

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

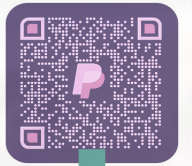
PARISH OFFICE: ... 978.685.7233 ... FAX: 978-688-4475... rectory@stanthonylawrence.org



SCAN ME



VENMO



PAYPAL



WEEKLY
BULLETIN



DAILY
READINGS

لانجيل اليومي



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Fifth Sunday of the Resurrection -
الأحد الخامس من زمن القيامة

LITURGIES INTENTIONS

5th Sunday of the Resurrection

Saturday, April 27 (English) *St. Simon*

4:00 pm +40 Day Anniversary - Regina Prezzano,
By her son, Glenn, & family

Sunday, April 28 *St. Jason*

8:00 am In Honor of Mouna Hbaiter (Birthday),
By her family

9:30 am + Beverly A. Davis, By Sam George &
Sara Rutland

11:00 am + Salwa Abou Khalil, Nassif Touma, &
their daughter, Patricia Touma, &
Pio, By Rita Touma & her family

+ 1st Anniversary - Ghalyeh Salame, By
her brother, Milad Salame & family

6th Sunday of the Resurrection Our Lady of Lebanon

Saturday, May 4 (English) *St. Monica*

11:00 am First Communion Liturgy

4:00 pm + Peter Bijjani, By his wife, Lili, his
children & their families

Sunday, May 5 *St. Irene*

8:00 am + Nadia Atallah, By Mr. & Mrs. Beshara
Sfeir

9:30 am + 1st Anniversary - Elaine Brousseau,
By her children & their families

11:00 am + Maurice Geha, his parents & siblings,
By his wife, Leila, his children & their
families

5:00 pm The good health & well being of our
youths & their families

Daily Liturgies

Monday, April 29 (Ar.)

St. Catherine of Siena / Phil 1:1-11 / Lk 22:28-34

9:00 am + In honor of Francis & Foutine
Daher, and their family

Tuesday, April 30 (Eng.)

St. James, son of Zebedee / Phil 1:12-20 / Jn 1:35-42

9:00 am + Larry & Dora M. Pereira, By Dora
Pereira

Wednesday, May 1 (Ar.)

Jeremiah the Prophet / Phil 1:21-30 / Mt 16:11-20

9:00 am + Souls in Purgatory, By Mouna
Hbaiter & family

Thursday, May 2 (Eng.)

St. Athanasius of Alexandria / Phil 2:1-11 / Mt 16:21-28

9:00 am Private Intentions

9:30 am –12pm Adoration

Friday, May 3

*St. Timothy & His Wife St. Maura
Phil 2:12-18 / Mt 18:18-22*

7:00 pm First of the Month Liturgy

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION

**National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon:
May 5, 2024**

PLEASE NOTE

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

ENERGY COLLECTION

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!

YOUTH LITURGY

Sunday, May 5 @ 5pm

All our youth, MYO & MYA members, and their families are invited to celebrate with us the first Sunday of the month mass.

“All are welcome at the table of the Lord”

SANCTUARY LAMPS



In Loving Memory of Michael Rizk, By Noreen Quinlan, Molly & Meghan Rizk



In Loving Memory of Raymond & Anna Quinlan, By Noreen Quinlan, & family

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:
www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/

CEMETERY NEWS

Cemetery Spring Clean up & Maintenance is underway! All wreaths, baskets, solar lights, stands & other in-ground decorations NOT within our guidelines must be removed. We understand the problem with the Geese. We cannot control this, but you can help by cleaning up after your family pets; otherwise, please leave them in the car or at home.

*****Going forward, our grave decorations regulations will be strictly enforced for safety, beauty & uniformity. Kindly take the time to read & adhere to our cemetery guidelines for planting & visiting our Sacred Cemetery Grounds.**

We appreciate your attention and understanding to this matter and apologize for any inconveniences.

For more information on our Cemetery planting policy please visit our website @ www.stanthonylawrence.org/cemetery/

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Next Session:
Saturday, April 27, 2024 @ 5-7 pm
First Communion
Saturday, May 4, 2024 @ 11 am

MARONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION

MYO Co-Leaders: Geryes Geha & Gabrielle AbdulNour

Next Meeting: Community Service
Sunday, May 5, 2024 @ 6 - 7:30 pm

DAUGHTERS OF SAINT ANTHONY

Next Meeting:
Monday May 6 @ 12 Noon, Church Hall

KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Next Meeting:
Saturday, May 11, 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

Last Session: Celebration
Saturday, May 18th @ 5-7 pm

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>



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

-St. Anthony Council 16204



KOC Next Meeting:

Tuesday May 14, 2024 @ 7pm, Church Hall
Men 18 yrs. and older are encouraged to attend.
For information email: KOC16204@gmail.com



MAHRAJAN DABKE

~ Kids Troop

Mahrajan Kids Dabke group practice will begin on **May 6th** and will be held every Monday from 6 - 7 with **Reine Ata**. The kids Dabke age group will consist of participants from age 7 to 12. If interested please scan the QR CODE to complete the registration form.

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



M-WINE

Next Meeting:
Saturday, April 27, 2024
@ 5:30 pm, Church Hall

"We Serve Better Together"

Please SCAN the QR CODE to complete a quick survey to help us improve our social and spiritual services, and community outreach. Your opinions matter and It will only take 5 minutes of your time. Thank you!

ARABIC BIBLE STUDY – COMING SOON!

“المسيح احب الكنيسة، وأنت؟”
 (قراءة لاهوتية في نص رسالة أفسس ٤-٥)

دراسات في الكتاب المقدس مع الاب ريمون باسيل عبر
 الإنترنت. مداخلات شخصية من خلال Zoom

The DCG Scholarships

The Dorothy C Gabriel Foundation is offering the *DCG scholarship* to any Saint Anthony’s parishioner who will be attending Central Catholic High School in fall 2024. For more information or to apply, please text the students full name and contact number to **Ken Gabriel at 508-633-0704**.

Deadline to apply is May 15, 2024.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

- April 27:** Charbel Abou Jaoude, Elida Ata, Geryes El Hachem
- April 28:** Adel AbouHammad, Amanda Asmar, Victor Azzi, Lynn Deinnocentis, Mark Harb, Mouna Hbaiter, Macy Kasbo, Wilfredo Pagan, Matthew Soucy
- April 29:** Laila Eid, Joseph Elnar, Mia Hassan, Lara Kossaifi, Abraham Lahood, Anthony Merheb, Sophia Shea
- April 30:** Rona Dagher, Rafqa El Rahi, Samira El Rahi, Scot Gabriel
- May 01:** Fred Corey, Lina Daher, Danielle Elnar, Sophia Georges, Callum Roberts, Donna Yameen
- May 02:** Michael Haddad, Antonio Hbaiter, Jason Jermany, Amara Khalife
- May 03:** Joseph Abboud, Jennifer Ata, Jessica Raad

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

- April 28:** Abdo & Hanan Abi Samra
- April 29:** Francis & Foutine Daher
- April 30:** Joseph & Sahar Cordes
- May 01:** Peter & Jean Sarkis
- May 02:** Jeremiah & Maryann Collins
 Bruce & Lisa Touma
- May 03:** Sharbel & Kimberly Azzi



Sign up for FREE with
 our 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.

Please contact the Parish Office for more inquiries.

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*

Saint Anthony Maronite Church

Profit & Loss

January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23		
Ordinary Expenditures		Utilities	
Salaries		Cable / Satellite TV	2,924.06
Clergy	88,200.00	Electric	18,748.53
Clergy Help	500.00	Fuel or Gas	16,500.84
Housekeeping	12,477.00	Total Utilities	38,173.43
Office Work Assistant	1,750.00	Total Other Ordinary	431,289.45
Organist / Singers	10,675.00	Parish Office Administration	
Secretarial	27,342.00	Books, Periodicals & Subscript	
Total Salaries	140,944.00	Payroll Fees	620.29
Total Ordinary Expenditures	140,944.00	Offering Envelopes	3,579.57
Other Ordinary		Parish Directory	708.88
2nd Collections forwarded	10,095.40	Text Messaging Service	5,633.89
Annual Bishop's Appeal	7,500.00	Books, Periodicals & Subscript - O...	3,153.98
Conferences & Retreats (SPECIFY)		Total Books, Periodicals & Subscript	13,696.61
Deacon & Subdeacon Retreats	1,994.37	Advertising & Public Relations	
Clergy Retreat	5,685.98	Bulletin Printing	416.59
NAM Convention	4,027.65	Advertising & Public Relations - Ot...	9,055.87
Total Conferences & Retreats (SPECI...	11,708.00	Total Advertising & Public Relations	9,472.46
Decorations & Flowers	6,459.75	Bank Charges	295.23
Donations to Others (SPECIFY)		Copier (new lease)	3,085.64
Beirut Relief Fund	162,906.00	Miscellaneous Expenses	
Pastor Charities	4,580.00	Tree of Life - Plaque	305.00
Stipend	6,405.00	Total Miscellaneous Expenses	305.00
Charity Assistance/Need		Office Supplies	1,595.38
College of St. Sauveur-Joun	27,000.00	Parking Refund	120.00
Charity Assistance/Need - Other	5,290.00	Postage	2,790.84
Total Charity Assistance/Need	32,290.00	Printing	4,771.44
Donations to Others (SPECIFY) - O...	10,825.00	Professional Fees	2,505.28
Total Donations to Others (SPECIFY)	217,006.00	Telephone & Internet Service	7,589.09
Eparchial Assessment	23,000.00	Travel Expenses	1,699.22
Insurance - Buildings		Total Parish Office Administration	47,926.19
Worker's Comp.	773.00	Parish Programs	
Insurance - Buildings - Other	25,638.00	Daughters of St. Anthony	1,128.63
Total Insurance - Buildings	26,411.00	Basketball	4,735.18
Janitorial Supplies	2,180.79	Choir	246.31
Maintenance & Repairs		Knights of Mary	1,863.29
Equipments Furniture	1,421.67	Knights of the Altar	953.76
Inspection- Extinguishers, Hood	580.00	Men's Club	6,120.00
IT / Audio Visual Equipment	4,084.48	Miscellaneous Prog. (SPECIFY)	792.00
Roof	1,200.00	MYA	264.74
Heating -Boilers	2,393.00	MYO	7,100.94
Service Contracts	2,441.00	Religious Education	
Church Grounds Maintenance	12,227.52	First Holy Communion	1,197.70
Cleaning	24,833.04	Religious Education - Other	746.96
HVAC & Kitchen Equipments	18,209.51	Total Religious Education	1,944.66
Waste Management	4,091.95	Sunday Coffee Hour	852.37
Website Hosting and Domain	640.00	Women's Club	6,750.00
Maintenance & Repairs - Other	5,542.48	Total Parish Programs	32,751.88
Total Maintenance & Repairs	77,664.65	Payroll Expenses	2,285.64
Religious Supplies		Special Events	
Dry Cleaning	1,056.56	Christmas Recital	160.00
Liturgical Vestments	293.22	Ordinations-Deacon, Sub-Deacon	7,037.12
Candles	4,692.82	Children Christmas Party	200.00
Hosts and Wines	731.76	Total Special Events	7,397.12
Religious Supplies - Other	716.34	Total Expense	824,274.76
Total Religious Supplies	7,490.70	Net Ordinary Income	45,382.49
Seminarian Assistance	1,916.08	Net Income	45,382.49
Sewer & Water Assessment	1,683.65		

Saint Anthony Maronite Church

Profit & Loss

January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23		
Ordinary Income/Expense		Regular Collections	
Income		2nd Collections to be forwarded	10,085.40
Extraordinary Income		Sunday & Holy Day Collections	237,041.40
Donations for Sacraments-Church		Total Regular Collections	247,126.80
Donations for Funeral	11,900.00	Total Ordinary Income	413,037.78
Donations for Baptism	5,900.00	Programs	
First Communion	4,050.00	Bible Camp	2,050.00
Donations For Liturgy	6,665.00	Basketball Registration	2,596.10
Donations for Wedding	8,150.00	Knights of Mary	2,050.00
Total Donations for Sacraments-Chu...	36,665.00	Men's Club Proceeds	7,150.00
Donations from Organizations	18,363.59	MYO Proceeds	3,294.00
Refund	26.21	Religious Education Income	3,795.00
Donations for Charity		Women's Club Proceeds	
College of St. Sauveur-Joun	47,330.00	Daughters of St Anthony	1,025.00
Beirut Relief Fund	190,093.00	Women's Club Proceeds - Other	4,680.00
Help to the Needy	173.65	Total Women's Club Proceeds	5,705.00
Donations for Charity - Other	5,392.70	Total Programs	26,640.10
Total Donations for Charity	242,989.35	Total Income	869,657.25
Donations for Pastor Charities	4,140.00	Gross Profit	869,657.25
Donations from Individuals		Expense	
Stipend	6,630.00	Bank Service Charges	462.62
In Memory of...	20,443.00	Licenses and Permits	145.00
Donations from Individuals - Other	40,153.00	Security	799.65
Total Donations from Individuals	67,226.00	Benefits	
Other Extraordinary (SPECIFY)		Insurance - Disability	2,400.00
Cemetery Plot Purchase	100.00	Insurance - Medical	29,500.00
Decorations/Flowers	9,034.00	Medical Reimbursements	1,369.80
Total Other Extraordinary (SPECIFY)	9,134.00	Pension Plan Contr to Eparchy	14,400.00
Total Extraordinary Income	378,544.15	Social Security Reimbursement	4,028.00
Fund Raising		Total Benefits	51,697.80
Raffle	18,410.54	Extraordinary Expenditures	
Bake Sale	4,667.15	Shipping and Handling	2,867.72
Special Events Haffi	28,357.53	Furniture & Equipment	4,767.27
Total Fund Raising	51,435.22	Major Repairs/Renovat - Hall	5,365.63
Ordinary Income		Major Repairs/Renovat - Rectory	68,357.73
Church Hall Income	3,600.00	Total Extraordinary Expenditures	81,358.35
Auxiliary Receipts		Fund Raising Events	
Calendars	207.00	Bake Sale	4,967.19
Tree of Life - Plaque	875.00	Raffle	2,169.75
Candles / Other Devotional Item	9,651.71	Calendars	350.00
Fuel	22,657.00	Haffis	
Interest & Dividends	346.16	Liquor Permit	250.00
Miscellaneous (SPECIFY)		Haffis - Other	15,019.75
Insurance Claim	72,486.11	Total Haffis	15,269.75
Total Miscellaneous (SPECIFY)	72,486.11	Total Fund Raising Events	22,756.69
Parking Lot Donations	55,792.00	Household	4,460.37
Sunday Coffee Hour	296.00		
Total Auxiliary Receipts	162,310.98		

Saint Anthony Maronite Church Profit & Loss - Mahrajan January through December 2023

Ordinary Income/Expense	Expense
Income	Fund Raising Events
Fund Raising	Mahrajan
Special Events Mahrajan	Advertising, Public Relations
Mahrajan Deposits	Banners
Mahrajan Photo	1,055.44
550.00	Signs
Mahrajan Coffee	1,001.48
2,235.00	Advertising, Public Relations - O...
Mahrajan Bar	6,392.29
42,123.00	Total Advertising, Public Relations
Mahrajan Food	8,449.21
47,299.00	Bar Expense
Mahrajan Sandwiches	Bar Supplies
41,739.00	3,185.28
Mahrajan Saj	Bar Liquor
12,737.00	10,438.47
Mahrajan Pastry	Bar Expense - Other
26,772.00	719.98
Mahrajan Hookah	Total Bar Expense
16,690.00	14,343.73
Mahrajan Baskets	Cost of Food
6,199.00	Saj
Mahrajan Souvenirs	128.88
9,273.49	American Cuisine
Mahrajan Henna	32.04
1,107.00	Ethnic Cuisine
Mahrajan Miscellaneous	7,385.85
862.00	Bakery
Mahrajan Raffle	9,851.79
7,834.00	Cost of Food - Other
Mahrajan Donation	3,149.35
3,953.55	Total Cost of Food
Total Mahrajan Deposits	20,547.91
219,374.04	Cost of Refreshments
Mahrajan Sponsorship	3,475.16
124,660.00	Cleaning
Raffle-Presale	6,785.00
20,320.00	Entertainment (Singer and Band)
Mahrajan Post Sale	20,031.77
Mahrajan Pastry Post Sale	Hookah Supplies
450.00	1,665.00
Total Mahrajan Post Sale	Permits
450.00	810.00
Total Special Events Mahrajan	Paper Products
364,804.04	7,871.92
Total Fund Raising	Printing & Stationary
364,804.04	813.56
Total Income	Souvenirs
364,804.04	4,835.00
Gross Profit	Raffles
364,804.04	4,710.62
Total Mahrajan Expense	Rentals
170,899.88	Tents
Gross Profit	18,564.76
364,804.04	Propane Tanks
Total Expense	1,400.80
170,899.88	Dumpster Rental & Removal
Net Ordinary Income	3,487.37
193,904.16	Water Closets (WCs)
Net Income	2,360.00
193,904.16	Transportation - Golf Carts
	2,606.40
	Rentals - Other
	630.00
	Total Rentals
	29,049.33
	Mahrajan Detail
	Police Dept
	4,752.00
	Fire Dept
	2,772.00
	Total Mahrajan Detail
	7,524.00
	Sundry Expenses
	3,555.43
	Equipment
	16,432.24
	Mahrajan - Other
	20,000.00
	Total Mahrajan Expense
	170,899.88

ST ANTHONY MARONITE CATHOLIC CEMETERY

Profit & Loss

January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Cemetery Plots	
Casket Plot Purchase	42,259.46
Cremation Burial Unit	900.00
Grave Stones & Markers	1,800.00
Urn Plot Purchase	2,900.00
Total Cemetery Plots	47,859.46
Cemetery Preservation	
Perpetual Care	4,717.16
Total Cemetery Preservation	4,717.16
Funerals	59,100.00
Credit Card Processing Fee	208.47
Uncategorized Income	0.00
Total Income	111,885.09
Gross Profit	111,885.09
Expense	
Merchant deposit fees	198.90
Bank Service Charges	36.00
City Hall System Fee	2.00
Cemetery Software	1,990.00
Funeral Fees Paid	34,870.00
Insurance Expense	189.00
Outside Services	642.94
Repairs and Maintenance	
Grave Markers	175.00
Landscaping Expenses	2,587.00
Monthly Maintenance Fee	9,600.00
Repairs and Maintenance - Ot...	1,500.00
Total Repairs and Maintenance	13,862.00
Shipping and Handling	400.00
Utilities	
Dumpster	532.08
Water and Sewer	320.96
Total Utilities	853.04
Total Expense	53,043.88
Net Ordinary Income	58,841.21
Net Income	58,841.21

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"X8"= \$250

Please submit your request either by

Phone: 978.685.7233 or by E-mail:

rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

- ◆ *The first report you see is the Profit & Loss for the church without the income of the Mahrajan.*
- ◆ *The second report is the Profit & Loss of the Mahrajan itself.*
- ◆ *The third report is the Profit & Loss of the Cemetery.*

FOLLOWING JESUS – ACCORDING TO THE LETTER OR THE SPIRIT? *By Ronald Rolheiser*

I work and move within church circles and find that most of the people I meet there are honest, committed, and for the most part radiate their faith positively. Most church-goers aren't hypocrites. What I do find disturbing within church circles though is that too many of us can be bitter, angry, mean-spirited, and judgmental, especially in terms of the very values that we hold most dear. It was Henri Nouwen who first highlighted this, commenting with sadness that many of the really angry, bitter, and ideologically-driven people he knew he had met inside of church circles and places of ministry. Within church circles, it sometimes seems, everyone is angry about something. Moreover, within church circles, it is all too easy to rationalize our anger in the name of prophecy, as a healthy passion for truth and morals. The logic works this way: Because I am sincerely concerned about an important moral, ecclesial, or justice issue, I can excuse a certain amount of neurosis, anger, elitism, and negative judgment, because I can rationalize that my cause, dogmatic or moral, is so important that it justifies my mean spirit: I need to be this angry and harsh because this is such an important truth! And so we justify our anger by giving it a prophetic cloak, believing that we are warriors for God, truth, and morals when, in fact, we are mostly just struggling with our own wounds, insecurities, and fears. Hence we often look at others, even whole churches made up of sincere persons trying to live the gospel, and instead of seeing brothers and sisters struggling, like us, to follow Jesus, we see "people in error", "dangerous relativists", "new age pagans", "religious flakes", and in our more generous moments, "poor misguided souls". But never do we look at what this kind of judgment is saying about us, about our own health of soul and our own following of Jesus. Don't get me wrong: Truth is not relative, moral issues are important, and right truth and proper morals, like kingdoms under perpetual siege, need to be defended. Not all moral judgments are created equal, neither are all churches. But the truth of that doesn't trump everything else or give us an excuse to rationalize our anger. We must defend truth, defend those who cannot defend themselves, and be solid in the traditions of our own churches. But right truth and right morals don't necessarily make us disciples of Jesus. What does?

What makes us genuine disciples of Jesus is living inside his Spirit, the Holy Spirit, and this is not something abstract and vague. If one were searching for a single formula to determine who is Christian and who isn't, one might look at the Epistle to the Galatians, Chapter 5. In it, St. Paul tells us that we can live according to either the spirit of the flesh or the Holy Spirit. We live according to the spirit of the flesh when we live in anger, bitterness, judgment of our neighbor, factionalism, and non-forgiveness. When these things characterize our lives we shouldn't delude ourselves and think that we are living inside of the Holy Spirit. Conversely, we live inside of the Holy Spirit when our lives are characterized by charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, longsuffering, constancy, faith, gentleness, and chastity. If these do not characterize our lives, we should not nurse the illusion that we are inside of God's Spirit, irrespective of our passion for truth, dogma, or justice. This may be a cruel thing to say, and perhaps more cruel not to say, but I sometimes see more charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, and gentleness among persons who are Unitarian, New Age, or Baha'i (and are often judged by other churches as being wishy-washy and as not standing for anything) than I see among those of us who do stand up so strongly for certain ecclesial and moral issues but are often mean-spirited and bitter inside of our convictions. Given the choice of whom I'd like as a neighbor or, more deeply, the choice of whom I want to spend eternity with, I am sometimes pretty conflicted about the choice: Who is my real faith companion? The angry zealot at war for Jesus or cause? Or the more gentle soul who is branded wishy-washy or "new age"? At the end of the day, who is the real Christian? We need, I believe, to be more self-critical in regards to our anger, harsh judgments, mean-spirit, exclusiveness, and disdain for other ecclesial and moral paths. As T.S. Eliot once said: The last temptation that's the greatest treason is to do the right thing for the wrong reason. We may have truth and right morals on our side. But our anger and harsh judgments towards those who don't share our truth and morals may well have us standing outside the Father's house, like the older brother of the prodigal son, bitter both at God's mercy and at those who are receiving that mercy.

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Fifth Sunday of the Resurrection: Peter Receives his Ministry

Book of Ezekiel 34,11-16.23-25a

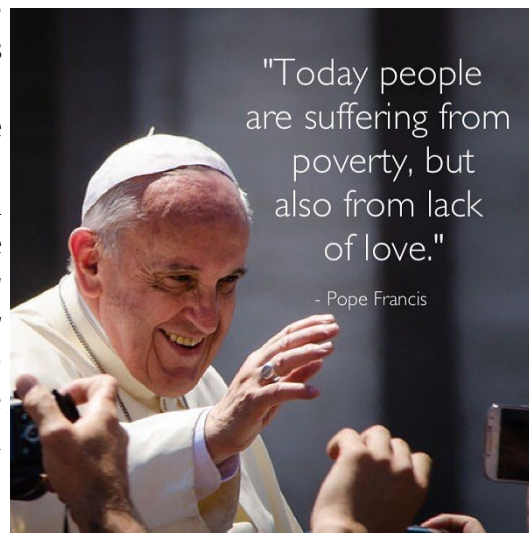
For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken. I will make with them a covenant of peace and banish wild animals from the land, so that they may live in the wild and sleep in the woods securely.

Letter to the Ephesians 2, 1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ by grace you have been saved and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint John 21,15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'



الأحد الخامس من زمن القيامة : يسوع يسلم الرعاية لبطرس

سفر حزقيال 25a-23.16-11:34

هَكَذَا قَالَ السَّيِّدُ الرَّبُّ: «هَاءَنْذَا أَنشُدُ خِرَافِي وَأَفْتَقِدُهَا أَنَا. كَمَا يَفْتَقِدُ الرَّاعِي قَطِيعَهُ يَوْمَ يَكُونُ فِي وَسْطِ خِرَافِهِ الْمُنتَشِرَةِ، كَذَلِكَ أَفْتَقِدُ أَنَا خِرَافِي وَأَنْقَذُهَا مِنْ جَمِيعِ الْمَوَاضِعِ الَّتِي شَتَّتَتْ فِيهَا يَوْمَ الْغَيْمِ وَالْغَمَامِ الْمُظْلَمِ. وَأَخْرَجُهَا مِنْ بَيْنِ الشُّعُوبِ، وَأَجْمَعُهَا مِنَ الْأَرْضِ وَأَتِي بِهَا إِلَى أَرْضِهَا وَأُرْعَاهَا عَلَى جِبَالِ إِسْرَائِيلَ وَفِي الْأُودِيَةِ وَفِي جَمِيعِ مَسَاكِنِ الْأَرْضِ. وَفِي مَرْعَى صَالِحِ أَرْضِهَا، وَفِي جِبَالِ إِسْرَائِيلَ الْعَالِيَةِ يَكُونُ مَرْعَاهَا. هُنَالِكَ تَرْبُضُ فِي حَظِيرَةٍ صَالِحَةٍ، وَتَرْعَى وَفِي مَرْعَى دَسِيمِ عَلَى جِبَالِ إِسْرَائِيلَ. أَنَا أُرْعَى خِرَافِي وَأَنَا أُرْبِضُهَا، يَقُولُ السَّيِّدُ الرَّبُّ. فَأَبْحَثُ عَنِ الضَّالَّةِ، وَأُرُدُّ الشَّارِدَةَ، وَأَجْبُرُ الْمَكْسُورَةَ، وَأَقْوِي الضَّعِيفَةَ وَأَهْلِكُ السَّمِينَةَ وَالْقَوِيَّةَ، وَأُرْعَاهَا بِعَدْلٍ. وَأَقِيمُ عَلَيْهَا رَاعِيًا آخَرَ لِيُرْعَاهَا، عَبْدِي دَاوُدُ، فَهُوَ يَرْعَاهَا وَهُوَ يَكُونُ رَاعِيَهَا. وَأَنَا الرَّبُّ أَكُونُ لَهُمْ إِلَهًا، وَعَبْدِي دَاوُدُ يَكُونُ فِي وَسْطِهِمْ رَئِيسًا. أَنَا الرَّبُّ تَكَلَّمْتُ. وَأَقْطَعُ لَهُمْ عَهْدَ سَلَامٍ.»

رسالة القديس بولس الى أهل أفسس 1:2-10

يَا إِخْوَتِي، وَأَنْتُمْ، فَقَدْ كُنْتُمْ أَمْوَاتًا بِزَلَّاتِكُمْ وَخَطَايَاكُمْ، الَّتِي سَلَكْتُمْ فِيهَا مِنْ قَبْلِ بِحَسَبِ إِلِهِ هَذَا الْعَالَمِ، بِحَسَبِ رَئِيسِ سُلْطَانِ الْجَوِّ، أَيِ الرُّوحِ الَّذِي يَعْمَلُ الْآنَ فِي أَبْنَاءِ الْعُصْيَانِ؛ وَمِنْهُمْ نَحْنُ أَيْضًا جَمِيعُنَا قَدْ سَلَكْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِ فِي شَهَوَاتِ إِنْسَانِنَا الْجَسَدِيِّ، عَامِلِينَ بِرَغْبَاتِهِ وَأَفْكَارِهِ، وَكُنَّا بِالطَّبِيعَةِ أَوْلَادَ الْغَضَبِ كَالْبَاقِينَ؛ لَكِنَّ اللَّهَ، وَهُوَ الْغَنِيُّ بِرَحْمَتِهِ، فَلِكَثْرَةِ مَحَبَّتِهِ الَّتِي أَحَبَّنَا بِهَا، وَقَدْ كُنَّا نَحْنُ أَيْضًا أَمْوَاتًا بِزَلَّاتِنَا، أَحْيَانَا مَعَ الْمَسِيحِ، وَبِالنِّعْمَةِ أَنْتُمْ مُخَلَّصُونَ؛ وَمَعَهُ أَقَامْنَا وَأَجْلَسْنَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ، لِيُظَهَرَ فِي الْأَجْيَالِ الْآتِيَةِ غِنَى نِعْمَتِهِ الْفَائِقَةِ، بِلُطْفِهِ لَنَا فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ. فَبِالنِّعْمَةِ أَنْتُمْ مُخَلَّصُونَ بِوَسِطَةِ الْإِيمَانِ: وَهَذَا لَيْسَ مِنْكُمْ، إِنَّهُ عَطِيَّةُ اللَّهِ. وَلَا هُوَ مِنَ الْأَعْمَالِ، لِنَلَّا يَفْتَخِرَ أَحَدٌ؛ لَأَنَّ نَحْنُ صُنْعُهُ، قَدْ خُلِقْنَا فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ لِلْأَعْمَالِ الصَّالِحَةِ، الَّتِي سَبَقَ اللَّهُ فَأَعَدَّهَا لِكِي نَسْلُكَ فِيهَا.

إنجيل القديس يوحنا 15:21-19

بَعْدَ الْغَدَاءِ، قَالَ يَسُوعُ لِسِمْعَانَ بُطْرُسَ: «يَا سِمْعَانُ بَنَ يُونَا، أَتُحِبُّنِي أَكْثَرَ مِمَّا يُحِبُّنِي هُوَ لَاءِ؟». «قَالَ لَهُ: «نَعَمْ، يَا رَبِّ، أَنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنِّي أَحِبُّكَ.» «قَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «إِرْعَ حُمْلَانِي.» «قَالَ لَهُ مَرَّةً ثَانِيَةً: «يَا سِمْعَانُ بَنَ يُونَا، أَتُحِبُّنِي؟.» «قَالَ لَهُ: «نَعَمْ يَا رَبِّ، أَنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنِّي أَحِبُّكَ.» «قَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «إِرْعَ نِعَاجِي!». «قَالَ لَهُ مَرَّةً ثَالِثَةً: «يَا سِمْعَانُ بَنَ يُونَا، أَتُحِبُّنِي؟.» «فَحَزَنَ بُطْرُسُ، لِأَنَّ يَسُوعَ قَالَ لَهُ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ: أَتُحِبُّنِي؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ: «يَا رَبِّ، أَنْتَ تَعْلَمُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، وَأَنْتَ تَعْرِفُ أَنِّي أَحِبُّكَ.» «قَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «إِرْعَ خِرَافِي! أَلْحَقَّ أَلْحَقَّ أَقُولُ لَكَ: حِينَ كُنْتَ سَابًّا، كُنْتَ تَسُدُّ جِزَامَكَ بِبَيْدِكَ وَتَسِيرُ إِلَى حَيْثُ تُرِيدُ. وَلَكِنْ حِينَ تَشِيخُ، سَتَبْسُطُ يَدَيْكَ وَآخَرُ يَسُدُّ لَكَ جِزَامَكَ، وَيَذْهَبُ بِكَ إِلَى حَيْثُ لَا تُرِيدُ.» «قَالَ يَسُوعُ ذَلِكَ مُشِيرًا إِلَى الْمِينَةِ الَّتِي سَيَمَجِدُ بِهَا بُطْرُسُ اللَّهُ. ثُمَّ قَالَ لَهُ: «إِتَّبِعْنِي!»

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 27 - 4 pm - Lisa Abdallah

Sunday, April 28 -

8:00 am - Mouna Hbaiter

9:30 am - Michael Faris

11:00 am - (Eng) Mary Saab

(Ar) Maribelle Spiridon

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 4 - 4 pm - Meaghan Twing

Sunday, May 5 -

8:00 am - Huguette Sfeir

9:30 am - David Brousseau

11:00 am - (Eng) Marita Merheb

(Ar) George Merheb