

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



Jesus takes upon himself the whole of
humanity, the whole history of man, and
he gives it a decisive re-orientation toward
a new manner of human existence.

Pope Benedict XVI

quoteancy

Season of the Glorious Epiphany

2nd Sunday after Epiphany- Revelation of Christ's Mystery to the Apostles

الأحد الثاني بعد الدنح: إعتلان سرّ المسيح للرسل

Pope Benedict XVI



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LITURGIES INTENTIONS

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Saturday, January 13

St. Jacob of Nisibis

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

Sunday, January 14

St. Hilary

8:00 am Private Intentions

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

11:00 am + Mary Makhoulf, *By her family*
In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Antoun Haddad, *By their family*

Sunday of the Priests

Saturday, January 20

St Euthymius the Great

4:00 pm + 40 Day Anniversary -Dale Clawson, *By the Ayoub Family.*
+ John & Ida Thomas, *By their Family*

Sunday, January 21

St Sebastian

8:00 am In Honor of Grece Abou Ezzi *By her husband & Children*

9:30 am + Private Intentions

11:00 am + Farid Jean Rizk and Elias Bou Younis, *By Ghassan and Betty Najm*

SANCTUARY LAMPS



In Loving Memory of Helen Hajj, By her children, Daniel, Carol, & Doreen

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:

www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/

Daily Liturgies

Monday, January 15 (Eng.) -

Our Lady of the Sowing / 2 Cor 1:1-11/ Jn 1:43-51

9:00 am + Karam & Lena Asmar, *By their Family.*

Tuesday, January 16 (Eng.) -

St. Peter_Chains / 2 Cor 1:12-24/Lk 5: 1-11

9:00 am + Angele Daou, *By Mr. & Mrs. Samir Daou*

Wednesday, January 17 (Ar.)

St. Anthony the Great/ 2 Cor 2:1-11/Mt 4: 18-25

9:00 am + Antoine Karam Asmar, *By his Family.*

Thursday, January 18 (Eng.)

St. Athanasius / 2 Cor 2: 12-17 / Mt 9:9-13

9:00 am + Pierre Wakim, *By Dr. & Mrs. George Abou-Ezzi.*

9:30 am -12 pm Adoration

Friday, January 12 - NO LITURGY

St. Macarius / 2 Cor 12: 17-13:4/ Mt 9:35-38

OBSERVANCES

- * **Presentation of Christ in the Temple** - Friday Feb 2 - Liturgy @ 7pm with Candles Blessings
- * **Feast of St Maron** - Holy Day of Obligation Friday Feb 9 - Liturgy @ 7pm
- * **Ash Monday** - Feb. 12: Liturgies and distribution of ashes @ 9am & 7pm

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.

**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.

Saint Anthony Maronite Church
DECEMBER MONTHLY COLLECTION **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	\$46,430.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,453.11	\$0.00	\$60,071.46



**STAY TUNED! MORE INFORMATION
 COMING SOON**

PIETY AND HUMOR *By Ronald Rolheiser*

Piety is the enemy of humor, at least whenever something less than piety is masquerading as piety. Here's an example: I once lived in community with an overly serious man who, after someone would tell a colorful joke, would bring us back to earth with the question, "Would you tell a joke like that in front of the Blessed Sacrament?" That not only deflated the joke and its teller, but it also took the oxygen out of the room. There's a response I would have liked to have given to his question, namely, a joke my Oblate Novice Master used to tell, one whose irony exposes false piety. The joke runs this way: A young woman was getting married and her family could not afford a venue for a reception for the wedding. The parish priest generously offered them the foyer at the entrance of the church, telling them they could bring in a cake and have a reception there. The father of the bride asked whether they might also bring in some liquor. "Absolutely not," the priest replied, "you can't drink liquor in a church!" "But," protested the bride's father, "Jesus drank wine at the wedding feast of Cana." "But not in front of the Blessed Sacrament!" replied the priest. Admittedly, humor can be impious, crass, offensive, dirty, but whenever that's the case the fault normally lies more in the aesthetics than in the content of the joke. A joke isn't offensive because it is about sex or religion or any other area we surround with sacredness. Humor is offensive when it crosses a line in terms of respect, taste, and aesthetics. Humor is offensive when it is bad art. Bad art crosses a line in terms of respect, either vis-à-vis its audience or its subject matter. What can make a joke offensive or dirty is when it is told, or how it is told, or to whom it is told, or the tone in which it is told, or lack of sensitivity to what is being told, or the color of the language as it is being told. Whether or not it can be told before the blessed sacrament isn't a criterion. If a joke shouldn't be told in front of the blessed sacrament it shouldn't be told in front of anyone. There aren't two standards of offensiveness. Still, bad piety is the enemy of humor. It's also the enemy of robust, earthy living. But that is only the case for bad piety, not genuine piety. Genuine piety is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit and is a healthy reverence before all of life. But it's a reverence that, while healthily respectful, is not offended by humor (even robust, earthy humor) providing the humor isn't aesthetically offensive – akin to nudity which is healthy in art but offensive in pornography. False sensitivity that masks itself as piety also strips all spirituality of humor, save for the most pious kind. In doing that, in effect, it makes Jesus, Mary, and the saints humorless, and thus less than fully human and healthy. One of our mentors at our Oblate novitiate told us, young novices, that there is not a single incident reported in scripture of Jesus ever laughing. He told us this to dampen our natural, youthful, rambunctious energy, as if this was somehow a hinderance to being religious. Humorous energy is not a hindrance to being religious. To the contrary. Jesus is the paragon of all that is healthily human, and he, no doubt, was a fully healthy, robust, delightful human person, and none of those words (healthy, robust, delightful) would apply to him if he hadn't had a healthy, indeed earthy, sense of humor. For fifteen years I taught a course entitled *The Theology of God* to seminarians and others preparing for ministry. I would try to cover all the required basis asked for in the curriculum – biblical revelation, patristic insights, normative church teachings, and speculative views from contemporary theologians. But, inside all of this, like a recurring theme in an opera, I would tell the students this: In all your preaching and teaching and pastoral practices, whatever else, try not to make God look stupid. Try not to make God look unintelligent, tribal, petty, rigid, nationalistic, angry, or fearful. Every homily, every theological teaching, every ecclesial practice, and every pastoral practice ultimately reflects an image of God whether we want it to or not. And if there is something less than healthy in our preaching or pastoral practices, the God who underwrites it will also appear as unhealthy. A healthy God does not undergird an unhealthy theology, ecclesiology, or anthropology. Hence, if we teach a Jesus who is humorless, who takes offense at the earthiness of life, who is uncomfortable hearing the word sex, who flinches at colorful language, and who is afraid to smile and chuckle at irony, wit, and humor, we make Jesus appear as rigid and uptight, a prude, and not the person you want to be beside at table.

CONGRATULATIONS! Baptized & Confirmed

Heaven P. Kareh

Daughter of Pierre and Souzanne Kareh

Amelia Therese Sadek

Daughter of Rani & Colette Sadek

"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." ~Mark 16:16

Congratulations on your New Baby

Zayn Abou Jaoude

Son of Charbel & Tatiana Abou Jaoude

Joseph Iskandar

Son of Abdo & Amanda Iskandar

"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him." Psalm 127:3

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 13: David Ameen

Jan 14: Lisa Abdallah, Edgard Feghali, Jasmin Jermany, Joyce Santos

Jan 15: Daniel Abdilmasih, Maya Fares, Rafic Khalil, Anthony Rizkallah, Peter Rizkallah

Jan 16: Hannah Ameen, Bistany Godfrey, Kyle Hajj, Trevor Hajj, Liam Kattar

Jan 17: Joy Abboud, Grece Abou-Ezzi, John Belko Sr., Jonathan Bouchrouche, Marie Hashem, Gavi Kattar, Joe Touma

Jan 18: Elias Abou Zeid, Joseph Aboukhalil, Adam Kalil, Nader Nader, Louie Ramy, Mike Solomon

Jan 19: Adam Bejjani, Assaad El Hayek, George Kassas, Sienna Levy

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

Jan 13: Ghassan & Claudine Raad

Jan 14: Youssef & Dunia Issa

Jan 17: Gerald & Nicole Motta

Jan 18: Sami & Amale Aoun, Tanios & Isabel Ata

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.

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.



FAMILY OF SAINT SHARBEL

Thursday, January 18, 2024
Rosary @ 6:30pm followed by
The liturgy & procession



Every Tuesday @ 8pm, Weekly Zoom Prayer

Zoom ID: 335616991

Passcode: 816342

Or you can join by clicking this link:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/335616991>

For more information email:

communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Next session:

Saturday, January 20, 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 & 27, 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 21, 2024 @ 6 - 7:30 pm

www.stanthonylawrence.org/myo/

KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Next Meeting:

Saturday, February 3, 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 February 13, 2024 @ 7 pm, church hall

Men 18yrs and older are encouraged to attend.

For information email: KOC16204@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?

OUR SYMPATHIES TO :

Sue Tarness and The Crichton family for the loss of their beloved **Larry Crichton**.

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



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.

All applications are due by March 1st, 2024

Good Luck to all candidates!

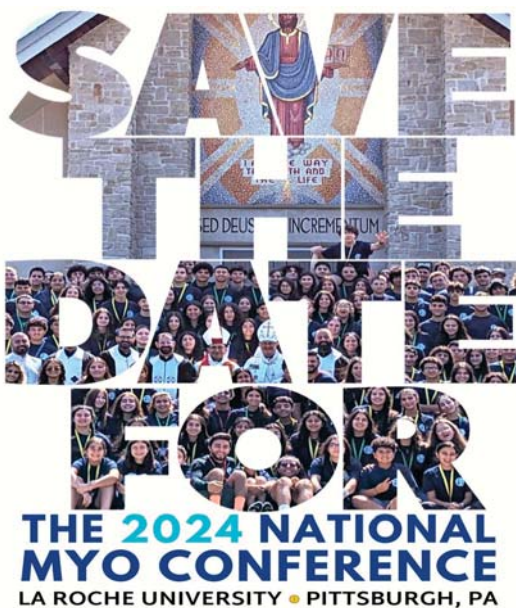
KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

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



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

Second Week of Epiphany: Revelation of Christ's Mystery to the Apostles

Jeremiah 1:4-10

The word of the LORD came to me: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you. "Ah, Lord GOD!" I said, "I do not know how to speak. I am too young!" But the LORD answered me, Do not say, "I am too young." To whom-ever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you—oracle of the LORD. Then the LORD extended his hand and touched my mouth, saying to me, See, I place my words in your mouth! Today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, To uproot and to tear down, to destroy and to demolish, to build and to plant.

Second Letter to the Corinthians 4, 5-15

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture 'I believed, and so I spoke' we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint John 1, 35-42

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

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

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 20 - 4 pm - Patricia Ferguson

Sunday, January 21 -

8:00 am - Huguette Sfeir

9:30 am - Michael Faris

11:00 am -(Eng) Mansour Chaya

(Ar) Amale Chantiri

سفر إرميا 1:4-10

كَانَتْ كَلِمَةُ الرَّبِّ إِلَيَّ قَائِلًا: «قَبْلَ أَنْ أَصَوِّرَكَ فِي الْبَطْنِ عَرَفْتُكَ وَقَبْلَ أَنْ تَخْرُجَ مِنَ الرَّحِمِ قَدَسْتُكَ وَجَعَلْتُكَ نَبِيًّا لِلْأُمَّمِ». فَقُلْتُ: «أَهْ أَيُّهَا السَّيِّدُ الرَّبُّ هَاءِنَذَا لَا أَعْرِفُ أَنْ أَتَكَلَّمَ لِأَيِّ وَلَدٍ». فَقَالَ لِي الرَّبُّ: «لَا تَقُلْ إِنِّي وَلَدٌ فَأَنْتَ لِكُلِّ مَنْ أَرْسَلْتُكَ لَهُ تَذْهَبُ وَكُلُّ مَا أَمُرُكَ بِهِ تَقُولُ. لَا تَخَفْ مِنْ وُجُوهِهُمْ فَإِنِّي أَنَا مَعَكَ لِأُنْقِذَكَ»، يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ. ثُمَّ مَدَّ الرَّبُّ يَدَهُ وَلَمَسَ فَمِي وَقَالَ لِي الرَّبُّ: «هَاءِنَذَا قَدْ جَعَلْتُ كَلَامِي فِي فَمِكَ. أَنْظُرْ، إِنِّي أَفْمُتُكَ الْيَوْمَ عَلَى الْأُمَّمِ وَعَلَى الْمَمَالِكِ لِنَقْلِكَ وَتَهْدِيمِ وَتَهْلِكِ وَتَنْقُضَ وَتَبْنِي وَتَعْرِسَ.»

رسالة القديس بولس الثانية إلى أهل قورنثس 4: 5-15

يَا إِخْوَتِي، نَحْنُ لَا نُبَشِّرُ بِأَنْفُسِنَا، بَلْ نُبَشِّرُ بِيَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ رَبًّا، وَبِأَنْفُسِنَا عَبِيدًا لَكُمْ مِنْ أَجْلِ يَسُوعَ؛ لِأَنَّ اللَّهَ الَّذِي قَالَ: «لِيُشْرِقَ مِنَ الظُّلُمَةِ نُورٌ!»، هُوَ الَّذِي أَشْرَقَ فِي قُلُوبِنَا، لِنُسْتَنِيرَ فَتَعْرِفَ مَجْدَ اللَّهِ الْمُتَجَلِّي فِي وَجْهِ الْمَسِيحِ. وَلَكِنَّا نَحْمِلُ هَذَا الْكَنْزَ فِي أَنْيَةٍ مِنْ خَزَفٍ، لِيُظْهَرَ أَنَّ تِلْكَ الْقُدْرَةَ الْفَائِقَةَ هِيَ مِنَ اللَّهِ لَا مِنَّا. يُضَيِّقُ عَلَيْنَا مِنْ كُلِّ جِهَةٍ وَلَكِنَّا لَا نُسْحَقُ، نَحْتَارُ فِي أَمْرِنَا وَلَكِنَّا لَا نِيَأْسُ، نُضْطَهُدُ وَلَكِنَّا لَا نُهْمَلُ، نُؤْبَدُ وَلَكِنَّا لَا نَهْلِكُ، وَنَحْمِلُ فِي جَسَدِنَا كُلِّ حِينٍ مَوْتَ يَسُوعَ، لِكَيْ تَظْهَرَ حَيَاةُ يَسُوعَ أَيْضًا فِي جَسَدِنَا؛ فَإِنَّا نَحْنُ الْأَحْيَاءُ نُسَلِّمُ دَوْمًا إِلَى الْمَوْتِ، مِنْ أَجْلِ يَسُوعَ، لِكَيْ تَظْهَرَ حَيَاةُ يَسُوعَ أَيْضًا فِي جَسَدِنَا الْمَائِتِ. فَالْمَوْتُ يَعْمَلُ فِيْنَا، وَالْحَيَاةُ تَعْمَلُ فِيكُمْ. وَلَكِنْ بِمَا أَنَّ لَنَا رُوحَ الْإِيمَانِ عَيْنَهُ، كَمَا هُوَ مَكْتُوبُ: «آمَنْتُ، وَلِذَلِكَ تَكَلَّمْتُ»، فَحْنُ أَيْضًا نُؤْمِنُ، وَلِذَلِكَ نَتَكَلَّمُ. وَنَحْنُ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّ ذَلِكَ الَّذِي أَقَامَ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعَ، سَيَقِيمُنَا نَحْنُ أَيْضًا مَعَ يَسُوعَ، وَيَجْعَلُنَا وَإِيَّاكُمْ فِي حَضْرَتِهِ. فَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ هُوَ مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ، لِكَيْ تَكْثُرَ النِّعْمَةُ، فَيَفِيضَ الشُّكْرُ فِي قُلُوبِ الْكَثِيرِينَ لِمَجْدِ اللَّهِ.

إنجيل القديس يوحنا 1: 35-42

فِي الْغَدِ أَيْضًا كَانَ يُوحَنَّا وَاقِفًا هُوَ وَاثْنَانِ مِنْ تَلَامِيذِهِ. وَرَأَى يَسُوعَ مَارًّا فَحَدَّقَ إِلَيْهِ وَقَالَ: «هَذَا هُوَ حَمَلُ اللَّهِ». وَسَمِعَ التِّلْمِيزَانِ كَلَامَهُ، فَتَبِعَا يَسُوعَ. وَالتَفَتَ يَسُوعَ، فَرَأَاهُمَا يَتَّبَعَانِيهِ، فَقَالَ لَهُمَا: «مَاذَا تَطْلُبَانِ؟» فَقَالَا لَهُ: «رَبِّي، أَيَّيَا مُعَلِّمٍ، أَيْنَ تُقِيمُ؟». فَقَالَ لَهُمَا: «تَعَالَيَا وَأَنْظُرَا». فَذَهَبَا وَنَظَرَا أَيْنَ يُقِيمُ. وَأَقَامَا عِنْدَهُ ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمَ، وَكَانَتِ السَّاعَةُ نَحْوَ الرَّابِعَةِ بَعْدَ الظُّهْرِ. وَكَانَ أَنْدَرَاوُسُ أَخُو سِمْعَانَ بُطْرُسَ أَحَدَ التِّلْمِيزَيْنِ، الَّذِينَ سَمِعَا كَلَامَ يُوحَنَّا وَتَبِعَا يَسُوعَ. وَلَقِيَ أَوَّلًا أَخَاهُ سِمْعَانَ، فَقَالَ لَهُ: «وَجَدْنَا مَسِيحًا، أَيَّ الْمَسِيحِ». «وَجَاءَ بِهِ إِلَى يَسُوعَ، فَحَدَّقَ يَسُوعَ إِلَيْهِ وَقَالَ: «أَنْتَ هُوَ سِمْعَانُ بْنُ يُونَا، أَنْتَ سَتُدْعَى كَيْفَا، أَيَّ بُطْرُسَ الصَّخْرَةِ.»

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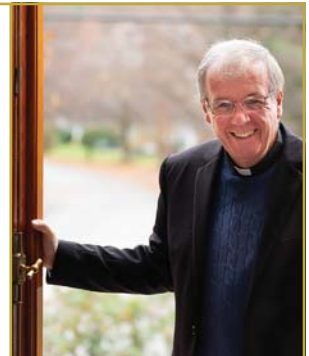


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