



January 5, 2025
Bulletin #1

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



Epiphany

- ***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 AlKhoury
- ***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.

Epiphany

Readings: Is 40:6-11; 2Cor 10:1-11 and Jn 1:29-34

Faithful to his role as Precursor, John the Baptist has just skillfully turned the attention of the men sent from Jerusalem to enquire about him away from his own self. *“There stands among you the one unknown to you.”* John himself is only the *“Voice”* of the *“Word”* who is coming after him.

According to the Jewish tradition, the Messiah had to remain hidden until Elijah had anointed him and made him known publicly to Israel. Before baptizing his cousin, John himself was unaware that Jesus was the Messiah. But he has seen and he bears witness. He has seen the Spirit come down and rest on Jesus in the Jordan. In the light of the scriptures he has sensed that he was the Lamb of future atonements, the Servant chosen by God to baptize in the Spirit. *“He is the Son of God!”*

From the outset, in its presentation of Jesus, the fourth Gospel heralds the baptism of death which he must accept to take away the sins of the world, the fire which he has come to bring on the earth. But it also suggests the immeasurable greatness that is his divine pre-existence acknowledged by the Baptist: *“he existed before me.”* The exceptional destinies of some individuals may be compared to those rivers whose power is only revealed far downstream from their source.

There are two ways of simplifying our thinking about Jesus Christ and avoiding the witness which we must bear him after the example of John. We can either raise Jesus to heaven and proclaim him God, but a God who cannot be reached, and whose salvation remains limited to the life beyond in eternity. Or we can bring him down to earth, and see in him no more than a man among men, no doubt closer and more a brother, but deprived of his Father and cut off from the Spirit. But Christ can neither be bound to earth nor confined to heaven. *“Whatever our state, let us place Jesus between God and ourselves.”* (Bossuet)

This 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 and 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 Shiben by his wife Dee Shiben
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family

This Week Mass Schedule

Monday, January 6 Mass at noon: actual Epiphany feast day.

- ✠ John Shiben by his wife Dee Shiben
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

Tuesday, January 7, Mass at noon:

- ✠ Agnes Jacovetty (Anniversary) by George & Patty Fahey
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family
- ✠ Deceased Members of Magistrate Joe Roxby

Wednesday, January 8: No Mass. Pastor’s Day off.

Thursday, January 9 Mass at noon:

- ✠ Vincent Jacovetty (Anniversary) by George & Patty Fahey
- ✠ Rose Ann & Angelo Palsinelli by Rosali Conti
- ✠ Robert & Laurel Kate Matiasek by their last will

Friday, January 10: No Mass. Visitation of the Sick.

Next Weekend, Jan. 11-12: 1st Sunday of Epiphany.

Saturday, January 11 at 4:00 pm:

- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- ✠ Gene & Janice Roxby by their son Joe Roxby
- ✠ Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family

Sunday, January 12 at 10:30 am:

- ✠ Jim Thomas (Anniversary) by his daughter Diane Frenn & Dr Adel and Justin and Andreah & Zack & Christian Riedel
- ✠ John Shiben by his wife Dee Shiben

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month

- 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
- February 2: David John
- February 4: Lindsay Carl

Your Church Support Last Week

\$3,317.00	Sunday Collection
10.00	Bake sale
126.00	Candles
12.00	Coffee hour
342.00	Donation to the church
20.00	Mahrajan
110.00	utilities
\$3,937.00	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?

Congratulations: A New Baby Girl Virginia

Our warmest wishes and congratulations go out to Jeff and Jena (Saseen) Neswadi on the birth of their first baby girl Virginia Elizabeth "Ginny", on December 14th. Virginia is the granddaughter of George and Susan Saseen who are now proud grandparents. Also Matthew and Luke Saseen are proud uncles. May the Lord God and his Blessed Mother bless her and grant her a healthy life and bright future.

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 & Redemption

Then on Easter Sunday, be the power of God, He rises from the dead with His glorious sinless human nature, becoming the first note in the new creation, the beginning of the new symphony that will be played again by the Divine Conductor through all who freely will to produce harmonies in the new harmony of a Christian world. And how are new notes added to this first note? By the Sacrament of Baptism, by which each person dies to the old Adam and rises again with Christ. This unity of notes in measures and movements constitutes the new symphony. To use the language of Saint Paul, each person who freely, as Mary did, gives himself to Christ becomes as a cell in His new Body, which is the Church.

To be a Christian then, means to be lifted out of the old humanity of Adam to the new humanity of Christ. As one cannot lead a physical life unless one is born to it, so one cannot lead a spiritual life unless one is born to it. No one is forced to accept that Christ Life any more than Mary was. It is free and consultive. Since that Divine Life in our souls is a pure gift of God, since it is not caused by any human effort or merited in the strict sense by anything we do, it, too, may be said to have had a Virgin Birth. As Saint John tells the story: ***"He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, he gave them power to be made the sons of God, to them that believe in his name: Who are born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."*** (Jn 1:10-13). --Bishop Fulton Sheen, *Peace of Soul*, p.41.

Wisdom: The 7 Ups

1- Wake Up.

Decide to have a good day. *"Today is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it"* (Psalms 118:24).

2- Dress Up!!

The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. *"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at outward appearance; but the Lord looks at the heart"* (I Samuel 16:7)

3- Shut Up!!

Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking. *"He who guards his lips guards his soul"* (Proverbs 13:3) *"Gossip betrays confidence. Avoid men who talk too much"* (Proverbs 20:19). *"Listen to advice, accept instruction and in the end, you will be wise"* (Proverbs 19:20).

4- Stand Up!!...

For what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything. *"Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good..."* (Gal 6:9-10).

5- Look Up!!

To the Lord. *"I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me"*. (Phil 4:13)

6- Reach Up!!

For something higher. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all*

your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path". (Prov 3:5-6)

7- Lift Up!!

Your Prayers. *"Do not worry about anything; instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING" (Philippians 4:6).*

Little Stories

On a Journey

You have been sent on a journey. You had no choice about when or where it started. You don't know when, where or how it will end. You have no map. All you know for sure is that it's bound to end sometime.

There are rules that apply to this journey, but you've had to learn them as you go. And you cannot control them. You may not even know the purpose of the journey, even though others claim to know.

All you know is that once started, you must continue every day, whether you feel like it or not. You start with no possessions, and when you finish you must turn in all you have accumulated. In the end, say some, you will be rewarded or punished. But how do they know for sure?

That's life, my friends, and you cannot change it. A little faith and a sense of humor, fortunately, help cushion some of the bumps.

God within you

A little girl was standing with her grandfather by an old-fashioned open well. They had just lowered a bucket and had drawn some water to drink.

"Grandfather," asked the little girl, "where does God live?"

The old man picked up his little granddaughter and held her over the open well. "Look down into the well," he said, "and tell me what you see."

"I see a reflection of myself," said the little girl.

"And that's where God lives," said the grandfather. "He lives in you."

The Beatitudes: The Lesson

Jesus took his disciples up the mountain, gathered them around him and began to teach them saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are the meek. Blessed are they who mourn. Blessed are the merciful. Blessed are they who thirst for justice. Blessed are you when persecuted. Blessed are you when you suffer. Be glad and rejoice for your reward will be great in heaven..."

Simon Peter spoke up and said, "Do we have to write this stuff down?" Andrew asked, "Are we supposed to remember this?" James piped in, "Will we be tested on this?" Philip asked, "What if we don't understand it?" Bartholomew inquired, "Is this an assignment to turn in?" John said, "The other disciples didn't have to learn all this." Matthew said, "When do we get off this mountain?" And Judas questioned, "What does this have to do with real life anyway?"

Then one of the Pharisees present asked to see Jesus' lesson plans. Another demanded to know Jesus' terminal objectives in the cognitive domain...

And Jesus wept!

Jokes (148)

Manipulation

A wealthy Jewish farmer burst into his home one day and cried out in an anguished voice, "Rebecca, there is a terrible story in town: the Messiah is here!"

"What's so terrible in that?" asked his wife, "I think it's great. What are you so upset about?"

"What am I so upset about?" the man exclaimed.

"After all these years of sweat and toil we have finally found prosperity. We have a thousand head of cattle, our barns are full of grain and our trees laden with fruit. Now we will have to give it all away and follow him."

"Calm down," said his wife consolingly. "The Lord our God is good. He knows how much we Jews have always had to suffer. We had a Pharaoh, a Haman, a Hitler -always somebody. But our dear God found a way to

deal with them all, didn't He? Just have faith, my dear husband. He will find a way to deal with the Messiah too."

Grace

A devout religious man fell on hard times. So he took to praying in the following fashion: *"Lord, remember all the years I served You as best I could, asking for nothing in return. Now that I am old and bankrupt I am going to ask for a favor for the first time in my life and I am sure You will not say no: allow me to win the lottery."*

Days passed. Then weeks and months. But nothing happened. Finally, almost driven to despair, he cried out one night, *"Why don't You give me a break, God?"* He suddenly heard the voice of God replying, *"Give me a break yourself! Why don't you buy a lottery ticket?"*

Religion

Goldstein, aged ninety-two, had lived through pogroms in Poland, concentration camps in Germany and dozens of other persecutions against Jews.

"Oh, Lord," he said, *"Isn't it true that we are Your chosen people?"*

A heavenly voice replied, *"Yes, GOLDSTEIN, the Jews are My chosen people."*

"Well, then, isn't it time You chose somebody else?"

Famous Quotes (44)

--One does not discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time.

(André Gide)

Adversity:

--Man needs difficulties; they are necessary for health. (Carl Jung)

--In prosperity our friends know us; in adversity we know our friends. (J. Churton Collins)

--Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows. (William Shakespeare)

--Night brings our troubles to the light rather than banishes them. (Seneca)

--Trouble is only opportunity in work clothes. (Henry Kaiser)

--The man who is swimming against the stream knows the strength of it. (Woodrow Wilson)

--Great occasions do not make heroes or cowards; they simply unveil them to the eyes of men. Silently and imperceptibly, as we wake or sleep, we grow strong or weak; and at last some crisis shows what we have become. (Brooke Foss Westcott)

--Adversity has the same effect on a man that severe training has on the pugilist—it reduces him to his fighting weight. (Josh Billings)

--No untroubled day has ever dawned for me. (Seneca)

--They say a reasonable amount o' fleas is good for a dog. It keeps him from broodin' over bein' a dog mebbe. (Edward Noyes Westcott)

--Eat a third and drink a third and leave the remaining third of your stomach empty. Then, when you get angry, there will be sufficient room for your rage. (Babylonian Talmud)

--Rouse not the anger of a multitude, though it be but a nest of wasps. (John Lancaster Spalding)

--Don't be afraid to express anger (hiding it is even more stressful than letting it out), but choose your fights; don't hassle over every little thing. You can also give in once in a while, instead of always insisting you are right and others are wrong. (Jane E. Brody)

--Anger punishes itself.

--Angry men seldom want woe.

--Beware the fury of a patient man. (John Dryden)

--Anger is a bad counselor. (French proverb)

--Anger renders the man insane and the prophet dumb. (Hebrew proverb)

--Anger manages everything badly. (Statius)

--However weak the hand, anger gives it strength. (Ovid)

--It is hidden wrath that harms. (Seneca)

--The greatest remedy for anger is delay. (Seneca)

--Anger is as a stone cast into a wasp's nest. (Malabar proverb)

--An angry man is again angry with himself when he returns to reason. (Publilius Syrus)

--Whenever you are angry, be assured that it is not only a present evil, but that you have increased a habit. (Epictetus)

--When a man is wrong and won't admit it, he always gets angry. (Thomas Haliburton)