



# *Mass of the Assumption* *At the* *91st Mahrajan (Festival)*

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church  
Monsignor Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor  
Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist

- \***Weekend Masses:** Saturdays: Mass at 4:00 p.m.  
Sundays: Mass at 10:30 a.m.
  - \***Weekday Masses:** Tuesdays and Thursdays Mass at Noon
  - \***Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:**  
Every 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Kourey, Susan John-Burns,  
Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad, Gary Weisner
  - \***Choir Members:** Lou Kourey, Robert Harris, Joe Simon, Shelly  
Hancher, Holly Stahl, Amanda Sable
  - \***Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer
  - \***Altar Server:** Joe Roxby
  - \***Altar Boy:** Christopher AlKhouri
  - \***Cedar Club:** Linda Duffy, President
  - \***Women's Society:** Jeannette Wakim, President
- ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠
- \***Remember the Church in your Last Will & Testament:**  
Her prayers will accompany you to heaven

## ***2024 Mahrajan (Lebanese Festival)***

Dear Parishioners and guests,

We would like to welcome you at our 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Festival established by our ancestors who emigrated from Lebanon following the massacres of Christians in the 1840's and 1860's then after the first and the second World Wars. Our ancestors left everything behind and came to the land of freedom seeking better future for them and for their descendance. They loved this country, served in the armed forces, worked in the coalmines, and raised their children to be loyal citizens.

They started this festival as a yearly gathering at Oglebay Park with this invitation in mind, "bring your food and meet us at the park." They chose the feast of the Blessed Mother's Assumption which occurs every year on August 15<sup>th</sup> as their gathering date. They called their gathering "Mahrajan" which means, "let us get loose our feelings of joy without any limitations." They shared their stories, asked about their family members who were still overseas, prayed, ate and danced and built-up memories. They handed the torch of their tradition to their children and grandchildren and here we are 91 years later doing our best to keep the flame alive and remembering them in our prayers.

Many thanks to all the chairpersons and volunteers who came from near and far to serve our festival. May the Blessed Mother reward each and every one with happy and long life.

-Monsignor Bakhos

### ***Mahrajan Chairpersons***

Lebanese Festival Chairperson	Liz Murad
Entertainment	Msgr Bakhos Chidiac
Parish Dance Troupe	Marianna and Christopher AlKhouri
Marketing & Publicity	Susan John
Operations and Logistics	Lou Khourey & Nick John
Finance	Liz Murad, Randy Weisner & Msgr Bakhos
Ad Book	Mark McLaughlin
Raffle 50/50	Msgr Bakhos Chidiac
Pastries	Susan John
Market Place	Liz Murad
Grilling Operation	Nick John and Nini Miller
Information Technology	Randy Weisner
Beer	Ryan Storm
Lebanese Wine	Lou, Charlotte and Emmalena Khourey
Pop, Water, Ice Cream	Jay Murad
Zaatar Tent	Anthony & Rena Nassar
Games & Instant Bingo	Ryan Storm
Children's Games	Ava Murad
Volunteers coordinator	Ryan Storm
Security and Safety	Lou Khourey
Sledd Company Coordinator	Chris George
Tents & Tables	Msgr Bakhos Chidiac

***Mahrajan Volunteers (next two pages)***

## *Assumption of the Blessed Mother*

Readings: Rom 12:9-15 and Lk 1:46-55

### Revelation 12

#### The Woman and the Dragon

A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.

Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon (Satan) with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born.

She gave birth to a son, a male child (Jesus), who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne (Safety). The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of. (safety)

And there was war in heaven.

Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.

The great dragon was hurled down -that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

"Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ.

For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of ... out of the serpent's reach (Assumption).

## *The Dormition of Mary*

In giving birth you kept your virginity and in your dormition you did not abandon the world, O Mother of God. You passed on to life, being Mother of life, and with your intercession you set our souls free from death.

A marvelous miracle! The fountain of life is placed in the tomb, and the grave becomes a ladder to heaven.

Rejoice, O Gethsemani, holy dwelling of the Mother God! Let us acclaim her, O faithful, imitating Gabriel:

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you, he who lavishes on the world, through you, his great mercy!"

O, your mysteries, O Chaste one! You appeared, O Sovereign throne of the Most High, and today you have been transported from the earth to heaven. Your glory sends forth rays of grace. Virgins, arise with the Mother of the King. Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you, he who lavishes on the world, through you, his great mercy.

Let the Powers, the Thrones, the Principalities, the Lordships, the Cherubim, and the terrible Seraphim glorify your dormition. Let the Sons of the earth rejoice, adorned with your glory. Let the sovereigns bow down together with the archangels and angels and let them exclaim: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you, he who lavishes on the word, through you, his great mercy.

We, all generations, proclaim you blessed, O Virgin Mother of God; in you Christ Our God, the Uncontained, deigned to be contained. Happy are we who have you as our advocate: day and night you intercede for us, and the scepters of the kingdom are unshaken through your supplications. Therefore, as we sing hymns we call out to you: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"

Explain to us, O David, what this present feast is? He answers: "She whom I have sung, in the Book of Psalms as the Daughter of God, maiden and virgin, has been transferred into the celestial dwellings by Christ, who was born from her without seed. For this reason, let the mothers rejoice, as do the virgin spouses of Christ, exclaiming: "Hail, you who have been transferred into the heavenly dwellings!"

The venerable choir of the inspired apostles was miraculously reunited to give glorious burial to your immaculate body, O Mother of God, worthy of all praise. With them sang the angelic hosts, hymning with reverence your assumption. This we will celebrate with faith.

In your childbearing, the conception had no seed; in your dormition, death was without corruption: you passed from miracle to miracle, O Mother of God. How indeed could she who has not experienced wedlock nourish in her womb a baby while remaining a virgin? How was the Mother of God swathed with perfumed spices as if she were dead? Therefore together with the angels we cry out to you: "Hail, O full of grace!"

## ***Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary***

Apparition Sites:

- 1- Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531 Approved)
- 2- Rue de Bac, Paris, France (1830 Approved)
- 3- Las Salette, France (1864 Approved)
- 4- Lourdes, France (1858 Approved)
- 5- Pontmain, France (1871 Approved)
- 6- Fatima, Portugal (1917 Approved)
- 7- Beauraging, Belgium (1932-1933 Approved)
- 8- Banneux, Belgium (1933 Approved)
- 9- Amesterdam, The Neverlands (1945-1984 Under investigation)
- 10- Garabandal, Spain (1961 Under investigation)
- 11- Akita, Japan (1973 Approved by Local Bishop)
- 12- Medjugorje, Yugoslavia (1981 Still going under investigation)
- 13- Kibeho, Rwanda (1981 Approved by local bishop)
- 14- San Nicholas, Argentina (1983 Under investigation).

The Blessed Mother is the mother of mercy and mother of the merciful Savior as Jesus is present body, blood, soul, and divinity in the Eucharist. She leads us to him and gives us examples of pure humility.

Mother Theresa said, *"Through Mary, the cause of our joy, you discover that nowhere on earth you are more welcomed. Nowhere on earth are you more loved by Jesus, living and truly present in the most blessed sacrament... He is really there in person waiting just for you."*

## ***Mary is the First Disciple of Jesus***

Maronite have a special devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ. We do not worship her or pray to her as God, as some people mistakenly believe. But we do honor her as the mother of God, and at times we ask her to approach Jesus with a special need or concern. She is the only person besides Jesus whom Catholics believe was born without original sin, and at her death we believe she was taken up directly to heaven.

But Catholics wouldn't believe any of these things about Mary if we did not first believe that she was the first follower, the first disciple, of Jesus. Her "YES" to the angel Gabriel in the Gospel of Luke (1:26-38) made it possible for Jesus to come into the world. In the Gospel of John, Mary is the first person to believe that Jesus can work miracles, at the wedding feast of Cana (2:1-11). At the cross Jesus tells the beloved disciple, "Here is your mother" (John 19:27), which the Church teaches has the symbolic meaning that Mary is the mother of all believers. And Mary was present at Pentecost (Acts 1:14), receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, and without a doubt she was very active in spreading the Gospel message about her son in those first years after Jesus ascended into heaven.

What an amazing woman! What trust she had in God, what heartache she suffered on account of her son, and what faith she had in Jesus and his message. Mary is a model for all who wish to follow Jesus more closely. She is our loving and patient mother, and we do well to honor her and ask for her prayers on our behalf -she will never turn a deaf ear to our requests.

America had been founded on the Blessed Mother' Son. Mary was speaking to a nation that had started with a special devotion to her. It was a nation discovered by explorers who had originally named the Chesapeake Bay the "Bay of St. Mary" and Montreal the "Village of Maria," and the Mississippi the "River of the Immaculate Conception." Indeed, on his way across the Atlantic, Columbus and his men had sung the *Hail*

Mary each night, and prayed the *Salve Regina* as the first Christian prayer ever said in this hemisphere. Originally, Los Angeles had been known by its full name: "the City of Our Lady of the Angels." There were apparitions in Montana (to an Indian). There were apparitions in what is now San Francisco. The state of New York was consecrated to her Immaculate Heart before it was even known as "New York"! (Back then, it was still New Amsterdam.)

## ***Prayer of Pope Paul VI***

“O Mary, make us understand, want and possess: purity of soul and body with the greatest tranquility.

Teach us recollection and interiority.

Give us the willingness to listen to the good inspirations and the Word of God.

Teach us the need for meditation, inner personal life, and the prayer that God alone sees in secret.

O Mary, teach us love, love for Christ, the only, the highest, the most complete love, the love that is sacrifice for our brethren.

Obtain for us O Mary, supernatural faith, simple faith, both full and strong, sincere faith drawn from the true source, the Word of God.

O Mary, you are the image and the beginning of the Church.

You now shine before the people of God as a sign of certain hope and consolation”. Pope Paul VI

## ***This Weekend: Sat-Sun., Aug 10-11: Assumption***

### **Saturday, August 10 at 4:00 pm: Mass of the Assumption at the church**

✠ Bob Sengewalt by his grandchildren: Jeff, Courtney and Pat Sengewalt

✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family

✠ Gene & Janice Roxby by their son Joe Roxby

### **Sunday, August 11 at 10:30 am: Outdoor Mass of the Assumption at Oglebay Park**

✠ Vincent Blake (Anniversary) by Larry & Lillian Siebieda

✠ John Shiben by Erica Shiben & Family

✠ Intention of all the Benefactors and Volunteers of our church

## ***Coming Weekdays Mass Schedule***

**Monday, August 12:** No Mass. Pastor's day off.

### **Tuesday, August 13 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

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

**Wednesday, August 14:** No Mass. Office Work.

### **Thursday, August 15 Mass at Noon: Assumption Mass at the church (actual feast day)**

✠ Mike Linton (Birthday) and Mary Stees by Libby Magnone

✠ Msgr Bill Bonczewski (Birthdays) and Mary Stees by Libby Magnone

✠ Agnes Jacovetty (Birthday) by George & Patty Jacovetty-Fahey

**Friday, August 16:** No Mass. Visitation of the sick.

## ***Next Weekend: Saturday-Sunday, August 17-18***

### **Saturday, August 17, Mass at 4:00 p.m.:**

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

✠ Nimon Joseph (Anniversary) by the Weisner and Joseph Families

✠ Gene & Janice Roxby by their son Joe Roxby

### **Sunday, August 18, Mass at 10:00 a.m.:**

✠ John Miller (Anniversary) by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

✠ John Shiben by Erica Shiben & Family

## ***Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:***

August 16: Tara George Musilli  
August 17: Judy Bedway  
August 20: Tricia Committee  
August 23: Georgene Weisner Manning  
August 25: Al Depto  
August 26: Nathan Wakim, Jessica George  
August 31: Joseph R. Simon  
September 1: Janet Fadoul Wilson  
September 8: Carol Dougherty  
September 9: Gary Weisner, Patrick Stees,  
September 10: Chris George

## ***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)  
Regina, Shelly and Gavin Hancher, Mary Zigler (sister of Lillian Siebieda), Dolores Oser, Sally Sengewalt, Anthony Wakim, Earl Duffy, Fran Saseen, Sandra DeMuth, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Patty Olinsky, Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter),

## ***Mary and the priesthood***

Pope Benedict, "World Day of Prayer for Vocations"

The celebration of the coming World Day of Prayer for Vocations gives me the opportunity to invite the entire People of God to meditate the theme Vocation in the mystery of the Church.

In order to answer the call of God and start on our journey, it is not necessary to be already perfect. We know that the awareness of his own sin allowed the prodigal son to start on his return journey and thus feel the joy of reconciliation with the Father.

Weaknesses and human limits do not present obstacles, as long as they help us to make us more aware of the fact that we need the redeeming grace of Christ. This is the experience of St Paul who confessed: "I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (2 Cor 12,9). In the mystery of the Church, the mystical Body of Christ, the divine power of love changes the heart of man, making him able to communicate the love of God to his brethren. Down the centuries many men and women, transformed by divine love, have consecrated their own existences to the cause of the Kingdom. Already on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, many allowed themselves to be conquered by Jesus: they were in search of healing in body or spirit, and they were touched by the power of his grace. Others were chosen personally by Him and became his apostles. We also find persons, like Mary Magdalene and other women, who followed him on their own initiative, simply out of love. Like the disciple John, they too found a special place in his heart. These men and women, who, through Jesus, knew the mystery of the love of the Father, represent the variety of vocations which have always been present in the Church. The model of one who is called to give witness in a particular manner to the love of God, is Mary, the Mother of Jesus, who, in her pilgrimage of faith, is directly associated with the mystery of the Incarnation and Redemption.

## ***Prayer to Mary***

Holy Mary, Mother mild, bless our world through Christ your child.

Heal the poor, the sick, the dying, and the refugee, whose mournful crying urges you to cover those with mercy as the earth the snows.

## ***Story: Apparition to Mary in Lebanon***

By Msgr. George M. Sebaali

Bishwat is a small village at the outskirts of Deir El Ahmar —Baalbeck, East Lebanon. It is also the site of an old shrine and a modest church in a poor and neglected area of Lebanon. On August 21, 2004, a Jordanian Muslim man of the Haddady family was visiting a family friend, a Lebanese attorney from Deir El Ahmar from the Haroun family. He was traveling with his nine year old son, Mohamad. They decided to have lunch and spend the day in a nearby resort town. On their way back they decided to visit the Church as they passed through Bishwat. Mohamad, the nine year old boy, asked “I am a Muslim, may I go in?” While in the Church, he prayed with outstretched arms in front of the statue of the Blessed Mother. Mohamad prayed: “O Mother of our Lord, stop the wars in the world. Bestow peace in the world. Instead of hatred give us love.” While he was praying he noticed that the statue was moving its head in the form of a cross. He cried out “The statue is moving; the statue is moving.” A few of the people present were also able to see the statue’s movement. Others were unable to see the movements. This phenomenon has continued and huge crowds visit the shrine every day. His Excellency Bishop George Abi-Youness, the Maronite Bishop of Mexico, visited the shrine on October 24, 2004. He also saw the statue’s head move in the form of a cross.

### *The Story of Serge Nakhle*

Three years ago, twenty four year old Serge Nakhle, fell from a tall building and broke his backbone. He was unable to walk without the aid of a walker. One day, while having lunch with his parents in the Barouk area, he asked if they would take him to visit the church of Our Lady in Bishwat. After Serge came out of the shrine he told his father “I want to go back inside alone this time.” Serge got up and walked into the church without his walker.

His Excellency Paul M. Hachem, Maronite Bishop of Deir El Ahmar, after consulting with Dr. Paul Beggiani, Serge Nakhle’s physician, says, “it was not a complete and total cure, although there is a great improvement in his condition.”

When asked about his position regarding what has been happening in his diocese, Bishop Hachem said, “I neither confirm nor deny what has been happening. I am very closely and seriously following this phenomenon unfold.” However, according to Bishop Hachem, “the big miracle is the atmosphere of prayer and penance and the people’s renewed interest in the Mystery of Confession and active participation in the Divine liturgy.” Bishop Hachem was able to meet with Mohamad before he returned to Jordan. He found Mohamad to be a very devout Muslim boy. Although he is only nine years old he fasts the entire month of Ramadan (the Muslim’s month of fasting). He has already memorized two-thirds of the Koran (the Muslim’s holy book). He had no previous knowledge or relations with Christianity. Bishop Hachem asked Mohamad: “Since you had no previous knowledge of Christianity, how could you pray in such an eloquent manner?” He replied that it came to him spontaneously. Mohamad claims that the Blessed Mother still appears to him. The plaster statue of the Blessed Mother in Bishwat is an exact replica of the statue of the Blessed Mother who appeared in Pontmain in the Diocese of Laval, France in 1871 following the European war. In 1891 a Jesuit monk brought the statue to Lebanon. When the Church in Bishwat burned down, the Jesuit monk gave the statue to the church. This is not the first time that miraculous phenomena occurred in Bishwat. In May of 2003 a Lebanese merchant of the Succar family from Becharee in North Lebanon, fell seriously ill while conducting business between Brazil and the Middle East. Medical treatment offered no hope. One day as he was boarding a plane in Beirut, a policeman from Deir El Ahmar suggested he “visit Our Lady of Bishwat?” He cancelled his trip and made a visit to the Church in Bishwat. The Blessed Mother appeared to him in the statue and he experienced an immediate cure. The merchant asked Bishop Hachem’s permission to erect a new statue of the Blessed Mother. A sculptor was commissioned by the merchant to carve a marble statue with the exact specifications. At the dedication of the statue the merchant gave his life testimony.

According to Bishop Hachem this is a true miracle. The cure was complete and total. Crowds continue to flock in droves to Bishwat day and night. They come from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt. So far the Church is investigating nine reported cures. --The Maronite Voice, Vol. 11, December 2004



## *A Time to Laugh (128)*

### *1950's quotes*

Ah, the good old days. Here are some quotes from people in the US during the 1950's.

“I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are it's going to be impossible to buy a weeks groceries for \$20.”

“Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won't be long when \$5,000 will only buy a used one.”

“If cigarettes keep going up in price, I'm going to quit. A quarter a pack is ridiculous.”

“Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging dime just to mail a letter?”

“The Government wants to get its hands on everything. Pretty soon it's going to be impossible to run a family business or farm. If they raise the minimum wage to \$1, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store.”

“When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 50 cents a gallon. Guess we'd be better off leaving the car in the garage.”

“Kids today are impossible. Those duck tail hair cuts make impossible to stay groomed. Next thing you know, boys will be wearing their hair as long as the girls. Also, their music drives me wild. This 'Rock Around The Clock' thing is nothing but racket.”

“I'm afraid to send my kids to the movies any more. Ever since they let Clark Gable get by with saying 'damn' in 'Gone With The Wind,' it seems every movie has a 'hell' or damn in it.”

“Pretty soon you won't be able to buy a good 10 cent cigar.”

“I read the other day where some scientist thinks it's possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas.”

“Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$75,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn't surprise me if someday they'll be making more than the president.”

“Do you suppose television will ever reach our part of the country?”

“I never thought I'd see the day all our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric typewriters now.”

### *Ever Wonder!*

Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?

Why women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?

Why don't you ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?

Why is "abbreviated" such a long word?

Why is it that doctors call what they do "practice"?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

Why is, the man who invests all your money, called a broker?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?!

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

(Now that you've smiled at least once, it's your turn to spread the stupidity and let someone you want to bring a smile to -maybe even a chuckle- read this. We all need to smile every once in a while.)