



December 15, 2024

Bulletin #50

## Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

Rectory: 304-233-1688 • Fax: 304-233-4714

E-Mail: [ololwv@comcast.net](mailto:ololwv@comcast.net) • Web Site: [www.ololwv.com](http://www.ololwv.com)

Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



### Revelation to Saint Joseph

\*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 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 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.

## ***Revelation to Saint Joseph***

Readings: Is 7:10-16; Eph 3:1-13 and Mt 1:18-25

In recent years, Father's Day gets the upper hand over the feast St. Joseph who is reduced to an image, chatter and gifts. The "market" has not stopped even before this Saint whose discretion and modesty also move him to be silent before our choices. Yesterday, like today, the mystery does not allow him to be exalted in the image, whereas in the faith dimension, his personal story unfolds amidst the incomprehensible and the arcane. "Being a good, 'just' man", as the Gospel says, "*that is, capable of sacrificing his love to the unknown destiny of his fiancée; he plans to leave her quietly, sacrificing what was most dear to him in life: his love for the incomparable Girl*" (Paul VI). Precisely in this context, however, the nuptial reality of Joseph and Mary emerges as a reminder of the value of the conjugal relation.

Here are the events in brief: Mary is pregnant and does not inform Joseph about the mystery of the virginal conception. The essence of marriage lies in mutual trust. Mary's behavior, with her silence, and Joseph's behavior, with his decision to send his bride away in secret, makes up their sentimental drama. As the eternal Word becomes present in their lives, they live in their stubborn silence. For us today, it is incomprehensible to keep silent when a simple word could clarify and justify matters. Nonetheless, Joseph's silent anguish makes it possible to penetrate into the mystery of the human heart, the mystery of the relation between persons who are so close and so intimately united, and yet incapable of understanding the secret essence of the other and what cannot be communicated about each one's destiny. Joseph is a man in love; he decides to leave his fiancée out of respect, not suspicion, and he continues to think about her, even in his dreams. But his dreams are God's own dreams. The man of faith, who would like to elude the mystery, listens to God's dream and orients his life around it: he takes Mary to himself, preferring her to his own offspring; he gives the Child born in Bethlehem a name; he puts Jesus in the genealogy of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob... David.. Joseph. By choosing love over genealogy, he becomes the link needed to connect the partial history of Jesus with the total history of humanity. Once the threshold of mystery is crossed, now it is possible to understand how Mary and Joseph's love can grow to reach full communion.

Mary owes Joseph, not only protection, their daily bread, and his respect for her virginity, but also the gift of life, because he spared her from the punishment for adultery. Joseph receives the gift of fatherhood from Mary in the Son he now accepts with no fear, whom he welcomes, loves, raises and accompanies with his daily work towards maturity.

In his silence for love and his openness to mystery, the "Just Man" of yesterday re-proposes to spouses today not "market" products, but rather the enthusiasm of the human and divine dream that unites them to their spouses and their children in the desire for what life itself has to offer in the sweet wonder of love.

### ***This Weekend, Dec.14-15: Revelation to Saint 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**

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

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

**Monday, December 16:** No Mass. Pastor's day off.

**Tuesday, December 17 Mass at Noon:**

- ✠ Deceased Members of Magistrate Joe Roxby
- ✠ Deceased of the Thomas, Splatt & Nutter Families by John & Kathy Thomas (MN)
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

**Wednesday, December 18:** No Mass. Office works.

**Thursday, December 19, Mass at Noon:**

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

✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family

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

**Friday, December 20:** No Mass. Visitation of the Sick.

## ***Next Weekend, Dec.21-22: Genealogy Sunday***

**Saturday, December 21 at 4:00 pm: Mass will be followed by Christmas Novena**

✠ Susie Marie Fadoul (Anniversary) by her husband Millet Louis and children Janet, Millet C. & Jonathan

✠ Lawrence Ferrera (Birthday) by Larry & Becky Ferrera

✠ Gene & Janice Roxby by their son Joe Roxby

**Sunday, December 22 at 10:30 am: Mass will be followed by Christmas Novena**

✠ Deceased Members of Magistrate Joe Roxby

✠ John Shibben by his wife Dee Shibben

✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family

## ***Coming Events***

Sun. December 15	34 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Priesthood of Msgr. Bakhos. Brunch for parishioners
Dec. 21-22	Christmas Novena following the Saturdays and Sundays Masses.

## ***Christmas Novena***

Starting Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024:**

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

### **Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 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 3: Kenzie Shia-Gray

January 6: Gina Stees

January 7: Jacob Fadoul Wilson

January 10: Marjorie John, Mary Petros-Hill

January 11: Jennifer Klein

## ***Your Church Support Last Week***

\$1,347.00	Sunday Collection
50.00	Candles
495.00	Coffee hour
\$1,892.00	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?*

### ***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 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 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](http://www.maroniteyouth.org)!

Questions: [office@maroniteyouth.org](mailto:office@maroniteyouth.org)

## ***Spirituality: Original Sin and Redemption-2***

Out from the great white throne of light, there comes an angel of light, down past the plains of Esdralon to the little village of Nazareth to a village maid called Mary. Since a woman struck the first discordant note, so a woman would be given the chance to right it. This woman herself was free from the stain of the original sin through the anticipated merits of the Son she was later to bear. Fitting it was that He, who is Innocence itself, should come through portals of flesh not polluted with its common sin. This privilege of Mary has been called the Immaculate Conception. Since a fallen angel tempted the first woman to rebel, God now consults through an unfallen angel, Gabriel, with the new Eve, Mary, and asks, “*Will you give me a man? Will you give me freely a new note out of humanity with which I can write a new symphony?*” This new man must *be* a man; otherwise God would not be acting in the name of humanity. But he must also be outside the current of infection to which all humans are subject. Being born of a woman, He will be human; being born of a Virgin, He will be sinless. The Virgin was asked if she would consent to be a Mother. Since there can be no birth without love, in the case of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the power of the Most High, the Spirit of Love, overshadowed her, and He who was born of her is the Son of God, the Son of man, and His name is Jesus, because He saved the world from its sins.

-- Bishop Fulton Sheen, *Peace of Soul*, pp.39-40. *(To be continued)*

## ***Wisdom: Thanksgiving***

### ***Building Habits of Gratitude***

Do you remember the story about the ten lepers?

Our Lord was met by ten lepers who begged Him to heal them. He told them to show themselves to the priests, and as they went to do so, they found themselves healed. One of the ten returned, praising God and

throwing himself at Jesus' feet in gratitude. Our Lord praises this man for returning to give thanks, and he asks where the other nine are. It is easy to think that this is a story about one good leper and nine bad lepers.

Yet, before we condemn the nine lepers as rotten scoundrels, we should remember what they DID do. They had the humility to ask Jesus for healing, and their faith was strong enough that He was able to heal them. They were obedient to Jesus, carrying out his command to go to the priests. They can, in fact, teach us a lot about prayer. What they did not do was thank Our Lord. Were they ungrateful? We aren't told. But before we judge them, consider their situation. They have been lepers, unable to be with their family and friends, unable to practice their professions, no doubt in terrible poverty and physical suffering. Now they are healed, able to see their loved ones, able to get back to their duties and responsibilities -perhaps they are eager to tell everyone about Jesus and what He has done for them. I think we can understand why the nine lepers did not return to the Lord and thank Him.

Those nine lepers were not in the habit of giving thanks, and because of that they did not treat Our Lord as He deserved.

Our national feast of Thanksgiving is approaching, and it is a good time to consider whether we and our children are in the habit of giving thanks to those who deserve our gratitude.

Do our children learn from our word and our example to say "thank you" to everyone who does them a service: the mom who drives their carpool, the child who passes out the worksheets at school, the cashier at McDonalds, their sister who passes the potatoes?

Do we insist that our children write "thank you" notes for gifts received?

Do we thank God as a family for all of His gifts by saying Grace before and after meals?

Do we teach them to kneel down after Mass and thank Jesus for the miracle of Holy Mass and for coming to them in Holy Communion?

Do we teach them to thank God at the end of the day for all the good things that He has given to them, and for all His graces which made their good works possible?

Do we encourage them to thank God many times throughout the day for everything that comes their way, pleasant or difficult?

All of these practices, carefully taught and lovingly fostered, will build in us and in our children the habit of gratitude, toward God and toward our fellow man. Happy Thanksgiving!

## *Little Stories*

### 1<sup>st</sup> Story

Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child. The winner was a four-year-old child whose next-door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, *"Nothing, I just helped him cry."*

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Story

Teacher Debbie Moon's first graders were discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in the picture had a different color hair than the other family members. One child suggested that he was adopted and a little girl said, *"I know all about adoptions because I was adopted."* "What does it mean to be adopted?" asked another child. *"It means,"* said the girl, *"that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of her tummy."*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Story

As I was driving home from work one day, I stopped to watch a local Little League baseball game that was being played in a park near my home. As I sat down behind the bench on the first-base line, I asked one of the boys what the score was. *"We're behind 14 to nothing,"* he answered with a smile. *"Really,"* I said. *"I have to say you don't look very discouraged."* *"Discouraged?"* the boy asked with a puzzled look on his face. *"Why should we be discouraged? We haven't been up to bat yet."*

### 4<sup>th</sup> Story

Whenever I'm disappointed with my spot in life, I stop and think about little Jamie Scott. Jamie was trying out for a part in a school play. His mother told me that he'd set his heart on being in it though she feared he would not be chosen. On the day the parts were awarded, I went with her to collect him after school. Jamie rushed up to her, eyes shining with pride and excitement. *"Guess what Mom,"* he shouted, and then said those words that will remain a lesson to me: *"I've been chosen to clap and cheer."*

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Story

When the storyteller Harry GOLDEN was young, he asked his father, *"If you don't believe in God, why do you go to synagogue so regularly?"* His father answered, *"Jews go to synagogue for all sorts of reasons. My friend Garfinkle, who is Orthodox, goes to talk to God. I go to talk to Garfinkle."*

## A Time to Laugh (146)

### ***The old priest***

An old priest was getting sick and tired of all the people in his parish who kept confessing adultery.

One Sunday in the pulpit he said, *"If I hear one more person confess to adultery, I'll quit!"*

Everyone liked him, so the parishioners came up with a code word. Someone who had committed adultery would say they had *"fallen"*. This seemed to satisfy the old priest and things went well, until the priest died at a ripe old age.

About a week after the new priest arrived, he visited the Mayor of the town and seemed very concerned. The priest said, *"You have to do something about the sidewalks in town. When people come into the confessional, they keep talking about having fallen."* The Mayor started to laugh, realizing that no one had told the new priest about the code word.

The priest shook an accusing finger at the mayor and said, *"I don't know what you're laughing about. Your wife fell three times this week."*

### ***Army of God***

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside. The Pastor said to him, *"You need to join the Army of the Lord!"*

My friend replied, *"I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor."*

Pastor questioned, *"How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"* He whispered back, *"I'm in the secret service."*

### ***Gate of Heaven***

Inscribed in stone over the great front doors of an old church being restored was: **"This is the Gate of Heaven."**

Just below it someone had placed a small cardboard sign which read: **"Use Other Entrance."**

### ***Jesus, Joseph & Mary***

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why *Joseph* and *Mary* took *Jesus* with them to *Jerusalem*.

*"They couldn't get a baby-sitter!"*, a small child replied.

### ***Idiot***

A woman called the Poison Control Center very upset because she caught her little two year old daughter eating ants. The Dr. quickly reassured her the ants were not harmful, and there was no need to bring her daughter into the hospital. She calmed down, and at the end of the conversation happened to say that she gave her daughter some ant poison to eat in order to kill the ants. The Doctor told her that now she should bring her daughter to the Emergency Room right away.

--A police recruit was asked during the exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" He said, "Call for backup."

## *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)