

## 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](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)



# Feast of The Glorious Birth of Our Lord

## عيد ميلاد الرب يسوع



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## LITURGIES INTENTIONS

### Genealogy Sunday

**Saturday, December 23** *St. Eugenia*  
**4:00 pm (Eng.)** + Elias Saab, *By his family*

**Sunday, December 24**  
**10:00 am (Eng. & Ar.)** Private Intentions

### Christmas Liturgies -Birth of Our Lord

**Sunday, December 24** *Vigil of the Glorious Birth*  
**4:00 pm** Christmas Vigil Liturgy (English)

**Monday, December 25** *Glorious Birth*

**Midnight** Christmas Liturgy (Eng. & Ar.)

**9:30 am** Christmas Day Liturgy (Arabic)

**11:00 am** Christmas Day Liturgy (Eng. & Ar.)

*Liturgies will be offered in honor and blessings of our Parishioners.*

### The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple

**Saturday, December 30** *St. Anyisia*  
**4:00 pm** Private Intentions

**Sunday, December 31** *St. Zoticus*

**8:00 am** Private Intentions

**9:30 am** Private Intentions

**11:00 am** + Tanios Sadek, *By his wife, Nouhad, children and their families*

**Monday, January 1, 2024 - Office Closed**  
*Sts. Basil & Gregory*

**5:00 pm** New Year's Liturgy

*Liturgies will be offered in honor and blessings of our Parishioners*

### Daily Liturgies

**Tuesday, December 26 (Eng.) - Office Closed**  
*Feleccitations to the Virgin Mary/ Eph 1: 3-14 / Lk 1: 46-55*  
**7:00 pm** Private Intentions

**Wednesday, December 27 (Ar.)**  
*St. Stephen/ 2Cor 11:1-9 / Mt 23:29-24:2*  
**9:00 am** + Evon & Bob Danus, and Maria Moujaes, *By their family*

**Thursday, December 28 (Eng.)**  
*St. Marina /The Adoration of the Magi/ Rev 21: 9-10, 21-27 / Mt 2: 1-12*  
**9:00 am** + John Thomas, *By his family*

**Friday, December 29 - No Liturgy**  
*The Massacre of the Children of Bethlehem/ Heb 11: 23-31 / Mt 2: 13-18*

### Sanctuary Lamps



**In Loving Memory of John & Ida Thomas**  
*By their family*

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:  
[www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/)

### UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION

**Christmas Offering for the Pastor & for his Charities December 24 & 25**

*Please remit your Fuel/Utilities Envelope.*

*Your contribution helps us keep the Heat on in the Winter!*

### PLEASE NOTE

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



## EPIPHANY LITURGIES

Vigil Liturgy (Arabic) , Friday January 5th at 7PM.

Feast Day Liturgy - Saturday January 6 at 4PM

Blessed Water Bottles will be offered after the Liturgies

**Message from Fr. Elie & Fr. Neemtallah**

*“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the City of David a Savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” Luke 2-10-12*

Dear Parishioners

As we are approaching this Season of Joy and Giving, let us pause and enjoy the most precious Gift exchanged with the creation, the infant of Bethlehem, the Son of God. Pope Francis encourages us to follow "A good program for Advent, that would be **to encounter Jesus coming in every brother and sister who needs us and to share with them what we can: listening, time, concrete assistance.**"

By sharing these gifts with others, we hold in this blessed Season, the broken, the sufferings, the grieving brothers and sisters but also those who have celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism and Marriage as we offer them to the gentle hands and compassionate heart of the Infant of Bethlehem, the Bread of Life, Our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

By offering "listening, time and concrete assistance", we act upon our Parish Statement of faith: **"You are welcomed & loved by St Anthony's Community. We are transformed through prayer, acts of love, forgiveness, service and Stewardship"**

As our Catholic Church journeying into this year of Synodality, we, Fr Elie and Fr. Neemtallah, pray to have your hearts, consciences and minds docile and open to the Holy Spirit who transforms and renews us for the Good News.

I take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely as you have been such a blessing to our parish by being active and supporting us with your gifts of time, talents and timely financial help. My special gratitude goes to all the volunteers in our different ministries who do such a wonderful job in serving the various needs of our parish with much enthusiasm and commitment.

**Merry Christmas**

**OFFICE HOURS:**

**M-TH** 10:00 am-3:00 pm

**FRI** 10:00 am-2:00 pm

**SAT** By Appointment

**DAILY LITURGIES @ 9 am**

**MON & WED** (Ar)

**TUE & THU** (Eng)

**WEEKEND LITURGIES**

**SAT** 4 pm (Eng)

**SUN** 8 am (Ar)- 9:30 am (Eng)

11 am (Eng.& Ar)

**1st Friday of the Month:**

6 pm - Confession / 7 pm - Liturgy

**1st Sunday of the Month:**

Youth Liturgy @ 5:00 pm

**Holy days of obligation:**

Vigil Liturgy @ 7:00 pm

**MEET OUR PRIESTS:**

**Fr. Elie Mikhael** (305) 807-9087

[pastor@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:pastor@stanthonylawrence.org)

**Fr. Edgard -Neemtallah- Oneissy**

(857)390-4838

[pv@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:pv@stanthonylawrence.org)

**MEET OUR DEACONS:**

Nadim Daou, James T. Demers &

David Leard

**Sub-Deacon:** Antoine Nammour

**CLERGY DAY OFF**

Fr Elie: **Mondays**

Fr. Neemtallah: **Wednesdays**

**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.

**In Honor of...**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Offered By</u>
Our sons: Marc & Mikey	Dr. & Mrs. George Abou-Ezzi
Our daughters: Monica & Mia	Dr. & Mrs. George Abou-Ezzi
Our Grandmother, Sonia Abou-Ezzi	Marc, Monica, Mikey & Mia
Our Grandfather, Joseph Nasr	Marc, Monica, Mikey & Mia
Living Members of the Bou-Mitri Family	Mr. & Mrs. Mounir Bou-Mitri
Michelle & Joe Abou-Raad	Mr. & Mrs. Abdo Abou-Raad
Marie Jbeily	Therese Jbeily
My Father, Tuffic Hatem	Venize & Bobby & Family
Edmund & Josephine Hatem	George & Cynthia Kazanjian
Edmund & Josephine Hatem	Michael & Susan Homsey
Brenda Giantonio	Cynthia Kazanjian & Susan Homsey
Phyllis Thomas, John & Patty Thomas, Bill & Michele Ryan	Bill, Christine, & Maddi Ryan
Fassas Family	Kathy Gabriel

**In Thanksgiving For**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Offered By</u>
Fr. Elie Mikhael	Christine Farris

**In Memory of**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Offered By</u>
Ibrahim, Sadie & Dalal Kassas & Deceased Family Members	Mr. & Mrs. George Kassas & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Edmond & Theresa Solomon	The Solomon, Kalil, & Getchell Families
Mr. & Mrs. Fred & Mary Faris	The Solomon, Kalil, & Getchell Families
Deceased Members of the Solomon & Getchell Families	The Solomon, Kalil, & Getchell Families
Thomas J Solomon	Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Janice Solomon
Maurice Hatem	The Solomon, Kalil, & Getchell Families
Teta Jeannette Lahoud Nasr	Marc, Monica, Mikey, & Mia
Teta Akle Abi Sleiman Mikhael	Marc, Monica, Mikey, & Mia
Jeddo Antoine Abou-Ezzi	Marc, Monica, Mikey, & Mia
Bechara Rizkallah	his Godson, Marc Abou-Ezzi
Larry Kalil, & my parents, Albert & Rosanna Bourdelais	Linda Kalil
Deceased Members of the Bou-Mitri Family	Mr. & Mrs. Mounir Bou-Mitri
The Deceased Members of the Abou-Raad & Azzi Family	Mr. & Mrs. Abdo Abou-Raad
Mitchell Moses	Lisa Prezzano
Deceased Members of the Shadeed Family	Duayne S. Habib
Bomar "Bo" Kramer	his wife, Mrs. Barbara Kramer
Philip R. Nastasia	his Godmother, Mrs. Barnara Kramer
Christine Kattar, Frances Kattar Coccozza, Thomas & Victoria Kattar	Donna Kattar
Maurice Hatem	his wife, Maryann Hatem
Sayde & Michel ElGhoul	Walid & Tony Elghoul and Families
Leonard Ramey	Evelyn Ramey & Family
Evon & Bob Danus, Maria Moujaes	Kara & Kevin Rembis
Peter Gabreil Family	Kathy Gabriel
Maroun Mouawad	Habouba Mouawad & Family
Bruno & Rose Martineau, Normand & Lillian Proulx	Douglas & Michelle Martineau

## In Memory of

### Name

### Offered By

Maurice Hatem	his grandchildren, Michael, Nadine, & Kristine Sader
Phillip Bistany	his wife, Barbara, & Family
Mr. & Mrs. James Yameen, Mr. & Mrs. Khalil S. Azzi	Victor C. Azzi
Rachid Haddad, his wife & Children, Rizkala Akiki & his daughter, Marie Rouzine Kordaley Aoun	Antoune & Marie Haddad
My dear friend, Christine Kattar	Elaine Azzi
Raymond J. Faunt, Sr., Deceased Members of the Rahhal & Jesser Family	Velma Faunt
Deceased Members of the Hassan Family	John & Leslie Hassan
Elias Jbeily	Therese Jbeily
Rose & Peter Lucchesi, Mary Shadeed, Stephanie & Fred Schiripo	Love, Beverly & Bob
John D'Angelo, Sr.	His wife, Christine.
Janet Maroun	Robert & Joanne Comtois
Al Abraham, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Al Abraham, Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey O'Connell	Katy Abraham
William J. Nichols, Georgette & Rizkallah Akiki	The Akiki Family
All our loved ones that left us	The Tannoury Family
Mary Dow	Joseph Perrone
Ed Wright	Janet Wright & Chris George
My Mother, Diane Hatem	Venize & Bobby & Family
Joseph Bou Sanayeh & Romanos Nammour	Sub-Deacon & Mrs. Antoine Nammour
Jido Tanos Sadek	His Grandaughters, Lucia, Cecilia, & Amelia Sadek
Albert & Lorraine Hatem, Gary Hatem, & William Torla	Joan Hatem Roy
Charles Tarness	Pauline & Mike Jesionowski & Family
John G. Thomas, Teo & Ida Thomas, & Joseph & Lucy Sardella	Bill, Christine, & Maddi Ryan
Fred & Carmela Corey, Dr. Edward & Mary Moore	Mr. & Mrs. Fred Corey
Joseph & Kalikia Maroun	Radwan Maroun
Gebrane & Laure Najem	May Maroun
Thouraya & Nicola Karam	Martha Dow & the Dow Family
Deceased Members of the Santos Family, Jennie & Toufi Ferris	Manny & Joyce Santos
Our baby angel, Leo Alexander Maroun; uncle: Raymond Fadel	Mr. & Mrs. Danny Maroun & Family
Our Grandparents: Joseph & Kalikia Maroun, Fadlallah & Alice Fadel, Camil Maroun, George & Adele Cherabie	Mr. & Mrs. Danny Maroun & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Boutros Daou, Saria Geha	Mr. & Mrs. Samir Daou
Saria Geha	Samih Geha



## BIBLE STUDY - ENGLISH SESSIONS

*Bishop Robert Barron's Catholicism Series*

**Regular Schedule: Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 pm**

Location will be in conference room and simulcast on Zoom.

- ♦ January 10, 17, 24, 31
- ♦ February 7, 21, 28
- ♦ March 6, 13, 20

*\*More sessions to be posted at a later date.*

## ARABIC BIBLE STUDY & FORMATION

**New sessions coming soon**

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Next session:

**Saturday, January 6, 2024 @ 5-7 pm**

We are in need of Substitute Teachers! If you are interested, please contact

Ginine Flanagan at: [lawrencereligiousused@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencereligiousused@gmail.com)

### KNIGHTS OF MARY

**Co-Chair: Colette Sadek & Gretta Merheb**

Next Sessions:

**Saturday, January 13, 2024 @ 5-7 pm**

Calendar for 2023-2024 Season:

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/events-2/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/events-2/)

### MARONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION

**MYO Co-Leaders: Geryes Geha & Gabrielle AbdulNour**

Next Meeting:

**Sunday, January 7 @ 6 - 7:30 pm**

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/myo/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/myo/)

### KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Next Meeting:

**Saturday, January 6, 2024 @ 11 am- 12:30 pm**

*New applicants are always welcome*

### DAUGHTERS OF SAINT ANTHONY

Next Meeting:

**Stay Tuned for our winter schedule.**

## BIRTHDAY WISHES

**Dec 24:** John Abraham, John Merheb

**Dec 25:** Milad Chamoun, Benjamin George, Joseph Saade

**Dec 26:** Rana Ata

**Dec 27:** Katy Abraham, Jessica El-Helou, Thomas Hatem, Jocelyn Kanaan, Charlotte Motta

**Dec 28:** Hannah Abdilmasih, Sonya Ameen, Matthew Hutton, Naya Kossai, Sandy Ramey, Yvona Safi

**Dec 29:** Craig Crossley, Jamal Ramey

## ANNIVERSARY WISHES

**Dec 23:** Adel & Raymonda Abouhamad, Adam & Brittney Souza, Hussein & Marie Youssef,

**Dec 27:** Joseph & Leila Msaddi



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3. Register with your name and email address
4. Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**-St. Anthony Council 16204**

KOC Next Meeting:

Tuesday January 9, 2024 @ 7 pm, church hall  
Men 18yrs and older are encouraged to attend.  
For information email: [KOC16204@gmail.com](mailto:KOC16204@gmail.com)

**UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION****United States Catholic Bishops' Worldwide****Charities - USCCB January 27 & 28***Please remit your Fuel/Utilities Envelope.**Your contribution helps us keep the Heat on in the Winter!***YOUTH LITURGY****Sunday, January 7 @ 5pm**

We invite all our youth, MYO & MYA members, and their families to celebrate with us our first Sunday of the month mass.

*"All are welcome at the table of the Lord"***LECTORS SCHEDULE***Saturday, December 23 - 4:00 pm - Mary Saab**Sunday, December 24 -*

10:00 am - (Eng) Marita Merheb

(Ar) George Merheb

**LECTORS SCHEDULE***Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Vigil Liturgy*

4:00 pm - (Eng) Susan Kalil

*Monday, December 25 -*

Midnight - (Eng) Elias Azzi

(Ar) Sub-Deacon Antoine Nammour

**LECTORS SCHEDULE***Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day Liturgy*

9:30 am - (Ar) Hitaf Nammour

11:00 am - (Eng) Raghida Ramey

(Ar) Amale Chantiri

**LECTORS SCHEDULE***Saturday, December 30 - 4 pm - Patricia Ferguson**Sunday, December 31 -*

8:00 am - Huguetta Sfeir

9:30 am - Elaine Ferris

11:00 am - (Eng) Mounira Daher

(Ar) Marcel Saade

*Monday, January 1, 2024 - Happy New Year*

5:00 pm - (Eng) Elias Azzi

(Ar) Hitaf Nammour

**SAINT ANTHONY 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**

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**or Visit:** [stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/](http://stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/)

**Cemetery Guidelines**

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/cemetery/](http://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/](http://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](http://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.

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*Tree to be planted: Kousa Dogwood*

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**Phone: 978.685.7233** or by E-mail:

[rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)

## Feast of the Glorious Birth of Our Lord

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*Book of Isaiah 8, 23.9, 1-5*

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

*Letter to the Hebrews 1, 1-12*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.' Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.' But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.' And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

*Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 2, 1-20*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



## عيد ميلاد الرب يسوع بحسب الجسد

سفر أشعيا 8: 15-9:23

لَيْسَ لَيْلٌ لِّلَّتِي كَانَتْ فِي الضِّيقِ. فِي الزَّمَانِ الْأَوَّلِ، أَذَلَّ أَرْضَ زَبُولُونَ وَأَرْضَ نَفْتَالِي وَأَمَّا فِي الزَّمَانِ الْآخِرِ فَسَيُجَدُّ طَرِيقُ الْبَحْرِ عَبْرَ الْأُرْدُنِّ، جَلِيلَ الْأُمَمِ. الشَّعْبُ السَّالِكُ فِي الظُّلْمَةِ أَبْصَرَ نُورًا عَظِيمًا وَالْمُقِيمُونَ فِي بُقْعَةِ الظُّلَامِ أَشْرَقَ عَلَيْهِمُ النُّورُ. كَثُرَتْ لَهُ الْأُمَّةُ وَفَزَتْ لَهَا الْفَرَحُ، يَفْرَحُونَ أَمَامَكَ كَالْفَرَحِ فِي الْحَصَادِ، كَابْتِهَاجِ الَّذِينَ يَتَقَاسَمُونَ الْعَنِيمَةَ. لِأَنَّ نِيرَ ثِقَلِهَا وَعَصَا كَتِفِهَا وَقَضِيبَ مُسَخِّرِهَا قَدْ كَسَرَتْهَا كَمَا فِي يَوْمِ مَدْيَنَ. إِذْ كُلُّ جِذَاءٍ يُحْدِثُ جَلْبَةً، وَكُلُّ ثَوْبٍ مُتَلَطِّخٍ بِالدِّمَاءِ يَصِيرَانِ لِلْحَرَقِ وَوَقُودًا لِلنَّارِ.

الرسالة إلى العبرانيين 12-1:1

يَا إِخْوَتِي، إِنَّ اللَّهَ كُلَّمِ الْأَبَاءَ قَدِيمًا فِي الْأَنْبِيَاءِ، مَرَّاتٍ كَثِيرَةً، وَبَأَنْوَاعٍ شَتَّى، وَفِي آخِرِ هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامِ، كُلَّمَا فِي الْإِبْنِ، الَّذِي جَعَلَهُ وَارِثًا لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ. وَبِهِ أَنْشَأَ الْعَالَمِينَ. وَهُوَ شِعَاعُ مَجْدِهِ وَصُورَةُ جَوْهَرِهِ، وَضَابِطُ الْكُلِّ بِكَلِمَةِ قُدْرَتِهِ. فَبَعْدَمَا أَتَمَّ تَطْهِيرَ الْخَطَايَا، جَلَسَ عَنْ يَمِينِ الْجَلَالَةِ فِي الْأَعَالِي، فَصَارَ أَعْظَمَ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ، بِمِقْدَارِ مَا الْأَسْمُ الَّذِي وَرَثَهُ أَفْضَلُ مِنْ أَسْمَائِهِمْ. فَلَمَنْ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَوْمًا: «أَنْتَ ابْنِي، أَنَا الْيَوْمَ وَلَدْتُكَ؟» وَقَالَ أَيْضًا: «أَنَا أَكُونُ لَهُ أَبًا، وَهُوَ يَكُونُ لِي ابْنًا؟» أَمَّا عِنْدَمَا يُدْخِلُ ابْنَهُ الْبِكْرَ إِلَى الْعَالَمِ فَيَقُولُ: «فَلْتَسْجُدْ لَهُ جَمِيعُ مَلَائِكَةِ اللَّهِ!». «وَعَنِ الْمَلَائِكَةِ يَقُولُ: «الْصَّانِعُ مَلَائِكَتَهُ أَرْوَاحًا، وَخُدَامَهُ لَهَيْبِ نَارٍ. «أَمَّا عَنِ الْإِبْنِ فَيَقُولُ: «عَرْشُكَ يَا اللَّهُ، لِدَهْرِ الدَّهْرِ، وَصَوْلَجَانِ الْأُسْتِقَامَةِ صَوْلَجَانُ مُلْكِكَ. أَحْبَبْتَ الْبِرَّ وَأَبْغَضْتَ الْإِثْمَ. لِذَلِكَ مَسَحَكَ إِلَهُكَ، يَا اللَّهُ، بِدُهْنِ الْبَهْجَةِ أَفْضَلَ مِنْ شَرَكَائِكَ. «وَيَقُولُ أَيْضًا: «أَنْتَ، يَا رَبِّ، فِي الْبَدْءِ أَسَسْتَ الْأَرْضَ، وَالسَّمَاوَاتِ صُنْعُ يَدَيْكَ. هِيَ تَزُولُ وَأَنْتَ تَبْقَى، وَكُلُّهَا كَالثَوْبِ تَبْلَى، وَتَطْوِيهَا كَالرِّدَاءِ، وَكَالثَوْبِ تَتَبَدَّلُ، وَأَنْتَ أَنْتَ وَسُوءُكَ لَنْ تَقْنَى.»

إنجيل القديس لوقا 20-1:2

فِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ، صَدَرَ أَمْرٌ مِنْ أَعُوسْطُسَ قَيْصَرَ بِإِحْصَاءِ كُلِّ الْمَعْمُورَةِ. جَرَى هَذَا الْإِحْصَاءُ الْأَوَّلُ، عِنْدَمَا كَانَ كِيرِينْيُوسُ وَالِيًا عَلَى سُورِيَا. وَكَانَ الْجَمِيعُ يَذْهَبُونَ، كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ إِلَى مَدِينَتِهِ، لِيَكْتَتِبُوا فِيهَا. وَصَعِدَ يُوسُفُ أَيْضًا مِنَ الْجَلِيلِ، مِنْ مَدِينَةِ النَّاصِرَةِ، إِلَى الْيَهُودِيَّةِ، إِلَى مَدِينَةِ دَاوُدَ الَّتِي تُدْعَى بَيْتَ لَحْمَ، لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ مِنْ بَيْتِ دَاوُدَ وَعَشِيرَتِهِ، لِيَكْتَتِبَ مَعَ مَرْيَمَ حَظِيْبَتِهِ، وَهِيَ حَامِلٌ. وَفِيمَا كَانَا هُنَاكَ، تَمَّتْ أَيَّامُهَا لِتَلِدَ، فَوَلَدَتْ ابْنَهَا الْبِكْرَ، وَقَمَطَتْهُ، وَأَضْجَعَتْهُ فِي مِذْوَدٍ، لِأَنَّهُ لَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُمَا مَوْضِعٌ فِي قَاعَةِ الضُّيُوفِ. وَكَانَ فِي تِلْكَ النَّاحِيَةِ رُعَاةٌ يُقِيمُونَ فِي الْحُقُولِ، وَيَسْهَرُونَ فِي هَجَعَاتِ اللَّيْلِ عَلَى قُطْعَانِهِمْ. إِذَا بِمَلَاكِ الرَّبِّ قَدْ وَقَفَ بِهِمْ، وَمَجَّدَ الرَّبِّ أَشْرَقَ حَوْلَهُمْ، فَخَافُوا خَوْفًا عَظِيمًا. فَقَالَ لَهُمُ الْمَلَاكُ: «لَا تَخَافُوا! فَهَذَا أَنَا أَبَشِّرُكُمْ بِفَرَحٍ عَظِيمٍ يَكُونُ لِلشَّعْبِ كُلِّهِ، لِأَنَّهُ وَلَدَ لَكُمْ الْيَوْمَ مُخَلِّصٌ، هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ الرَّبُّ، فِي مَدِينَةِ دَاوُدَ. وَهَذِهِ عَلَامَةٌ لَكُمْ: تَجِدُونَ طِفْلًا مُقَمَّطًا، مُضْجَعًا فِي مِذْوَدٍ! «وَأَنْضَمَّ فَجْأَةً إِلَى الْمَلَاكِ جُمْهُورٌ مِنَ الْجُنْدِ السَّمَائِيِّ يُسَبِّحُونَ اللَّهَ وَيَقُولُونَ: أَلْمَجْدُ لِلَّهِ فِي الْعُلَى، وَعَلَى الْأَرْضِ السَّلَامُ، وَالرَّجَاءُ الصَّالِحُ لِبَنِي الْبَشَرِ. وَلَمَّا أَنْصَرَفَ الْمَلَائِكَةُ عَنْهُمْ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ، قَالَ الرُّعَاةُ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ: «هَيَّا بِنَا، إِلَى بَيْتِ لَحْمَ، لِنَرَى هَذَا الْأَمْرَ الَّذِي حَدَّثَ، وَقَدْ أَعْلَمْنَا بِهِ الرَّبُّ. «وَجَاؤُوا مُسْرِعِينَ، فَوَجَدُوا مَرْيَمَ وَيُوسُفَ، وَالطِّفْلَ مُضْجَعًا فِي الْمِذْوَدِ. وَلَمَّا رَأَوْهُ أَخْبَرُوا بِالْكَلَامِ الَّذِي قِيلَ لَهُمْ فِي شَأْنِ هَذَا الصَّبِيِّ. وَجَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ سَمِعُوا، تَعَجَّبُوا مِمَّا قَالَهُ لَهُمُ الرُّعَاةُ. أَمَّا مَرْيَمُ فَكَانَتْ تَحْفَظُ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورَ كُلَّهَا، وَتَتَأَمَّلُهَا فِي قَلْبِهَا. ثُمَّ عَادَ الرُّعَاةُ وَهُمْ يُمَجِّدُونَ اللَّهَ وَيُسَبِّحُونَهُ عَلَى كُلِّ مَا سَمِعُوا وَرَأَوْا، حَسَبَمَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ.



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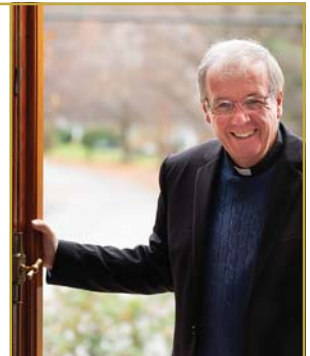


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