

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



Fourth Sunday Of Great Lent

The Prodigal Son - الابن الشاطر - الأحد الرابع من الصوم الكبير



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LITURGIES INTENTIONS

4th SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT The Prodigal Son

Saturday, March 2

St. John Maron

4:00 pm + Yvonne Yameen, *By her family*

In Honor of Bishop Gregory Mansour
- Episcopacy Ordination Anniversary,
By Fr. Elie & Fr. Neemtallah

Sunday, March 3

Sts. Thomas Aquinas & Katharine Drexel

8:00 am + Phillip Brian Aoun, *By Jason & Jonathan Bouchrouche*

9:30 am For the good health & well-being of
Nizar Bechara, *By Deacon & Mrs. Nadim Daou*

11:00 am + Joseph & Nancy Azzi, *By their Children & their families*

5:00 pm Healing Liturgy

5th SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT Healing of the Paralytic

Saturday, March 9

The Forty Martyrs

4:00 pm + 40 Day Anniversary - Alice Youssef Hatem, *By her sister-in-law, Maryann Hatem, and niece, Alyce Sader, & family*

Sunday, March 10

St. Auxentius

8:00 am In Honor of Fr. Elie Mikhael & Fr. Neemtallah Oneissy, *By Mr. & Mrs. Fadi Bouchrouche*

9:30 am + George, Nemra, Rose, Peter, Brandon, & Matthew Hashem, *By their families*

11:00 am + 40 Day Anniversary - Yvonne Sarkis Fazzaa, *By her son, Pascal Constantine, & family*

Daily Liturgies

Monday, March 4 (Ar.)

St. Paul & His Sister, St. Juliana/ 2 Cor 9:1a, 5-15/Lk 9:37-45

9:00 am +Najib Khoury, *By Mr. & Mrs. Ghassan Abou-Ezzi*

Tuesday, March 5 (Eng.)

St. Albert the Great/ 2 Cor 16:15-24 / Mk 8:22-26

9:00 am + Deceased members of the Goulart & Pereira Families, *By Dora Pereira*

Wednesday, March 6 (Ar.)

St. Conan of Isauria/ Rom 14:1-13 / Lk 7:1-10

9:00 am + Jamil Abdel-Hay, *By his daughter, Huguette Sfeir & family*

Thursday, March 7 (Eng.)

The 7 Young Men of Ephesus / 2 Cor 1:23-2:5 / Mt 15:29-39

9:00 am + For the Souls in Purgatory, *By Dora Pereira*

9:30 am - 12 pm Adoration

7:00 pm Adoration & Confessions

Friday, March 8 - No Liturgy

St. Frances of Rome / 2 Cor 12:21-13:5/ Mt 9:27-35

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

OBSERVANCES

- ♦ **Adoration & Confessions:** Every Thursday from 7-9 pm during the season of Great Lent.
- ♦ **Stations of the Cross:** Every Friday @ 7pm

SANCTUARY LAMPS



In Loving Memory of Daad Cherabie,
By Mr. & Mrs. Ghassan Abou-Ezzi and family

PLEASE NOTE

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

Spiritual Programs For Lent 2024

JOIN US ONLINE For a Weekly Lenten Retreats:

♦ **In Arabic with Fr. Raymond Bassil:**

- * A doctor in Theology from the Catholic Institute, Lyon, France
- * Professor of Sacramental Theology at the Holy Spirit University, Kaslik, Lebanon
- * Professor of Theology at the Jesuit University of Saint Joseph, USJ, Lebanon

**Lenten Spiritual Retreat Subjects:**

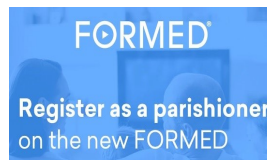
"...And by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53,5) ... (أشعيا 53، 5)

- 1- جراح المسيح تدعوننا للفرح
- 2- جراح المسيح تدعوننا للتوبة
- 3- شأبهنا في كل شيء ما خلا الخطيئة
- 4- برحه شُفينا من خلال التلمذ والرسالة
- 5- بجرحه شُفينا بالدعوة الى التواضع
- 6- بجرحه شُفينا من خلال اللقاء بيسوع المسيح

♦ **In English on FORMED**

You can sign up 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.

**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) 807-9087pastor@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.

Lenten Eucharistic Adoration**Every Thursday @7pm**

Lent is about conversion, turning towards union with God through Jesus Christ.

Adoration is a blessed and quiet time to reflect, pray, and to love Jesus. During this time of revival, attending Adoration is a way to grow in faith and in holiness.

**Arabic Spiritual Retreat**

"العلاقة بين سر الإفخارستيا وسر التوبة"

"The Connection between the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation"**Guest speaker:****Fr. Neemtallah Oneissy****Saturday, March 9, 2024****St. Joseph Melkite Greek****Catholic Church,****Lawrence, MA 01841****Program Details:****9 am : Liturgy****10 am : Spiritual Talk****11 am : Discussions****12 am : Lunch****For more information:****Phone: (978) 682-8152****Fr. Ziad Layous: (508) 423-6148****Email: Stjosephsma@gmail.com**

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 02 - 4 pm - Meaghan Twing

Sunday, March 03 -

8:00 am - Hitaf Nammour

9:30 am - Marie-Christine Daou

11:00 am -(Eng) Ramona Yammine

(Ar) Maribelle Spiridon

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 9 - 4 pm - Susan Kalil

Sunday, March 10 -

8:00 am - Huguette Sfeir

9:30 am - Michael Faris

11:00 am -(Eng) Anthony Merheb

(Ar) Gretta Merheb

*Happy Anniversary Bishop Gregory Mansour -
Episcopal Ordination March 2, 2004*



EPARCHIAL APPEAL

**Eparchial Charities Appeal:
Feb 12 - March 31**

The Annual Raffle Tickets, which consist of your contribution towards the Bishop's Appeal, have been mailed out. We depend on your support and generosity for this appeal to reach our goal.

Please remit your tickets at your earliest convenience.

Please remember to remit your Fuel/Utilities Envelope. Your contribution helps us keep the Heat on in the Winter and the AC on in the Summer.

Thank you!

YOUNG ADULT WOMEN LENTEN RETREAT DAY



**WALKING
WITH MARY
ON THE
WAY OF THE
CROSS**

**SUNDAY MARCH 17
10:30am to 5:30pm**

**Mother of the Light
Convent, 856 Tucker Rd
Dartmouth.**

**HOSTED BY THE MARONITE
SERVANTS OF CHRIST THE LIGHT
MARONITESERVANTS.ORG**



The DCG Scholarships:

The Dorothy C Gabriel Foundation is offering the **DCG scholarship** to any Saint Anthony parishioner who will be attending Central Catholic High School in fall 2024. For more information or to apply, text the students full name and contact number to

Ken Gabriel at 508-633-0704.

Deadline to apply is May 15, 2024.

EASTER LILY

"PURITY, REBIRTH, NEW BEGINNINGS AND HOPE"

In honor of **Christ Resurrection**, the sanctuary will be decorated with Easter lilies. **Honor or Remember Your Loved Ones** by dedicating one or more Easter Lily Plant .

I would like to dedicate _____

An Easter Flower Donation @ \$15 Each

"In Memory of" or "In Honor of"

Given by:

Please return this completed form, along with your payment (Check, Cash, or Venmo), to the Church office by **12pm, Friday March 22**. You may also place this form with your Sunday offering basket collection. There will be a tribute page on Easter Weekend, in the Parish Bulletin, to acknowledge your dedications.

SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH

ANNUAL LENTEN RAFFLE

To Defray: Building insurance \$25,638,
Bishop's Appeal \$9500, &
Eparchial Assessment \$27, 600



Saint Anthony's Maronite Church

EASTER Bake Sale

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: MARCH, 17, 2024

PROCEEDS TO HELP FAMILIES IN NEED IN LEBANON

Order Form: Send your order by e-mail or by calling Bassima @ 603.571.3003 or the office @ 978.685.7233

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip** _____

Pick-Up Date: PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND

Maamoul:

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

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

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

Kaak:

Bag (6) for \$7 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

Ghraybeh:

6 pieces for \$7 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

Macaroon w/Walnuts:

6 pieces for \$7 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

Sumbusik w/Walnuts:

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

Baklawa:

6 pieces for \$7 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

Cookies w/Dates:

6 pieces for \$7 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

Kanafe Box: \$50 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

Total Amount of Order: \$ _____

Method of Donation Payment:

Cash _____ Check _____

Credit Card _____ Venmo _____

KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Next Meeting:

Saturday, March 2, 2024 @ 11 am- 12:30 pm

*Remember to bring your handbooks to the meetings
New applicants are always welcome*

KNIGHTS OF MARY

Co-Chair: Colette Sadek & Gretta Merheb

Next Sessions:

Saturday, March 9, 2024 @ 5-7 pm

MARONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION

MYO Co-Leaders: Geryes Geha & Gabrielle AbdulNour

Next Meeting:

Sunday, March 10, 2024 @ 6 - 7:30 pm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Next session:

Saturday, March 16, 2024 @ 5-7 pm

March 9th: Reconciliation 2nd Grade **ONLY**
@ 9 - 11 am

M-WINE Bible Lenten Gathering

Monday, March 4th, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

Join us at the Church hall to:

- ♦ discuss ways to implement the Word of God in our daily life
- ♦ tap on things that matter to us as Christian women
- ♦ share your concerns as a mother, Godmother, daughter, sister, aunt, grandmother, wife, friend, helper and worker

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

-St. Anthony Council 16204

KOC Next Meeting:

Tuesday March 12, 2024 @ 7 pm, church hall

Men 18 yrs. and older are encouraged to attend.

For information email: KOC16204@gmail.com

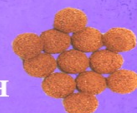
Join KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS for a FALAFEL LUNCH



Falafel Wrap



ST ANTHONY CHURCH
LAWRENCE, MA



Falafel Dozen

MARCH 17, 2024

AFTER 9AM AND 11AM LITURGY
PRE-ORDER AVAILABLE



Falafel Plate - 6pc



Drink



Falafel App - 3pc

To Pre Order - Contact:
Wissam Merheb @ 978.853.5145
Elias Azzi @ 978.651.1040

Cash
Or
Check

FAMILY OF SAINT SHARBEL & Our Lady of Lebanon Sodality

Weekly Zoom Prayer

Every Tuesday @ 8pm

Zoom ID: 335616991

Passcode: 816342

Or you can join by clicking this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/335616991>

For more information email:

communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org



FOOD DRIVE

During Lent Season, the
Family of Saint Sharbel will
conduct a food drive for the
Monks of Petersham.

Items to be collected:

Honey, Olives, Walnuts, Old-Fashioned Oats, BROWN Rice, Quinoa (Grain), Canned Diced Tomatoes, Canned Sliced Mushrooms, Canned Chicken, Canned Sardines, Canned Tuna (in water), Dried Fruit (Raisins/Prunes/Cranberries etc.), "Healthy" Breakfast Cereals (Raisin Bran, Cheerios, Granola Etc.), Herbal Tea Bags (Decaf).

Thank you for your support and generosity!

BRUNCH & BUBBLI

MWINE

WOULD LIKE TO INVITE
YOU TO CELEBRATE OUR

**LEBANESE
MOTHER'S DAY**

SATURDAY, MARCH 16TH
11:30AM-3:30PM
\$45 PER LADY (ADULTS ONLY)

MERRIMACK VALLEY GOLF CLUB
210 HOWE ST, METHUEN, MA
01844

RSVP BY MARCH 8TH
MARY FRANCIS: 978-960-7479
DELLA KHOURY: 978-257-6252

VENMO OR CHECKS TO ST. ANTHONY MARONITE
CHURCH

SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 31-August 2

God is calling YOU...

Vocation Bible Camp

Saint Anthony's Maronite Church, 145 Amesbury St
Lawrence MA

Your Call to be Holy
To be a SAINT...
To love & follow Jesus

Presented by the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light
maroniteservants.org

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER
Sponsored by the OLGC Music Ministry

Saturday March 16
5:30- 7:30PM

50/50 RAFFLE! RAFFLE BASKETS!

St. Theresa Church Hall, OLGC Parish
22 Plymouth St. Methuen, MA

LIVE IRISH FIDDLE MUSIC BY THE "Diane O'Collier Clan"

Traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner
Non-Alcoholic Beverages and Dessert Included!
& Lori's Irish Cupcakes

Beer and Wine Available
for separate purchase

Pre-Event Tickets: \$20 available through March 10 at the Parish Office
Door Tickets: \$25 (Limited Seating Available)

BIRTHDAY WISHES

- March 2:** Elena Abi-Samra, Said Geha, Meg Kannan, Giovanni Salame, Julianna Taylor
- March 3:** Pamela Abi-Moussa, Magdalena Bejjani, Charles Clement, Robert Comtois, Mary Pica
- March 4:** Joshua Baldinelli, Billy Kannan, Matthew Touma,
- March 5:** Tatiana Abou Jaoude, Andrew Bassil, Camil Chamoun, Celine Issa, Issam Ramey
- March 6:** Yulissa Azzi, Elias Chaya, Rony Fakhry, Ryan Jacobs, Douglas Martino
- March 7:** Hanan Abi Samra, Robert Pica, Valerie Tarabay

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

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent: Parable of the Prodigal Son

Book of Zechariah 3,1-7

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

Second Letter to the Corinthians 13,5-13

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

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

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

الأحد الرابع من الصوم الكبير : أحد مثل الابن الشاطر

سفر زكريّا 3: 1-7

أَرَانِي الرَّبُّ يَشُوعَ الْكَاهِنَ الْعَظِيمَ وَاقِفًا أَمَامَ مَلَاكِ الرَّبِّ، وَالشَّيْطَانُ وَاقِفًا عَنْ يَمِينِهِ لِيَنْهَمَهُ. فَقَالَ الرَّبُّ لِلشَّيْطَانِ: «رَجَرَكَ: الرَّبُّ، يَا شَيْطَانُ، رَجَرَكَ الرَّبُّ الَّذِي اخْتَارَ أورشليم! أَلَيْسَ هَذَا شُعْلَةً مُنْتَشَلَةً مِنَ النَّارِ؟». «وَكَانَ يَشُوعُ لَا بَسًا ثِيَابًا قَدِيرَةً وَهُوَ وَاقِفٌ أَمَامَ الْمَلَاكِ. فَأَجَابَ وَكَلَّمَ الْوَاقِفِينَ أَمَامَهُ قَائِلًا: «انْزِعُوا عَنْهُ الثِّيَابَ الْقَدِيرَةَ». وَقَالَ لَهُ: «أُنْظُرْ. إِنِّي قَدْ أَجَزْتُ إِيْمَكَ عَنْكَ. فَلْتَلْبَسْ ثِيَابًا فَاجِرَةً». «وَقُلْتُ: «لِيُجْعَلَ تاجٌ طَاهِرٌ عَلَى رَأْسِهِ». فَجَعَلُوا التَّاجَ الطَّاهِرَ عَلَى رَأْسِهِ، وَأَلْبَسُوهُ الثِّيَابَ. فَحَدَّرَ مَلَاكُ الرَّبِّ يَشُوعَ قَائِلًا: «هَكَذَا قَالَ رَبُّ الْقَوَاتِ: إِنَّ سِرَّتِي فِي طُرْقِي وَحَفِظْتُ أَحْكَامِي، فَأَنْتَ أَيْضًا تَحْكُمُ عَلَى بَيْتِي، وَتُحَافِظُ عَلَى دِيَارِي، فَأُعْطِيكَ سَبِيلًا إِلَى وَسْطِ أَوْلِيكَ الْوَاقِفِينَ هُنَا.»

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

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

إنجيل القديس لوقا 15: 11-32

قَالَ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ: «كَانَ لِرَجُلٍ ابْنَانِ. فَقَالَ أَصْغَرُهُمَا لِأَبِيهِ: يَا أَبِي، أَعْطِنِي حِصَّتِي مِنَ الْمِيرَاثِ. فَقَسَمَ لَهُمَا ثَرَوَتَهُ. وَبَعْدَ أَيَّامٍ قَلِيلَةٍ، جَمَعَ الْأَبْنُ الْأَصْغَرُ كُلَّ حِصَّتِهِ، وَسَافَرَ إِلَى بَلَدٍ بَعِيدٍ. وَهُنَاكَ بَدَّدَ مَالَهُ فِي حَيَاةِ الطَّيْشِ. وَلَمَّا أَنْفَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، حَدَّثَتْ فِي ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ مَجَاعَةٌ شَدِيدَةٌ، فَبَدَأَ يُحْسِنُ بِالْعُوزِ. فَذَهَبَ وَلَجًا إِلَى وَاحِدٍ مِنْ أَهْلِ ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ، فَأَرْسَلَهُ إِلَى حُقُولِهِ لِيَزْعَى الْخَنَازِيرَ. وَكَانَ يَشْتَهِي أَنْ يَمْلَأَ جَوْفَهُ مِنَ الْخَرْوَبِ الَّذِي كَانَتْ الْخَنَازِيرُ تَأْكُلُهُ، وَلَا يُعْطِيهِ مِنْهُ أَحَدٌ. فَارْجَعَ إِلَى نَفْسِهِ وَقَالَ: كَمْ مِنَ الْأَجْرَاءِ عِنْدَ أَبِي، يُفْضَلُ الْخُبْزَ عَنْهُمْ، وَأَنَا هُنَا أَهْلِكُ جُوعًا! أَقُومُ وَأَمْضِي إِلَى أَبِي وَأَقُولُ لَهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدُ أَنْ أَدْعَى لَكَ ابْنًا. فَأَجْعَلْنِي كَأَحَدِ أَجْرَائِكَ! فَقَامَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى أَبِيهِ. وَفِيمَا كَانَ لَا يَزَالُ بَعِيدًا، رَأَاهُ أَبُوهُ، فَتَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهِ، وَأَسْرَعَ فَأَلْقَى بِنَفْسِهِ عَلَى عُنُقِهِ وَقَبَّلَهُ طَوِيلًا. فَقَالَ لَهُ ابْنُهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدُ أَنْ أَدْعَى لَكَ ابْنًا... فَقَالَ الْأَبُ لِعَبِيدِهِ: أَسْرِعُوا وَآخِرْجُوا الْحُلَّةَ الْفَاجِرَةَ وَالْأَبْسُوهَ، وَأَجْعَلُوا فِي يَدِهِ خَاتَمًا، وَفِي رِجْلَيْهِ جِذَاءً، وَأَتُوا بِالْعِجْلِ الْمُسَمَّنِ وَأَذْبَحُوهُ، وَلِنَأْكُلْ وَنَسْتَعْمَ! لِأَنَّ ابْنِي هَذَا كَانَ مَيِّتًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فَوُجِدَ. وَبَدَأُوا يَتَنَعَّمُونَ. وَكَانَ ابْنُهُ الْأَكْبَرُ فِي الْحَقْلِ. فَلَمَّا جَاءَ وَافْتَرَبَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ، سَمِعَ غِنَاءً وَرَفْصًا. فَدَعَا وَاحِدًا مِنَ الْعُلَمَانِ وَسَأَلَهُ: مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هَذَا؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ: جَاءَ أَخُوكَ، فَذَبَحَ أَبُوكَ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَقِيَهُ سَالِمًا. فَغَضِبَ وَلَمْ يُرِدْ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ. فَخَرَجَ أَبُوهُ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ. فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ لِأَبِيهِ: هَا أَنَا أَخَذْتُ كُلَّ هَذِهِ السِّنِينَ، وَلَمْ أَخَالَفْ لَكَ يَوْمًا أَمْرًا، وَلَمْ تُعْطِنِي مَرَّةً جَدِيًّا، لِأَتَنَعَّمَ مَعَ أَصْدِقَائِي. وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا جَاءَ ابْنُكَ هَذَا الَّذِي أَكَلَ ثَرَوَتَكَ مَعَ الزَّوَانِي، ذَبَحْتَ لَهُ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ! فَقَالَ لَهُ أَبُوهُ: يَا وَلَدِي، أَنْتَ مَعِيَ فِي كُلِّ حِينٍ، وَكُلُّ مَا هُوَ لِي هُوَ لَكَ. وَلَكِنْ كَانَ يَنْبَغِي أَنْ نَتَنَعَّمَ وَنَفْرَحَ، لِأَنَّ أَخَاكَ هَذَا كَانَ مَيِّتًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فَوُجِدَ.»