

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

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:

Deacons: Nadim B. Daou,
James T. Demers & David Leard
Sub-Deacon: Antoine Nammour

DAILY LITURGIES 9am

MON & WED (Arabic)

TUE & THU (English)

WEEKEND LITURGIES

SAT 4:00PM(Eng)

SUN 8:00AM (Ara) /

9:00AM (Eng) /

11:00AM (Eng.& Ara)

Holy days of obligation:

Vigil Liturgy @ 7:00 PM



venmo

Scan QR code for payment



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https://members.myeoffering.com/#/landing?church_id=72



SaintAnthonyLawrence

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.

LITURGIES INTENTIONS

Sunday of the Prodigal Son - أحد مثل الابن الشاطر

4TH WEEK OF LENT -Prodigal Son

Saturday, March 11 (English)

4:00pm +40 Day Anniversary - Julia Alvarez
By Dora Pereira
+ Yvonne Yameen By her family

Sunday, March 12 Pope St. Gregory

8:00 am + Private Intentions.

9:00 am In Honor of Marc Abou-Ezzi,
By his family.

11:00 am + Amal I. Attieh, By her sister, Violette
Attieh, & family

5th WEEK OF LENT - Healing of the Paralytic

Saturday, March 18

4:00pm +Mitchell Moses, By his family & loved ones.

Sunday, March 19 St Joseph

8:00 am + 1yr Anniversary - Ghazi Jabbour, By
Mouna, wife of Kamil Hbaiter, & Family

9:00am IHO Saint Anthony's Basketball Teams

11:00 am +Fr. Abdallah Ramey, By Peter & Jean
Sarkis & Family.

+40 Day Anniversary- Josephine Tohme
Aoun By her family

Weekday Liturgies

Monday, March 20 (Ar.) St. Theophanes the Chronicler
2Cor 9:1a, 5-15/ Lk 9: 37-45

9:00am +Private Intentions

Tuesday, March 21 (En.) St Euphrasia
1Cor 16:15-24 / Mk 8:22-26

9:00am +All Souls in Purgatory By Dora Pereira

Wednesday, March 22 (Ar.) St. Benedict
Rom 14:1-13 / LK 7:1-10

9:00am +Private Intentions

Thursday, March 23 (En.) 1st Council of Constantinople
2Cor 1:23-2:5 / Mt 15:29-39

9:00am +For: Rosanna Dargoonian,
By Janice & John Gray.

9:30am -12 noon Eucharistic Adoration

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday at 7pm. Confessions are
available 30 minutes before the Stations Prayers.

Sanctuary Lamps

In Memory of Rosanna Dargoonian,
By her daughters,
Linda Kalil & Janice Gray.

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:
www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/

Clergy Annual Retreat

Fr Elie & Fr. Neemtallah will be away for the
Eparchial Clergy Retreat from March 13-17.

Weekly Liturgies will be omitted. Office will
be operating on regular business hours.

Clergy Day Off

Fr Elie: **Mondays**
Fr. Neemtallah's: **Wednesdays**

PLEASE NOTE:

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

TICKETS Are in the mail !!!!**Covering** the upcoming expenses:*Building insurance (\$30k) & Bishop's Appeal (\$7500)*

St Anthony Maronite Catholic Church
To Cover: Building Insurance (30K) & Bishop Appeal (\$7500)

ANNUAL RAFFLE FUNDRAISING

1st PRIZE: \$2500
2nd PRIZE: \$1000
3rd PRIZE: \$500
4th PRIZE: \$250

1 TICKET for \$10 / 5 for \$40

TO BE DRAWN APRIL 9 - EASTER SUNDAY
rectory@stanthonylawrence.org / 978.685.7233

No. 001

Easter Lily Dedication

In honor of Easter, the sanctuary will be decorated with lilies. You may dedicate one or more lily plant in memory or honor of those near and dear to your own heart for \$15 each.

I would like to dedicate _____

An Easter Flower at \$15 Each. *Please specify****"In Memory of" or "In Honor of"***

Given by:

Please return this completed form, along with your payment (Check, Cash or Venmo), to the Church office by **12 NOON, Friday March 31**. You are welcome to place this form with your check in the offering plate as it is passed. There will be an insert in the Parish Bulletin on April 8 & 9, suitable for presentation to acknowledge your dedications.



**PROCEEDS TO HELP FAMILIES IN NEED
IN LEBANON**

Order Form

(Send your order by e-mail or by calling Bassima 603.571.3003 or the office 978.685.7233)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Pick-Up Date: PALM SUNDAY**Maamoul**

♦ Dates : 6 for \$10 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

♦ Walnuts : 6 for \$10 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

♦ Pistachio: 6 for \$12 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

Kaak:

Bag (6) for \$6 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

Ghoraybah:

6 pieces for \$6 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

Macaroon:

6 pieces for \$6 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

Kanafe Box: \$50 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____**Total Amount of Order: \$** _____**Method of Donation:**

Cash _____ or Check _____

Credit Card _____ Venmo _____

HOW MUCH IS 5%?

WEEKLY INCOME	\$150.	\$200.	\$300.
OFFERING	\$7.50	\$10.00	\$15.00

\$400.	\$500.	\$700.	\$800.	\$900.
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$45.00

St. Anthony Church • Lawrence, MA

PLEASE INDICATE AMOUNT	\$	\$100	\$50	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10
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Please mark the amount of your offering to insure proper credit.



If absent, PLEASE MAIL YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE PARISH.

Dear Parishioners

Be an active member of the building and growth of our community. The Lord commands His people to tithe, to donate, so that our hearts will not be attached to the riches of the world *where moth and rust destroy*.

Here is a breakdown of donations based on individual income....

Let your charity be at the measure of His Love to us on the Cross

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Upcoming Classes- Bi-Weekly- 5PM-6:30 PM

Saturday March 18

Please check your calendars for upcoming sessions.

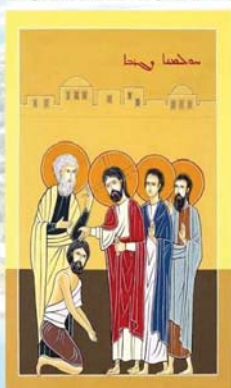
Calendar:

stanthonylawrence.org/calendar-classes-and-events/

Registration for the September 2023-May 2024

School year will be available soon!

Stay tuned for more information!

**MYA NEW ENGLAND
REGIONAL RETREAT**GOD'S HEALING MERCY: FINDING YOUR PATH TO
FREEDOM & FORGIVENESS*Dartmouth, MA*

MOTHER OF THE LIGHT CONVENT

MARCH 26, 2023

**KNIGHTS OF MARY****March 11: from 5-7PM**Calendar: www.stanthonylawrence.org/events-2/**KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR**

Sign up today to serve on the Altar!

Application and full Altar Server Schedule can be found:

www.stanthonylawrence.org/kinghts-of-the-altar-calendar/**MARONITE YOUNG ADULTS -MYA - Ages 18-35**

MYA Registration is open to new members.

Contact Ramona for more info: 978-350-2965

EVENTS AROUND THE EPARCHY

~ **Eparchial Youth Lenten Zoom Bible Study:**
March 19 & 26
RSVP @ www.myoeparchystmaron.org

~ **MYO Kick-Off at Our Lady of Fatima (the Future home of Our Lady of Purgatory):** March 25th
11:30-5pm
RSVP to Fr. Vincent Farhat @ 508-996-8934
or via email: ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com

~ **AWAKEN- 2023 National MYO Conference:**
June 27-July 1
Register at www.maroniteyouth.org

LOL BIBLE CAMP 2023

Save the dates - July 12-15, 2023

SPIRITUAL PROGRAM FOR LENTEN SEASON AT
ST ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH

Lent

A season of reflection, preparation, & renewal.

EVERY TUESDAY @ 7PM

ARABIC BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAY @ 7PM

MARCH 22: HEALING PRAYERS

MARCH 29: PRAYING FOR FAMILIES

EVERY THURSDAY @ 7PM

ENGLISH BIBLE STUDY

EVERY FRIDAY @ 7PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

+ CONFESSIONS 30 MIN. BEFORE

DCG SCHOLARSHIP

Will be available only for parishioners of St Anthony. This endowment will be administered by the development office of Central Catholic. ***The applicants must apply through the financial aid process set forth by Central.***

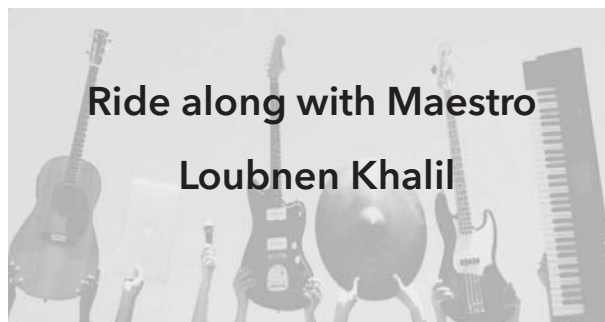
The awards will be open to all grades and will be based on need and academic potential. ***Applicants must notify the Parish of their intention to apply for financial aid so we can alert the school that they are eligible candidates for the DCG Scholarship.***

Any question, please contact Ken at 508-633-0704.

Thank you,

Ken Gabriel-Maroon Family

Do you play a Musical Instrument



Ride along with Maestro

Loubnen Khalil

If you are interested in participating in an orchestra directed by the Violin Master, Loubnen Khalil, kindly fill out the short form Below and drop it in the collection basket or send your information to our office email @

rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

Name:

Best Contact:

Instrument:

Years of Playing or learning:

LENTEN RETREAT AT ST JOSEPH
MELKITE CHURCH, LAWRENCE MA

Arabic Spiritual Retreat-Sat. March 18:
9am-1Pm. Conducted by Fr. Neemtallah
Oneissy

English Spiritual Retreat-Sat. March 11:
9am-1Pm. Conducted by Fr. Christopher
Saad



BECOME A NAM MEMBER

Use your credit card and apply online

www.namnews.org

Additional Membership Benefits

- Discount on National & Regional Conventions' pre-registration
- Discount on NAM's Lenten Retreats
- Eligibility for NAM's Silver and Gold Massabki Awards, and Faith of the Mountain Award
- Discount on various items available through NAM
- Eligibility for Scholarships

BE PART OF OUR MINISTRIES

Religious Education

<https://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/>

Maronite Youth Organization –MYO

<https://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-2/>

Maronite Young Adults –MYA

Please email the Parish to add your name to the MYA Group: rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

Knights of Mary –KOM

<https://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-4/>

Knights of the Altars

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

In addition our Parish takes pride and invites you to be part of the other ministries such as:

- *Daughters of St Anthony*
- *Our Lady of Lebanon Sodality*
- *Sunshine Committee*
- *M-Wine*
- *Bereavement Ministry*
- *Ushers*
- *Men's Ministry*

Scholarships offered by NAM for active NAM members. The applications for all scholarships offered by NAM can be found online, through NAM's website, www.namnews.org.

1.NAM General Application for Scholarships:

- **John A. Solomon Memorial - MYO Scholarship;** Two scholarships of \$2000 each, payable over 2 years, available for high school seniors who are **active members** of MYO
- **Abouna Sharbel Scholarship;** Three (3) scholarships of \$1,000, available for 3 High School Seniors.
- **Massabki Brothers Scholarship;** One scholarship of \$2000, payable over 2 years, available for high school seniors
- **Naomi & Paul Kassouf Scholarship;** Two scholarships of \$2000 each, payable over 2 years, available for high school seniors
- **Chagoury Family Undergraduate Scholarship;** One scholarship of \$2000, available for students already in college
- **Thomas and Jennie Ayoob Memorial Scholarship;** One scholarship of \$2000, payable over 2 years, available for students already in college
- **Chagoury Family Graduate Scholarship;** One scholarship of \$2000, available for students already in masters or doctorate program

2.USEK Scholarship: The University of the Holy Spirit-Kaslik, Lebanon. **10 Summer scholarships** will be awarded which will include full tuition and dormitory; and **\$500** once the semester is completed. Available for college students; Summer 2023.

NDU Scholarship: Notre Dame University-Louaize, Lebanon. **12 scholarships for the Spring or Fall semester**, both include full tuition and dormitory; and **\$500** once a semester is completed. Available for college students; Fall/Spring 2023/2024

The details and eligibility requirements are clearly explained in each application. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me directly at 440-821-6303, email me at namscholarships@gmail.com or contact the NAM Office using the information at the bottom of this page.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS May 31, 2023.

LECTORS SCHEDULE*Saturday, March 11 - 4PM - Lisa Abdallah**Sunday, March 12- 8AM- Hitaf Nammour*

9AM - Joseph Safi

11AM -Eng: Anthony Merheb

Ar: Gretta Merheb

LECTORS SCHEDULE*Saturday, March 18- 4PM- Patricia Ferguson**Sunday, March 19 8AM - Huguette Sfeir*

9AM - Lena Bouchrouche

11:00AM Eng: Marie Charabati

Ar: Mounira Daher

MASS INTENTIONS

Liturgies are offered for many reasons: for the souls in purgatory, in remembrance for someone who is deceased, or in honor of a birthday or special anniversary, and more.

Liturgy stipend or offering given, signifies the sacrificial nature of giving of something of yourself to associate more intimately with Christ who offers himself in the Eucharist.

If you would like to have a Liturgy said for someone, please contact the Parish Office by phone or email for help with available dates and times.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY**March 11:** Maryann Hatem, Joshua Pelletier**March 12:** Hinde Asmar, Jessy Elghoul, Mark Khalife, Katelyn Maroon, Katherine Veilleux**March 13:** Peter Bou Saada, Johnny Escobales, Sean Khoury, Jaclyn Pratt,**March 14:** Marc Abou-Ezzi, Zeidan Ata, Jessica Avedisian, Antoine Bou Habib, Assaad Eid, Roy El-Hayek, Michael Forristall, Kamal Haddad, Christian Mazraani**March 15:** Anthony Azzi, Ashley Hashem, Kristen Kassas, Adriana Ramy**March 16:** Andrew Nadira, Tayla Rahme, Giovanni Tabet**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY****March 16:** Jim & Ali Hajj**St Anthony's Cemetery****Grave Purchase & Burial**

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: stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/

Cemetery Guidelines

www.stanthonylawrence.org/cemetery/

Headstones & Cemetery Markers

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

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

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

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 displayed for ten years.

Plant-A-Tree B— For a donation of \$250.00: memorial plaque displayed for five years.

Your Donation is Tax-Deductible

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

TREE OF LIFE**BRASS ALUMINUM PLAQUES SIZES:**

1.5" X 3" = \$75 / 3"X 6"= \$150 / 4"X8"= \$250

Please submit your request either by

Phone: 978.685.7233 or by E-mail:

rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Book of Zechariah 3,1-7.

Then he showed me the high priest Joshua standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. And the LORD said to Satan, 'The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this man a brand plucked from the fire?' Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. The angel said to those who were standing before him, 'Take off his filthy clothes.' And to him he said, 'See, I have taken your guilt away from you, and I will clothe you in festal apparel.' And I said, 'Let them put a clean turban on his head.' So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him in the apparel; and the angel of the LORD was standing by. Then the angel of the LORD assured Joshua, saying 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my requirements, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here.'

Second Letter to the Corinthians 13,5-13.

Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? unless, indeed, you fail to pass the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed. But we pray to God that you may not do anything wrong not that we may appear to have passed the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. This is what we pray for, that you may become perfect. So I write these things while I am away from you, so that when I come, I may not have to be severe in using the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down. Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 15,11-32

The Lord Jesus says: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe the best one and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." '

الأحد الرابع من الصوم الكبير : أحد مثل الابن الشاطر

سفر زكريا 3: 1-7

وَأَرَانِي يَشُوعُ الْكَاهِنَ الْعَظِيمَ وَاقِفًا أَمَامَ مَلَائِكِ الرَّبِّ، وَالشَّيْطَانُ وَاقِفًا عَنْ يَمِينِهِ لِيَنْهَمَهُ. فَقَالَ الرَّبُّ لِلشَّيْطَانِ: «جَزَرَكَ: الرَّبُّ، يَا شَيْطَانُ، جَزَرَكَ الرَّبُّ الَّذِي اخْتَارَ أُورُشَلِيمَ! أَلَيْسَ هَذَا شُعْلَةً مُنْتَشَلَةً مِنَ النَّارِ؟». وَكَانَ يَشُوعُ لَا يَسَاءُ ثِيَابًا قَدْرَةً وَهُوَ وَاقِفٌ أَمَامَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ. فَأَجَابَ وَكَلَّمَ الْوَاقِفِينَ أَمَامَهُ قَائِلًا: «انْزِعُوا عَنْهُ الثِّيَابَ الْقَدْرَةَ». وَقَالَ لَهُ: «أَنْظُرْ. إِنِّي قَدْ أَجَزْتُ إِيْمَكَ عَنْكَ. فَلْتَلْبَسْ ثِيَابًا فَاحِرَةً». «وَقُلْتُ: «لِيُجْعَلَ تاجٌ طَاهِرٌ عَلَى رَأْسِهِ». فَجَعَلُوا التَّاجَ الطَّاهِرَ عَلَى رَأْسِهِ، وَالْبَسُوهُ الثِّيَابَ. فَحَدَّرَ مَلَائِكُ الرَّبِّ يَشُوعَ قَائِلًا: «هَكَذَا قَالَ رَبُّ الثَّوَاتِ: إِنَّ سِرَّتِي فِي طُرُقِي وَحَفِظْتُ أَحْكَامِي، فَأَنْتَ أَيْضًا تَحْكُمُ عَلَى بَيْتِي، وَتَحَافِظُ عَلَى دِيَارِي، فَأَعْطِيكَ سَبِيلًا إِلَى وَسْطِ أَوْلِيكَ الْوَاقِفِينَ هُنَا.»

رسالة القديس بولس الثانية إلى أهل كورنثس 13: 5-13

يَا إِخْوَتِي، اخْتَبِرُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ، هَلْ أَنْتُمْ رَاسِخُونَ فِي الْإِيمَانِ. امْتَحِنُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ. أَلَا تَعْرِفُونَ أَنَّ الْمَسِيحَ يَسُوعَ فِيكُمْ؟ إِلَّا إِذَا كُنْتُمْ مَرْفُوضِينَ! فَارْجُوا أَنْ تَعْرِفُوا أَنَّنَا نَحْنُ لَسْنَا مَرْفُوضِينَ! وَنُصَلِّيَ إِلَى اللَّهِ كَيْ لَا تَفْعَلُوا أَيَّ شَرٍّ، لَا لِنُظْهَرَ نَحْنُ مَقْبُولِينَ، بَلْ لِكَيْ تَفْعَلُوا أَنْتُمْ الْخَيْرَ، وَنَكُونَ نَحْنُ كَأَنَّا مَرْفُوضُونَ! فَإِنَّا لَا نَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ نَفْعَلَ شَيْئًا ضِدَّ الْحَقِّ، بَلْ لِأَجْلِ الْحَقِّ! أَجَلْ، إِنَّنَا نَفْرَحُ عِنْدَمَا نَكُونُ نَحْنُ ضِعَفَاءَ، وَتَكُونُونَ أَنْتُمْ أَقْوِيَاءَ. مِنْ أَجْلِ هَذَا أَيْضًا نُصَلِّيَ لِكَيْ تَكُونُوا كَامِلِينَ. أَكْتُبُ هَذَا وَأَنَا غَائِبٌ، لِئَلَّا أَعَامِلَكُمْ بِقَسَاوَةٍ وَأَنَا حَاضِرٌ، بِالسُّلْطَانِ الَّذِي أَعْطَانِي إِيَّاهُ الرَّبُّ، لِيُنْيَانَكُمْ لَا لِهَدْمِكُمْ. وَبَعْدُ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ، اِفْرَحُوا، وَأَسْعُوا إِلَى الْكَمَالِ، وَتَشَجَّعُوا، وَكُونُوا عَلَى رَأْيٍ وَاحِدٍ، وَعِشُوا فِي سَلَامٍ، وَإِلَهُ الْمَحَبَّةِ وَالسَّلَامِ يَكُونُ مَعَكُمْ! سَلِّمُوا بَعْضُكُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ بِقُبْلَةٍ مُقَدَّسَةٍ. جَمِيعُ الْقَدِيسِينَ يُسَلِّمُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ. نِعْمَةُ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، وَمَحَبَّةُ اللَّهِ، وَشَرَكَةُ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ مَعَكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ!

إنجيل القديس لوقا 15: 11-32

قَالَ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ: «كَانَ لِرَجُلٍ ابْنَانِ. فَقَالَ أَصْغَرُهُمَا لِأَبِيهِ: يَا أَبِي، أَعْطِنِي حِصَّتِي مِنَ الْمِيرَاثِ. فَقَسَمَ لَهُمَا ثَرَوَتَهُ. وَبَعْدَ أَيَّامٍ قَلِيلَةٍ، جَمَعَ الْآبُؤُا الْأَصْغَرَ كُلَّ حِصَّتِهِ، وَسَافَرَ إِلَى بَلَدٍ بَعِيدٍ. وَهُنَاكَ بَدَدَ مَالَهُ فِي حَيَاةِ الطَّيْشِ. وَلَمَّا انْفَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، حَدَّثَتْ فِي ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ مَجَاعَةٌ شَدِيدَةٌ، فَبَدَأَ يُجِسُّ بِالْعُوزِ. فَذَهَبَ وَلَجًا إِلَى وَاحِدٍ مِنْ أَهْلِ ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ، فَأَرْسَلَهُ إِلَى حُقُولِهِ لِيَرْعَى الْخَنَازِيرَ. وَكَانَ يَسْتَهِي أَنْ يَمْلَأَ جَوْفَهُ مِنَ الْخَرْبُوبِ الَّذِي كَانَتْ الْخَنَازِيرُ تَأْكُلُهُ، وَلَا يُعْطِيهِ مِنْهُ أَحَدٌ. فَارْجَعَ إِلَى نَفْسِهِ وَقَالَ: كَمْ مِنَ الْأَجْرَاءِ عِنْدَ أَبِي، يَفْضُلُ الْخُبْزَ عَنْهُمْ، وَأَنَا هَهُنَا أَهْلُكَ جُوعًا! أَقُومُ وَأَمْضِي إِلَى أَبِي وَأَقُولُ لَهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدُ أَنْ أَدْعَى لَكَ ابْنًا. فَاجْعَلْنِي كَأَحَدِ أَجْرَائِكَ! فَقَامَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى أَبِيهِ. وَفِيمَا كَانَ لَا يَزَالُ بَعِيدًا، رَأَهُ أَبُوهُ، فَتَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهِ، وَأَسْرَعَ فَأَلْقَى بِنَفْسِهِ عَلَى عُنُقِهِ وَقَبَّلَهُ طَوِيلًا. فَقَالَ لَهُ ابْنُهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدُ أَنْ أَدْعَى لَكَ ابْنًا... فَقَالَ الْآبُ لِعَبِيدِهِ: أَسْرِعُوا وَأَخْرِجُوا الْخَلَّةَ الْفَاحِرَةَ وَالْبَسُوهُ، وَاجْعَلُوا فِي يَدِهِ خَاتَمًا، وَفِي رِجْلَيْهِ حِذَاءً، وَأَثُوا بِالْعِجْلِ الْمُسَمَّنِ وَأَدْبَحُوهُ، وَلِنَأْكُلْ وَنَتَنَعَّمَ! لِأَنَّ ابْنِي هَذَا كَانَ مَيِّئًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فَوُجِدَ. وَبَدَأُوا يَتَنَعَّمُونَ. وَكَانَ ابْنُهُ الْأَكْبَرُ فِي الْحَقْلِ. فَلَمَّا جَاءَ وَأَقْتَرَبَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ، سَمِعَ غِنَاءً وَرَقْصًا. فَذَاعَا وَاجِدًا مِنَ الْعُلَمَانِ وَسَأَلَهُ: مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هَذَا؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ: جَاءَ أَخُوكَ، فَذَبَحَ أَبُوكَ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَقِيَهُ سَالِمًا. فَغَضِبَ وَلَمْ يَرِدْ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ. فَخَرَجَ أَبُوهُ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ. فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ لِأَبِيهِ: هَا أَنَا أَخْدُمُكَ كُلَّ هَذِهِ السِّنِينَ، وَلَمْ أَخَالَفْ لَكَ يَوْمًا أَمْرًا، وَلَمْ تُعْطِنِي مَرَّةً جَدِيًّا، لِأَنَّنَا نَتَنَعَّمُ مَعَ أَصْدِقَائِي. وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا جَاءَ ابْنُكَ هَذَا الَّذِي أَكَلَ ثَرَوَتَكَ مَعَ الزَّوَانِي، ذَبَحْتَ لَهُ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ! فَقَالَ لَهُ أَبُوهُ: يَا وَلَدِي، أَنْتَ مَعِيَ فِي كُلِّ حِينٍ، وَكُلُّ مَا هُوَ لِي هُوَ لَكَ. وَلَكِنْ كَانَ يَنْبَغِي أَنْ نَتَنَعَّمَ وَنَفْرَحَ، لِأَنَّ أَخَاكَ هَذَا كَانَ مَيِّئًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فَوُجِدَ.»



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