



January 8, 2023

Bulletin #2

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 • Web Site: www.ololwv.com

Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



Epiphany

***Weekday Masses:** **Mondays and Wednesdays:** No Mass. Pastor's office work.
Tuesdays and Thursday at 12:00 Noon [*Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass*]
Fridays: No Mass. Pastoral visitations.

- *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, Mary Stees, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad
***Choir Members:** Lou Khourey, Robert Harris, Joe Simon, Shelly Hancher, Holly Stahl
***Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer
***Altar Server:** Earl Duffy and 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

Epiphany

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

After thirty years of hidden growth, here is a surprising happening, and one full of consequences. Here, among the crowds of people called to repentance by John, Jesus undergoes an indescribable experience. The Precursor's baptism becomes for Jesus, the sinless One, a kind of door through which he passes in search of sinners. He will share in their lot and redirect toward God a creation, now, at last, on its true course. So Jesus descends into the Jordan to ***"Do all that righteousness demands."*** (Mt 3:15).

To this humble inauguration of a new and purified future, the very heavens open and reveal divine secrets. The Holy Spirit comes down on Jesus and a voice speaks: ***"You are my Son..."*** (Mk 1:11) Jesus has always been the well-beloved of the Father, but today he finds himself established in his role of Servant -like a new Isaac ready for sacrifice. Jesus will show himself to be truly the Son and Servant of his Father as, under the impulse of the Holy Spirit, he forms step by step a new and entirely filial humanity.

"There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over." (Lk 12:50) Do you, a Christian, not realize that ***"baptized as you are in Christ Jesus, you are also baptized into his death, so that you may live a new life?"*** (Rom 6:3) Attuned, like him, to the invisible, you must keep to your baptismal promise or fail from Grace.

This Weekend: Jan.7-8: Epiphany

Saturday, January 7 at 4:00 p.m.: (Epiphany: Blessing of Holy Water)

✠ Chamse Rahi by Sheila & Mike Romaneck

✠ John Shibben by Marion Drews

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

Sunday, January 8 at 10:30 a.m.: (Epiphany: Blessing of Holy Water)

✠ 40-Day Memorial Mass for Chamse Rahi by her Family

✠ Sonny Hancher (Anniversary) by his wife Regina & Children: Sondra, Scott & Shelly

✠ Fred & Rita John by Susan John-Burns

✠ Bill Dougherty by his wife Carol (Ok)

Next Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, January 9: No Mass. Clergy Retreat.

Tuesday, January 10: No Mass. Clergy Retreat.

Wednesday, January 11: No Mass. Clergy Retreat.

Thursday, January 12: No Mass. Clergy Retreat.

Friday, January 13: No Mass. Clergy Retreat.

Next Weekend: Jan.14-15: 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Saturday, January 14 at 4:00 p.m.:

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

✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

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

Sunday, January 15 at 10:30 a.m.:

✠ Rita Thomas-Strawn by the Wakim Family

✠ John Shibben by John & Tulane Mensore

✠ Mike & Sue Linton & their parents Joe & Frances Linton by Steve Linton

Schedule of Coming Events:

Sunday, January 8	OLOL Women's Society Meeting in Cedar Hall after 10:30 a.m. Mass
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January, 9-13	No Mass. Clergy Retreat
Sunday, February 12	Valentine Dinner Dance at Noon in the Cedar Hall (parishioners only)
February 11-17	Week of the Faithful Departed. Remember your parents and beloved ones.

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:

January 10: Marjorie John, Mary Petros-Hill
 January 11: Jennifer Klein
 January 23: Dale Seidler Jr.
 January 26: Chris DeMuth
 January 28: Nikki Popovich
 February 2: David John
 February 4: Lindsay Carl

Your Church Support Last Week

\$3,625.00	Sunday Collection
120.00	Bulletin Ads
57.00	Candles
50.00	Donation to the church
\$3,852.00	Total Deposits: <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i> Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Mary Stees, Linda Duffy, Susan Burns, Liz Murad

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)
 Bettie Jane Fadoul, Patrick Sengewalt, Renee Beabout (daughter of Marge John), Mary Stees, Rex Strawn, Viola J. Yeater (mother of Jeannette Wakim), Mary Thomas, Jack Hogan (infant son of Mark & Michaela Hogan & great nephew of Lou Khourey), Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter),

What's New?

Tax Deduction Church Statement (By mid January 2023)

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 2022 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 **2022**, 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, 2022. 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 mid-January **2023** 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, 2022 until December 31st, 2022**. It is wise to keep the church statement with your tax records, in case the IRS questions your itemized deductions.

Discernment Weekend (March 24-26, 2023)

Wondering if the Lord is calling you to the priesthood in the Maronite church? Men aged 18-40 are invited for the weekend of fellowship, prayer, discussion and discernment on March 24-26, 2023 at the Maronite Seminary, Washington, DC. Information: 202-723-8831

Mahrajan Update (Sunday, August 13, 2023)

Next year's date:

Next year we will celebrate our 90th Lebanese Festival (Mahrajan) at Oglebay Park on Sunday, August 13, 2023.

Mahrajan Mailing List:

If you have a friend or know someone who would be interested in receiving correspondence about next year's Festival, please submit their addresses to Msgr. Bakhos.

Spirituality: The Blessed Mother as Ideal

That ideal love we see beyond all creature love, to which we instinctively turn when flesh-love fails, is the same ideal that God had in his Heart from all eternity-the Lady whom He calls "Mother." She is the one whom every man loves when he loves a woman- whether he knows it or not. She is what every woman wants to be, when she looks at herself. She is the woman whom every man marries in ideal when he takes a spouse; she is hidden as an ideal in the discontent of every woman with the carnal aggressiveness of man; she is the secret desire every woman has to be honored and fostered; she is the way every woman wants to command respect and love because of the beauty of her goodness of body and soul. And this blueprint love, whom God loved before the world was made; this Dream Woman before women were, is the one of whom every heart can say in its depth of depths: "She is the Woman I love!" --Bishop Fulton SHEEN, *That Tremendous Love*, p. 32

Wisdom: Life is Not a Race

- "Life may not be the party we hoped for...but while we are here we might as well dance!"
- Too many people put off something that brings them joy just because they haven't thought about it, don't have it on their schedule, didn't know it was coming or are too rigid to depart from their routine.
- I got to thinking one day about all those women on the Titanic who passed up dessert at dinner that fateful night in an effort to cut back.
- From then on, I've tried to be a little more flexible.
- How many women out there will eat at home because their husband didn't suggest going out to dinner until after something had been thawed? Does the word "refrigeration" mean nothing to you?
- How often have your kids dropped in to talk and sat in silence while you watched 'Jeopardy' on television?
- I cannot count the times I called my sister and said, "How about going to lunch in a half hour?" She would gas up and stammer, "I can't. I have clothes on the line. My hair is dirty. I wish I had known yesterday, I had a late breakfast, it looks like rain."
- And my personal favorite: "It's Monday."....
- She died a few years ago. We never did have lunch together.
- Because Americans cram so much into their lives, we tend to schedule our headaches.
- We live on a sparse diet of promises we make to ourselves when all the conditions are perfect!
- We'll go back and visit the grandparents when we get Steve toilet-trained.
- We'll entertain when we replace the living-room carpet.
- We'll go on a second honeymoon when we get two more kids out of college.
- Life has a way of accelerating as we get older. The days get shorter, and the list of promises to ourselves gets longer.
- One morning, we awaken, and all we have to show for our lives is a litany of "I'm going to," "I plan on," and "Someday, when things are settled down a bit."
- When anyone calls my 'seize the moment' friend, she is open to adventure and available for trips. She keeps an open mind on new ideas. Her enthusiasm for life is contagious. You talk with her for five minutes, and you're ready to trade your bad feet for a pair of Roller-blades and skip an elevator for a bungee cord.
- My lips have not touched ice cream in 10 years. I love ice cream. It's just that I might as well apply it directly to my stomach with a spatula and eliminate the digestive process. The other day, I stopped the car and bought a triple-decker. If my car had hit an iceberg on the way home, I would have died happy.
- Now ... go on and have a nice day ... Do something you WANT to ... not something on your SHOULD DO list.

Story: Miss Holly

“There comes that mysterious is meeting in life when someone acknowledges who we are and what we can be, igniting the circuits of our highest potential.” (R. Berkus)

I began life as a learning-disabled child. I had a distortion of vision called dyslexia. Dyslexic children often learn words quickly, but don't know they don't see them the way other people do. I perceived my world as a wonderful place filled with these shapes called words and developed a rather extensive sight vocabulary that made my parents quite optimistic about my ability to learn. To my horror, I discovered in the first grade that letters were more important than words. Dyslexic children make them upside down and backwards, and don't even arrange them in the same order as everybody else. So, my first-grade teacher called me learning-disabled. She wrote down her observations and passed them on to my second-grade teacher over the summer so she could develop an appropriate bias against me before I arrived. I entered the second grade able to see the answers to math problems but having no idea what the busy work was to reach them, and discovered that the busy work was more important than the answer. Now I was totally intimidated by the learning process, so I developed a stutter. Being unable to speak up assertively, unable to perform normal math functions and arranging letters inappropriately, I was a complete disaster. I developed the strategy of moving to the back of each class, staying out of sight and, when apprehended and called upon, muttering or mumbling, “I d-d-don't kn-kn-know.” That sealed my fate.

My third-grade teacher knew before I arrived that I couldn't speak, write, read or do mathematics, so she had no real optimism toward dealing with me. I discovered malingering as a basic tool to get through school. This allowed me to spend more time with the school nurse than the teacher or find vague reasons to stay home or be sent home. That was my strategy in the third and fourth grades. Just as I was about to die intellectually, I entered the fifth grade and God placed me under the tutelage of the awesome Miss Holly, known in the western United States as one of the most formidable elementary school teachers ever to walk the Rocky Mountains. This incredible woman, whose six-foot-frame towered above me, put her arms around me and said, “He's not learning-disabled, he's eccentric.” Now, people view the potential of an eccentric child far more optimistically than a plain old disabled one. But she didn't leave it there. She said, “I've talked with your mother and she says when she reads something to you, you remember it almost photographically. You just don't do it well when you're asked to assemble all the words and pieces. And reading out loud appears to be a problem, so when I'm going to call on you to read in my class, I'll let you know in advance so you can go home and memorize it the night before, then we'll fake it in front of the other kids. Also, Mom says when you look something over, you can talk about it with great understanding, but when she asks you to read it word for word and even write something about it, you appear to get hung up in the letters and stuff and lose the meaning. So, when the other kids are asked to read and write those worksheets I give them, you can go home and under less pressure on your own time do them and bring them back to me the next day.” She also said, “I notice you appear to be hesitant and fearful to express your thoughts and I believe that any idea a person has is worth considering. I've looked into this and I'm not sure it will work, but it helped a man named Demosthenes -can you say Demosthenes?” “D-d-d-d.

She said, “Well, you will be able to. He had an unruly tongue, so he put stones in his mouth and practiced until he got control of it. So, I've got a couple of marbles, too big for you to swallow, that I've washed off. From now on when I call on you, I'd like you to put them in your mouth and stand up and speak up until I can hear and understand you.” And, of course, supported by her manifest belief in and understanding of me I took the risk, tamed my tongue, and was able to speak.

The next year I went on to the sixth grade, and to my delight, so did Miss Holly. So, I had the opportunity to spend two full years under her tutelage. I kept track of Miss Holly over the years and learned a few years ago that she was terminally ill with cancer. Knowing how lonely she would be with her only special student over 1,000 miles away, I naively bought a plane ticket and traveled all that distance to stand in line (at least figuratively) behind several hundred other of her special students -people who had also kept track of her and had made a pilgrimage to renew their association and share their affection for her in the latter period of her life. The group was a very interesting mix of people- 3 U.S. Senators, 12 state legislators and a number of chief executive officers of corporations and businesses. The interesting thing, in comparing notes, is that three-fourths of us went into the fifth grade quite intimidated by the educational process, believing we were incapable,

insignificant and at the mercy of fate or luck. We emerged from our contact with Miss Holly believing we were capable, significant, influential people who had the capacity to make a difference in life if we would try.

A Time to Laugh (44)

Authority

While the wheelwright was making a wheel at the lower end of the hall Prince Huan of Ch'i was reading a book at the upper end.

Putting aside his chisel and mallet the wheelwright called to the Prince and asked him what book he was reading.

“One that preserves the words of the Sages,” said the Prince.

“Are those Sages alive?” asked the wheelwright. “Oh, no,” said the Prince, “they are all dead.” “Then what you are reading can be nothing but the dirt and scum of bygone people,” said the wheelwright.

“How dare you, a wheelwright, find fault with a book that I am reading? Justify your statement or you shall die.” “Well, speaking as a wheelwright,” said the man, “this is how I look at the matter: when I am fashioning a wheel, if my stroke is too slow it cuts deep but is not steady; if my stroke is too fast it is steady but does not cut deep. The right pace, neither too fast nor too slow, will not get into the hand if it does not come from the heart. It is something that cannot be put into words; there is an art to it that I cannot hand on to my son. That is why I cannot let him take over my work, so here I am at the age of seventy-five still making wheels. In my opinion it must be the same with those who have gone before us. All that was worth handing on died with them; the rest they put into their books. That is why I said that what you are reading is the dirt and scum of bygone people.”

Wisdom

In the old days it was common for people to use paper lanterns in Japan. The paper shielded a lit candle and was held together by bamboo sticks.

The Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments in Cajun... (Keeps it REAL Simple)

1. God is number one... and das' All.
2. Don't pray to nuttin' or nobody... jus' God.
3. Don't cuss nobody... 'specially da Good Lord.
4. When it be Sunday... pass yo'self by God's House.
5. Yo mama an' yo daddy dun did it all... lissen to dem.
6. Killin' duck an' fish, das' OK... people - No!
7. God done give you a wife... sleep wit' jus' her.
8. Don't take nobody's boat... or nuttin' else.
9. Don't go wantin' somebody's stuff.
10. Stop lyin'... yo tongue gonna fall out yo mouf!

Authority

A blind man happened to be visiting a friend and since it was late, was offered a lantern to take home with him. He laughed at the suggestion. “Day and night are all one to me,” he said. “What would I do with a lantern?” His friend said, “You do not need it to find your way home, true. But it might help to prevent someone from running into you in the dark.” So the blind man started off with the lantern. It wasn't long before someone crashed into him, knocking him off balance. “Hey, you careless fellow!” cried the blind man. “Can't you see this lantern?” “Brother,” said the stranger, “your lantern has gone out.”

(You walk more safely in your own darkness than in someone's else's light)

Spirituality

A young man came to a Master and asked, “How long is it likely to take me to attain enlightenment?” Said the Master, “Ten years.”

The young man was shocked. “So long?” he asked incredulously.

Said the Master, “No, that was a mistake. It will take you twenty years.”

The young man asked, “Why did you double the figure?”

Said the Master, “Come to think of it, in your case it will probably be thirty.”

(Some people will never learn anything because they grasp everything too soon. Wisdom, after all, is not a station you arrive at but a manner of traveling. If you travel too fast you will miss the scenery.)

(To know exactly where you’re headed may be the best way to go astray. Not all those who loiter are lost.)

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)