



January 28, 2024

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



Commemoration of the Righteous & Just

- *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, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad, Gary Weisner.
- *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.

Commemoration of the Righteous & Just

Readings: Wis 5:1-16; Heb 12:18-24 and Mt 25:31-46

- 1- Usually, when we think of saints, we think of people of heroic, almost superhuman proportions. We think of miracles and acts of self-sacrificing charity. We place statues of saints with halos around their heads in shrines.
- 2- We also, almost always, think of saints in the past. But as I listened to the gospel reading, the “job description” of being a saint, it occurred to me how many real saints I have met in my first four months in the parish. I know people—and you probably know them, too—who live lives of sanctity. They don’t have halos and they are not called saints. They don’t attract any attention. They perform many good works of service that we would consider too ordinary to be “heroic.”
- 3- But they are among the “Blessed” of today’s gospel:
- 4- “. . . Blest are the poor in spirit: the reign of God is theirs.” Blest are the parents who could have had all the luxuries and opportunities that life has to offer, but who sacrifice so much for their children. Blest is the lady with so little but who gives nevertheless to the poor and doesn’t want to be mentioned.
- 5- “Blest too are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled.” Blest is the wife who cares for her terminally ill husband, caring for him and loving him. Blest is the husband who faithfully goes to the nursing home every day to be with his wife, who is in a coma.
- 6- “Blest are the lowly; they shall inherit the land.” Blest is the cleaning woman who scrubs floors for minimum wage and is embarrassed to come to church because she doesn’t have a good dress to wear. Blest is the child who understands and loves his parents, even though his clothes aren’t as nice as his friends’ and his room is not stuffed with the toys other children have.
- 7- “Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill.” Blest are those people I have surprised in church, praying to God in a moment of quiet in their lives. Blest is the father and mother who spend time teaching their children what prayer is and how to pray. Blest is the elderly woman whose arthritic fingers can barely move along the beads of her rosary.
- 8- “Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.” Blest is that man who is watching his wife die of cancer and who cares for her with love and honor. Blest is the older sister who tries to explain to her younger brother that alcoholism is a disease, so he won’t think less of his father.
- 9- “Blest are the single-hearted for they shall see God.” Blest is the mother who sacrifices the years she should be enjoying in retirement to care for her crippled son, and who worries what will happen to him when she is gone.
- 10- “Blest too the peacemakers; they shall be called children of God.” Blest is that one person I know who is so kind, so gentle . . . who with a few words brings peace to all of us with a smile.
- 11- “Blest are those persecuted for holiness sake; the reign of God is theirs.” Blest is the middle-age woman who knows of her husband’s cheating, but who goes on loving him and praying for him and trying to forgive him. Blest is the girl who wanted to be a nun, but whose cerebral palsy rules out the life of a religious. Blest is the elderly priest, confused by the changes in the church, who is often the subject of ridicule and scorn, yet continues to try to adapt himself even though psychologists tell us not much can be expected from someone so advanced in years.
- 12- These are just some of the saints I have met in my life. There are so many more who have strengthened my faith, who have convinced me beyond any doubt of the existence of God’s grace and of the reality of goodness vanquishing evil.
- 13- I invite you to sit back and think of the saints you have met in your life.
- 14- Today we celebrate those saints—the ordinary, who have been neither canonized nor remembered in the church calendar. Yet their lives and their faith are as heroic as any of the great saints. In their simple loving, they point to God just as well as the most beautiful cathedral.
- 15- Through their example, may we live lives of sainthood in our homes and offices and schools and factories . . . that one day, All Saints’ Day becomes our feast, too.

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., Jan. 27-28

Commemoration of the Righteous & Just

Saturday, January 27, Mass at 4:00 p.m.:

- ✠ Attorney Edward Khoury (Anniversary) by Richard Coury
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will

Sunday, January 28 Mass at 10:30 a.m.:

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

Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, January 29: No Mass. Pastor's day off.

Tuesday, January 30, Mass at Noon:

- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, and her son Mark by her last will
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- ✠ John Shibben by Denna O. Shibben (FL)

Wednesday, January 31: No Mass. Office work.

Thursday, February 1, Mass at Noon

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

Friday, February 2: No Mass. Visitation of the sick.

Next Weekend: Sat.-Sun., February 3-4:

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Saturday, February 3 and Sunday, February 4 and following weekdays: All Masses will be offered for the Faithful Departed:

- ✠ Adib & Sadie Chidiac (parents), Nadim (brother) and Mona (sister) by Msgr. Bakhos
- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by his grandchildren: Jeff, Courtney and Pat Sengewalt
- ✠ Isabel Ferris Wolfe (Birthday) and Josephine Ferris (Anniversary) by Mary Stees and Libby Magnone
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ Mike & Sue Linton and their parents Joe and Frances Linton by Steve Linton
- ✠ John Shibben by Denna O. Shibben (FL)
- ✠ Catherine Arthur by her daughter Carol Burkhart
- ✠ Deceased of the Khourey and Howard families by Lou and Charlotte and Emmalena and Louie
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, and her son Mark by her last will

- ✠ Al Felici by their children Brian & Francie Felici and Stephanie Richards & Families
- ✠ Holly Bine by his wife Shirley and Family

Coming Parish Events

Sunday, April 28	Mother Day dinner after 10:00 am Mass
Saturday, May 11	Bake Sale. More details in next bulletins.

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:

- 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 18: Larry Ferrera III
- February 21: Louie Khourey, Dennis Porter
- February 24: Mary Lee Porter
- February 27: MaryAnn Carl

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$747.00	Sunday Collection
48.00	Candles
27.00	Coffee hour
60.00	donation
\$882.00	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, 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),

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

What's New?

Condolences: Mary Stees

The pastor and the parishioners of Our Lady of Lebanon Church, Wheeling, offer their heartfelt sympathy to the Stees Family on the loss of their beloved Mary who passed away in Wheeling. Msgr. Bakhos celebrated the Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Lebanon Church on Tuesday, January 23. The choir of the church served the funeral Mass and the Women's Society served the Mercy Meal at the Cedar Hall after the interment. May the

Almighty God grant repose of the soul to His handmaid and we extend the parish's condolences to her Family in their time of sorrow.

Our Lady of Lebanon church is so grateful to **Mary Stees' Family** for directing all memorial contributions toward the Maintenance of the church. May her Memory be eternal. AMEN

Spirituality: That's God

Have you ever been down and out and nobody seems to be around for you to talk to...

That's God... He wants you to talk to Him.

Have you ever been just sitting there and all of a sudden you feel like doing something nice for someone you care for...

That's God... He talks to you through the Holy Spirit.

Have you ever been thinking about somebody that you haven't seen in a long time and then next thing you know you see them or receive a phone call from them...

That's God... there is no such thing as "coincidence."

Have you ever received something wonderful that you didn't even ask for, like money in the mail, a debt that had mysteriously been cleared, or a coupon to a department store where you had just seen something you wanted, but couldn't afford...

That's God... He knows the desires of your heart...

Have you ever been in a situation and you had no clue how it is going to get better, but now you look back on it...

That's God... He passes us through tribulation to see a brighter day.

God bless you.

Wisdom: Priest Dilemma

If a priest preaches over 10 minutes, he's longwinded.

If his sermon is short, he didn't prepare it.

If Mass is an hour long, some people leave early.

If Mass is 45 minutes long, some people leave early.

If parish funds are high, he's a businessman.

If he mentions money, he's money mad.

If he visits his parishioners, he plays favorites.

If he doesn't, he's a snob.

If he has fairs and bazaars, he's bleeding the folks.

If he doesn't, there is no life in the parish.

If he doesn't read minds, some people are offended.

If things in the parish are less than perfect, his fault.

If he doesn't do what I want, I'll go elsewhere.

If he takes too much time in confession helping sinners, he takes too long.

If he doesn't, he doesn't care.

If he celebrates liturgy in a soft voice, he's a bore.

If he puts feeling into it, he's an actor.

If he starts Mass on time, his watch is fast.

If he starts late, he's holding up the people.

If he works hard and takes a vacation, someone will say (*Half-joking*): "I wish I were a priest, what a life".

If a priest receives a sick call at 3:00 a.m., and appears grouchy the next morning, he's uncaring.

If he supports a traditional choir, he's right of Attila the Hun.

If he supports a contemporary folk group, he's a radical.

If he decorates the Church, he's wasting money.

If he doesn't, he's letting it run down.

If he's young, he's inexperienced.

If he's old, he ought to retire.

But if he dies, there may be no one to replace him. (*Extract from a church bulletin*)

Story

The jury deliberated overnight, and I was found guilty.

"Oh God! This can't be happening to me!"

I was sentenced to twelve years in prison. The courtroom turned white and my body went numb. I heard the cries from family members behind me as the cuffs were placed on me and I was led from the courtroom to a cell in the basement of the Federal Building.

Sitting on the cold concrete in my business suit, cuffed and shackled, numb and in a complete daze, I realized the war wasn't mine anymore. I needed to let God defeat evil. But where does one start? One doesn't, God does. He went to work the minute I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. This is something I would have never have done in the free world.

From that moment on, the Potter went to work on the block that He had "on order" since the day I was born. Carefully taking the dry clay out of the hard, brittle plastic it was contained in, His hands picked up my shattered pieces that had chipped off from the bumpy delivery ride and began the process more intensely than ever before. I was ready to be molded; it was time for me to come to the water.

It wasn't and isn't an easy process, on either of our parts. I had been broken down little by little. First indictment, then trial after trial, stress, disbelief, incarceration. I was separated from my son and family, my son was forced to go live with his father, my parents were denied visitation, and I realized that the majority of my friends were not really friends at all. And the one simple fact: the situation was out of the hands of myself and anybody I had ever relied on. Mommy and Daddy could not write a note to the warden and excuse me for the remainder of my sentence.

This was something that I was going to have to go through myself. I finally realized there was only one place to turn now, wholeheartedly—*up*. I had been backed into a corner and my eyes could only focus upward. "Oh God!" I prayed. I didn't have the words to pray for myself, only feelings, but I knew what I needed to do because He told me, "Give me your heart." And I did.

The games began. It took me awhile to get used to God as my new coach, and the daily warm-up drills and sprints were challenging. I developed a trust in Him, and He always reassured me that I was doing a good job. If I put my all into my game, I will receive even more back, and I always do. I have learned that it is so much easier just to give it to God and pray. I stand back and watch the wonders of His awesome work. He works it all out for the good, and I trust and believe that. I am willing to accept His solutions because I know that He loves me.

I have learned to praise Him for the good and what I see as bad. I continue to praise Him through my heartache and tears, buckled over, feeling like I want to pass out. I know that this is all happening for a reason and that God has His hands all over my son and the situation.

Our God is protecting all of us because we are His treasures. And when He is ready, in His time, not mine, I will understand. And everything that was meant for evil is going to be worked out for good. And I will that He will bless those that bless me and curse those who curse me; and then justice will be done. Until then, I will sit still and listen. My steps are guided and I am never alone. Neither is my son, and neither are you. I have found the true meaning of "the truth shall set you free." I found it next to the water, where it was all along.

A Time to Laugh (99)

What is Grandmother?

A grandmother is a lady who has no little children of her own. She likes other people's. A grandfather is a man grand-mother. Grandmothers don't have to do anything except be there. They are old so they shouldn't play hard or run. It is enough if they drive us to the market and have a lot of dimes ready. When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty

leaves and caterpillars. They never say “*hurry up.*”

Usually grandmothers are fat, but not too fat to tie your shoes. They wear glasses and funny underwear. They can take their teeth and gums out. Grandmothers don’t have to be smart, only answer questions like, “*Why isn’t God married?*” and “*How come dogs chase cats?*” When they read to us they don’t skip, or mind if we ask for the same story over again. Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don’t have television, because they are the only grown-ups who have time.

Plastic surgeon

A woman in her late fifties was in the hospital dying of a rare and incurable disease. The woman did not want to die, and so she began to pray feverishly. Day and night she prayed. “*Lord, please do not take me now,*” she pleaded. Deep in her prayer, she received a response. “*Rest now my child,*” the Lord said, “*I have heard your prayers and you will live another 20 years.*”

Miraculously, she was cured and left the hospital with a new lease on her earthly life. She set out to enjoy her remaining 20 years. She went to a health spa and lost fifteen pounds. She began aerobics and weight lifting. She dieted. She tanned. She got her hair cut short and dyed it red. She went to a plastic surgeon and got a tuck here and a tuck there.

She looked great as she was walking across the street, when out of nowhere, a truck ran her over, killing her instantly. When she awoke she found herself in Heaven. She was furious. “*Lord My Lord,*” she exclaimed, “*there’s been a mistake. We had a deal, remember? You said I could have another 20 years!*”

The Lord looked at her, a bit puzzled, and said, “*Oh, my. I’m sorry. I didn’t recognize you.*”

Famous Quotes (8)

America:

--America is one place where the people have complete control over how they pay their taxes—cash, check, or money order.

--America is still the land of opportunity. Where else could you earn enough to owe so much?

--Americanism means finding fault with other countries for not solving their problems, while we wait without hope for the Government to solve ours.

--I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country. (Nathan Hale)

--Americans are like a rich father who wishes he knew how to give his son the hardships that made him rich. (Robert Frost)

Amusement:

--I am a great friend to public amusements, for they keep people from vice. (Samuel Johnson)

Ancestry:

--I would rather make my name than inherit it. (WM Thackeray)

--I don’t know who my grandfather was; I am much more concerned to know who his grandson will be. (Abraham Lincoln)

Anger

--Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else... You are the one who gets burned. (Buddha)

--Never answer a letter while you are angry. (Chinese proverb)

--It is easy to fly into a passion—anybody can do that—but to be angry with the right person to the right extent and at the right time and with the right object and in the right way—that is not easy, and it is not everyone who can do it. (Aristotle)

--Had Narcissus himself seen his own face when he had been angry, he could never have fallen in love with himself. (Thomas Fuller)

--An angry man opens his mouth and shuts up his eyes. (Cato)

--He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that rules his spirit than he that takes a city. (Proverbs 16:32)

--Never go to bed mad. Stay up and fight. (Phyllis Diller)

--I never work better than when I am inspired by anger; for when I am angry, I can write, pray, and preach well, for then my whole temperament is quickened, my understanding sharpened, and all mundane vexations and temptations depart. (Martin Luther)

--An angry man stirs up strife. (Proverbs 29:22)

--Anger is a better sign of the heart than of the head; it is a breaking out of the disease of honesty. (Marquess of Halifax)

--Anger is never sudden. It is born of a long, prior irritation that has ulcerated the spirit and built up an accumulation of force that results in an explosion. It follows that a fine outburst of rage is by no means a sign of a frank, direct nature. (Cesare Pavese)

--Anger rests in the bosom of fools. (Ecclesiastes 7:9)

--Let not the sun go down upon your wrath. (Ephesians 4:26)

--If you would cure anger, do not feed it. Say to yourself: "I used to be angry every day; then every other day; now only every third or fourth day." When you reach thirty days offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the gods. (Epictetus)