

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



New Year
IS GOD'S GIFT

In the joyful moments—
thank Him.

In the busy moments—
bless Him.

In the trying moments—
trust Him.

In the quiet moments—
praise Him.

The Finding of Our Lord in The Temple
أحد وجود الرب يسوع في الهيكل



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LITURGIES INTENTIONS

The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple

Saturday, December 30

St. Anysia

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

The Circumcision of Jesus / Sts. Basil & Gregory

5:00 pm New Year's Liturgy -
Holy Day of Obligation

Liturgies will be offered in honor and blessings of our Parishioners

Season of the Glorious Epiphany

Saturday, January 6

*Feast Day of the Epiphany
Holy Day of Obligation*

4:00 pm (Eng.) Epiphany Liturgy- Feast Day
In Honor and Blessings of our
Parishioners

Blessed Water Bottles will be offered after the Liturgies

Sunday, January 7

8:00 am Private Intentions

9:30 am + Edward A. (Scotty) & May Gabriel, *By their children and their families*

11:00 am + Saadallah Azzi, *By his wife Nabiha, daughter, Rita, and family*

5:00 pm In honor and well being of our youths
and their families

Daily Liturgies

Tuesday, January 2 (Eng.) -

Pope St. Silvester I/Heb 7: 1-10/Lk 2: 22-24

9:00 am Private Intentions

Wednesday, January 3 (Ar.)

Malachi the Prophet/ Heb 7: 20-28/Lk 2: 25-35

9:00 am + Mike and Mona Ganem, *By Tony and Bassima Aboujaoude*

Thursday, January 4 (Eng.)

*Pope St. Caius & St. Elizabeth Ann Seton/
Heb 6: 9-12/ Lk 2 36-40*

9:00 am In Honor of Huguette Sfeir, *By her family*

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Friday, January 5 (Ar.)

St. Paul / Rom 5 : 1- 11 / Lk 3: 1-14

7:00 pm Vigil of the Glorious Epiphany

Blessed Water Bottles will be offered after the Liturgies

SANCTUARY LAMPS



In Loving Memory of Stephanie Ota,
By her family

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:

www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/

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"

PLEASE NOTE

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

Dear Esteemed Parishioners and Friends of St. Anthony,

Warm greetings to you and your loved ones as we usher into the New Year!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for the unwavering support and contributions that have been instrumental in sustaining our Parish and keeping its doors open. Your generosity has played a crucial role in the flourishing of our ministries.

It is with great pride that we report the successful management of various ministries and organizations within our community:

Bereavement Ministry
Daughters of Saint Anthony
Knights of the Altar
Knights of Mary
Ministry of Saint Joseph
M-Wine
MYA- Maronite Young Adults
MYO- Maronite Youth Organization
Our Lady of Lebanon Sodality
Religious Education
Sunshine Committee
Ushers

In this modern era, the act of welcoming new families, nurturing growing families, and supporting those rooted in the foundation of Saint Anthony's is truly commendable. Your love, dedication, financial support, and generosity contribute significantly to the seamless operation of our ministries and the overall well-being of our church.

Reflecting on the past year, we are grateful for the numerous Celebrated Sacraments of Life, including Baptisms, Confirmations, First Holy Communion, and Marriages.

We also take a moment to honor the memory of our departed loved ones, who have become an integral part of Heaven here on earth. Their devotion to Saint Anthony and the faith, alongside their families, remains a beacon of inspiration. May their memories continue to illuminate the hearts of those they left behind, and may they rest in eternal peace.

As we embark on this new year, we humbly call upon your continued generosity. Your ongoing support and contributions, be they in the form of talents, monetary aid, or otherwise, make a significant impact not only structurally but also on a deeply human level.

We express our profound gratitude for the privilege of considering Saint Anthony Maronite Church as our home and family. May Christ shower His abundant blessings upon you and your loved ones throughout this new year.

Wishing you a Joyous and Prosperous New Year,

Fr. Elie & Fr. Neemtallah

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

Fr. Edgard -Neemtallah- Oneissy

(857)390-4838

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.

Thank you to all who have offered a Poinsettia plant to adorn our Sanctuary this Christmas

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
Our First Grandson, Ibrahim Elie Ata - Baby Baho	Mr. & Mrs. George Kassas
Our daughter and son-in-law: Drs Elie and Juliette Ata	Mr. & Mrs. George Kassas
Our son Tony	Mr. & Mrs. George Kassas
Our Son Guy and his Fiancé Katherine O'Neill	Mr. & Mrs. George Kassas

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. Barbara Kramer
Christine Kattar	Donna Kattar
Maurice Hatem	his wife, Maryann Hatem

Thank you to all who have offered a Poinsettia plant to adorn our Sanctuary this Christmas

In Memory of

Name

Maurice Hatem
 Phillip Bistany
 Mr. & Mrs. James Yameen, Mr. & Mrs. Khalil S. Azzi
 Rachid Haddad, his wife & Children, Rizkala Akiki & his daughter, Marie Rouzine
 Kordaley Aoun
 My dear friend, Christine Kattar
 Raymond J. Faunt, Sr., Deceased Members of the Rahhal & Jesser Family
 Deceased Members of the Hassan Family
 Elias Jbeily
 Rose & Peter Lucchesi, Mary Shadeed, Stephanie & Fred Schiripo
 John D'Angelo, Sr.
 Janet Maroun
 Al Abraham, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Al Abraham, Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey O'Connell
 William J. Nichols, Georgette & Rizkallah Akiki
 All our loved ones that left us
 Mary Dow
 Ed Wright
 My Mother, Diane Hatem
 Joseph Bou Sanayeh & Romanos Nammour
 Jido Tanos Sadek
 Albert & Lorraine Hatem, Gary Hatem, & William Torla
 Charles Tarness
 John G. Thomas, Teo & Ida Thomas, & Joseph & Lucy Sardella
 Fred & Carmela Corey, Dr. Edward & Mary Moore
 Joseph & Kalikia Maroun
 Gebrane & Laure Najem
 Thouraya & Nicola Karam
 Deceased Members of the Santos Family, Jennie & Toufi Ferris
 Our baby angel, Leo Alexander Maroun; uncle: Raymond Fadel
 Our Grandparents: Joseph & Kalikia Maroun, Fadlallah & Alice Fadel, Camil
 Maroun, George & Adele Cherabie
 Mr. & Mrs. Boutros Daou, Saria Geha
 Saria Geha
 Anthony & Helen Rage
 Sayde & Michel ElGhoul
 Evon & Bob Danus, Maria Moujaes
 Frances Kattar Coccozza, Thomas & Victoria Kattar
 Peter Gabriel Family
 Evon & Bob Danus, Maria Moujaes
 Bruno & Rose Martineau, Normand & Lillian Proulx
 Maroun Mouawad

Offered By

his grandchildren, Michael, Nadine, & Kristine Sader
 his wife, Barbara, & Family
 Victor C. Azzi
 Antoune & Marie Haddad
 Elaine Azzi
 Velma Faunt
 John & Leslie Hassan
 Therese Jbeily
 Love, Beverly & Bob
 His wife, Christine.
 Robert & Joanne Comtois
 Katy Abraham
 The Akiki Family
 The Tannoury Family
 Joseph Perrone
 Janet Wright & Chris George
 Venize & Bobby & Family
 Sub-Deacon & Mrs. Antoine Nammour
 His Grandaughters, Lucia, Cecilia, & Amelia Sadek
 Joan Hatem Roy
 Pauline & Mike Jesionowski & Family
 Bill, Christine, & Maddi Ryan
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred Corey
 Radwan Maroun
 May Maroun
 Martha Dow & the Dow Family
 Manny & Joyce Santos
 Mr. & Mrs. Danny Maroun & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Danny Maroun & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Samir Daou
 Samih Geha
 William & Toni McKone
 Walid & Tony Elghoul & Families
 Evelyn Ramey & Family
 Donna Kattar
 Kathy Gabriel
 Kara & Kevin Rembis
 Douglas & Michelle Martineau
 Habouba Mouawad & Family

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 in the New Year

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: lawrencereligious@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/

MARONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION

MYO Co-Leaders: Geryes Geha & Gabrielle AbdulNour

Next Meeting:

Sunday, January 7 @ 6 - 7:30 pm

www.stanthonylawrence.org/myo/

KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Next Meeting:

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

New applicants are always welcome

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: KOFc16204@gmail.com

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Dec 30: Freicy Bourouphael, Lorna Kattar, Stephanie Korbani

Jan 01: Henry Abi-Moussa, Joud Abou-Ezzi, Darine Aoun, Mounir Bou-Mitri, George El-Hachem, Joelle El Rahi, Ibrahim Geha, Patrick Hbaiter, Christelle Kamel, Youssef Khoder, Manal Khoury, Gretta Merheb, Molly Nader, Noha Ranson, Christianna Ranson, Teddy Saad, Rodrigue Salloum, Michelle Zaza

Jan 02: Rita Bejjani, Joseph El Hayek, Nora Fadel, Jeannette Maroun, Brody Pellerin, Isabella Ramey, Gaby Ramy, Andrew Sadek, Alfred Yameen

Jan 03: Christine Abou Jaoude, Brandon Barry, Cynthia Kazanjian, Della Khoury, Carine Mansour, Hitaf Nammour

Jan 04: Breanna Ata, Grace Bourouphael, Marie-Christine Daou, Antoine Fadel, Robert Issa, Charbel Maroun, Milad Salame

Jan 05: Ryan Azzi, Huguette Sfeir

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

Dec 31: Gary & Joanne Abdulla, David & Emily Bechara

Jan 03: Timothy & Emily Getchell, Elie & Kathleen Rahme, Wissam & Kristin Tarabay

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3. Register with your name and email address
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OUR SYMPATHIES TO :

Emily (Solomon) and Timothy Getchell for the loss of their beloved son **Joseph "Joey" Phillip Getchell**. We extend our condolences to his brother Christopher and his wife Eileen and their children, his sister Brittany, and all the aunts, uncles, and cousins of Getchell and Solomon families.

*May the soul of all the departed rest in peace
& their memories be eternal*

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 30 - 4 pm - Patricia Ferguson

Sunday, December 31 -

8:00 am - Huguette 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

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 6 - Feast Day of the Epiphany

4 pm - Meghan Twing

Sunday, January 7 -

8:00 am - Mouna Hbaiter

9:30 am - Brady Barry

11:00 am -(Eng) Mansour Chaya

(Ar) Amale Chantiri

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 AC on in the
Summer and the Heat on in the Winter!*

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**

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 last name and click search.

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" X 8" = \$250

Please submit your request either by

Phone: 978.685.7233 or by E-mail:

rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

Sunday of the Finding of the Lord in the Temple

1st Book of Kings 3,5-14

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.'

Letter to the Hebrews 7, 11-19

If perfection had been attainable through the levitical priesthood for the people received the law under this priesthood what further need would there have been to speak of another priest arising according to the order of Melchizedek, rather than one according to the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. Now the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. It is even more obvious when another priest arises, resembling Melchizedek, one who has become a priest, not through a legal requirement concerning physical descent, but through the power of an indestructible life. For it is attested of him, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.' There is, on the one hand, the abrogation of an earlier commandment because it was weak and ineffectual (for the law made nothing perfect); there is, on the other hand, the introduction of a better hope, through which we approach God.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 2, 41-52

Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

أحد وجود الرب يسوع في الهيكل

سفر الملوك الأول 3: 5-7-9-12

فِي جِبْعُونَ تَرَاءَى الرَّبُّ لِسُلَيْمَانَ فِي الْحُلُمِ لَيْلًا وَقَالَ اللَّهُ: "أَطْلُبْ مَا تُرِيدُ أَنْ أُعْطِيكَ". فَقَالَ سُلَيْمَانُ: "أَنْتِ صَنَعْتَ إِلَيَّ عَبْدَكَ دَاوُدَ أَبِي رَحْمَةً عَظِيمَةً بِحَسَبِ سُلُوكِهِ أَمَامَكَ بِالْحَقِّ وَالْبِرِّ وَاسْتِقَامَةِ الْقَلْبِ مَعَكَ، وَحَفِظْتَ لَهُ هَذِهِ الرَّحْمَةَ الْعَظِيمَةَ، وَأَعْطَيْتَهُ أُنْبَاءً يَجْلِسُ عَلَى عَرْشِهِ كَمَا هُوَ الْيَوْمَ. وَالْآنَ أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ إِلَهِي، أَنْتِ مَلَكَتِ عَبْدَكَ مَكَانَ دَاوُدَ أَبِي، وَأَنَا صَبِيٌّ صَغِيرُ السِّنِّ، لَا أَعْرِفُ أَنْ أَخْرُجَ وَأَدْخُلَ، فَهَبْ عَبْدَكَ قَلْبًا فَهِيمًا لِيَحْكُمَ شَعْبَكَ وَيُمَيِّزَ بَيْنَ الْخَيْرِ وَالشَّرِّ، لِأَنَّهُ مَنْ يَقْدِرُ أَنْ يَحْكُمَ شَعْبَكَ هَذَا الْكَثِيرَ؟" فَحَسُنَ فِي عَيْنِي الرَّبُّ أَنْ يَكُونَ سُلَيْمَانُ قَدْ سَأَلَ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ. فَقَالَ لَهُ اللَّهُ: بِمَا أَنَّكَ سَأَلْتَ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ، وَلَمْ تَسْأَلْ لَكَ أَيَّامًا كَثِيرَةً، وَلَا سَأَلْتَ لَكَ الْغِنَى، وَلَمْ تَطْلُبْ نُفُوسَ أَعْدَائِكَ، بَلْ سَأَلْتَ لَكَ التَّمْيِيزَ لِإِجْرَاءِ الْحُكْمِ، فَهَاءَذَا قَدْ فَعَلْتَ بِحَسَبِ كَلَامِكَ. هَاءَذَا قَدْ أَعْطَيْتَكَ قَلْبًا حَكِيمًا فَهِيمًا، حَتَّى إِنَّهُ لَمْ يَكُنْ قَبْلَكَ مِثْلَكَ وَلَا يَقُومُ بَعْدَكَ مِثْلَكَ. وَإِنْ أَنْتِ سِرْتَ فِي طَرِيقِي حَافِظًا فَرَائِضِي وَوَصَايَايَ، كَمَا سَارَ دَاوُدُ أَبُوكَ، أُطِيلُ أَيَّامَكَ".

الرسالة إلى العبرانيين 7: 11-19

يَا إِخْوَتِي، لَوْ كَانَ الْكَمَالُ قَدْ تَحَقَّقَ بِالْكَهَنُوتِ اللَّائِي، وَهُوَ أَسَاسُ الشَّرِيعَةِ الَّتِي أُعْطِيتِ لِلشَّعْبِ، فَأَيُّ حَاجَةٍ بَعْدَ إِلَى أَنْ يَقُومَ كَاهِنٌ آخَرُ عَلَى «رُتْبَةِ مُلْكِيصَادِقَ»، وَلَا يُقَالُ «عَلَى رُتْبَةِ هَارُونَ»؟ فَمَتَى تَغْيَرُ الْكَهَنُوتِ، لَا بُدَّ مِنْ تَغْيِيرِ الشَّرِيعَةِ أَيْضًا. فَالَّذِي يُقَالُ هَذَا فِي شَأْنِهِ، أَيُّ الْمَسِيحِ، جَاءَ مِنْ سِبْطِ آخَرَ، لَمْ يَلِزَمْ أَحَدٌ مِنْهُ خِدْمَةَ الْمَذْبَحِ، وَمِنْ الْوَاضِحِ أَنَّ رَبَّنَا أَشْرَقَ مِنْ يَهُودَا، مِنْ سِبْطِ لَمْ يَصِفْهُ مُوسَى بِشَيْءٍ مِنَ الْكَهَنُوتِ. وَيَزِيدُ الْأَمْرَ وَضُوحًا أَنَّ الْكَاهِنَ الْآخَرَ الَّذِي يَقُومُ عَلَى مِثَالِ مُلْكِيصَادِقَ، لَمْ يَقُمْ وَفَّقَ شَرِيعَةً وَصِيَّةً بَشَرِيَّةً، بَلْ وَفَّقَ قُوَّةَ حَيَاةٍ لَا تَزُولُ. وَيُشْهَدُ لَهُ: «أَنْتَ كَاهِنٌ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ، عَلَى رُتْبَةِ مُلْكِيصَادِقَ!». وَهَكَذَا يَتِمُّ إِبْطَالُ وَصِيَّةِ الْكَهَنُوتِ السَّابِقَةِ، بِسَبَبِ ضَعْفِهَا وَعَدَمِ نَفْعِهَا، لِأَنَّ الشَّرِيعَةَ لَمْ تُبْلَغْ شَيْئًا إِلَى الْكَمَالِ، وَيَتِمُّ أَيْضًا إِدْخَالُ رَجَاءٍ أَفْضَلَ، بِهِ نَقْتَرِبُ مِنَ اللَّهِ.

إنجيل القديس لوقا 2: 41-52

كَانَ أَبَوَا يَسُوعَ يَذْهَبَانِ كُلَّ سَنَةٍ فِي عِيدِ الْفِصْحِ إِلَى أُورَشَلِيمَ. وَلَمَّا بَلَغَ يَسُوعُ اثْنَتَيْ عَشْرَةَ سَنَةً، صَعِدُوا مَعًا كَمَا هِيَ الْعَادَةُ فِي الْعِيدِ. وَبَعْدَ أَنْقِضَاءِ أَيَّامِ الْعِيدِ، عَادَ الْأَبَوَانِ، وَبَقِيَ الصَّبِيُّ يَسُوعُ فِي أُورَشَلِيمَ، وَهُمَا لَا يَدْرِيَانِ. وَإِذْ كَانَا يَطْنَانِ أَنَّهُ فِي الْقَافِلَةِ، سَارَا مَسِيرَةً يَوْمَ، ثُمَّ أَخَذَا يَطْلُبَانِهِ بَيْنَ الْأَقَارِبِ وَالْمَعَارِفِ. وَلَمْ يَجِدَاهُ، فَعَادَا إِلَى أُورَشَلِيمَ يَبْحَثَانِ عَنْهُ. وَبَعْدَ ثَلَاثَةِ أَيَّامَ، وَجَدَاهُ فِي الْهَيْكَلِ جَالِسًا بَيْنَ الْعُلَمَاءِ، يَسْمَعُهُمْ وَيَسْأَلُهُمْ. وَكَانَ جَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَهُ مُنْذَهَلِينَ بِذِكَايِهِ وَأَجَوِبَتِهِ. وَلَمَّا رَأَاهُ أَبَوَاهُ بُهْتًا، وَقَالَتْ لَهُ أُمُّهُ: «يَا ابْنِي، لِمَاذَا فَعَلْتَ بِنَا هَكَذَا؟ فَهَذَا أَنَا وَأَبُوكَ كُنَّا نَبْحَثُ عَنْكَ مُتَوَجِّعِينَ!». «فَقَالَ لَهُمَا: «لِمَاذَا تَطْلُبَانِنِي؟ أَلَا تَعْلَمَانِ أَنَّهُ يُبَغِّي أَنْ أَكُونَ فِي مَا هُوَ لِأَبِي؟». «أَمَّا هُمَا فَلَمْ يَفْهَمَا الْكَلَامَ الَّذِي كَلَّمَهُمَا بِهِ. ثُمَّ نَزَلَ مَعَهُمَا، وَعَادَ إِلَى النَّاصِرَةِ، وَكَانَ خَاضِعًا لَهُمَا. وَكَانَتْ أُمُّهُ تَحْفَظُ كُلَّ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورِ فِي قَلْبِهَا. وَكَانَ يَسُوعُ يَنْمُو فِي الْحِكْمَةِ وَالْقَامَةِ وَالنِّعْمَةِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَالنَّاسِ.



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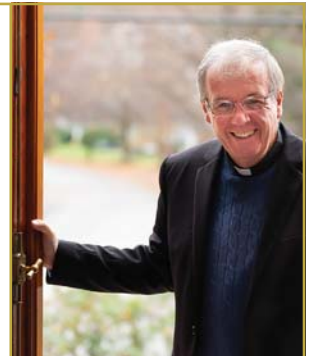
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