



December 7, 2025

Bulletin #49

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



Birth of John the Baptist

- ***Weekend Masses:** Saturdays: Mass at 4:00 p.m. and Sundays: Mass at 10:30 a.m.
 - ***Weekday Masses:** Tuesdays and Thursdays Mass at 12:00 Noon
Mondays and Wednesdays and Fridays: No Mass. Pastor's office work.
 - ***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 Servers:** Joe Roxby and Christopher AlKhouri
 - ***Cedar Club:** Linda Duffy, President
 - ***Women's Society:** Jeannette Wakim, President
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- ***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.

Gospel Reflection: Birth of John the Baptist

Weekend Readings: 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. His traits, like those of the saints, were paradoxical. 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 most clearly in the 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 with 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 this not the passion which makes manifest the extent of his faith and perfects the identification between servant and master? He is most worthy of being imitated.

Mass Schedule, this Weekend: Sat.-Sunday, December 6-7

Saturday, December 6, Mass at 4:00 p.m.: Mass will be followed by Christmas Novena.

✠ Isabel Ferris Wolfe (Anniversary) by Libby G. Magnone

✠ Tom & Mary K. Ferris by their daughter Denise Ferris

✠ Cathy Sharp Howard (Birthday) & Dave Sengewalt by the Family

Sunday, December 7, Mass at 10:30 a.m.: Mass will be followed by Christmas Novena.

✠ Phillip Geimer (Anniversary) by his wife Thomasina Geimer

✠ Siham Frenn (Anniversary) by Dr. Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn & Andrea, Zack & Christian Riedel

✠ Living & Deceased of the Duffy & Fadoul Families by Mickey & Linda Duffy

Weekdays Mass Schedule

Monday, December 8: No Mass. Pastor’s yearly vacation.

Tuesday, December 9, Mass at noon

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

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

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

Wednesday, December 10: No Mass. Pastor’s yearly vacation.

Thursday, December 11: No Mass. Pastor’s yearly vacation.

Friday, December 12: No Mass. Pastor’s yearly vacation.

Mass Schedule, next Weekend: Sat.-Sunday, December 13-14

Saturday, December 13, Mass at 4:00 p.m.: Mass will be followed by Christmas Novena.

✠ Mary Zaid Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone, Tom Ferris by Libby G. Magnone

✠ Robert & Laurel Kate Matiasek by their last Will

✠ Bob Sengewalt and his son Dave by the Family

Sunday, December 14, Mass at 10:30 a.m.: Mass will be followed by Christmas Novena.

✠ Tom & Mary K. Ferris by their daughter Denise Ferris

✠ Lottie Elwartoski (Birthday) by her son Richard

✠ Kenny Joseph by Sam & Barb Metz

Coming Parish Events at glance

Sunday, December 7	Complimentary Christmas Luncheon for all parishioners after Mass
Sunday, December 21	Complimentary Brunch on the occasion of the 34 th Anniversary to the priesthood of Msgr. Bakhos after Mass

Christmas Novena

Starting Saturday and Sunday, December 6th and 7th we will celebrate the Christmas Novena after 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.

2025 IRS Tax Deduction

All donations to the church, whether in offering envelopes or by check, are recorded under the donor's name. If you intend to itemize deductions on your 2025 tax return, you should request a statement of your total donations from Msgr. Bakhos at 304-233-1688. Statements will not be provided unless requested.

2026 Offering Envelopes

Dear Parishioners,

The church offering envelopes are made to help parishioners be responsible toward the church upkeep. Also the offerings put in the envelopes are sure evidence of donations made to the church either by cash or checks. No one can claim the loose cash (not checks) put in the collection basket for lack of proof. The church records all donations -even loose checks- and give the donors upon request at the end of the year an official statement for all donations for tax deduction purpose. Please see Msgr Bakhos if you don't find an envelope labeled for yourself. Thanks for your cooperation.

Lower your 2025 Income Tax Bill

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 2025 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 2025, 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, 2025. 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, 2025 until December 31st, 2025. It is wise to keep the church statement with your tax records, in case the IRS questions your itemized deductions.

Many Thanks

--To Mr. David R. Coram for donating \$200 toward the 2026 Mahrajan. He will be among the Diamond Sponsors in the Ad Book.

Christmas Poinsettias

Dear Parishioners,

Every year, your love and generosity toward the Blessed Mother make her church beautiful at Christmas. Donations toward poinsettias are now open in Memory of your beloved ones. Every poinsettia cost \$25.00

Below poinsettias are donated in Memory of:

✪ Louis N. & Louis H. Khourey, Sr. & Gladys Howard by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family

✪ Bob Sengewalt & Dave Sengewalt by their Family

- ☼ Shirley Elias Nickerson & Deceased Members of the Elias Family from their loving Family
- ☼ Opal Ritts by her husband John Ritts
- ☼ John & Mary Ritts by their son John Ritts
- ☼ Sally Simon Wodusky by Rob Wodusky
- ☼ Deceased members of the Coram & Simon Families by Rob Wodusky
- ☼ Nimon & Miriam Joseph Family by the Joseph & Weisner Families
- ☼ Kenny Joseph by his wife Nancy Joseph & the Tucker Family
- ☼ Danny & Milly Manners by their daughter NiNi Miller
- ☼ John T. & Cecilia John by their daughter Susan Burns
- ☼ Shirley Bine by Jay & Liz Murad
- ☼ George Alan Weisner by his son Ron Weisner
- ☼ Tom & Mary K. Ferris by their daughter Denise
- ☼ Phillip Geimer by his wife Thomasina & Deceased Family Members of Thomasina Geimer
- ☼ John F. Kukula by his wife Mary Rose Kukula and Family
- ☼ Deceased of the McLaughlin, Joseph and Miller Families by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

These poinsettias are donated in Honor of the following generous parishioners:

- ☼ In Honor of Michael Duymich
- ☼ In Honor of Chris & Jeannette Wakim
- ☼ In Honor of Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ☼ In Honor of Frank & Anna Marie Duymich
- ☼ In Honor of Ron Weisner
- ☼ In Honor of Veronica Mushet
- ☼ In Honor of Janet Shutler
- ☼ In Honor of Dr. & Mrs Nabiel Alkhouri
- ☼ In Honor of Jay & Liz Murad
- ☼ In Honor of Denise Ferris
- ☼ In Honor of Pat & Jackie Petros
- ☼ In Honor of Alicia Peklinsky and Family

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month

- December 7: Christina Committee Zdilla
- 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 3: Kenzie Shia-Gray
- January 6: Gina Stees
- January 7: Jacob Fadoul Wilson

The Salvation Army ANGEL TREE at OLOL Church

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 third 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 20 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 5th. 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

Your Church Support Last Week

\$987.00	Sunday Collection
120.00	Bulletin ads
49.00	Candles
35.00	Coffee hour
25.00	Christmas Poinsettias
\$1216.00	Total Deposits: May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home! Finance Committee: Lou Kourey, 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)

Joe Popovich, Earl & Linda Duffy, Nini Miller, Fran Saseen, Becky Ferrera, Marge John, Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Mary Ragase, Gavin Hancher, Monroe DeLuca, Sally Sengewalt, Mary Zigler (sister of Lillian Siebieda), Dolores Oser, Anthony Wakim, Sandra DeMuth, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Patty Olinsky, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter), Denny Albaugh, Rita Rae Sage, John Frazier. (son of Luane Frazier),

Question & Answer (#44)

Question #44: “What’s the difference between Catholic and Christian?”

Answer: What I believe you are asking is: “What is the difference between Catholicism and Protestant Christianity?”

All Catholics are Christians, but not all Christians are Catholics. A Christian is someone who believes in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and is baptized. A Catholic is a specific kind of Christian — one who also believes the Catholic Church was founded by Christ and who accepts it as possessing the fullness of Christian truth and the means of salvation.

This involves three main things: (1) sincerely holding to the Catholic Faith as taught by the Magisterium of the Church (the official teaching body of the Church); (2) accepting the Sacraments of the Catholic Church; and (3) submitting to the teaching authority of the pope and the bishops in communion with him.

There are sincere non-Catholic Christians — Protestant and Orthodox Christians, for instance — who believe many, but not all, of the things we believe as Catholics. Sometimes they may even be more faithful or charitable than many Catholics. That is because the Spirit of Christ is at work in them, too.

The words “Catholic” and “Christian” were once interchangeable. The first Christians called the Church “Catholic” or “universal,” to distinguish it from heretical, splinter groups that denied necessary Christian truths. Thus, the early Christians came to be known as Catholics.

Around the year 1,000 A.D. many Christians in the East — in Greece, what is now Turkey — split off from the Catholic Church. They are called Orthodox Christians. They believe many of the same things we do, but also reject important truths such as the pope’s authority.

Five hundred years later, a German monk named Martin Luther had some ideas about what true Christianity was. Some of his views were contrary to what Catholics believe Christ intended for His Church. He and his followers broke with the Catholic Church and formed what is now called Lutheranism. Other men and women had ideas of their own and started their own churches, too. Today, there are over 20,000 different Protestant churches.

The Catholic view is that this division and confusion among Christian communities contradicts the will of Jesus. He wants His followers to be one (John 17:11).

We believe the unity Christ desires for His followers only exists fully in the Catholic Church.

Spirituality: Confession

The modern world is full of mentally normal but harassed people who seek peace wherever they have heard that it is offered -even from people who have been trained to deal with the insane. But they are sane enough. For them, the world needs revival of the Rights of Sanctuary: during the ages of Faith, a fugitive from justice was considered immune from prosecution by civil law if he succeeded in grabbing the big iron ring that was attached to the front door of a church. By this token, he threw himself upon the mercies of church laws. Such sure and solitary harbor is needed today for the poor souls who long to pour out their guilt for the sake of pardon and reparation and peace. And the Church does have such a haven of confessional box, where the Divine Mercy Our Lord extended through His human nature to a penitent thief, Magdalene, and the woman taken in sin is made available to our equally broken hearts. It is not easy to go into that box, but it is a wonderful feeling to come out!

More than any form of psychoanalysis, the world needs psychosynthesis; some psychiatrists have recognized this -Jung, in his idea of “rebirth,” and some followers of Freud, who have called their theory “active psychoanalysis.” For human beings need to be put together more than they need to be taken apart. Sin divides us against ourselves; absolution restores our unity. Most people today have a load on their minds because they have a load on their consciences; the Divine Psychologist knew how miserable we should be if we could not unload that burden. Hospitals are built because people have sick bodies, and the Church builds confessional boxes because they also have sick souls. Regular confession prevents our sins, our worries, our fears, our anxieties, from seeping into the unconscious and degenerating into melancholy, psychoses, and neuroses. This boil is lanced before the pus can spread into unconsciousness. The Divine Master knew what is in humanity; so He instituted this Sacrament, not for His needs, but for ours. It was His way of giving us a happy heart. The left side of the physical heart and the right side of the heart have no direct communication with each other; they are joined through the medium of the blood circulating through the body. Our hearts become happy, too, by communicating with Christ’s Mystical Body and His Blood. We are not made worse by admitting the need for absolution. We are not made worse even by admitting we are all broken-hearted; for unless our hearts were broken, how else could God get in?

Bishop Fulton SHEEN, Peace of Soul, 1949, pp.139-140.

Wisdom

The question of *why bad things happen to good people?* Translates itself into some very different questions, no longer asking why something happened, but asking how we will respond, what we intend to do now that it has happened.

Are you capable of forgiving and accepting in love a world which has disappointed you not being perfect, a world in which there is so much unfairness and cruelty, disease and crime, earthquake and accident?

Can you forgive its imperfections and love it because it is capable of containing great beauty and goodness, and because it is the only world we have?

Are you capable of forgiving and loving the people around you, even if they have hurt you and let you down by not being perfect? Can you forgive them and love them, because there aren’t any perfect people around, and because the penalty for not being able to love imperfect people is condemning oneself to loneliness?

Are you capable of forgiving and loving God even when you have found out that He is not perfect, even when He has let you down and disappoint you by permitting bad luck and sickness and cruelty in His world, and permitting some of those things to happen to you? Can you learn to love and forgive Him despite His limitations, as Job does, and as you once learned to forgive and love your parents even though they were not as wise, as strong, or as perfect as you needed them to be?

And if you can do these things, will you be able to recognize that the ability to forgive and the ability to love are the weapons God has given us to enable us to live fully, bravely, and meaningfully in this less-than-perfect world?

2 short stories

1st Story:

Little Chad was a shy, quiet young man. One day he came home and told his mother that he'd like to make a valentine for everyone in his class. Her heart sank. She thought, *"I wish he wouldn't do that!"* because she had watched the children when they walked home from school. Her Chad was always behind them. They laughed and hung on to each other and talked to each other. But Chad was never included. Nevertheless, she decided she would go along with her son. So, she purchased the paper and glue and crayons. For three weeks, night after night, Chad painstakingly made 35 valentines.

Valentine's Day dawned, and Chad was beside himself with excitement. He carefully stacked them up, put them in a bag, and bolted out the door. His mother decided to bake him his favorite cookies and serve them nice and warm with a cool glass of milk when he came home from school. She just knew he would be disappointed and maybe that would ease the pain a little. It hurt her to think that he wouldn't get many valentines --maybe none at all.

That afternoon she had the cookies and milk on the table. When she heard the children outside, she looked out the window. Sure enough, there they came, laughing and having the best time. And, as always, there was Chad in the rear. He walked a little faster than usual. She fully expected him to burst into tears as soon as he got inside. His arms were empty, she noticed, and when the door opened she choked back the tears.

"Mommy has some cookies and milk for you," she said.

But he hardly heard her words. He just marched right on by, his face aglow, and all he could say was: *"Not a one. Not a one."*

Her heart sank. And then he added, *"I didn't forget a one, not a single one!"*

2nd Story:

The story is told of the youngster who came home from Sunday School, having been taught the biblical story of the crossing of the Red Sea. His mother asked him what he had learned in class, and he told her: "The Israelites got out of Egypt, but Pharaoh and his army chased after them. They got to the Red Sea and they couldn't cross it. The Egyptians army was getting closer. So, Moses got on his walkie-talkie, the Israeli air force bombed the Egyptians, and the Israeli navy built a pontoon bridge so the people could cross." The mother was shocked. "Is that the way they taught you the story?" "Well, no," the boy admitted, "but if I told it to you the way they told it to us, you'd never believe it."

Jokes (197)

Light

A prisoner lived in solitary confinement for years. He saw and spoke to no one and his meals were served through an opening in the wall.

One day an ant came into his cell. The man contemplated it in fascination as it crawled around the room. He held it in the palm of his hand the better to observe it, gave it a grain or two, and kept it under his tin cup at night.

One day it suddenly struck him that it had taken him ten long years of solitary confinement to open his eyes to the loveliness of an ant.

Light

When a friend visited the Spanish painter EL GRECO at his home on a lovely spring afternoon he found him sitting in his room the curtains tightly drawn.

"Come out into the sunshine," said the friend.

"Not now," EL GRECO replied. "It would disturb the light that is shining within me."

Light

The old rabbi had become blind and could neither read nor look at the faces of those who came to visit him. A faith healer said to him, "Entrust yourself to my care and I will heal your blindness." "There will be no need for that," replied the rabbi. "I can see everything that I need to." (NOT EVERYONE WHOSE EYES ARE CLOSED IS ASLEEP. AND NOT EVERYONE WITH OPEN EYES CAN SEE).

Light

"That's a clever dog you have there," said a man when he saw his friend playing cards with his dog. "Not as clever as he looks, every time he gets a good hand he wags his tail," was the reply.

Getting What She Deserves

A woman with a very nasty attitude had spent almost two hours browsing through the store. The longer she shopped, the more she complained and criticized. Finally, she said, "Why is it that I never get what I ask for in here?" "Perhaps, madam," said the exhausted clerk, "it's because we are too polite."

Interesting Gossip

The more interesting the gossip is, the more likely it is that the gossip is untrue.

Shorter Story

Nothing makes a long story short like the arrival of the person you happen to be talking about.

Political Economy

"Political economy" are two words that need a divorce on grounds of incompatibility.

Who Goes First?

The following incident happened when Patrick was four year old and his brother, Luke, was five. Already a half year in kindergarten had made Luke wiser.

Luke and Patrick were fighting over who would go first in a game. They had quite a debate that almost ended in a fight.

Luke changed his strategy and reasoned with his brother: "You know, Patrick, Jesus says that the first will be last and the last will be first, so it is better to be last."

Patrick thought about that for a moment and then answered, "Then I'll go last."

"Okay, then I'll go first," said a suddenly worldly-wise Luke.

Famous Quotes (85)

--Let the fear of a danger be a spur to prevent it; he that fears not, gives advantage to the danger.

—Francis Quarles

--Never expose yourself unnecessarily to danger; a miracle may not save You ... and if it does, it will be deducted from your share of luck or merit. —The Talmud

--Don't play for safety. It's the most dangerous thing in the world. —Hugh Walpole

--Put your trust in God, but keep your powder dry. —Oliver Cromwell

--If you are out of trouble, watch for danger. —Sophocles

--After victory, tighten your helmet cord. —Japanese proverb

--Why do not go out on a limb? Isn't that where the fruit is? —Frank Scully

--Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat. —Theodore Roosevelt

--When you have no choice, mobilize the spirit of courage. —Jewish proverb

--If you greatly desire something, have the guts to stake everything on obtaining it. —Brendan Francis