



December 29, 2024
Bulletin #52

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

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Monsignor Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



The Flight into Egypt

- ***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.

The Flight into Egypt

Readings: 1 Kgs 3:5-14; Heb 7:11-19 and Mt 2:13-18

The angel who appeared spoke not to Mary but to Joseph: and what did he say: *“Arise, and take the child, and his mother.”* Here he no longer says: *your wife, but His mother.* For since the Birth had taken place, and the suspicion dissipated, and the man reassured, the angel now says openly, speaking neither of wife nor son: *Take the child and his mother, and fly into Egypt;* and he gives also the reason for the flight: *for it will come to pass that Herod will seek the child to destroy him.*

And Joseph is not offended at hearing this, nor did he say: this is hard to understand. Did you not but lately say: He shall save his people: now he cannot save himself, and we must take flight, and go a long journey, and dwell at length in another land? These things are contrary to what you promised. But he said nothing of this sort, for he was a man of faith; nor does he make inquiry as to when they shall return, although the angel had spoken in an indefinite manner, saying: *Be there until I shall tell you.* Neither was he regretful at this command, but submissive and obedient, bearing these trials with cheerfulness.

For the loving God mingled joy with his labors: as he does with all who are devoted to him; not permitting their tribulations or their peace to be continuous, but ordering the life of the just by commingling the one with the other. This he did here also; and it is this on which I wish you to reflect. For Joseph saw that the Virgin was with child: and he was troubled by this, and in great anxiety: for he began to suspect the maiden of adultery; but immediately an angel stood by him, who undid his suspicion and banished his fear. And when he beheld the Child born he was filled with great joy: and then to this joy there succeeds this great peril, for the city was troubled, and the king was raging with anger, and seeking the Child.

This Weekend, December 28-29: The Flight into Egypt

Saturday, December 28 at 4:00 pm:

- ✠ Gene & Janice Roxby by their son Joe Roxby
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne & Family
- ✠ Joe & Frances Linton and their son Mike & his wife Sue by all parishioners

Sunday, December 29 at 10:30 am:

- ✠ Deceased Members of Magistrate Joe Roxby
- ✠ John Shibben by his wife Dee Shibben
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne & Family

New Year Mass Schedule

Monday, December 30: No Mass. Pastor's day off.

Tuesday, December 31st, 2024 at 4:00 pm: **New Year Eve** (No Noon Mass and no Midnight Mass)

- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by his grandchildren: Jeff, Courtney and Patrick Sengewalt
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

Wednesday, January 1st, 2025 at 10:30 am: **New Year's Day (Day of Obligation)**

- ✠ Georgette Joseph (Anniversary) by Vickie Joseph
- ✠ Michael Josephs & Deceased of the Josephs Family by Shawn and Cyndi Josephs-Tobias and Family (MN)

Thursday, January 2 Mass at noon:

- ✠ Deceased of the Habdo Family by Carol Dougherty (OK)
- ✠ Helen & Earl Ragase by Mary Ragase
- ✠ Eva M. Coury by Richard Coury

Friday, January 3: No Mass. Visitation of the Sick.

Next Weekend, Jan. 4-5: Epiphany. Baptism of Our Lord

Saturday, January 4 at 4:00 pm: Blessing of the Holy Water

- ✠ Gene & Janice Roxby by their son Joe Roxby
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne & Family
- ✠ Lorraine Marchy (Birthday) by Mary Ragase
- ✠ Special Intention

Sunday, January 5 at 10:30 am: Blessing of the Holy Water

- ✠ Deceased Members of Magistrate Joe Roxby
- ✠ John Shibben by his wife Dee Shibben
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne & Family

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month

- 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
- January 23: Dale Seidler Jr.
- January 28: Nikki Popovich

Your Church Support Last Week

\$4,545.00	Sunday Collection
53.00	Candles
17.00	Coffee hour
2,600.00	Donation to the Church
150.00	Poinsettias
\$7,365.00	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?

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 olds

Registration starts on: January 17, 2025

Information: www.maroniteyouth.org! Questions: office@maroniteyouth.org

Spirituality: Original Sin & Redemption

The Immaculate Conception and the Virgin Birth were to the beginning of a new humanity something like what a lock is to a canal, the former in a special way. If a ship is sailing on a polluted canal and wishes to transfer itself to clear waters on a higher level, it must pass through a device that locks out the polluted waters and raises the ship to the higher position. Then the other gate of the lock is lifted, and the ship rides on the new, clear waters, taking none of the polluted waters with it. Mary's Immaculate Conception was like that lock, inasmuch as, through her, humanity passed from the lower level of the sons of Adam to the higher level of the sons of God.

When this plan was presented to Mary in the greatest charter of freedom the world ever heard, she answered: ***"Be it done unto me according to Your Word."*** And God began taking on the form of man within her chaste body. Nine months later the Eternal established its beachhead in Bethlehem, as He Who is Eternal appeared in time; the bird that built the nest it hatched therein; He Who made the world is born in the world which received Him not. Because He is man, Jesus Christ can act in the name of man and be responsible as man; because He is God, everlasting He does with that human nature has an infinite value. Through this human nature of His that is sinless, He makes Himself responsible for all the sins of the world, and to such an extent that in the strong language of Saint Paul: ***"He is made sin."*** As a rich brother takes on himself the debt of his bankrupt brother, so Our Lord takes upon Himself all the discords, disharmonies, all the sins, guilts, and blasphemies of humanity, as if He Himself were guilty. As gold is thrust into the furnace to have its dross burned away, so He takes His human nature and plunges it into the fires of Calvary to have our sins burned away. To change the figure again -since sin is in the blood, He pours out His Blood in redemption; for without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins. *Bishop Fulton SHEEN, Peace of Soul, pp.40-41.*

Wisdom: That's Where It Came From

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be.

--Here are some facts about the 1500's: Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

--Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children - last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

--Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

--There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

--The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying "dirt poor."

--The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying a "thresh hold."

--In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot.

They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it that had

been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

--Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man "could bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

--Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

--Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "upper crust."

--Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock them out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a "wake."

--England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So, they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a "bone-house" and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So, they thought they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer."

--And that's the truth.... Now, whoever said that History was boring! Educate someone.... Share these facts with a friend.

Little Stories

1st story

A lesson in *"heart"* is my little 10-year-old daughter, Sarah, who was born with a muscle missing in her foot and wears a brace all the time. She came home one beautiful spring day to tell me she had competed in *"field day"* that's where they have lots of races and other competitive events. Because of her leg support, my mind raced as I tried to think of encouragement for my Sarah, things I could say to her about not letting this get her down, but before I could get a word out, she said, *"Daddy, I won two of the races!"* I couldn't believe it! And then Sarah said, *"I had an advantage"*. Oh, I knew it. I thought she must have been given a head start...some kind of physical advantage. But again, before I could say anything, she said, *"Daddy, I didn't get a head start... My advantage was I had to try harder!"*

2nd story

An Eye Witness Account from New York City, on a cold day in December: A little boy about 10 years old was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold. A lady approached the boy and said, *"My little fellow, why are you looking so earnestly in that window?"* *"I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes,"* was the boy's reply. The lady took him by the hand and went into the store and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her. She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with a towel. By this time the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes. She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, *"No doubt, my little fellow, you feel more comfortable now?"* As she turned to go, the astonished lad caught her by the hand, and looking up in her face, with tears in his eyes, answered the question with these words: *"Are you God's Wife?"*

Jokes (147)

Heavenly Entrance Exam

The day finally arrived: *Forrest Gump* dies and goes to Heaven. He is met at the *Pearly Gates* by *Saint Peter* himself. The gates are closed, however, and *Forrest* approaches the gatekeeper.

Saint Peter says, “*Well, Forrest, it’s certainly good to see you. We have heard a lot about you. I must inform you that the place is filling up fast, and we’ve been administering an entrance exam for everyone. The tests are fairly short, but you need to pass before you can get into Heaven.*”

Forrest responds, “*It shore is good to be here, Saint Peter. I was looking forward to this. Nobody ever told me about any entrance exams. Shore hope the test ain’t too hard; life was a big enough test as it was.*” Saint Peter goes on, “*Yes, I know Forrest. But, for the test I have has only three questions. Here is the first: What days of the week begin with the letter ‘T’? Second, how many seconds are there in a year? Third, what is God’s first name?*”

Forrest goes away to think the questions over. Forrest returns the next day and goes up to Saint Peter to try to answer the exam questions. Saint Peter waves him up and asks, “*Now that you have had a chance to think the questions over, tell me your answers.*”

Forrest says, “*Well, the first one, how many days of the week begin with the letter ‘T’? Shucks, that one’s easy; that’d be Today and Tomorrow.*”

The Saint’s eyes opened wide and he exclaims, “*Forrest! That’s not what I was thinking, but... you do have a point though, and I guess I didn’t specify, so I give you credit for that answer. How about the next one?*”, says Saint Peter, “*How many seconds in a year?*”

“*Now that one’s harder,*” says Forrest. “*But, I **thunk** and **thunk** about that, and I guess the only answer can be twelve.*”

Astounded, Saint Peter says, “*Twelve! Twelve! Forrest, how could you come up with twelve seconds in a year?*”

Forrest says, “*Shucks, there gotta be twelve: January second, February second, March second.....*” “*Hold it,*” interrupts Saint Peter. “*I see where you’re going with it. And I guess I see your point, though that wasn’t quite what I had in mind. I’ll give you credit for that one too. Let’s go on with the next and final question.*” says Saint Peter, “*Can you tell me God’s first name?*”

Forrest says, “*Well, shore, I know God’s first name. Everybody knows it. It’s Howard.*” “*Howard?!*” asks Saint Peter. “*What makes you think it’s Howard?!*” Forrest answers, “*It’s in the prayer.*”

“*The prayer?*” asks Saint Peter, “*Which prayer?*”

“*You know, The Lord’s Prayer,*” responds Forrest: “*Our Father, which art in Heaven, Howard be thy name.....*”

Sea Gull in Heaven

A woman went to the beach with her children.

Her 4-yr-old son ran up to her, grabbed her hand, and led her to the shore where a dead sea gull lay in the sand.

“*Mommy, what happened to him?*” the little boy asked.

“*He died and went to heaven,*” she replied. The child thought for a moment and said, “*And God threw him back down?*”

The Taxi Driver and the Nun

A taxi driver had a Nun enter his cab, in a fit of giddiness he says that he has always fantasized about being kissed by a nun. The nun replies that if he is Catholic and unmarried she would fulfill his fantasy. The cabbie said that, indeed, he was Catholic and unmarried. She kissed him. Somewhat sheepishly the cabbie confessed that he wasn’t Catholic or unmarried. The Nun replied that that was okay because she was not a Nun, but was Stephen and on the way to a costume party.

Famous Quotes (45)**Animals:**

--To his dog, every man is Napoleon; hence the constant popularity of dogs. (Aldous Huxley)

Answers:

--Answers are what we have for other people's problems.

--No answer is also an answer. (Danish proverb)

Anticipation:

--If pleasures are greatest in anticipation, just remember that this is also true of trouble. (Elbert Hubbard)

--A man's delight in looking forward to and hoping for some particular satisfaction is a part of the pleasure flowing out of it, enjoyed in advance. But this is afterward deducted, for the more we look forward to anything, the less we enjoy it when it comes. (Arthur Schopenhauer)

--We love to expect, and when expectation is either disappointed or gratified, we want to be again expecting. (Samuel Johnson)

--Nothing is so wretched or foolish as to anticipate misfortunes. What madness is to be expecting evil before it comes. (Seneca)

--If there's one thing I know, it's that God does love a good joke.

--Oxymoron Definition: A rhetorical figure in which incongruous or contradictory terms are combined.

EXAMPLE: Removing the Ten Commandments from the courthouse while making people in court swear to "tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God." ... while your hand is on the Bible!

--Question: If you could live forever, would you and why?

Answer: "I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever, then we would live forever, but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever," (Miss Alabama in the 1994 Miss USA contest.)

n them?" (Jeff Foxworthy)

--When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.

--The best sermons are lived, not preached.

--Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.

--Don't judge folks by their relatives.

--Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

--Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.

--Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't botherin' you none.

--Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.

--If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.

--Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.

--The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'.

--Always drink upstream from the herd.

--Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.

--Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.

--If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.

--Live simply.

Love generously.

Care deeply.

Speak kindly.

Leave the rest to God.