

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

*You are welcomed & loved by St Anthony's Community.*

*We are transformed through prayer, acts of love, forgiveness, service & stewardship.*

PARISH OFFICE: ... 978.685.7233 ... FAX: 978-688-4475... [rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)



*Sixth Sunday Of Great Lent*  
الأحد السادس من الصوم الكبير



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SaintAnthony  
Lawrence



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## SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH PRESENTS

Join us for an hour of a bouquet of Lenten  
and Passion Maronite Hymns

# PASSION CANDLE LIGHT

7  
PM

MAR.  
22



Performed by :

Fr. Neemtallah Oneissy

Wissam Merheb

Mary Saab

Marie belle Spiridon

Patrick Tabet

Featuring Violinist Maestro Lebnen Khalil

145 Amesbury St, Lawrence, MA 01841

FOR MORE INFO:  
(978) 685-7233

## LITURGIES INTENTIONS

### 6th SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

#### Healing of the Blind Man

**Saturday, March 16** *First Council of Constantinople*

**4:00 pm** + 40 Day Anniversary - Claire Maroun, *By her children, Pierre, Elie, Raymond Maroun, their spouses, & their families*

In Honor of All Saint Anthony's Basketball Teams Players, & Coaches

**Sunday, March 17** *St. Patrick*

**8:00 am** + Mariam AbouKhalil, *By Kozhaya & Lola Aboukhalil & their children*

+ Raymond Saab (*died in Lebanon*) *By his son Tony, and wife, Noura Daher & family*

**9:30 am** + Raymond Faunt Sr., John D'Angelo Sr., & deceased members of the Rahhal & Jesser families, *By their loving families*

**11:00 am** + 40 Day Anniversary - Josephine Jabbour, *By her son, Joseph, & her sister Mouna Hbaiter & family*

+Marie Jreij, *By her sister in law, Mouna Hbaiter & Family.*

+ Marven Hobeika, *By his family*

### UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION

#### ♦ Holy Land Collection:

March 29 - Good Friday

#### ♦ Pastor's Charities Collection:

March 30 & 31 - Easter Sunday

### PLEASE NOTE

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

## Hosanna Week Daily Liturgies

**Monday, March 18** (Ar.)

*Vigil Liturgy - Feast of St Joseph*

**7:00 pm** In Honor of Marc Abou Ezzi, *By his family*

**Tuesday, March 19** (Eng.)

*Feast of St. Joseph / Eph 3:1-13 / Mt 1:18-25*

**9:00 am** + Bechara Rizkallah, *By his family*

**Wednesday, March 20** (Ar.)

*St. Photina the Samaritan / 1 Thes 4:1-9 / Lk 11:37-48*

**9:00 am** In Honor of Nada Asmar, & + Fr. Antoun Tarabay, *By Nada Asmar*

**Thursday, March 21** (Eng.)

*St. Synesius / Tit 2:1-8 / Lk 18:31-34*

**9:00 am** + Larry & Dora Pereira, *By Dora Pereira*

**7:00 pm** *The Family of St Sharbel Liturgy Adoration & Confessions*

**Friday, March 22 -**

**7:00 pm** **PASSION CANDLE RECITAL**

## Hosanna (Palm) Sunday

**Saturday, March 23** *Lazarus Saturday / St. Rafka*

**4:00 pm** Blessings and Good Health to all our Parish Children and their Families

**Sunday, March 24**

**8:00 am - 9:30 am - 11:00 am** **Main Sanctuary**

**11:15 am** **Parish Hall**

Blessings and Good Health to all our Parish Children and their Families

## SANCTUARY LAMPS



In Loving Memory of Thomas Solomon,  
*By Mike & Janice Solomon & family*

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/)

## PASSION WEEK - SCHEDULE March 23 - 29

**Monday March 25**

7pm - Feast of Annunciation

**Tuesday March 26**

9am - Liturgy

7pm-Stations of the Cross

**Wednesday March 27**

9am - Liturgy

7pm - Rite of the Lamp - Anointing of Holy Oil

**Thursday of the Mysteries**

7 pm - Washing of Feet

8 pm - Midnight: Adoration

## GOOD FRIDAY

Sanctification Liturgy: 9am

Adoration of the Cross: 4pm

Stations of the Cross: 5pm

Adoration of the Cross: 7pm

## The GLORIOUS RESURRECTION -March 30 - 31

**Great Saturday of the Light**

Easter Vigil : 4pm - Easter Midnight Vigil

## EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Liturgy : 9am & 11am - & 11:15am @ Church Hall

## SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH

### ANNUAL LENTEN RAFFLE

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



## OFFICE HOURS:

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

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

**SAT** By Appointment

**DAILY LITURGIES @ 9 am**

**MON & WED** (Ar)

**TUE & THU** (Eng)

## WEEKEND LITURGIES

**SAT** 4 pm (Eng)

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

11 am (Eng. & Ar)

## 1st Friday of the Month:

6 pm - Confession / 7 pm - Liturgy

## 1st Sunday of the Month:

Youth Liturgy @ 5:00 pm

## Holy days of obligation:

Vigil Liturgy @ 7:00 pm

## MEET OUR PRIESTS:

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

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

**Fr. Edgard -Neemtallah- Oneissy**

(857)390-4838

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

## MEET OUR DEACONS:

**Nadim Daou, James T. Demers &**

**David Leard**

**Sub-Deacon:** Antoine Nammour

## CLERGY DAY OFF

**Fr Elie: Mondays**

**Fr. Neemtallah: Wednesdays**

## SACRAMENTS

### Baptism & Confirmation:

1 month in advance with the Pastor,

**Donations:** Church: \$200

**Priest:** Free Will

**Matrimony:** Arrangements should be made by couples six months prior to the wedding date

**Donations:** Church \$500

**Priest:** Free Will

**Reconciliation:** One hour Before Thursday & Saturday Liturgies, or by appointment

**Anointing of the Sick:** Please notify the Rectory if a member of your family is ill, hospitalized, or unable to come to Church and would like to receive communion at home

Please refer to our website for more Sacrament Celebrations Guidelines.



## 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'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: \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Baklava:

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 \_\_\_\_\_

### 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 ندعونا للفرح 4- برحه شفيينا من خلال التلمذ والرسالة

2- جراح المسيح ندعونا للنوبة 5- برحه شفيينا بالدعوة الى النواضع

3- شايهنا في كل شيء ما خلا الخطيئة 6- برحه شفيينا من خلال اللقاء بيسوع المسيح

#### ♦ In English on FORMED

You can sign up with a parish account:

1. Go to [formed.org/signup](https://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.



## AGING AS A NATURAL MONASTERY

What is a monastery? How do monasteries work? Saint Benedict (480-547 AD), who is considered the founder of Western monasticism, offered this counsel as an essential rule for his monks: Stay in your cell and it will teach all you need to know. Properly understood, this is a rich metaphor, not a literal counsel. When he is telling a monk to stay in his cell and let it teach him what he needs to know, he is not referring to a literal monk's cell in a monastery. He is referring to the state of life in which a monk or anyone else finds himself or herself.

Sometimes this has been expressed in Christian spirituality as being faithful to your duties of state. The idea here being that if you are faithful in love and in good heart to the situation in life in which you find yourself, life itself will bring you to maturity and virtue. For example, a mother who gives herself over in selflessness and fidelity to raising her children will be brought to maturity and altruism through that process. Her home will be her monk's cell and she will be metaphorically the Abbess of the monastery (with some very young monks) and staying inside that monastery, her home, will teach her all she needs to know. She will be raising children, but they will also be raising her. Motherhood will teach her what she needs to know and will turn her into a wise elder, a biblical and archetypal Sophia.

The process of aging is a natural monastery. If we live long enough, eventually the aging process turns everyone into a monk. Monks take four vows: poverty, chastity, obedience, and perseverance. The process of aging, which moves us (seemingly without mercy) toward marginalization, dependence on others, away from an active sex life, and into a living situation from which there will be no escape, in a manner of speaking, imposes those four vows on us. But, as Saint Benedict counsels, this can teach us all we need to know, and has a unique power to mature us in a very deep way. Monks have secrets worth knowing. So does the aging process.

This can be particularly instructive vis-à-vis how we can make our final days and our death a more radical gift to others. In the first centuries of Christianity, martyrdom was seen as the ideal way for a Christian to end his or her days here on earth. It was seen as a radical way of imitating Christ and giving your death away as a gift. Of course, this had to be rethought after Christianity became the state religion and emperors no longer martyred Christians. What followed then were various attempts at doing this, metaphorically martyrdom. One fairly popular way of doing it was that, after raising their children and reaching retirement, a couple would leave each other and each would go off to a separate monastery and live out the rest of his or her life as a monk or a nun.

Classical Christian mystics speak about how in the last phase of our lives we should enter something they call the dark night of the spirit, namely, that we proactively make a radical decision grounded in faith to move into a situation in life where we can no longer take care of ourselves but must trust, in raw faith, that God will provide for us. This parallels Hindu spirituality which suggests that in the last, fully mature stage of life we should become a sannyasin, a holy old beggar.

I suspect that most of us will never proactively cut off all our former securities and, on purpose, place ourselves in a situation within which we are helpless to provide for and take care of ourselves. But this is where nature steps in. The aging process will do it for us. It will turn us into a sannyasin and put us into the dark night of the spirit.

How? As we age and our health declines and we find ourselves more marginalized in terms of having a vital place within society, we will progressively lose our capacity to take care of ourselves. Eventually, if we live long enough, for most of us it will mean moving into an assisted facility, which is in effect a natural monastery.

What an apt metaphor! An assisted living facility as a natural monastery. The metaphor is also apropos for what it means to (by conscription) enter the dark night of the spirit and what it means to be a holy old beggar, a sannyasin. In essence it means this: When someone is in an assisted living facility, irrespective of whether he or she is a millionaire or a pauper, the rules are the same for everyone. Since you can no longer take care of yourself (and indeed you don't have to) you live a monastic life of obedience and dependence.

In assisted living, you live by the monastic bell and you die as a holy old beggar.

*By Ronald Rolheiser March 4, 2024*



## KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Next Meeting:

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

## MARONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION

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

Next Meeting:

**Sunday, April 7, 2024 @ 6 - 7:30 pm**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Next Class:

**Saturday, March 16, 2024 @ 5-7 pm**

*Congratulations to all the students who received  
the Sacrament of Reconciliation!!*

## 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://uso2web.zoom.us/j/335616991>

**Thursday, March 21, 2024**

**Rosary @ 6:30pm followed by**

**The liturgy & procession**



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!**

## 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!*

Join  
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
for a  
**FALAFEL LUNCH**

**\$10**  
  
Falafel Wrap

  
**ST ANTHONY CHURCH  
LAWRENCE, MA**

**\$2**  
  
Drink

**MARCH 17, 2024**

**AFTER 9AM AND 11AM LITURGY  
PRE-ORDER AVAILABLE**

**\$15**  
  
Falafel Plate - 6pc

**PLATE AND DOZEN  
INCLUDE  
TAHINI - VEGGIES - BREAD**

**\$25**  
  
Falafel Dozen

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

Cash  
Or  
Check

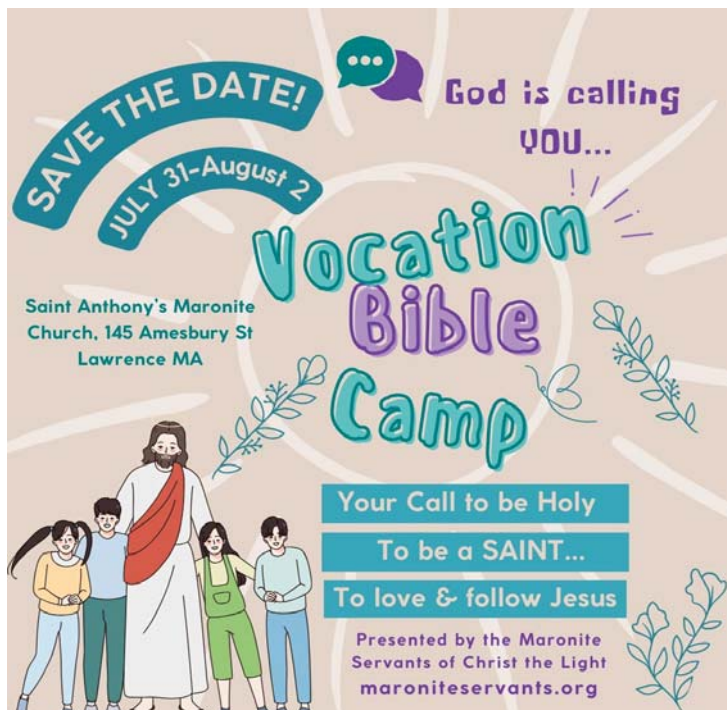
## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS -St. Anthony Council 16204

**KOC Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday April 9, 2024 @ 7 pm, church hall**

Men 18 yrs. and older are encouraged to attend.

For information email: KOC16204@gmail.com



### 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.***

### BIRTHDAY WISHES

**March 16:** Andrew Nadira, Tayla Rahme, Geovanni Tabet

**March 17:** Patrick Becotte, Mabel Beshara, Erin McKone, Jude Msaddi, Roy Rossi, Katherine Veilleux

**March 18:** Mateo Mazraani, Josephine McDougall, Joseph Msaddi, Josette Nammour, Elias Sfeir

**March 19:** Mathew Giantonio, John Saad, Olivia Samia

**March 20:** Marybeth Hashem

**March 21:** George Ata, Rudy Bourouphael, Gisele Dahbour, Miray Hachem, Noreen Mallen, Rita Maroun

**March 22:** Martin Akiki, Samantha Asmar, Emma Azzi, Marisa Thompson

### ANNIVERSARY WISHES

**March 16:** Jim & Ali Hajj

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

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

### Cemetery Guidelines

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

### Headstones & Cemetery Markers

Kindly review the information provided regarding acceptable dimensions per grave/lot on our website:

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

**Please note:**

**Double-Depth Graves are considered "One Grave Size"**

### Looking for a Loved one buried at St Anthony's Cemetery?

1. Go to [www.stanthonylawrence.org](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org)
2. Scroll to the bottom and click on BURIAL ONLINE SEARCH.
3. Type in the last/first name or in some cases just last name and click search.

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

## Sixth Sunday of Great Lent: Healing of the Blind Man

*Book of Isaiah 42:6-8 . 16-18*

I, the LORD, have called you for justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness. I am the LORD, LORD is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. I will lead the blind on a way they do not know; by paths they do not know I will guide them. I will turn darkness into light before them, and make crooked ways straight. These are my promises: I made them, I will not forsake them. They shall be turned back in utter shame who trust in idols; Who say to molten images, "You are our gods." You deaf ones, listen, you blind ones, look and see!

*Second Letter to the Corinthians 10:1-7*

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.

*Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Mark 10:46-52*

They came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

*Saturday, March 16 - 4 pm - Susan Kalil*

*Sunday, March 17 -*

8:00 am - Hitaf Nammour

9:30 am - David Brousseau

11:00 am -(Eng) Angela Dahbour

(Ar) Giselle Dahbour

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

*Saturday, March 23- 4 pm - Kamal Haddad*

*Sunday, March 24 -*

8:00 am - Huguette Sfeir

9:30 am - Brady Barry

11:00 am (church) -(Eng) Joey Safi

(Ar) Maribelle Spiridon

11:15 am (hall) -Volunteers



## الأحد السادس من الصوم الكبير : أحد شفاء الأعمى

سفر أشعيا 18-16.8-6:42

هذا ما قاله الربُّ: «أنا الربُّ دَعَوْتُكَ فِي الْبَرِّ وَأَخَذْتُ بِيَدِكَ وَجَبَلْتُكَ وَجَعَلْتُكَ عَهْدًا لِلشَّعْبِ وَنُورًا لِلْأُمَمِ لِكَي تَفْتَحَ الْعُيُونُ الْعَمْيَاءَ وَتُخْرِجَ الْأَسِيرَ مِنَ السِّجْنِ وَالْجَالِسِينَ فِي الظُّلْمَةِ مِنْ بَيْتِ الْحَبْسِ. أَنَا الرَّبُّ وَهَذَا أَسْمِي وَلَا أُعْطِي لِآخَرٍ مَجْدِي وَلَا لِلْمُنْحَوَاتِ حَمْدِي.» وَأَسِيرُ الْعُمَيَّانِ فِي طَرِيقٍ لَمْ يَعْرِفُوهُ وَأُسْلِكُهُمْ مَسَالِكَ لَمْ يَعْهَدُوهَا وَأَجْعَلَ الظُّلْمَةَ نُورًا أَمَامَهُمْ وَالْمُلْتَوِيَّاتِ مُسْتَقِيمَةً. هَذِهِ الْأُمُورُ سَأَصْنَعُهَا وَلَا أَتْرُكُكُمْ. قَدْ أَرْتَدُّوا إِلَى الْوَرَاءِ وَخَزَيَ خَزْيًا الْمُتَوَكِّلُونَ عَلَى الْمُنْحَوَاتِ الْقَائِلُونَ لِلْمَسْبُوكَاتِ: أَنْتَنَّ إِلَهُنَا.» أَيُّهَا الصُّمُّ أَسْمَعُوا أَيُّهَا الْعُمَيَّانِ أَنْظُرُوا وَأَبْصِرُوا.

رسالة القديس بولس الثانية إلى أهل كورنثس 7-1:10

يَا إِخْوَتِي، أَنَا بُولُسُ نَفْسِي أَنَاشِدُكُمْ بِوَدَاعَةِ الْمَسِيحِ وَحِلْمِهِ، أَنَا الْمُتَوَاضِعُ بَيْنَكُمْ عِنْدَمَا أَكُونُ حَاضِرًا، وَالْجَرِيءُ عَلَيْكُمْ عِنْدَمَا أَكُونُ غَائِبًا. وَأَرْجُو أَلَّا أُجْبَرَ عِنْدَ حُضُورِي أَنْ أَكُونَ جَرِيئًا، بِالْيَقَةِ الَّتِي لِي بِكُمْ، وَالَّتِي أَنُورِي أَنْ أَجْرُوَ بِهَا عَلَى الَّذِينَ يَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّنَا نَسْلُكُ كَأَنَّا جَسَدِيَّينَ. أَجَلْ، إِنَّنَا نَحْيَا فِي الْجَسَدِ، وَلَكِنَّا لَا نُحَارِبُ كَأَنَّا جَسَدِيَّينَ؛ لِأَنَّ أَسْلِحَةَ جِهَادِنَا لَيْسَتْ جَسَدِيَّةً، بَلْ هِيَ قَادِرَةٌ بِاللَّهِ عَلَى هَدْمِ الْخُصُوفِ الْمَنِيْعَةِ؛ فَإِنَّا نَهْدِمُ الْأَفْكَارَ الْخَاطِئَةَ، وَكُلَّ شُمُوحٍ يَرْتَفِعُ ضِدَّ مَعْرِفَةِ اللَّهِ، وَنَأْسُرُ كُلَّ فِكْرٍ لِبَطَاعَةِ الْمَسِيحِ. وَنَحْنُ مُسْتَعِدُّونَ أَنْ نُعَاقِبَ كُلَّ عُصْيَانٍ، مَتَى كَمَلْتُ طَاعَتَكُمْ. إِنَّكُمْ تَحْكُمُونَ عَلَى الْمَظَاهِرِ! إِنْ كَانَ أَحَدٌ وَاقِفًا بِنَفْسِهِ أَنَّهُ لِلْمَسِيحِ، فَلْيُفَكِّرْ فِي نَفْسِهِ أَنَّهُ كَمَا هُوَ لِلْمَسِيحِ كَذَلِكَ نَحْنُ أَيْضًا.

إنجيل القديس مرقس 52- 46: 10

بَيْنَمَا يَسُوعُ خَارِجٌ مِنْ أَرِيحَا، هُوَ وَتَلَامِيذُهُ وَجَمْعٌ غَفِيرٌ، كَانَ بَرْطِيمَا، أَيُّ ابْنِ طِيمَا، وَهُوَ شَحَاذٌ أَعْمَى، جَالِسًا عَلَى جَانِبِ الطَّرِيقِ. فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ أَنَّهُ يَسُوعُ النَّاصِرِيُّ، بَدَأَ يَصْرُخُ وَيَقُولُ: «يَا يَسُوعُ ابْنُ دَاوُدَ ارْحَمْنِي!». «فَإِنْتَهَرَهُ أُنَاسٌ كَثِيرُونَ لَيْسَكُتَ، إِلَّا أَنَّهُ كَانَ يَزْدَادُ صُرَاخًا: «يَا ابْنُ دَاوُدَ ارْحَمْنِي!». «فَوَقَفَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ: «أَدْعُوهُ!». «فَدَعَا الْأَعْمَى قَائِلِينَ لَهُ: «ثِقْ وَأَنْهَضْ! إِنَّهُ يَدْعُوكَ.» فَطَرَحَ الْأَعْمَى رِدَاءَهُ، وَوَثَبَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى يَسُوعَ. فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «مَاذَا تُرِيدُ أَنْ أَصْنَعَ لَكَ؟». «قَالَ لَهُ الْأَعْمَى: «رَابُّونِي، أَنْ أَبْصِرَ!». «فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «إِذْهَبْ! إِيْمَانُكَ خَلَّصَكَ.» وَلِلْوَقْتِ عَادَ يُبْصِرُ. وَرَاحَ يَتَّبَعُ يَسُوعَ فِي الطَّرِيقِ.

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spirit prevents us  
from being free.

Pope Francis

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