



# Entrance Into The Great Lent

*Sunday Of The Miracle at Cana*

أحد مدخل الصوم الكبير: آية عرس قانا



# LENT

A Time To Prepare

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

*You are welcomed & loved by St Anthony's Maronite Church Community  
We are transformed through prayer, acts of love, forgiveness, service & stewardship*

PARISH OFFICE: 978-685-7233 FAX: 978-688-4475 Website: [stanthonylawrence.org](http://stanthonylawrence.org)  
Office E-mail: [rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)

## LITURGIES INTENTIONS

### ENTRANCE INTO THE GREAT LENT

### Daily Liturgies

#### Sunday of the Miracle at Cana

#### Monday, March 3 (Ar & Eng) - **Ash Monday**

*St. Thomas Aquinas / 2 Cor 5:20-6:7 / Mt 6:16-21*

**Saturday, March 1** (Eng) *Sts. Domnina & Eudokia*

**4:00 pm** + 40 Day Anniversary - Atty. John Tarshi,  
By his family

**9:00 am & 6:00 pm** Liturgies and distribution of  
Ashes

**Sunday, March 2** *St. John Maron*

**8:00 am** + 1st Anniversary - Marie Graige, By her  
sister-in-law, Mouna Hbaiter, & family

**9:30 am** + Dorothy C. Gabriel, Edward (Scotty)  
& May Gabriel, By their Loving Family

+ Souls in Purgatory & the Forgotten  
Souls, By Lili Bijjani

**11:00 am** + 40 Day Anniversary - Andre Younes,  
By his sister, Ramonda, wife of Adel  
Abouhamad, & family

+ Samia El-Hashem, By her family

**5:00 pm** Healing Liturgy

**Tuesday, March 4** (Eng)

*St. Paul & His sister, St. Juliana/ Rom 15:1-13 / Mt 6:5-15*

**9:00 am** + Mariam Faris, By Donna Kattar  
+ Mitchell J. Moses, By his family  
+ For the Souls in Purgatory, By  
Dora Pereira

**Wednesday, March 5** (Ar)

*St. Albert the Great/ Rom 15:14-21 / Mt 6:1-4*

**9:00 am** + Dr. Elias Nabbout, By a friend

**Thursday, March 6** (Eng)

*St. Conon of Isauria/ 1Tim 6:6-12 / Mt 6:25-34*

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

**9:30 am- 7:00 pm** Eucharistic Adoration &  
Exposition

**Friday, March 7** - **OFFICE CLOSED**

*The 7 Young Men of Ephesus/2 Thes 3:6-14 / Mt 7:13-27*

#### Sunday of the Healing of the Leper

**Saturday, March 8** (Eng) *St. Frances of Rome*

**4:00 pm** + Private Intentions

**6:00 pm** Station of the Cross followed by  
Adoration of the Cross

**Sunday, March 9** *The Forty Martyrs*

**8:00 am** + Ghassan Raad, By Mr. & Mrs.  
Elias Bou Habib

**9:30 am** + Marie Badawy, By her sister, Lili  
Bijjani

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

### PLEASE NOTE

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



### Lenten Season: A Season of Hope for Pilgrims of Hope

Dear Parishioners,

As we embark on the sacred journey of Lent, we are reminded that this is a **season of hope**—a time to renew our faith, deepen our prayer, and grow in love for God and one another. We are called to be **pilgrims of hope**, walking together toward the joy of Easter, trusting in God's promises and His boundless mercy.

This year, our Lenten schedule is made to help us fully immerse ourselves in this season of Hope. Save the Dates:

- **Ash Monday, March 3:** We begin our Lenten journey with the **Liturgy & Blessing of the Ashes** at 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM. The ashes remind us of our mortality and call us to repentance and renewal.
- **"The Shrine Thursday" Every Thursday:** Join us for **Liturgy at 9:00 AM**, followed by **Exposition of the Eucharist (Adoration)** from 9:30 AM to 7:00 PM. The day will conclude with **Prayers, Hymns, Procession, and the Final Blessing**.
- **Every Friday:** We will gather at 6:00 PM for the **Stations of the Cross**, a homily, and the **Adoration of the Cross**, reflecting on how to become pilgrims of hope in our daily life, and how to overcome all the obstacles that prevent us from living in hope.
- **"Saints, Witnesses of Hope" Saturday & Sunday, March 29-30:** A special **Relics Exhibition** will be held. On Saturday, it will run from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM, with a talk at 5:00 PM. On Sunday, it will be open from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM, with a talk at 12:00 PM.
- **Saturday, April 5: The Regional MYA Spiritual Retreat** will take place from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM, offering a time of reflection and spiritual growth for our youth and young adults.
- **"Live Love Lent"** This project invites each of us—adults, youth, and children—to actively participate in the spirit of giving and sharing, embodying the true essence of Lent." Everyone can receive a Lenten box with a unique number to collect charitable donations throughout Lent. The boxes will be distributed on the **Sunday of Cana** and collected by **Hosana Sunday** or Holy Week. The amounts corresponding to each box number (without names) will be published for transparency. This initiative is for everyone, adults, youth, and children, to share the joy of giving.
- **Friday, April 11, "Candlelight of Hope"**, a Lenten recital to inspire reflection and prayer as we prepare for Holy Week.

Let us walk together as pilgrims of hope, embracing prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. May this Lenten season transform our hearts and bring us closer to the love of Christ.

In Christ's love,

**Fr. Neemtallah (Edgard) Oneissy**

### OFFICE HOURS:

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

**FRI** OFFICE CLOSED

**SAT** By Appointment

**DAILY LITURGIES @ 9 am**

**MON & WED (Ar)**

**TUE & THU (Eng)**

### WEEKEND LITURGIES

**SAT** 4 pm (Eng)

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

11 am (Eng.& Ar)

### Holy days of obligation:

Vigil Liturgy @ 7:00 pm

### MEET OUR PRIESTS:

**Chorbishop Elie Mikhael**

(305) 807-9087

**Fr. Edgard -Neemtallah- Oneissy**

(857)390-4838

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

### MEET OUR DEACONS:

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

**Sub-Deacon:** Antoine Nammour

### CLERGY DAY OFF

Fr. Neemtallah: **Fridays**

### 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.



**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**

Third Saturday of every month @ 8 am at Saint Anthony Maronite Church Hall.

**Family of St Sharbel & Our Lady of Lebanon Ladies Guild**



Thursday, March 20, 2025:

Rosary @ 6:30pm

Followed by Liturgy & Procession

Every Tuesday—Zoom Prayer @ 8pm

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](mailto:communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org)

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
-St. Anthony Council 16204



*"In Service To One,  
In Service To All"*

Next meeting:

**Tuesday March 11, 2025**

**@ 7 pm, Church Hall**

Men 18 yrs. and older are encouraged to attend.

For information email: [KOFc16204@gmail.com](mailto:KOFc16204@gmail.com)


**SANCTUARY LAMPS**



**In Loving Memory Of Theresa Perkins,  
By a dear friend**

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:

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

 **M-WINE**

**"We Serve Better Together"**

Next Meeting:  
**Monday, March 10, 2025**  
**7pm @ Church hall**

**KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR**

Next Meeting:  
**Saturday, March 1st, 2025,**  
**11 am- 12:30 pm @ Church hall**

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

**KNIGHTS OF MARY**

Next Session:  
**Saturday, March 15 & 29, 2025 @ 5 - 7 pm**  
[www.stanthonylawrence.org/events-2/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/events-2/)

**MARONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION-MYO**

Next Meeting:  
**Sunday, March 16, 2025 @ 6 - 7:30 pm**  
[www.stanthonylawrence.org/myo/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/myo/)

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Next Sessions:  
**Saturday, March 8, 2025 @ 5 - 7 pm**  
*Please visit our website for the yearly calendar*  
[www.stanthonylawrence.org/calendar-classes-and-events/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/calendar-classes-and-events/)

**SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH  
ANNUAL LENTEN RAFFLE**

To Defray: Building insurance \$32,000  
Bishop's Appeal \$9500, &  
Eparchial Assessment \$27, 600



**EPARCHIAL CHARITIES APPEAL**

March 3- April 18, 2025

The Lenten letter, along with the Annual Raffle Tickets, which includes your contribution towards the Bishop's Appeal, have been mailed out. Your support, generosity, and unwavering commitment make a significant impact in reaching the goal set for this important cause. Thank you, and may you be blessed during this Lenten season.

*Please remit your tickets at your earliest convenience. Thank you!*

**A Season of Hope for Pilgrims of Hope**

**Lenten Season**

- ◆ **Ash Monday, March 3rd, @ 9am & 6pm:**  
Liturgy & Blessing of Ashes
- ◆ **Every Thursday:**  
Liturgy @ 9 am followed by **Adoration**  
**Exposition of the Eucharist: 9:30am-7pm**
- ◆ **Every Friday @ 6:00 pm: Stations of the Cross**
- ◆ **March 29 & 30: "Saints, Witnesses of Hope", a special Relics Exhibition**
- ◆ **Saturday March 29:**  
Relics Exhibition from 3 pm - 7 pm  
Guest Speaker "Jim Robson" @ 5 pm
- ◆ **Sunday March 30:**  
Relics Exhibition from 8 am - 1 pm  
Guest Speaker "Jim Robson" @ 12 pm
- ◆ **Saturday April 5, 11 am - 5 pm: Regional MYA Spiritual Retreat**
- ◆ **Friday April 11, " Candlelight of Hope"**  
Lenten Recital

*Mahrajan 2025 Dabke Troupe*



Dabke Registration is now open! Please scan the attached QR-code to sign-up!

Deadline April 21st, 2025.

\$20 donation per member

For more information, contact:

Carla Khoder ( Ages 13-20) @ 978-697-1725

Reine Ata ( Ages 7-12) @ 978-902-1234



## WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

02/23/2025

Candles	\$112.00
Donation	\$275.00
Sunday Collection	\$3,946.00
St. Maron's Feast Collection	\$50.00
Utilities, Fuel, & Electricity	\$145.00

**Total \$ 4,528.00**

*Thank you for your generous support to our parish. 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!*

### The DCG Scholarships:

The Dorothy C Gabriel Foundation is offering the *DCG scholarship* to any St Anthony parishioner who will be attending Central Catholic High School in fall 2025. 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, 2025.**



Proudly Announces  
 2025 Scholarship Program

#### High School Graduate Scholarships

MYO – John A. Solomon Two for High School Seniors \$2000	Massabki Brothers One for High School Seniors \$2000
Naomi & Paul Kassouf Two for High School Seniors \$2000	Abouna Sharbel Three for High School Seniors \$1000

#### Undergraduate Scholarships

Chagoury Family Undergraduate One for College Student \$2000	Thomas and Jennie Ayoub One for College Student \$2000
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#### Graduate & Professional Scholarship

Chagoury Family Graduate  
 One for Graduate Student \$2000

#### Study Abroad in Lebanon Opportunities

Notre Dame University-Louaize  
 Up to 10 scholarships for Fall 2025 or Spring 2026

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik  
 Up to 12 scholarships for Summer 2025 Semester

For more information and application visit [namaronites.org](http://namaronites.org) or e-mail [namscholarships@gmail.com](mailto:namscholarships@gmail.com)



**APPLICATION DEADLINE MAY 31, 2025**

**NORTHERN REGIONAL 2025**  
 FINDING STRENGTH IN SURRENDER

**APRIL 5 - LAWRENCE, MA**

**Saturday April 5**

- 9:30 AM Check-In
- 10:00 AM Prayer
- 10:15 AM Icebreaker
- 10:45 AM Talk #1
- 11:30 AM Breakout
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:15 PM Talk #2
- 2:00 PM Breakout
- 2:40 PM Adoration and Confession
- 4:00 PM Mass
- 5:00 PM Break
- 8:00 PM Dinner at Beirut

In addition to the above MYA events, the Lawrence Parish will be hosting

**Friday April 4**

- TBD Stations of the Cross

**Sunday April 6**

- 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy

\*Schedule is subject to change

This is a Church sponsored event. Please be mindful to dress modestly for all liturgical events and activities

**NAM 2025 CONVENTION**  
 FAITH IGNITED - HOPE RENEWED  
 60 YEARS ROOTED IN MARONITE TRADITION

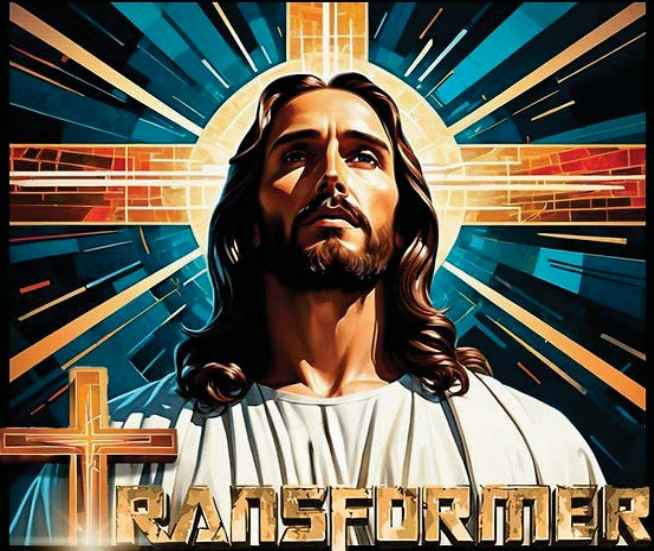
ST. SHARBEL MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
 Raleigh, NC

60th CONVENTION ANNIVERSARY  
 PILGRIMS OF HOPE  
 JUBILEE YEAR

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**July 3-6, 2025**  
 Hosted by Saint Sharbel Church  
**Raleigh - NC**  
 Hilton Hotel, Raleigh North Hills

THE MASSABKI BROTHERS

f @ NAMConvention



**TRANSFORMER**  
**RISE AGAIN**  
 LENTEN DAY RETREAT

**NEW ENGLAND**  
 ST. ANTHONY  
 DANBURY, CT  
**03.29.2025**  
 SATURDAY

**MID-ATLANTIC**  
 OLL CATHEDRAL  
 BROOKLYN, NY  
**04.05.2025**  
 SATURDAY

For Grades 7-12 Cost Per Person \$40  
 register @ myoeparchystmaron.org

**LECTORS SCHEDULE**

Saturday, March 1- 4 pm - Susan Kalil

Sunday, March 2 -

8:00 am - Mouna Hbaiter

9:30 am - David Brousseau

11:00 am - (Eng) Mary Saab

(Ar) George Saab

**LECTORS SCHEDULE**

Saturday, March 8 - 4 pm - Meaghan Twing

Sunday, March 9 -

8:00 am - Hitaf Nammour

9:30 am - Michael Faris

11:00 am - (Eng) Marita Merheb

(Ar) George Merheb

**BIRTHDAY WISHES**

**March 1:** Youssef Aboelsaad, Charbel Bou-Chaaya, Joe Msaddi, Justin Pelletier

**March 2:** Elena Abi-Samra, Said Geha, Meg Kannan, Giovanni Salame, Juliana 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



**Smoke Alarms Save Lives!**

Working smoke alarms can cut the risk of death from home fires in half.

That's why we're rallying volunteers, fire departments and partners to *Sound the Alarm*.

Together, we're installing **FREE** smoke alarms in your community. Request a smoke alarm installation today!

Lawrence, MA

April 5, 2025

9 a.m. — 2 p.m.



Scan code for appointment

For an appointment and to learn more, visit [SoundtheAlarm.org/MA](https://SoundtheAlarm.org/MA) or call 800-564-1234



## Entrance into Great Lent: Cana Sunday

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*Book of Isaiah 55:1, 6-13*

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

*Letter to the Romans 14:14-23*

I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. If your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died. So do not let your good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The one who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and has human approval. Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual edification. Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for you to make others fall by what you eat; it is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that makes your brother or sister stumble. The faith that you have, have as your own conviction before God. Blessed are those who have no reason to condemn themselves because of what they approve. But those who have doubts are condemned if they eat, because they do not act from faith; for whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

*Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint John 2:1-11*

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.



## أحد مدخل الصوم الكبير : آية عرس قانا

سفر أشعيا 55: 1-6-13

تَعَالَوْا أَيُّهَا الْعِطَاشُ جَمِيعًا هَلُمُّوا الْمِيَاهِ، وَهَلُمُّوا أَيُّهَا الْمُعْدَمُونَ مِنَ الْفِضَّةِ، ائْتَاعُوا وَكُلُّوا، ائْتَاعُوا خَمْرًا وَلَبَنًا مَجَانًا مِنْ غَيْرِ فِضَّةٍ. أَطْلُبُوا الرَّبَّ مَا دَامَ مَوْجُودًا، ادْعُوهُ وَهُوَ قَرِيبٌ. لِيُنْزِلَ السَّرِيرُ طَرِيقَهُ، وَالْأَثِيمَ أَفْكَارَهُ، وَلِيُنْزِلَ إِلَى الرَّبِّ فَيْرَحَمَهُ، وَلِيَرْجِعَ إِلَى إِلَهِنَا لِأَنَّهُ يُكْثِرُ الْغُفْرَانَ. لِأَنَّ أَفْكَارِي لَيْسَتْ مُمَاتِلَةً لِأَفْكَارِكُمْ، وَلَا طُرُقِكُمْ مِثْلَ طُرُقِي، يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ. فَكَمَا أَرْتَفَعَتِ السَّمَاوَاتُ عَنِ الْأَرْضِ، كَذَلِكَ أَرْتَفَعَتِ طُرُقِي عَنْ طُرُقِكُمْ، وَأَفْكَارِي عَنْ أَفْكَارِكُمْ. وَكَمَا تَهْطِلُ الْأَمْطَارُ وَيَنْهَمُرُ التَّلْجُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ، وَلَا تَرْجِعُ إِلَى هُنَاكَ، بَلْ تَرْوِي الْحُقُولَ وَالْأَشْجَارَ وَتَجْعَلُ الْبُذُورَ تُنْبِتُ وَتَنْمُو وَتُثْمِرُ زَرْعًا لِلْفَلَاحِ وَخُبْرًا لِلْجِيَاعِ. هَكَذَا تَكُونُ كَلِمَتِي الَّتِي تَصْدُرُ عَنِّي مِثْمَرَةً دَائِمًا، وَتُحَقِّقُ مَا أَرْغَبُ فِيهِ وَتُفْلِحُ بِمَا أَعْهَدُ بِهِ إِلَيْهَا. لِأَنَّكُمْ سَتَنْتَرِكُونَ بَابِلَ بَفَرَحٍ وَسَلَامٍ فَتَنْتَرِنُّمُ الْجِبَالَ وَالْتِلَالَ أَمَامَكُمْ بِهَجَّةٍ وَتُصَفِّقُ أَشْجَارَ الْحَقْلِ بِأَيْدِيهَا غِبْطَةً، وَحَيْثُ كَانَ الشَّوْكَ وَالْفُرَّاصُ، تَنْمُو أَشْجَارَ السَّرْوِ وَالْأَسِ: فَيَكُونُ ذَلِكَ تَخْلِيدًا لِاسْمِ الرَّبِّ وَعَلَامَةً أَبَدِيَّةً لَا تُمَحَى.

رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل رومة 14: 14-23

يَا إِخْوَتِي، إِنِّي عَالِمٌ وَوَاتِقٌ، فِي الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ، أَنْ لَا شَيْءَ نَجِسٌ فِي ذَاتِهِ، إِلَّا لِمَنْ يَحْسَبُهُ نَجِسًا، فَلَهُ يَكُونُ نَجِسًا. فَإِنْ كُنْتُ مِنْ أَجْلِ الطَّعَامِ تُحْزَنُ أَخَاكَ، فَلَا تَكُونُ سَالِكًا فِي الْمَحَبَّةِ. فَلَا تُهْلِكُ بَطْعَامِكَ ذَلِكَ الَّذِي مَاتَ الْمَسِيحُ مِنْ أَجْلِهِ! إِذَا فَلَا تَسْمَحُوا بِأَنْ يَصِيرَ الْخَيْرُ فِيكُمْ سَبَبًا لِلتَّجْدِيفِ. فَلَيْسَ مَلَكُوتُ اللَّهِ أَكْلًا وَشُرْبًا، بَلْ بَرٌّ وَسَلَامٌ وَفَرَحٌ فِي الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ. فَمَنْ يَخْدُمُ الْمَسِيحَ هَكَذَا فَهُوَ مَرْضِيٌّ لَدَى اللَّهِ، وَمَقْبُولٌ لَدَى النَّاسِ. فَلْنَسْعَ إِذَا إِلَى مَا هُوَ لِلسَّلَامِ، وَمَا هُوَ لِلْبُنْيَانِ بَعْضِنَا بَعْضًا. فَلَا تَنْقُضْ عَمَلِ اللَّهِ مِنْ أَجْلِ الطَّعَامِ؛ لِأَنَّ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ طَاهِرٌ، وَلَكِنَّهُ يَنْقَلِبُ سَرًّا عَلَى الْإِنْسَانِ الَّذِي يَأْكُلُ وَيَكُونُ سَبَبَ عَثْرَةٍ لِأَخِيهِ. فَخَيْرٌ لَكَ أَنْ لَا تَأْكُلَ لَحْمًا، وَلَا تَشْرَبَ خَمْرًا، وَلَا تَتَنَاوَلَ شَيْئًا يَكُونُ سَبَبَ عَثْرَةٍ لِأَخِيكَ. وَاحْتَفِظْ بِرَأْيِكَ لِنَفْسِكَ أَمَامَ اللَّهِ. وَطُوبَى لِمَنْ لَا يَدِينُ نَفْسَهُ فِي مَا يُفَرِّرُهُ! أَمَّا الْمُرْتَابُ فِي فَرَارِهِ، فَإِنْ أَكَلَ يُدَانَ، لِأَنَّ عَمَلَهُ غَيْرُ صَادِرٍ عَنِ يَقِينِ وَإِيمَانِ. وَكُلُّ عَمَلٍ لَا يَصْدُرُ عَنِ يَقِينٍ وَإِيمَانٍ فَهُوَ حَاطِيَةٌ.

إنجيل القديس يوحنا 2: 1-11

فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّلَاثِ، كَانَ عُرْسٌ فِي قَانَا الْجَلِيلِ، وَكَانَتْ أُمُّ يَسُوعَ هُنَاكَ. وَدُعِيَ أَيْضًا يَسُوعُ وَتَلَامِيذُهُ إِلَى الْعُرْسِ. وَنَفَدَ الْخَمْرُ، فَقَالَتْ لِيَسُوعَ أُمُّهُ: «لَيْسَ لَدَيْهِمْ خَمْرٌ». «فَقَالَ لَهَا يَسُوعُ: «مَا لِي وَلكِ، يَا أَمْرَأَةً؟ لَمْ تَأْتِ سَاعَتِي بَعْدُ!». «فَقَالَتْ أُمُّهُ لِلْخَدَمِ: «مَهْمَا يَقُلْ لَكُمْ فَافْعَلُوهُ!». «وَكَانَ هُنَاكَ سِتَّةُ أَجْرَانِ مِنْ حَجَرٍ، مُعَدَّةٌ لِتَطْهِيرِ الْيَهُودِ، يَسْعُ كُلُّ مِنْهَا مِنْ ثَمَانِينَ إِلَى مِئَةٍ وَعِشْرِينَ لِيْتَرَا، فَقَالَ يَسُوعُ لِلْخَدَمِ: «إِمْلَأُوا الْأَجْرَانَ مَاءً». «فَمَلَأُوهَا إِلَى فَوْقِ. قَالَ لَهُمْ: «اسْتَقُوا الْآنَ، وَقَدِّمُوا لِرَبِّيسِ الْوَلِيمَةِ». «فَقَدِّمُوا. وَذَاقَ الرَّبِّيسُ الْمَاءَ، الَّذِي صَارَ خَمْرًا - وَكَانَ لَا يَعْلَمُ مِنْ أَيْنَ هُوَ، وَالْخَدَمُ الَّذِينَ اسْتَقُوا يَعْلَمُونَ - فَدَعَا إِلَيْهِ الْعَرِيسَ وَقَالَ لَهُ: «كُلُّ إِنْسَانٍ يُقَدِّمُ الْخَمْرَ الْجَيِّدَ أَوَّلًا، حَتَّى إِذَا سَكَرَ الْمَدْعُوعُونَ، قَدَّمَ الْأَقْلَّ جُودَةً، أَمَّا أَنْتَ فَقَدَّ أَبْقَيْتَ الْخَمْرَ الْجَيِّدَ إِلَى الْآنَ!». «تِلْكَ كَانَتْ أَوْلَى آيَاتِ يَسُوعَ، صَنَعَهَا فِي قَانَا الْجَلِيلِ، فَأَظْهَرَ مَجْدَهُ، وَأَمَّنَ بِهِ تَلَامِيذُهُ.

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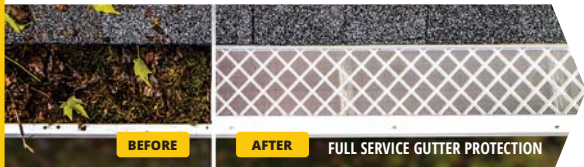
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