



December 1, 2024

Bulletin #48

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



Mary visits Elizabeth

*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.

Mary visits Elizabeth

Readings: 2 Sam 6:9-18; Eph 1:1-14 and Lk 1:39-45

We are always looking for a savior who will help us forget our troubles. But political leaders, heroes or celebrities never live up to our expectations. Israel longed for a mighty warrior-king like David who would come and restore their former glory. Micah says that the ruler of God's people will not come from mighty Jerusalem but from the insignificant town of Bethlehem. This king will be a humble shepherd who will rule by God's strength.

"Shepherd of Israel, come and save us," the psalmist entreats. *"Make us turn to you. Show us your face and we shall be saved. Give us new life as we call upon your name."* Jesus comes in humble submission to God's will. Incarnate in flesh, he submits himself to a life of sacrifice.

God comes in unexpected ways. God is manifest in shepherds instead of kings. In a humble village God comes to a simple girl. Mary is our model of faith and obedience to God's will. ***"Blessed are you among women,"*** we pray, ***"and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus."*** With Elizabeth we each ask, ***"Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"*** In her presence, new life stirs and we are filled with joy. Like Mary, we are blessed because we trust that the Lord's promises to us are being fulfilled.

From Our Diocese

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Greetings and Peace!

The Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles is once again participating in #GivingTuesday taking place on December 3, 2024. #GivingTuesday is the single largest giving movement in the world which focuses on generosity and giving back.

Black Friday and Cyber Monday are days when we focus on our personal and family needs. Join us this #Giving Tuesday to make a difference in our Maronite Church and community across the United States by giving to the various causes and ministries of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, including charitable contributions at home, Lebanon, and the Middle East for the needy and less fortunate.

The Eparchy works diligently to support our seminarians, retired priests, religious education, youth and young adult formation, marriage preparation, laity ministry, and formation, as well as assisting our parishes and missions. Over the years, the Eparchy has also worked to send much needed help to Lebanon and the region in these troubled times. We hope you will join our efforts.

I also ask you to consider supporting your local parish in a special way.

If you would like to donate by phone, please call:

Ivette Jackson, Director of Communications at 323-336-3168

Jamileh Koury, Fiscal Officer at the Chancery Office 818-626-9193

Visit our website for more information on the Eparchy and to donate:

Checks may be mailed to:

Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

19300 Rinaldi Street Box 8509

Porter Ranch, CA 91327

Thank you for your consideration in making a difference in our Eparchy and in the lives of the people who depend on its continued work and support.

With sincere best wishes and prayers, I remain

Yours in Christ,

+A. Elias Zaidan

Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

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

Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, December 2: No Mass. Pastor's day off.

Tuesday, December 3 Mass at Noon:

- ✠ Philip Geimer (Anniversary) by his wife Thomasina Geimer
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

Wednesday, December 4: No Mass. Office works.

Thursday, December 5, Mass at Noon:

- ✠ Isabel Ferris Wolfe (Anniversary) and Mary Stees by Libby G. Magnone
- ✠ Robert & Laurel Kate Matiasek by their last will
- ✠ Deceased Members of Magistrate Joe Roxby

Friday, December 6: No Mass. Visitation of the Sick.

Next Weekend, Dec.7-8: Birth of St. John the Baptist

Saturday, December 7 at 4:00 pm: Mass will be followed by Christmas Novena

- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ Gene & Janice Roxby by their son Joe Roxby
- ✠ John Shibben by his wife Dee Shibben

Sunday, December 8 at 10:30 am: Mass will be followed by Christmas Novena

- ✠ Living and Deceased of the Duffy and Fadoul Families by Earl & Linda Duffy
- ✠ Siham Frenn (Anniversary) by Dr Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn and Andrea and Zack Riedel
- ✠ Deceased Members of Magistrate Joe Roxby

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 & Milly Manners by their daughter NiNi Miller
- ☼ In Memory of David Frey by his loving Family
- ☼ In Memory of Nimon & Mariam Joseph Family by the Joseph & Weisner Families
- ☼ In Memory of the Murad & Tatalovich Families by Jay & Liz Murad
- ☼ In Memory of Shirley Elias Nickerson & Deceased members of the Elias Family by Tammy Strong
- ☼ In Memory of Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt & Family
- ☼ In Honor of Joe & Nikki Popovich
- ☼ In Memory of the Elias & Selma Joseph by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- ☼ In Memory of the Sara (Joseph) McLaughlin and Mary & John Miller Families by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- ☼ In Memory of Philip Geimer and Deceased familymembers of Thomasina Geimer
- ☼ In Memory of the Shutler and Nolte Families by Janet Shutler
- ☼ In Honor of the Duymich Family
- ☼ In Memory of the Saseen and Harasuik Families by George & Susan Saseen 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

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

December 25: Shelly Hancher

December 27: Luke Lenz, Jay Murad

Your Church Support Last Week

\$1,039.00	Sunday Collection
49.00	Candles
24.00	Coffee hour

512.00	Donation to the church
\$1,624.00	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?

The Salvation Army ANGEL TREE at our Church (Dec. 11)

Every child deserves to experience the excitement and joy of Christmas morning. The Salvation Army Angel Tree program helps provide Christmas gifts for hundreds of thousands of children around the country each year. For the second consecutive year, OLOL Church will proudly sponsor a Salvation Army ANGEL TREE. Please help us provide a magical and joyful Christmas to local children in need.

The ANGEL TREE is on display in our church foyer. Hanging on the tree are 30 tags with wish lists from children in our community. Please select a tag with a wish list from a young boy or girl. Purchase NEW toys and clothing from their wish list and bring to the church UNWRAPPED by Dec 11th. Please include the tag with your gifts. The Salvation Army will pickup the gifts and distribute to the families to place under their Christmas trees.

May God Bless You this Christmas Season and Always.

Yours in Christ,

Monsignor Bakhos and the OLOL Church Parish Council

Lower Your 2024 Income Tax Bill (December 31)

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

Maronite National Youth Conference (June 23-28, 2025)

Where: La Roche University, Pittsburgh

Age groups: 12-18 year old

Registration starts on: January 17, 2025

Information: www.maroniteyouth.org!

Questions: office@maroniteyouth.org

Spirituality

My little boy came into the kitchen this evening while I was fixing supper. And he handed me a piece of paper he'd been writing on. So, after wiping my hands on my apron, I read it, and this is what it said:

For mowing the grass, \$5

For making my own bed this week, \$1

For going to the store \$.50

For playing with baby brother while you went shopping, \$.25

For taking out the trash, \$1

For getting a good report card, \$5

And for raking the yard, \$2

Well, I looked at him standing there expectantly, and a thousand memories flashed through my mind. So, I picked up the paper, and turning it over, this is what I wrote:

For the nine months I carried you, growing inside me, No Charge

For the nights I sat up with you, doctored you, prayed for you, No Charge

For the time and the tears, and the cost through the years, No Charge

For the nights filled with dread, and the worries ahead, No Charge

For advice and the knowledge, and the cost of your college, No Charge

For the toys, food and clothes, and for wiping your nose, No Charge

Son, when you add it all up, the full cost of my love is No Charge

Well, when he finished reading, he had great big tears in his eyes. And he looked up at me and he said, "Mama, I sure do love you." Then he took the pen and in great big letters he wrote, PAID IN FULL.

Wisdom

I woke up this morning, and knew that today, the sun would not be shining, and the clouds would be gray.

As I stepped outside, rain fell upon my head, my car wouldn't start, so I walked to school instead.

I forgot all of my assignments, I failed all of my tests, I dropped my head in disgust, and asked the Lord for one request.

"Lord, why is it that, things won't go my way?" He gently replied, "Dear child it is because you didn't thank me yesterday."

I woke you up and enabled, you to see the sun again.

I gave you shelter, protected your family, and even let you make a new friend.

I blessed you far, greater than I ever had before.

But you were too busy, to thank me once more.

You didn't feel sick, because I maintained your health.

You had money in your pocket, because I maintained your wealth.

You had shoes on your feet and clothes to wear, too.

You had plenty of food to eat, and what did you do?

You ignored me and went about your tasks.

But when you wanted something you never hesitated to ask.

I was there when you needed me and that wasn't too long ago.

But when things started going your way, it was me you did not know.

As if that weren't enough, I provided your favorite luxuries.

This was something I didn't have to do -they weren't even necessities.

And when it was time to get on your knees and show your gratitude, you decided that after such a fulfilling day, you weren't in the mood.

So I decided to give you just a little test, to show you how it would feel to stop being blessed."

I began to realize what the Lord was saying.

And when I got home, I fell to my knees and started praying.
He said, "My child, you have learned and you know I do forgive.
But remember to remember this day as long as you shall live.
I love filling your life with joy, and your pain I'll alleviate it.
But just a **simple thank you** would show how much you appreciate it."

Story

After the results of my ultrasound, Dr. Chris sat down in a chair across from my husband, Craig, and me. Her expression looked grim. Craig and I gripped each others' hands even more tightly. "Your baby has anencephaly."

"There is a plate of cells called the neural plate that rolls up to form the neural tube, which becomes the spine and brain," the doctor explained. "For some reason your baby's tube did not seal properly, so only the most primitive brain stem was able to develop."

I pressed my knees together to stop them from shaking. I pictured a child with a gaping hole in its head. "What kind of a life will it have?"

"These babies have just enough of a brain stem to go full-term, but they rarely survive the birthing process," Dr. Chris explained. "If they are born alive, they usually live for only an hour or so." Her eyes filled with tears. "I'm so sorry," she said, pressing her hand on ours.

This was the last thing I had expected. I looked at Craig's face. For once I was utterly at a loss for words. "If you wish, you may terminate the pregnancy now," she said in her kindest tone. "I'll leave you two alone to discuss it."

As soon as the door closed, Craig began to cry, something I had not seen him do since the joyful tears of our wedding day. "I'd have rather had a disabled child," he whispered.

"Me too," I said through my tears. I put my hand on my slightly rounded stomach, wanting to hold my baby close while I still could. "I cannot end this baby's life," I said. "Neither can I," Craig agreed.

"Push! You can do it! Here comes the head!" Dr. Chris cried. I tried to forget that in a moment 'hello' would mean goodbye. Please God, let my baby be born alive, I prayed, and tried to concentrate on bearing down. "It's a boy, and he's alive!" cried Dr. Chris in jubilation.

Alive! It was the moment I'd been praying for and yet dreading for the last six months. What if I was so repulsed by the way he looked that I could not bring myself to hold him during his last moments with us? She was turning toward me, bringing him to me. I did not want to see his head. "Wait! Put a hat ... Lisa, he needs you." She put him in my arms.

The moment I held him nothing else mattered. "Oh, my darling Aaron," I murmured. At the sound of my voice, he turned his face toward mine, and the swollen lids parted just a little. He opened his mouth and made a tiny sound, then closed his eyes and nestled down in his blanket. He didn't seem to be in any distress at all. The head I had been so afraid of was small and ended just above his eyebrows in a little topknot of skin. I lifted the blanket. From the eyes down he was heartbreakingly perfect. Craig put one finger into the tiny hand. We looked deeply into each other's eyes and smiled. It was a quiet sort of joy, but joy nonetheless.

We called Father Tom, even though it was after mid-night, and he arrived in record time. My mother and brother, and Craig's sister and her husband were there. It was the only time I had ever seen my brother-in-law so subdued. He wiped his eyes when he thought no one was looking. Aaron even had godparents there; some dear friends had asked us if they could be his godparents as soon as the anencephaly had been diagnosed.

Throughout the entire baptism I felt a profound sense of serenity. It was tinged with sadness, but for one hour we celebrated the gift of our child. As soon as Father Tom pronounced the final blessing, Aaron suddenly felt different to me.

"Would you check him please?" I asked the nurse.

She placed the stethoscope on his tiny chest. "He's gone." She pressed her lips together and tears welled in her eyes.

The next morning my brother came to visit me, "Lisa, you know I'm not a religious person, but there was a holy feeling in that room last night."

"I felt it too."

"You know what's really weird? After I left the hospital last night I went home and actually opened my Bible I don't think I've touched it since Dad left Mom. I read exactly what I needed to 'hear', and started to bawl like a baby."

The funeral was lovelier than any I've been to before or since. My friends in the diocesan choir outdid themselves. It was a perfect spring day. The sweet smell of damp earth was in the air. I was able to walk away from that little casket without a tear. I knew that was not where Aaron was.

At the luncheon I made a beeline for Yasi, one of my favorite cousins. "How's Ken?" I asked.

"Funny you should ask," she laughed. "You know how I've been agonizing over whether to marry him?"

Well, we had plans for today, but I was sure Ken would understand my going to the funeral, but he hit the ceiling."

"I'm so sorry," I said.

"Don't be," she said. "I don't think I ever would have been able to see him for what he was if not for Aaron. I broke up with him, and I couldn't be happier!"

The day after the funeral our neighbor Molly dropped off a loaf of freshly baked bread and a card. In the card, she wrote about a baby girl she had lost in the late fifties. She had never been allowed to see the baby. She never experienced closure until she went to Aaron's funeral. "Now," she wrote, "I am at peace with it."

A few days later my mood was especially bleak. It had been gray, cold, and rainy ever since the funeral. I was huddled on the couch when Craig came in with the mail. There was a card from Healing the Children, the organization we had encouraged people to send their donations to. They wrote that they had received enough money to fly two children from Nicaragua to the U.S. for life-saving operations. One of the children was a little girl with a cyst the size of an adult fist in her nasal passage.

I stared out the window at a puddle on the front landing. It had stopped raining. A tiny drop of water fell into the puddle forming small ripples. It occurred to me that Aaron was like a tiny stone that had been tossed into an immense lake. Even the smallest stone creates ripples.

A Time to Laugh (144)

Payment In Full

The pastor of the church was looking over the cradle when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from among the figures.

Immediately he turned and went outside and saw a little boy with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

So he walked up to the boy and said,

"Well, where did you get Him, my fine friend?"

The little boy replied, "I got him from the church."

"And why did you take him?" The boy said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to the little Lord Jesus and I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas I would give him a ride around the block in it."

God Will Provide

A young woman brings home her fiancé to meet her parents. After dinner, her mother tells her father to find out about the young man. The

father invites the fiancé to his study for a drink.

"So what are your plans?" the father asks the young man. "I am a Torah scholar," he replies. "A Torah scholar. Hmmm," the father says. "admirable, but what will you do to provide a nice house for my daughter to live in, as she's accustomed to?" "I will study," the young man replies, "and God will provide for us." "And how will you buy her a beautiful engagement ring, such as she deserves?" asks the father. "I will concentrate on my studies," the young man replies, "God will provide for us." "And children?" asks the father. "How will you support children?" "Don't worry, sir, God will provide," replies the fiancé.

The conversation proceeds like this, and each time the father questions, the young idealist insists that God will provide. Later, the mother asks, "How did it go, Honey?" The father answers, "He has no job and no plans, but the good news is he thinks I'm God."

Famous Quotes (41)

Jesus:

Be sure you do not perform your acts of piety before men, for them to watch; if you do that, you have no title to a reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in synagogues and in streets, to win the esteem of men. Believe me, they have their reward already. But when you give alms, you shall not so much as let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so secret is your almsgiving to be; and then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, you are not to be like hypocrites, who love to stand praying in synagogues or at street-corners, to be a mark for men's eyes; believe me, they have their reward already. But when you are praying, go into your inner room and shut the door upon yourself, and so pray to your Father in secret; and then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Moreover, when you are at prayer, do not use many phrases, like the heathens, who think to make themselves heard by their eloquence. You are not to be like them; your heavenly Father knows well what your needs are before you ask him. This, then, is to be your prayer, Our Father, who are in heaven, hallowed be your name; your kingdom come; your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen. Your heavenly Father will forgive you your transgressions, if you forgive your fellow men theirs; if you do not forgive them, your heavenly Father will not forgive your transgressions either. Again, when you fast, do not shew it by gloomy looks, as the hypocrites do. They make their faces unsightly, so that men can see they are fasting; believe me, they have their reward already. But do you, at your times of fasting, anoint your head and wash your face, so that your fast may not be known to men, but to your Father who dwells in secret; and then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (Matthew 6:1-18)