



November 24, 2024

Bulletin #47

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

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Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



Announcement to Mary

***Weekend Masses:** Saturdays: Mass at 4:00 p.m. and 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:** 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.

Announcement to Mary

Readings: 2 Sam 7:8-17; Gal 3:15-22 and Lk 1:26-38

The Virgin Mary in the Christian doctrine

The Virgin Mary is an integral part of the Christian doctrine and living, inseparable from the message of Christ and the Gospel. Mary is within the profession of belief in Jesus Christ, “conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary.” A valuable principle is that everything we affirm about Mary stems from our belief in Christ, and what we hold concerning Mary in turn illumines and clarifies our faith in Christ. She is the “Mother of God,” because the one to whom she gave birth was truly the second person of the Holy Trinity. Her “unique holiness” in the Immaculate Conception comes wholly from Christ.

As the mystery of Christ is presented throughout the Scriptures, so many individuals in the Scriptures point to the Virgin Mary. The poor and powerless individuals God chose in the Old Testament to show forth his faithfulness -Hannah, the mother of Samuel, Deborah, Ruth- suggest to us why God chose the Virgin Mary in the New Testament.

Not only is the Virgin Mother within the Creed we profess, but she exemplifies the believer’s response to the truths outlined in the Creed. God’s word is received first through attentively listening with faith (“to listen to” means “to obey.” The Scriptures refer to Abraham as a model of the “obedience of faith” Mary is its “most perfect embodiment.” Because her faith that God’s word would come to pass never wavered, the Church sees Mary as “the purest realization of faith.” By her holiness, she is the image of the nature of the Church, “the bride without spot or wrinkle,” for that reason, the Marian image of the Church precedes the Petrine dimension.

Mary is inseparably united in the celebration of the mystery of Christ in the liturgical year. The Church’s liturgy is celebrated always “in communion with and commemorating” the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints. In the Eucharist, the Church joins Mary at the foot of cross, where both are united to Christ in offering and intercession.

Mary and the saints show the Gospel lived in daily life. In the worship we offer to the one true God (the first commandment) a Marian dimension is present: As Mary did in the Magnificat, we give praise to God, confessing with gratitude that he has done great things and holy is his name. Those striving for holiness find in all-holy Mary a “model and source.” God’s beauty is reflected in the holiness of the Virgin Mother of God, the angels, and saints.”

Jesus learned to pray from his mother who kept and treasured in her heart all, the great things the Almighty had done.” Mary’s “fullness of grace” allows her to offer her whole self to God in the perfect prayer: “Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord: let it be to me according to your word.” At the Annunciation, Christ’s birth, Pentecost and other events of Christ’s life, Mary’s prayer joins her to the Father’s plan of loving kindness. At the foot of the Cross, Mary becomes the New Eve, the true Mother of all the living.” The Church’s prayer is always joined to that of Mary.

All Christian prayer is “in Christ” and the Holy Spirit, through whom we are united to the Church and the Mother of Jesus. “Wholly transparent” to Jesus, Mary is the way” of Christian prayer. The twofold movement in prayer -praise and intercession- is well illustrated in the two parts of the Hail Mary. Mary is the “perfect prayer” both model for and figure of the Church.

The Virgin Mary was the generous companion and the faithful associate of Christ. The union between Christ and Mary is shown in a number of ways. First, Mary was joined to Christ through her firm faith: Throughout her life and until her last ordeal when Jesus her son died on the cross, Mary’s faith never wavered. Mary was also associated with the redemption of Christ; this union became manifest especially at the hour of his Passion. Her union with Christ is the basis for her role in the Church. Mary was associated with the Jesus in his prayer, and the prayer of Mary continues to sustain the Church. We believe that the Holy Mother of God, the new Eve, Mother of the Church, continues in heaven to exercise her maternal role on behalf of all the members of the Christ.

This Weekend, Nov. 23-24: Announcement to Mary

Saturday, November 23 at 4:00 pm:

- ✠ Steve & Elizabeth Harasuik (Wedding Anniversary) by George, Susan, Matthew & Luke Saseen and Jeff & Jena Naswadi
- ✠ Gary McLaughlin, George Joseph (Birthday) and Selma Joseph (Anniversary) by Becky & Larry Ferrera
- ✠ Gene & Janice Roxby by their son Joe Roxby
- ✠ Special prayer for good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

Sunday, November 24 at 10:30 am:

- ✠ Selma Joseph and Gary McLaughlin (Anniversary) by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by his grandchildren: Jeff, Courtney and Patrick
- ✠ Deceasen Members of Magistrate Joe Roxby

Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, November 25: No Mass. Pastor's day off.

Tuesday, November 26 Mass at Noon:

- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

Wednesday, November 27: No Mass. Office works.

Thursday, November 28, Mass at 9:00 am: Thanksgiving Day (No Noon Mass)

- ✠ Deceasen Members of Magistrate Joe Roxby
- ✠ John Shibben by his wife Dee Shibben
- ✠ Special prayer for good health of Julia Schiess by her father Leo Bleifus

Friday, November 29: No Mass. Visitation of the Sick.

This Weekend, Nov. 30 – Dec.1: Mary Visits Elizabeth

Saturday, November 30 at 4:00 pm:

- ✠ Elias Joseph (Anniversary) by Becky & Larry Ferrera
- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- ✠ Gene & Janice Roxby by their son Joe Roxby
- ✠ Special Intention

Sunday, December 1 at 10:30 am: Mass will be followed by Christmas Novena

- ✠ Elias Joseph (Anniversary) by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- ✠ Cathy (Sharp) Howard by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- ✠ Chamse Rahi (2nd Anniversary) by the Peklinsky, Storm, Howarth and Rahi Families

Coming Events

Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22	Christmas Novena following the Saturdays and Sundays Masses.
Sun. December 8	Christmas Dinner. Complimentary to all parishioners. Free will donation to the church will be appreciated at the Dinner.
Sun. December 15	34 th Anniversary to Priesthood of Msgr. Bakhos. Brunch for parishioners

Christmas Novena

Starting Sunday, December 1st we will celebrate the Christmas Novena after the Weekend Masses. The Novenas are meant to prepare our souls for the coming of our Lord. So please stay and share the Novenas after all weekend Masses until Christmas.

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 Dr. Nabil AlKhouri and Family
- ☼ In Honor of the Blessed Mother by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ☼ In Honor of the Blessed Mother by Michael Duymich
- ☼ In Memory of Beloved parents John & Cecilia John by Susan (John) Burns
- ☼ In Memory of Dany and Milly Manners by their daughter NiNi Miller
- ☼ In Memory of David Frey by his loving Family
- ☼ In Memory of Nimon and Mariam Joseph Family by the Joseph and Weisner Families
- ☼ In Memory of the Murad and Tatalovich Families by Jay & Liz Murad
- ☼ In Memory of Shirley Elias Nickerson and Deceased members of the Elias Family by Tammy Strong
- ☼ In Memory of Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt and Family

Christmas and New Year Masses Schedule

Tuesday, December 24:

4:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Mass (no noon Mass)

10:00 p.m.: Christmas Midnight Mass

Wednesday, December 25th: Day of Obligation

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

New Year Masses Schedule

Tuesday, December 31st, 2024:

4:00 p.m.: New Year's Eve Mass (No Noon Mass and no Midnight Mass)

Wednesday, January 1st, 2025: 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

November 29: Tony Renzella

November 30: Melissa Ferrera-Renzella

December 3: Joey John

December 7: Christina Committee Zdilla

December 12: Lou Khourey

December 15: Lucca Ferrera

December 19: Chris Wakim

December 21: Millet C. Faddoul Jr.

December 22: Millet C. Fadoul

Your Church Support Last Week

\$1,516.00	Sunday Collection
120.00	Bulletin Ads
64.00	Candles
50.00	Coffee hour
393.00	Christmas Poinsettias
\$2,143.00	Total Deposits: May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home! Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Susan Burns, Liz Murad, Mark McLaughlin

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)
 Monroe DeLuca, Sally Sengewalt, Mary Zigler (sister of Lillian Siebieda), Dolores Oser, 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),

What's New?

Lower Your 2024 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 2024 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 **2024**, 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, 2024. 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 **2025** 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, 2024 until December 31st, 2024**. It is wise to keep the church statement with your tax records, in case the IRS questions your itemized deductions.

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 Building Insurance of our church which exceeds \$22,000. Any donation is accepted and helpful. We will open the basement door for you anytime. Please call 304-233-1688

Spirituality: Miracle of Mirna El-Akhrass

Oozing Oil, Blood, Miraculous Soufanieh Phenomenon Appears With Message to The World.

Jesus Christ's calvary scars reappeared on the forehead, hip, hands and feet of phenomenal Mirna el-Akhrass for the first time in years as she relived Christ's agony on Thursday 12, Good Friday and Easter eve.

During her trance, el-Akhrass said Jesus Christ and his mother Virgin Mary have reappeared to her calling on the Christianity to unite the Greek Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church, starting with the adoption of a unified Easter. An icon of the Virgin Mary worshiped at Mirna's house in Damascus (Soufanieh neighborhood) started oozing oil on Thursday for the first time since 10 years during which Virgin Mary and Jesus stopped giving messages to Mirna.

What is known as the "Soufanieh Holy Phenomenon" started many years ago when the painful stigmata of the Christ appeared on the body of the Syrian-born married young lady Mirna el-Akhrass Nazour. Then she enters in a trance during which she receives messages from the Christ and Virgin Mary.

Ever since the phenomenon appeared, believers from around the world have been visiting Mirna's house in quest for blessings and the local and international press have been covering the event over the years. On feet-washing Thursday, Mirna knew something was about to happen. That is what she told visitors, among whom a group of believers coming from Spain who were praying at her house.

Soon after, Mirna felt a great pain and blood started dropping from her forehead from a 1 cm injury. She was carried to her bed amid large crowds including her American and French physicians, her 12-year-old son Jean Emanuel, her 14-year-old daughter Myriam and her husband Nicholas. Doctors reported that the injuries in her forehead, hands and feet were of 1 cm each. That of her hip was of 12 cm. Mirna that evening did not enter

her habitual trance, but she was having visions in great pain. It was 3 p.m., the day and time Jesus was nailed to the cross. The increasing crowds started chants and prayers.

The last time Mirna went into trance was in 1990 when she received a message from Jesus telling her she will not witness the miraculous phenomenon until the first time the Churches unite their Easter celebrations.

On Saturday, Mirna went into a one-hour trance at 1: 45 p.m. after which she woke up with a message from the Son of God: "...do not be afraid, be wise and patient if you fail. Keep hoping and trust me, I will not forsake you..."
--Beirut, April 23rd, 2001.

Wisdom: Thank You Lord

A newly arrived soul in Heaven was met by St. Peter. The saint toured the soul around Heaven. Both of them walked side by side inside a large workroom filled with angels.

St. Peter stopped in front of the first section and said, "This is the Receiving Section. Here, all the petitions to God said in prayer are received."

The soul looked at the section, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets from all the people of the world.

They walked again until they reached the 2nd section, and St. Peter told the soul, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section."

Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are packed and delivered to the persons who asked for them down on earth."

The soul saw how busy it was. There were so many angels working in that room, since so many blessing were being packed and delivered to Earth.

Finally at the farthest corner of the room, the soul stopped at the last section. To the surprise of the soul, only one angel stayed there idly, doing nothing.

"This is the Acknowledging Section," St. Peter told the soul.

"How is it that, there is no work here?"

"That's the sad thing," St. Peter answered. "After the people received the blessings, they asked for, very few send their acknowledgements."

"How does one acknowledge God's blessing?"

"Simple," St. Peter answered. "Just say, ""Thank you, Lord.""

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep .. you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace .. you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness ... you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death ... you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If your parents are still alive and still married... you are very rare.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder... you are blessed because you can offer healing touch.

Have a good day, count your blessings.

Story

The Finest Steel Gets Sent Through the Hottest Furnace

"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experiences of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved." --Helen Keller

I'll never forget the night in 1946 when disaster and challenge visited our home. My brother came home from football practice and collapsed with a 104-degree temperature. After an examination, the doctor informed us it was polio. This was before the days of polio that killed and crippled many children and teenagers.

After the crisis had passed, the doctor felt it was his duty to inform my brother of the horrible truth. "I hate to tell you this, son," he said, "but the polio has taken such a toll that you'll probably never walk again without a limp, and your left arm will be useless." My brother had always envisioned himself as a championship wrestler his senior year, after just missing the championship the season before. Barely able to speak, he whispered, "Doctor..." "Yes," said the doctor leaning over the bed, "what is it, my boy?" "Go to hell," he said in a voice filled with determination.

The next day the nurse walked into his room to find him lying flat on his face on the floor. "What's going on?" asked the shocked nurse. "I'm walking," he calmly replied. He refused the use of any braces or even a crutch. Sometimes it would take him 20 minutes to get out of the chair, but he refused any offers of aid. I remember seeing him lift a tennis ball with as much effort as a healthy man would lift a 100-pound barbell. I also remember seeing him step out on the mat as captain of the wrestling team.

But the story doesn't stop there. The following year, after being named as one of the first football games to be televised locally, he came down with mononucleosis. It was my second brother who helped reinforce his already strong philosophy of never giving up. The family was sitting in his room at the hospital when Valley's quarterback completed a 12-yard pass to the tight end and the announcer said, "And my brother makes the first catch of the game." Shocked, we all looked at the bed to make sure he was still there. Then we realized what had happened. Bob, who had also made the starting line-up, had worn his number so my brother could spend the afternoon hearing himself catching six passes and making countless tackles. As he overcame mono, he did it with the lesson Bob taught him that day -there is always a way!

My brother was destined to spend the next three falls in the hospital. It was after he stepped on a rusty nail. The following year, it was third-degree burns over 40 percent of his body and collapsed lungs. His life had been saved by my other brother who, after an explosion had set his body on fire, put the flames out by throwing himself on him. He received serious burns himself.

But after each challenge, my brother came back stronger and more sure of his own ability to overcome any obstacle. He had read that if one looks at the roadblocks, he isn't looking at the goal. Armed with these gifts of the spirit and the laughter of the soul, he entered the world of show business and revolutionized television by creating and producing such innovative shows. He had literally been through the furnace and had come out of it with a soul as strong as steel, and used it to strengthen and entertain a nation.

A Time to Laugh (143)

Big John In The Old West

A bar owner in the Old West has just hired a timid new bartender. The owner of the establishment is giving his new hire some instructions on running the place. He tells the timid man, "*If you ever hear that Big John is coming to town, drop everything and run for the hills!! He's the meanest, biggest, nastiest outlaw who ever lived!!*"

A few weeks pass uneventfully. But one afternoon, a local cowhand comes running through town yelling, "*Big John is coming to town!! Run for your lives!!!*"

When the bartender exits the saloon to start running, he's knocked to the ground by several townspeople scurrying out of town. As he's picking himself up, he sees a large man approaching the saloon, probably about 7 feet tall, muscular, grunting and growling as he walks.

He stomps up to the door, orders the poor barkeeper inside, and demands, "*I want a beer NOW!!*" He pounds his heavy fist on the bar, splitting it in half. The bartender nervously hands the big man a beer, hands shaking. He takes the beer, rips the top of the bottle off with his teeth, and downs the beer in one gulp.

As the poor timid bartender cowers behind the bar, the big man gets up to leave. "*Do you want another beer?*" the bartender calls out.

"*Dang it, I don't have time!!*" the big man yells. "*I gotta get out of town!!! Didn't ya hear Big John is a-comin??*"

The Young Business Man On The Phone

A young businessman had just started his own firm. He'd rented a beautiful office and had it furnished with antiques. Sitting there, he saw a man come into the outer office. Wishing to appear busy, the businessman picked up the phone and started to pretend he had a big deal working.

He threw huge figures around and made giant commitments. Finally, he hung up and asked the visitor, "Can I help you?" The man said, "Sure. I've come to install the phone!"

Lightbulb Changers-A Collection

Q: How many charismatics does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: Three: one to cast it out and two to catch it when it falls!

Q: How many Pentecostals does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: Ten: one to change it and nine others to pray against the spirit of darkness.

Q: How many missionaries does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: Ten: five to determine how many can be changed by the year 2005, four to raise the necessary funds, and one to go find a national to do the job!

Q: How many Southern Baptists does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: About 16 million: However, they are badly divided over whether changing the bulb is a fundamental need or not.

Q: How many televangelists does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: Honestly, we're not sure. But for the message of change to continue to go out, please keep those letters and checks coming.

Q: How many Episcopalians does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: Four: one to change the bulb, one to bless the elements, one to pour the sherry, and one to offer a toast to the old lightbulb.

Famous Quotes (43)

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)