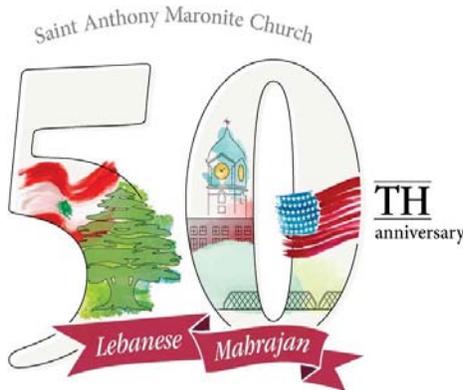


PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

You are welcomed & loved by St Anthony 's Community. We are transformed through prayer, acts of love, forgiveness, service & stewardship.



PARISH OFFICE: ... 978.685.7233 ... FAX: 978-688-4475 ... rectory@stanthonylawrence.org



SACRIFICE *like* **ESTHER**
LOVE *like* **RUTH**
SERVE *like* **MARTHA**
PRAY *like* **HANNAH**
BELIEVE *like* **MARY**
DANCE *like* **MIRIAM**

DAILY LITURGIES 9am

MON (Arabic)

TUE (English)

WED (Arabic)

THU (English)

WEEKEND LITURGIES

SAT 4:00PM(English)

SUN

8:00AM (Arabic)

9:00AM (English)

11:00AM (English & Arabic)

Holy days of obligation:

Vigil Liturgy @ 7:00 PM

OFFICE HOURS

M-TH 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

FRI 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

SAT By Appointment

MEET OUR PRIESTS:

Fr. Elie Mikhael ...305-807-9087

... pastor@stanthonylawrence.org

Fr. Edgard (Neemtallah) Oneissy

857-390-4838...

pv@stanthonylawrence.org

MEET OUR DEACONS:

Deacon David Leard

Deacon Nadim B. Daou

Sub-Deacon James T. Demers

Sub-Deacon Antoine Nammour



[SaintAnthonyLawrence](#)



venmo

Scan QR code for payment

SACRAMENTS

Baptism & Confirmation: 1 month in advance with the Pastor, **Donations:**Church: \$200 - Priest: Free Will

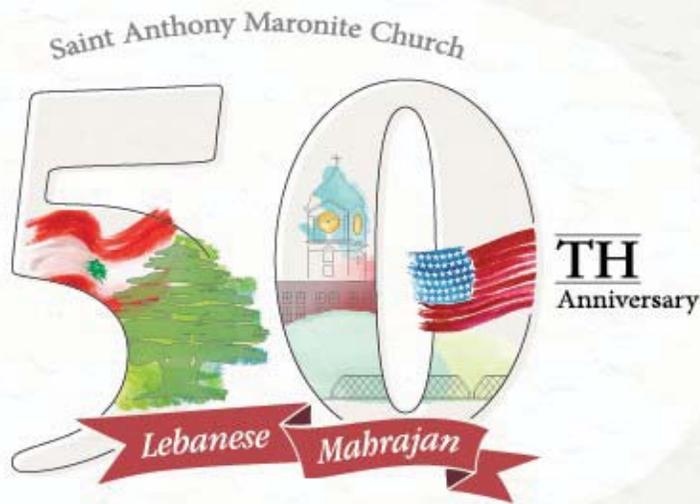
Matrimony: Arrangements should be made by couples six months prior to the wedding date

Donations: Church \$500—Priest: Free Will

Reconciliation: One hour Before Thursday & Saturday Liturgies, or by appointment

Anointing of the Sick: Please notify the Rectory if a member of your family is ill, hospitalized, or unable to come to Church and would like to receive communion at home

Please refer to our website for more Sacrament Celebrations Guidelines.



The Lebanese Mahrajan features
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

including:

- Folkloric Dance & Belly Dancing
- Homemade Lebanese & American Cuisine & Pastries
- Children's Games & Activities
- Raffles, Hookah, and Souvenirs
- Free Cooking and Belly Dancing Classes!

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

**145 Amesbury Street Lawrence,
MA 01841**



**FREE
entry**

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach this Labor Day weekend, which marks the 50th anniversary of our annual Mahrajan, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the people who have worked so hard to make this amazing milestone possible. You are following in the footsteps of previous generations of parishioners who, through their years of hard work and dedication to St Anthony's, have made the Mahrajan a joyous celebration of our heritage, tradition, and faith. It is only through your devotion and abundant generosity that we have continued to be able to honor this great tradition of our culture. I am proud to know that our Mahrajan is one of the major events taking place in the Merrimack Valley at this time of the year. I pray that God will bless and protect each and every one of you as we all work and celebrate together this weekend to make our Golden Jubilee Mahrajan a smashing success!

Fr. Elie Mikhael & Fr. Neemtallah Oneissy

LITURGIES

Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost: Martha and Mary

الأحد الرابع عشر من زمن العنصرة: مرثا ومريم

LITURGIES INTENTIONS

Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Saturday, September 3, 2022

St Theodore the Great

4:00 pm For: In honor and thanksgiving for our Parishioners at St Anthony Church

Sunday, September 4, 2022

St Babylas, Patriarch of Antioch

11:00 am For: In honor and thanksgiving for our Parishioners at St Anthony Church

**SEASON OF THE HOLY CROSS
Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

Saturday, September 10, 2022

4:00 pm For: 40 Day Anniversary– Leila Azar *By Her sisters: Sonia Abou Ezzi, Ghada Khoury & their families*

Sunday, September 11, 2022

8:00 am For: + Mtannous, Cecilia, Doumit & George Hbaiter *By the Hbaiter Family*

9:00 am For: +Roy Bistany, *By His family*

11:00 am

For: 40 Day Anniversary– Violette Ata *By Her siblings: Nawal Aoun, Marie Ata, Aziz Ata, the family of the late Tannous Ata and their families*

For: +Salwa Abou Khalil & Nassif Touma & their daughter, Patricia Touma , *By Rita Touma and her Family.*

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

Monday, September 5

Office Closed - No Liturgy

Tuesday, September 6 (En.) - Office Closed

St Michael the Archangel

Daily Readings: Rev 12:7-12 / Mt 18:1-5, 10

9AM For: Private Intentions

Wednesday, September 7 (Ar.)

St. Sozon

Daily Readings: 1Jn 5:1-12 / LK 16:1-8

9AM For: For: Private Intentions

Thursday, September 8 (En.)

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Daily Readings: 2Cor 4:1-6 / LK 8:16-21

9AM For: In Honor of Our Lady of Lebanon Sodalities

Friday, September 9

Sts. Joachim & Anne, parents of the Virgin Mary

9AM For: For: Private Intentions.

Sanctuary Lamps



Birthday Remembrance In Memory of Larry Kalil, By John & Janice Gray & Family.

Birthday Remembrance In Memory of Larry Kalil, By his wife, Linda, & Family.

NEW LITURGIES SCHEDULE

Since Religious Education is moved to Saturdays, Sunday Liturgies will be as Follow:

**8AM Arabic - 9AM English
11AM Arabic & English**

Knights of Mary 2022-2023

www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-4/

Registration ENDS September 25th

Kick off is *Saturday, October 1st At 3:45PM*

Knights of Mary sessions will be Bi Weekly from 5-7PM

Knights of the Altar 2022-2023

<https://www.stanthonylawrence.org/application/>

Sign up to be a Knight & serve on the Altar during Liturgies. Forms can be auto-filled through the above link. Paper forms are available in the Church Foyer.



- Yours is the first of Christ's faces to greet God's people as they assemble for prayer.
- Yours is the word that welcomes the stranger to be at home.
- Yours is the task of discretion: knowing how to welcome, & when and where to seat the latecomer.
- Yours is the Lord's face and voice.
- Assist in passing the collection baskets
- Help the Communion flow
- Assist those who become ill or need aid
- Distribute bulletins & other materials
- After mass area check

BIBLE CAMP 2023

Looking forward to next year's
LOL Bible Camp!!! Save the dates -
July 12 -15, 2023

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2022-2023

MOVING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TO
SATURDAY- TWICE A MONTH
5PM-6:30 PM

Registration is now open! Sign up your kids today!
www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/

Full Calendar Year
www.stanthonylawrence.org/calendar-classes-and-events/

**In person Registration Saturday and Sunday
September 10th and 11th after each Mass.**

First Class is Saturday, September 17th

Good afternoon Religious Education Families!!! We hope you are having a wonderful summer. The religious education registration form is up and running on the St. Anthony website. We are looking forward to the return of your children this fall.

We have some exciting news!!!!. Based on feedback we have received, we are thrilled to announce that we will be returning to Saturdays!!! Classes will begin on Saturday, September 17. The class times are 5:00-6:30. Our full calendar can be found on the website. If you prefer in person registration, ***we will offer in person registration the weekend of September 10 & 11 after the liturgies.***

If you have a child that will be making First Communion this year, please note, children must have grade 1 religious education in order to be eligible in grade 2 to receive. That means, if your child attends parochial school and attended parochial school in grade 1, they can sign into grade 2 this year. If your child attends public school and did NOT attend grade 1 religious education at St. Anthony, they must enroll in grade 1 this year.

I would also like to welcome Mrs. Ginine Flannigan. Mrs. Flannigan is not new to Religious Education. She has taught the First Communion classes over the past several years. She is taking on new responsibilities and will be assisting with the directing of the program this year. I am excited to have this support. We will be working together so you may reach out to either of us with concerns this year.

We do hope you will make the religious education upbringing of your children a priority. Even if your child attends parochial school, they are not studying our Maronite faith.

We are looking forward to a great year. Please reach out with any questions.

Susan and Ginine

You Are Cordially Invited
TO
THE ORDINATION OF
SUBDEACON JAMES DEMERS
AND
SUBDEACON CHRISTIAN HBAITER
TO
The Order of Deacons
BY THE IMPOSITION OF HANDS OF
**THE MOST REVEREND
GREGORY J. MANSOUR**
BISHOP OF THE EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN

CELEBRATION OF DIVINE MYSTERIES AND ORDINATION
ON
SEPTEMBER 24, 2022, 11:00 AM
AT
SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH
145 AMESBURY STREET
LAWRENCE, MA 01841

LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW IN CHURCH HALL
ALL ARE WELCOME

DIVINE LITURGY AND ORDINATION WILL BE LIVESTREAMED
VIA PARISH FACEBOOK @SAINTANTHONYLAWRENCE

SAINT JUDE FUNDRAISER

Dear family and friends, parishioners of St Anthony church,
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.
As you know, September is a month consecrated for cancer awareness. Since 2010, until now, ST Jude Hospital takes care of my son, Mark Bejjani.
Mark relapsed in 2014, but thanks to Father Elie who lifted him up on the altar every single day, thanks to your prayers and also the awesome care provided by St Jude Hospital, Mark survived this dangerous and awful disease.
September 10th at 9:00 AM, you are all invited to come walk with us around St Anthony Church, while praying the rosary. Please come earlier so we could start the walk on time. The gathering time is 8:30 AM. There will be a Manouche breakfast sale following the walk.
Please be many...Mark needs your support!
Donations for the cause may be made payable to: Saint Anthony Church, please be sure to write in the memo: **DONATION FOR ST JUDE**.
I thank the Lord for my parish, without you, I can't do this fundraising.
God bless you all and keep everyone in good health.
Rita Bejjani

EUCHRISTIC ADORATION

Please take notice:
Eucharistic Adoration will be Canceled during the month of August to resume back to Normal Schedule in September

PLEASE NOTE:

40 Day Liturgies are considered a priority. When necessary, they will be scheduled with other previously reserved intentions.



MARONITE- Women IN the New Evangelization

Coming back with new administration

M-WINE is a creative and inspired ministry to invigorate women's groups and parishes through encouraging, supporting, and nurturing women in the Maronite Catholic faith and by equipping and mobilizing women as intentional disciples of Christ.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Sept 3:** Joey Abi-Moussa, Elaine Brousseau, Samir Maroun, Clara Safi
- Sept 4:** Allan Bistany, Megan El Hayek, Therese Leone, Layla Merheb, Abbas Sadek
- Sept 5:** Lyanna Abboud, Harrison Ameen, Aleya Ayoub, Matthew Bergeron, Stephanie Constantine, Dominic Maroun, Bruce Touma,
- Sept 6:** Nelly Bouraphael, Lori Corey, Olivia Reed
- Sept. 7:** Cynthia Ayoub, Violette Hawwa, Eleanor Tarness
- Sept 8:** Tania Behnam, Sahar Cordes, Charbel Sadek, Michael Sader, Charbel Zaarour,
- Sept 9:** Mirna Abou-Ezzi, Luka Hayek, Linda Khoury, Ethan Rheault

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Sept 3:** George & Rita Bejjani, Raymond & Janette Nadira,
- Sept 4:** Pierre & Elham Azzi,
- Sept 5:** Kenneth & Loretta DeMarco
- Sept 6:** Tony & Viviane Tannoury, Nicholas & Meaghan Twing
- Sept. 7:** Edward & Stacey Zraket
- Sept 8:** Brian & Linda Khoury
- Sept 9:** Abdo & Amanda Iskandar

THE INVITATION TO COURAGE

By Ronald Rolheiser

Courage isn't one of my strong points, at least not one particular kind of courage.

Scripture tells us that as John the Baptist grew up he became strong in spirit. My growing up was somewhat different. Unlike John the Baptist, as I grew up I became accommodating in spirit. This had its reasons. I was born with what Ruth Burrows would describe as a "tortured sensitivity", an over-sensitive personality, and have never been able to develop a tough skin. That's not the stuff of which prophets are made. When you're a child on the playground you better have the raw physical strength to challenge a situation that's unfair or you better let things alone so as not to get hurt. You also better develop razor-sharp skills at avoiding confrontation and in the art of peacemaking. As well, when you aren't gifted with superior physical strength and challenging situations arise on the playground, you quickly learn to walk away from confrontation. On the playground the lamb knows better than to lie down with the lion or to confront the lion, irrespective of the prophet Isaiah's eschatological visions.

And that's not all bad. Growing up as I did didn't make for the tough skin and raw courage it takes to be a prophet, but it did give me an acute radar screen, namely, a sensitivity which at its best is a genuine empathy (though at its worst has me avoiding situations of conflict). Either way, it's hasn't particularly gifted me with the qualities that make for prophetic courage. I want, habitually, not to upset people. I dislike confrontation and want peacefulness at almost any cost, though I do draw some lines in the sand. But I'm no John the Baptist and it's taken me many years to learn that, admit it, and understand why – and also to understand that my temperament and history are only an explanation and not an excuse for my cowardice at times.

In the end, the virtue of courage is not contingent upon birth, temperament, or mental toughness, though these can be helpful. Courage is a gift from the Holy Spirit and that's why one's temperament and background may only serve as an explanation and not as an excuse for a lack of courage.

I highlight this because our situation today demands courage from us, the courage for prophecy. We desperately need prophets today, but they are in short supply and too many of us are not particularly eager to volunteer for the task. Why not?

A recent issue of *Commonweal* magazine featured an article by Bryan Massingale, a strong prophetic voice on the issue of racism. Massingale submits that the reason we see so little real progress in dealing with racial injustice is the absence of prophetic voices where they are most needed, in this case, among the many good white people who see racial injustice, sympathize with those suffering from it, but don't do anything about it. Massingale, who lectures widely across the country, shares how again and again in his lectures and in his classes people ask him: But how do I address this without upsetting people? This question aptly expresses our reticence and, I believe, names both the issue and the challenge.

As Shakespeare would say, "Ah, there's the rub!" For me, this question touches a sensitive moral nerve. Had I been in one of his classes I would no doubt have been one of those to ask that question: but how do I challenge racism without upsetting people? Here's my problem: I want to speak out prophetically, but I don't want to upset others; I want to challenge the white privilege which we're so congenitally blind to, but I don't want to alienate the generous, good-hearted people who support our school; I want to speak out more strongly against injustice in my writing, but I don't want multiple newspapers drop my column as a result; I want to be courageous and confront others, but don't want to live with the hatred that ensues; and I want to publicly name injustices and name names, but don't want to alienate myself from those very people. So this leaves me still praying for the courage needed for prophecy.

Several years ago, a visiting professor at our school, an Afro-American man, was sharing with our faculty some of the near daily injustices he experiences simply because of the color of his skin. At one point I asked him: "If I, as a white man, came to you like Nicodemus came to Jesus at night and asked you what I should do, what would you tell me?" His answer: Jesus didn't let Nicodemus off easily just because he confessed his fears. Nicodemus had to do a public act to bring his faith into the light, he had to claim Jesus' dead body. Hence, his challenge to me: you need to do a public act.

He's right; but I'm still praying for the prophetic courage to do that. And aren't we all?

St Anthony-Grave Purchase & Burial

Grave Purchase—*For Active Parishioners

- Grave Purchase–Double Depth: \$1900 (*one time fee*)
 - Perpetual Care: \$200 (*one time fee*)
- Total of Grave (Double Depth) Purchase: \$2100
- Memorial Stone Permit: \$75 (*one time fee paid upon installation*)

Burial Costs (*Itemized*)

- Opening and Closing (Summer Fees): \$1000
- Opening and Closing (Winter Burial): \$1,200
- Church Stipend: \$250
- Church Stipend (Wake in Church): \$450
- Soloist: \$150
- Organist: \$150
- Clergy Stipend: \$200 or left to the Family Discretion

Total of Burial Costs:

- Burial (Summer Fees): \$1,750
- Burial (Summer Fees-Wake in Church): \$1,950
- Burial (Winter Fees): \$1,950
- Burial (Winter Fees-Wake in Church): \$2,150

Prices are subject to change.

**Active Parishioners are considered those who have participated: Socially, spiritually and have contributed regularly in our database.*

Please take the time to review the complete cemetery guidelines by visiting our website www.stanthonylawrence.org/cemetery/

TREE OF LIFE

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES BY PUTTING THEIR NAMES ON TREE OF LIFE BRASS ALUMINUM PLAQUES SIZES:

1.5" X 3" = \$75 / 3" X 6" = \$150 / 4" X 8" = \$250

Please submit your request either by

Phone: 978.685.7233 or by E-mail:

rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

Looking for a Loved one buried at St Anthony's Cemetery?

1. Go to www.stanthonylawrence.org
2. Scroll to the bottom and click on BURIAL ONLINE SEARCH.
3. Type in the last/first name or in some cases just last name and click search.

CEMETERY LOT SALES & AVAILABILITY

St Anthony Cemetery offers affordable payment plans to fit any family's budget.

For more information:

By Phone (*During Office Hours*) 978-685-7233

Email rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

or Visit: www.stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/

Headstones & Cemetery Markers

Kindly review the information provided regarding acceptable dimensions per grave/lot on our website: <https://www.stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/>.

Please note: Double-Depth Graves are considered "One Grave Size"

DONATE A TREE IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE

Enhancing the beauty of Historic Saint Anthony Maronite Catholic Cemetery.

Plant-A-Tree A—

For a donation of \$400.00 : memorial plaque will be displayed by the tree for a period of ten years.

Plant-A-Tree B—

For a donation of \$250.00: memorial plaque will be displayed by the tree for the period of five years.

Your Donation is Tax-Deductible

Your contribution is tax deductible. You will receive a written acknowledgement of your donation from the Saint Anthony Maronite Catholic Cemetery.

If you like to donate a tree, please call the office at 978.685.7233 or email us at:

rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

Tree to be planted : Kousa Dogwood

Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost: Martha and Mary

Book of Deuteronomy 6,4-9.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

First Letter to the Thessalonians 2,1-13.

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us. You remember our labour and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was towards you believers. As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you should lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 10,38-42.

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Sept 3- 4PM Volunteer

Sunday, Sept 4-

**11:00AM Eng: Volunteer
Ar: George Saab**

Saturday, September 10 - 4PM Lisa Abdallah

Sunday, September 11- 8AM -Mouna Hbaiter

9AM Sub-Deacon James Demers

**11:00AM Eng: Mansour Chaya
Ar: Marcel Saade**

الأحد الرابع عشر من زمن العنصرة: مرثا ومريم

سفر تثنية الاشرع 6:4-9

إِسْمَعْ يَا إِسْرَائِيلُ: إِنَّ الرَّبَّ إِلَهُنَا هُوَ رَبٌّ وَاحِدٌ. فَاحْبِبِ الرَّبَّ إِلَهَكَ بِكُلِّ قَلْبِكَ وَكُلِّ نَفْسِكَ وَكُلِّ قُوَّتِكَ. وَلِتَكُنْ هَذِهِ الْكَلِمَاتُ الَّتِي أَنَا أَمْرُكَ بِهَا الْيَوْمَ فِي قَلْبِكَ. وَرَدِّدْهَا عَلَى بَنِيكَ وَكَلِّمُهُمْ بِهَا، إِذَا جَلَسْتَ فِي بَيْتِكَ وَإِذَا مَشَيْتَ فِي الطَّرِيقِ وَإِذَا نَمْتَ وَقُمْتَ. وَأَعْقِدْهَا عِلَامَةً عَلَى يَدِكَ وَلِتَكُنْ عَصَائِبَ بَيْنَ عَيْنَيْكَ. وَأَكْتُبْهَا عَلَى دَعَائِمِ أَبْوَابِ بَيْتِكَ.

رسالة القديس بولس الأولى إلى أهل تسالونيقي 2:1-13

يَا إِخْوَتِي، أَنْتُمْ أَنْفُسُكُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةَ، أَنَّ دُخُولَنَا إِلَيْكُمْ لَمْ يَكُنْ بَاطِلًا. وَلَكِنْ، كَمَا تَعْلَمُونَ، بَعْدَ أَنْ تَأَلَّمْنَا وَشْتَمْنَا فِي فِيلِبِّي، تَجَرَّأْنَا بِالْهِنَا أَنْ نُكَلِّمَكُمْ بِإِنْجِيلِ اللَّهِ، فِي جِهَادٍ كَثِيرٍ. وَلَمْ يَكُنْ وَعْظُنَا عَنْ ضَلَالٍ، وَلَا عَنْ نَجَاسَةٍ، وَلَا بِمَكْرٍ، بَلْ كَمَا أَخْتَبَرْنَا اللَّهُ فَأَمَّنَّا عَلَى الْإِنْجِيلِ، هَكَذَا نَتَكَلَّمُ، لَا إِرْضَاءً لِلنَّاسِ بَلْ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي يَخْتَبِرُ قُلُوبَنَا. فَإِنَّا وَلَا مَرَّةً أَتَيْنَاكُمْ بِكَلِمَةٍ تَمَلُّقٍ، كَمَا تَعْلَمُونَ، وَلَا بِدَافِعِ طَمَعٍ، وَاللَّهُ شَاهِدٌ، وَلَا طَلْبِنَا مَجْدًا مِنْ بَشَرٍ، لَا مِنْكُمْ وَلَا مِنْ غَيْرِكُمْ، مَعَ أَنَّنَا قَادِرُونَ أَنْ نَكُونَ ذَوِي وَقَارٍ، كَرُسُلٍ لِلْمَسِيحِ، لَكِنَّا صِرْنَا بَيْنَكُمْ ذَوِي لُطْفٍ، كَمُرْضِعٍ تَحْتَضِنُ أَوْلَادَهَا. وَهَكَذَا فَإِنَّا مِنْ شِدَّةِ الْحَبِينِ إِلَيْكُمْ، نَرْتَضِي أَنْ نُعْطِيَكُمْ لَا إِنْجِيلَ اللَّهِ وَحَسَبٍ، بَلْ أَنْفُسَنَا أَيْضًا، لِأَنَّكُمْ صِرْتُمْ لَنَا أَحِبَّاءَ. وَإِنَّكُمْ تَتَذَكَّرُونَ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةَ، تَعَبْنَا وَكَدْنَا: فَلَقَدْ بَشَّرْنَاكُمْ بِإِنْجِيلِ اللَّهِ، وَنَحْنُ نَعْمَلُ لَيْلَ نَهَارٍ، لِئَلَّا نُنْقَلَ عَلَى أَحَدٍ مِنْكُمْ. أَنْتُمْ شُهُودٌ، وَاللَّهُ شَاهِدٌ، كَيْفَ كُنَّا مَعَكُمْ، أَنْتُمْ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ، فِي نَفَاوَةِ وَبَرٍّ وَبِغَيْرِ لَوْمٍ، نُعَامِلُ كُلًّا مِنْكُمْ، كَمَا تَعْلَمُونَ، مُعَامَلَةً الْآبِ لِأَوْلَادِهِ. وَكُنَّا نُنَاشِدُكُمْ، وَنُشَجِّعُكُمْ، وَنَحْنُكُمْ عَلَى أَنْ تَسْلُكُوا مَسَلَكًا يَلِيقُ بِاللَّهِ، الَّذِي يَدْعُوكُمْ إِلَى مَلَكُوتِهِ وَمَجْدِهِ. لِذَلِكَ نَحْنُ أَيْضًا نَشْكُرُ اللَّهَ بِغَيْرِ انْقِطَاعٍ، لِأَنَّكُمْ لَمَّا تَلَقَيْتُمْ كَلِمَةَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي سَمِعْتُمُوهَا مِنَّا، قَبِلْتُمُوهَا لَا بِأَنَّهَا كَلِمَةٌ بَشَرٍ، بَلْ بِأَنَّهَا حَقًّا كَلِمَةُ اللَّهِ. وَإِنَّهَا لَفَاعِلَةٌ فِيكُمْ، أَيُّهَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ.

إنجيل القديس لوقا 10:38-42

فِيمَا (كَانَ يَسُوعُ وَتِلَامِيذُهُ) سَائِرِينَ، دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ إِحْدَى الْقَرْيِ، فَاسْتَقْبَلَتْهُ فِي بَيْتِهَا أَمْرَأَةٌ اسْمُهَا مَرْثَا. وَكَانَ لِمَرْثَا أُخْتُ تُدْعَى مَرْيَمَ. فَجَلَسَتْ عِنْدَ قَدَمَيْ الرَّبِّ تَسْمَعُ كَلِمَتَهُ. أَمَّا مَرْثَا فَكَانَتْ مِنْهُمْ كَثْرَةَ الْخِدْمَةِ، فَجَاءَتْ وَقَالَتْ: «يَا رَبِّ، أَمَّا ثِبَالِي بِأَنَّ أُخْتِي تَرَكَتْنِي أَخْدُمُ وَحْدِي؟ فَقُلْ لَهَا أَنْ تُسَاعِدَنِي!». «فَأَجَابَ الرَّبُّ وَقَالَ لَهَا: «مَرْثَا، مَرْثَا، إِنَّكَ تَهْتَمِينَ بِأُمُورٍ كَثِيرَةٍ، وَتَضْطَرِّبِينَ! إِنَّمَا الْمَطْلُوبُ وَاحِدٌ! فَمَرْيَمُ اخْتَارَتْ النَّصِيبَ الْأَفْضَلَ، وَلَنْ يُنْزَعَ مِنْهَا.»

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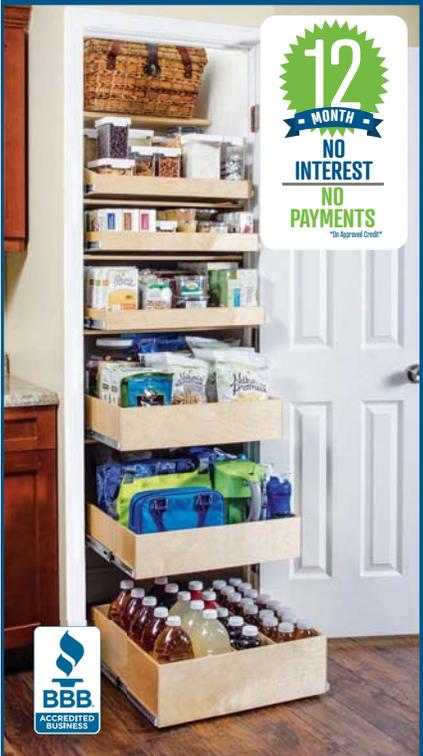
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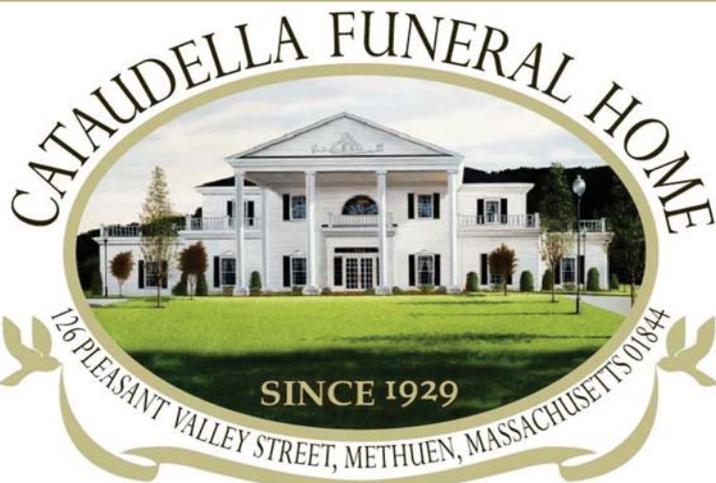
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