative who could help you?" He said, "I only have a spinster sister, who is a nun." The nun became agitated and announced loudly, "Nuns are not spinsters! Nuns are married to God."

The patient replied, "Send the bill to my brother-in-law."

Famous Quotes (5)

Advice:

- Advice when most needed is least heeded.
- In the multitude of counselors there is safety. (Proverbs 11:14)
- Nothing is given so freely as advice. (French Proverb)
- He that gives good advice, builds with one hand; he that gives good counsel and example, builds with both; but he that gives good admonition and bad example, builds with one hand and pulls down with the other. (Francis Bacon)

Affliction:

- I thank God for my handicaps, for through them, I have found myself, my work and my God. (Helen Keller)

Age:

- Old age is when you find yourself using one bend-over to pick up two things.
- By the time we learn to watch our step, we're not stepping out very much.
- In youth the days are short and the years are long; in old age the years are short and the days long. (Nikita Panin)
- The first forty years of life give you the text; the next thirty supply the commentary on it. (Arthur Schopenhauer)
- When people tell you how young you look, they are also telling you how old you are. (Gary Grant)
- To be seventy years young is sometimes far more cheerful and hopeful than to be forty years old. (Oliver Wendell Holmes)
- How old would you be if you didn't know how old you was? (Satchel Paige)
- The tragedy of old age is not that one is old, but that one is young. (Oscar Wilde)
- The beauty of old men is the grey head. (Proverbs 20:29)
- Age is a sorry traveling companion. (Danish proverb)
- No one is so old as to think he cannot live one more year. (Cicero)
- When a woman tells you her age it's all right to look surprised, but don't scowl. (Wilson Mizner)
- If wrinkles must be written upon our brows, let them not be written upon the heart. The spirit should never grow old. (James A. Garfield)
- The woman who tells her age is either too young to have anything to lose or too old to have anything to gain. (Chinese proverb)
- "You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing."
- Dogs have owners. Cats have staff.

Aggressiveness:

- The individual activity of one man with backbone will do more than a thousand men with a mere wishbone. (J. H. Boetcher)
- Not only strike while the iron is hot, but make it hot by striking. (Oliver Cromwell)
- You can't achieve anything without getting in someone's way. (Abba Eban)
- Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might. (Ecclesiastes 9:10)