

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



Season of the Glorious Epiphany

الأحد الأول بعد الدنح - 1st Sunday after Epiphany



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SaintAnthonyLawrence

LITURGIES INTENTIONS

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 *Praises of St. John the Baptist*

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 youth
and their families

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Saturday, January 13 *St. Jacob of Nisibis*

4:00 pm + 40 Day Anniversary — Christine
Kattar, By her siblings, Donna &
Thomas, & family

Sunday, January 14 *St. Hilary*

8:00 am Private Intentions

9:30 am + Mark Alliegro (Birthday)

11:00 am + Mary Makhoulf, By her family

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"

Daily Liturgies

Monday, January 8 (Eng.) -

St. Carterius / 2 Cor 10:12-18/ Mk 1:1-8

9:00 am + Elias & Reine Roukos, living &
deceased family members, By Aida
Ata

Tuesday, January 9 (Eng.) -

St. Eustratius / 2 Cor 11:1-6/Jn 1: 19-28

9:00 am + Christine Kattar, By Mounira Daher

Wednesday, January 10 (Ar.)

St. Gregory/ 2 Cor 11:7-15/Jn 3: 22-30

9:00 am For the good health and well being of
Natalia Sarkis, By Mr. & Mrs. Beshara
Sfeir

Thursday, January 11 (Eng.)

St. Theodosius of Antioch/ 2 Cor 11:18, 22-30 / Jn 3:31-36

9:00 am In Honor of Bechara Sfeir, By his
family

Friday, January 12 - NO LITURGY

St. Tatiana / 2 Cor 12:1-10/ Mt 14: 1-12

Sanctuary Lamps



In Loving Memory of Chukri, Nadia, &
Salma Awil, By their family



In Loving Memory of Elias & Mariam
Khoder, By their family

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:

www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/

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!*

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
Choirs
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.

DECEMBER MONTHLY COLLECTION**Saint Anthony Maronite Church****Account Totals****For 12/01/2023 - 12/31/2023**

Account Name	Cash	Check	CC#	Direct	Online	Other	Total
Candles	\$840.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$840.30
Christmas Charity for Pastor	\$0.00	\$1,010.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,010.00
Christmas Decoration	\$273.00	\$330.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35.00	\$0.00	\$638.00
Christmas Offering	\$782.00	\$2,890.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$3,972.00
Christmas Pointsettia	\$145.00	\$970.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$240.00	\$0.00	\$1,355.00
Donation	\$0.00	\$28,900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$28,900.00
Donation for Masses	\$245.00	\$275.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$565.00
Immaculate Concept.	\$72.00	\$210.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$297.00
Maronite Calendar Donation	\$108.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$108.00
Maronite Patriarchal Charity	\$2.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.00
Pastor's charities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Sanctuary Lamps	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40.00
Stipend	\$40.00	\$275.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$105.00	\$0.00	\$420.00
Sunday Collection	\$9,300.35	\$10,080.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$583.11	\$0.00	\$19,964.16
Utilities, Fuel & Electricity	\$380.00	\$1,450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$1,860.00
Totals:	\$12,187.65		\$0.00		\$1,453.11		\$60,071.46
		\$46,430.70		\$0.00		\$0.00	

By Ronald Rolheiser

... books that found me in 2023 at an apropos time.

In the area of spirituality ...

Tomas Halik's, Touch the Wounds – On Suffering, Trust, & Transformation, takes the biblical image of Jesus inviting the apostle Thomas to touch his wounds so as to overcome his weak faith and universalizes it as an invitation for each of us. Are you having faith doubts? Reach out and touch those places where Christ is still wounded in our world.

Bill Cain, The Book of Cain. This is a very personal book written by a man, a Jesuit, who keeps a journal while he is keeping vigil with his mother as she is dying of a terminal disease. The book is full of poignant reflections on life, love, imperfection, and letting go.

Connie Zweig's, The Inner Work of Age – Shifting from Role to Soul, is an excellent book on aging. Her subtitle says it well; the task in aging is to shift from role to soul. The book makes some valuable suggestions on how this is done.

Kim Colella, Spirit Embraced, AS A Guiding Memoir for a Life Authentic. This is a very personal book, a memoir, which traces out her own journey in life. How does someone mature? ...

In the area of Novels ...

2023 was not a good year for me in terms of reading novels. Although I read a number of novels, all of which had received good reviews, only one of them stood out for me, Barbara Kingsolver's, *Unsheltered*.



KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Movie Night @ the church hall

Friday, January 19, 2024

6:30 – 9 pm

*Pizza and snacks will be provided,
Movie will start promptly at 6:30 pm*



BE PART OF OUR MINISTRIES

Religious Education

www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/

Maronite Youth Organization –MYO

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

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

Knights of the Altars

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*

BIRTHDAY WISHES

- Jan 06:** Siham Daher, Abdullah Harb, Joan Kalil, Charbel Saouma, Ronald Savastano, Stephen Schultz
- Jan 07:** D.J. Deeb II, Madeleine George, Bodie Khalife, Viviane Korbani, Imad Nassar
- Jan 08:** Patrick Mullen, Elizabeth Nehme
- Jan 09:** Camila Ata, Gloria Azzi, Nadim Daou, Wyatt Goldman, Jameson Khoury, Adele Maroun, Eleanor Souza
- Jan 10:** Raymonda Abouhamad, Emersyn Khoury, Adrianna Maroun, Jihad Maroun, Mark Shepherd, Carmela Touma
- Jan 11:** Phillip Lucchesi, Rita Matta
- Jan 12:** Camille Abdelnour, Meghan Hutton, Beshara Sfeir, Tony Tabet

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

- Jan 06:** Fred & Christelle Abboud
- Jan 08:** Shaker & Gisele Asmar, Gaby & Adele Maroun
- Jan 11:** Salim & Amal Azzi, Wallace & Theresa Hatem

MASS INTENTIONS

Liturgies are offered for many reasons:

- ♦ For the souls in purgatory
- ♦ In remembrance for someone who is deceased,
- ♦ In honor of someone's birthday
- ♦ 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 offer a Liturgy for someone, please contact the Parish Office by phone or email for more inquiries.

CHOIR MINISTRY

"The church choir is the heart of the church, singing praises to the Lord."

Love to Sing? Join our Choir Ministry!

We would love to have you join our music ministry if you enjoy to sing or praising the Lord through songs.
Not sure if this ministry is for you? You are welcome to try it out with no obligation!
For further information, please contact Fr. Neemtallah or Patrick Tabet.

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, 2024 @ 6 - 7:30 pm

www.stanthonylawrence.org/myo/

KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Next Meeting:

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

Remember to bring your handbooks to the meetings

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

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
 - ♦ April 3, 10, 17, 24 (Makeup Sessions for snow-days)
- *More sessions to be posted at a later date.

ARABIC BIBLE STUDY & FORMATION

New sessions coming soon in the New Year



**THE MEN OF
ST. JOSEPH**

Purpose:

Form a Men of Saint Joseph (MSJ) group at Saint Anthony's church taking the earthly father of Jesus as a guide and intercessor, and create the opportunity to pray, share our experience and grow in faith together on our journey to eternal life promised to us by Jesus the crucified.

Monthly Meeting Schedule

One Saturday every month (except 2nd Saturday) at Saint Anthony Maronite Church and Hall

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

FIND SUPPORT TO GROW YOUR FAITH

Finding support for your newly found or even lifelong pursuit of Catholicism can be a challenge. Need help being affirmed in your daily walk, in gaining new wisdom or in becoming a better man?

STRENGTHEN YOUR MARRIAGE

Want valuable wisdom on how to strengthen your relationship with your wife? Or need to know what the Catholic Church teaches? Or how to live a life that is Christ centered?

FOSTER FAMILY VALUES

Need encouragement to discover new ways to engage yourself, your wife or your children to live and understand your faith every day?

ENGAGE YOUR COMMUNITY

Looking for ways to become an active participant in your Catholic community or to aid others by showing them how to live the Catholic faith and how it can help them live happier and holier lives?



AMERICAN LEBANESE AWARENESS ASSOCIATION

All qualified **High School Seniors and College Undergraduates** students are invited to apply for the **ALAA Scholarships**.

All applicants are encouraged to use electronic applications.

Students can access this information at :

americanlebaneseawarenessassociation.org

Or on ALAA Facebook page.

Good Luck to all candidates!

FORMED features many insightful programs for the whole family! Enhance your faith—take advantage of this **FREE TO YOU** program!



How do parishioners sign up for FORMED with a parish account?

1. Go to formed.org/signup
2. Search for your parish by Zip Code/Postal Code Click on your parish.
3. Register with your name and email address
4. Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED.

5 FULL DAYS
JUNE 24-29
MON - SAT

REGISTRATION OPENS EARLY
FEB 2024

www.maroniteyouth.org

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2024 NATIONAL MYO CONFERENCE
LA ROCHE UNIVERSITY • PITTSBURGH, PA

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

First Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40,6-11

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Second Letter to the Corinthians 10, 1 - 11

I myself, Paul, appeal to you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold towards you when I am away! I ask that when I am present I need not show boldness by daring to oppose those who think we are acting according to human standards. Indeed, we live as human beings, but we do not wage war according to human standards; for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ. We are ready to punish every disobedience when your obedience is complete. Look at what is before your eyes. If you are confident that you belong to Christ, remind yourself of this, that just as you belong to Christ, so also do we. Now, even if I boast a little too much of our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for tearing you down, I will not be ashamed of it. I do not want to seem as though I am trying to frighten you with my letters. For they say, 'His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.' Let such people understand that what we say by letter when absent, we will also do when present.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint John 1, 29 - 34

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 6 - Feast Day of the Epiphany

4 pm - Meaghan Twing

Sunday, January 7 -

8:00 am - Mouna Hbaiter

9:30 am - Brady Barry

11:00 am -(Eng) Mansour Chaya

(Ar) Amale Chantiri

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 13 - 4 pm - Lisa Abdallah

Sunday, January 14 -

8:00 am - Hitaf Nammour

9:30 am - David Brousseau

11:00 am -(Eng) Anthony Merheb

(Ar) Gretta Merheb

الأحد الأول بعد الدنح: إعلان سرّ المسيح ليوحنا المعمدان

سفر أشعيا 40: 6-11

صَوْتُ قَائِلٍ: «نَادِ». «فَقَالَ: «مَاذَا أَنَادِي؟» «أَجَاب: «كُلُّ بَشَرٍ عُشْبٌ وَكُلُّ جَمَالِهِ كَزَهْرِ الْبَرِّيَّةِ. الْعُشْبُ يَبْسُ وَزَهْرُهُ يَذْوِي إِذَا هَبَّ فِيهِ رُوحُ الرَّبِّ. إِنَّ الشَّعْبَ عُشْبٌ حَقًّا! الْعُشْبُ يَبْسُ وَزَهْرُهُ يَذْوِي، وَأَمَّا كَلِمَةُ إِلَهِنَا فَتَبْقَى لِلأَبَدِ. «إِصْعِدِي إِلَى جَبَلٍ عَالٍ يَا مُبَشِّرَةٌ صِهْيُون. ارْفَعِي صَوْتَكَ بِقُوَّةٍ يَا مُبَشِّرَةٌ أُورُشَلِيمَ. ارْفَعِيهِ وَلَا تَخَافِي قُولِي لِمَدُنٍ يَهُودَا: «هُوَذَا إِلَهُكُمْ. «هُوَذَا السَّيِّدُ الرَّبُّ يَأْتِي بِقُوَّةٍ وَذِرَاعُهُ تَمُدُّهُ بِالسُّلْطَانِ. هُوَذَا جَزَاؤُهُ مَعَهُ وَاجْرُثُهُ قُدَّامَهُ. يَرَعَى قَطِيعَهُ كَالرَّاعِي يَجْمَعُ الْحُمْلَانَ بِذِرَاعِهِ وَيَحْمِلُهَا فِي حِضْنِهِ وَيَسُوقُ الْمُرْضِعَاتِ رُويْدًا.

رسالة القديس بولس الثانية إلى أهل قورنتس 10: 1-11

يا إخوتي، أنا بولس نفسي أناشدكم بوداعة المسيح وحلمه، أنا المتواضع بينكم عندما أكون حاضراً، والجريء عليكم عندما أكون غائباً. وأرجو ألا أُجبرَ عند حُضوري أن أكون جريئاً، بالثقة التي لي بكم، والتي أنوي أن أجروها بها على الذين يحسبون أننا نسلك كأناس جسديين. أجل، إننا نحيا في الجسد، ولكننا لا نحارب كأناس جسديين؛ لأنَّ أسلحة جهادنا ليست جسدية، بل هي قادرة بالله على هدم الحصون المنيعة؛ فإننا نهدم الأفكار الخاطئة، وكلَّ شموخ يرتفع ضدَّ معرفة الله، ونأسر كلَّ فكر لطاعة المسيح. ونحن مستعدون أن نعاقب كلَّ عصيان، متى كملت طاعتكم. إنكم تحكمون على المظاهر! إن كان أحد واثقاً بنفسه أنه للمسيح، فلنفتكر في نفسه أنه كما هو للمسيح كذلك نحن أيضاً. فأنا لا أخجل إن بالغت بعض المبالغة في الافتخار بالسُّلْطَانِ الذي وهبه الربُّ لنا لبنيانكم لا لهدمكم. ولا أريد أن أظهر كأني أخوفكم برسائلي؛ لأنَّ بعضاً منكم يقولون: «رسائله شديدة اللهجة وقوية، أما حضوره الشخصي فهزيل، وكلامه سخيّف!». فلْيَعْلَمَ مثْلُ هذا القائل أننا كما نحن بالكلام في الرسائل، عندما نكون غائبين، كذلك نحن أيضاً بالفعل، عندما نكون حاضرين.

إنجيل القديس يوحنا 1: 29-34

في الغد (بعد شهادة المعمدان) رأى يوحنا يسوع مُقبِلاً إليه فقال: «ها هو حمل الله الذي يرفع خطيئة العالم. هذا هو الذي قلتُ فيه: يأتي ورائي رجلٌ قد صار قدامي، لأنه كان قبلي. وأنا ما كنتُ أعرفه، لكنني جئتُ أعمدُ بالماءِ لكي يظهرَ هو لإسرائيل. «وشهدَ يوحنا قائلاً: «رأيتُ الروحَ نازلاً كحمامةٍ من السماء، ثمَّ استقرَّ عليه. وأنا ما كنتُ أعرفه، لكن الذي أرسلني أعمدُ بالماءِ هو قال لي: من ترى الروحَ ينزلُ ويستقرُّ عليه، هو الذي يعمدُ بالروح القدس. وأنا رأيتُ وشهدتُ أن هذا هو ابنُ الله.»

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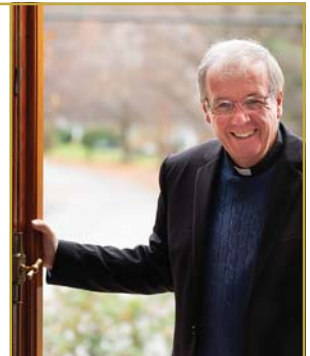


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