



December 8, 2024

Bulletin #49

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



Birth of Saint John the Baptist And feast of the Immaculate Conception

***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.

Birth of Saint John the Baptist

Readings: 1 Sam 1:9-23; Gal 4:21-5:1 and Lk 1:57-66

Following the close parallel which St. Luke establishes between Jesus and John the Baptizer in his infancy narrative, the liturgy also celebrates two births: the birth of the Messiah at the winter solstice, and the birth of the Precursor at the summer solstice. This clearly shows the importance given to John the baptizer.

He is a strange destiny. On the one hand, a saintly intolerance of the things of this earth. "He shall drink neither wine nor any strong drink." Yet also, hand in hand with this rugged austerity, an intense spiritual joy. Twice in his life he trembles with joy: in his mother's womb, and when as a grown man, he points to the Messiah. Until he has found him he remains "The voice crying in the wilderness", that arena of spiritual warfare between a fallen world and the kingdom which is to come. God speaks in hearts which have abandoned all else.

In the desert regions along the Jordan, John rises up 'In the spirit and power of Elijah', as the great preacher of judgment. With his burning words and his baptism in water, he is to bring back the sons of the covenant to the Lord their God, before the deluge of fire. He is therefore the great successor of Noah whose primeval judgment by water foreshadowed the final judgment and foretold the waters of baptism which save us from impending retribution.

But more than all that, John appears as the friend who brings the bride to the bridegroom, and then goes quietly away. He turns all hearts towards Jesus. Then, eager to decrease so that Jesus may increase, he chooses to be forgotten and abandoned. Is not this the passion which makes manifest the extent of his faith and perfects the identification between servant and master?

Immaculate Conception

Sainte Anne was old and barren. The Lord heard her prayer, opened her womb and granted her a baby in her old age. Once pregnant, she dedicated the child in her womb to serve the Temple. When the Lord saw her faith, He prevented Satan to have any power over her daughter Mary and her offspring. The Immaculate Conception became the Catholic dogma that asserts that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was preserved free from the effects of the sin of Adam (usually referred to as "original sin") from the first instant of her conception. Although various texts in both the Old and the New Testaments have been cited in defense of the doctrine, it seems to have arisen from a general acceptance in the early church of Mary's holiness. Especially after Mary had been solemnly declared to be the mother of God at the Council of Ephesus in 431, most theologians doubted that one who had been so close to God could have actually experienced sinful acts.

This 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

Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, December 9: No Mass. Pastor's day off.

Tuesday, December 10 Mass at Noon:

- ✠ Lula-Marie Maroon (2nd Anniversary) by Thomas J. Maroon
- ✠ Deceased Members of Magistrate Joe Roxby
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

Wednesday, December 11: No Mass. Office works.

Thursday, December 12, Mass at Noon:

- ✠ Deceased Members of Magistrate Joe Roxby
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
- ✠ John Shiben by his wife Dee Shiben

Friday, December 13: No Mass. Visitation of the Sick.

Next Weekend, Dec.14-15: Revelation to St. Joseph

Saturday, December 14 at 4:00 pm: Mass will be followed by Christmas Novena

- ✠ Joann Ferrera Slack (Aniversary) by Larry & becky Ferrera
- ✠ Gene & Janice Roxby by their son Joe Roxby
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will

Sunday, December 15 at 10:30 am: Mass will be followed by Christmas Novena

- ✠ L0ttie Elwartoski (Birthday) by her son Richard Elwartoski
- ✠ Deceased Members of Magistrate Joe Roxby
- ✠ John Shiben by his wife Dee Shiben

Coming Events

Dec. 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. Kourey, Sr. & Gladys Howard by Lou & Charlotte Kourey & 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 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

January 1: Nancy Joseph

January 6: Gina Stees

January 7: Jacob Fadoul Wilson

Your Church Support Last Week

\$1,286.00	Sunday Collection
393.00	2 nd collection to our patriarch
60.00	Candles
75.00	Coffee hour
414.00	Donation to the church
\$2,228.00	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), Danny Albaugh, Rita Rae Sage,

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: Original Sin and Redemption

A long time ago, long before Oedipus and Electra, God wrote a beautiful symphony of creation; chemicals, flowers, and animals were subject to man, man's passions were under the guidance of reason, and man's personality was in love with Love, which is God. God gave that symphony to a man and woman to play, with a complete set of directions, down to the detail of what to avoid. The man and woman, being free, could obey the Divine Director and produce harmony, or they could disobey Him. The Devil suggested that, because the Divine Director had marked the script and told them what to play and what not to play, He was destroying their freedom. The woman first succumbed to the idea that freedom is license, or absence of law; she struck a

discord to prove her so-called “independence”. It was a very unladylike thing to do. She then induced the man to do the same -which was a very ungentlemanly thing to do. On and on through the whole human race this original discord swept; whenever there was the conjunction of man and woman, it affected every human being, save one, who ever was born, for each inherited the effects of that disharmony. The discord even had its repercussions in the material universe, as thistles grew and beasts became wild. As a stream polluted at its source passes on the pollution through its length, so the original fault was transmitted to humanity.

That original discord could not be stopped by man himself, because he could not repair an offense against the infinite with his finite self. He had contracted a bigger debt than he could pay. The debt could be paid only by the Divine Master Musician coming out of His Eternity into time. But there is a word of difference between a discordant note and a rebellious human. One has no freedom, the other has; and God refuses to be a totalitarian dictator in order to abolish evil by destroying human freedom. God could seize a note, but He would not seize a man. Instead of conscripting man, God willed to consult humanity again as to whether or not it wanted to be made a member of the Divine orchestra once more.

(To be continued)

Bishop Fulton SHEEN, Peace of Soul, pp.38-39.

Wisdom

I am thankful:

- for the wife who says it's hot dogs tonight. She is home with me, not with someone else.
- For the husband who is on the sofa being a couch potato. He is home for the teenager who is complaining about doing dishes, because that means she is at home, not on the streets.
- For the taxes that I pay, because it means that I am employed.
- For the mess to clean after a party, because it means that I have been surrounded by friends.
- For the clothes that fit a little too snug, because it means I have enough to eat.
- For my shadow that watches me work, because it means I am out in the sunshine.
- For a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing, because it means I have a home.
- For all the complaining I hear about the government, because it means that we have freedom of speech.
- For the parking spot I find at the far end of the parking lot, because it means I am capable of walking and that I have been blessed with a healthy body. For the lady behind me in the church that sings off key, because it means that I can hear.
- For the pile of laundry and ironing, because it means I have clothes to wear.
- For weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day, because it means I have been capable of working hard.
- For the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours, because it means that I am alive.
- And finally, for too much email, because it means I have friends who are thinking of me.

(Compliments of the late Lucille GIBBONS)

Story

There was once a stonecutter who was dissatisfied with himself and with his position in life. One day, he passed a wealthy merchant's house and through the open gateway saw many fine possessions and important visitors.

"How powerful that merchant must be!" thought the stonecutter. He became very envious, and wished that he could be like the merchant. Then he would no longer have to live the life of a mere stonecutter.

To his great surprise, he suddenly became the merchant, enjoying more luxuries and power than he had ever dreamed of, envied and detested by those less wealthy than himself. But soon a high official passed by, carried in a sedan chair, accompanied by attendants, and escorted by soldiers beating gongs. Everyone, no matter how wealthy, had to bow low before the procession.

"How powerful that official is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a high official!"

Then he became the high official, carried everywhere in his embroidered sedan chair, feared and hated by the people all around, who had to bow down before him as he passed. It was a hot summer day, and the official felt very uncomfortable in the sticky sedan chair. He looked up at the sun. It shone proudly in the sky, unaffected by

his presence.

"How powerful the sun is!" he thought. "

I wish that I could be the sun!"

Then he became the sun, shining fiercely down on everyone, scorching the fields, cursed by the farmers and laborers. But a huge black cloud moved between him and the earth, so that his light could no longer shine on everything below.

"How powerful that storm cloud is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a cloud!"

Then he became the cloud, flooding the fields and villages, shouted at by everyone. But soon he found that he was being pushed away by some great force, and realized that it was the wind.

"How powerful it is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be the wind!"

Then he became the wind, blowing tiles off the roofs of houses, uprooting trees, hated and feared by all below him. But after a while, he ran up against something that would not move, no matter how forcefully he blew against it -- a huge, towering stone.

"How powerful that stone is!" he thought. "I wish that I could be a stone!"

Then he became the stone, more powerful than anything else on earth.

But as he stood there, he heard the sound of a hammer pounding a chisel into the solid rock and felt himself being changed.

"What could be more powerful than I, the stone?" he thought.

He looked down and saw far below him the figure of a stonecutter.

A Time to Laugh (145)

Giving from the heart

The crumbling, old church building needed remodeling, so the priest made an impassioned appeal, looking directly at the richest man in town. At the end of the message, the rich man stood up and announced, "Pastor, I will contribute \$1,000." Just then, plaster fell from the ceiling and struck the rich man on the shoulder. He promptly stood again and shouted, "Pastor, I will increase my donation to \$5,000." Before he could sit back down, plaster fell on him again, and again he virtually screamed, "Pastor, I will double my last pledge." He sat down, and a larger chunk of plaster fell hitting him on the head. He stood once more and hollered, "Pastor, I will give \$20,000!"

This prompted a deacon to shout, "Hit him again, Lord! Hit him again!"

Slow Down vs. Stop

One day a policeman stopped a motorist who had just gone through a four way stop sign and was about to give him a ticket when the motorist said. "Officer you can't give me a ticket for that!" "Why not" said the officer. "Because although I did not stop I slowed right down and It's almost the same." "But you did not stop" replied the officer, "and the sign says STOP." "But the way was clear and it was safe," replied the motorist. The officer then pulls out his baton and starts hitting the motorist. "What are you doing!" yells the motorist in surprise. "Do you want me to slow down or stop," says the officer.

Shirley's Makeover

A woman named Shirley was from Beverly Hills. One day, she had a heart attack and was taken to Cedars Sinai hospital. While on the operating table, she had a near-death experience. She saw God and asked, "Is this it?" God said, "No, you have another 30 to 40 years to live." Upon her recovery, she decided to stay in the hospital and have collagen shots, cheek implants, a face lift, liposuction, etc. She even had someone dye her hair. She figured since she had another 30 to 40 years, she might as well make the most of it. She walked out of Cedars Sinai lobby after the last operation and was killed by an ambulance speeding up to the hospital. She arrived in front of God and said, "I thought you said I had another 30 to 40 years?" God replied, "Shirley! I didn't recognize you!"

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)