

# *Feast of Saints Peter and Paul*

## *عيد القديسين بطرس وبولس الرسولين*

### **Sts. Peter and Paul**

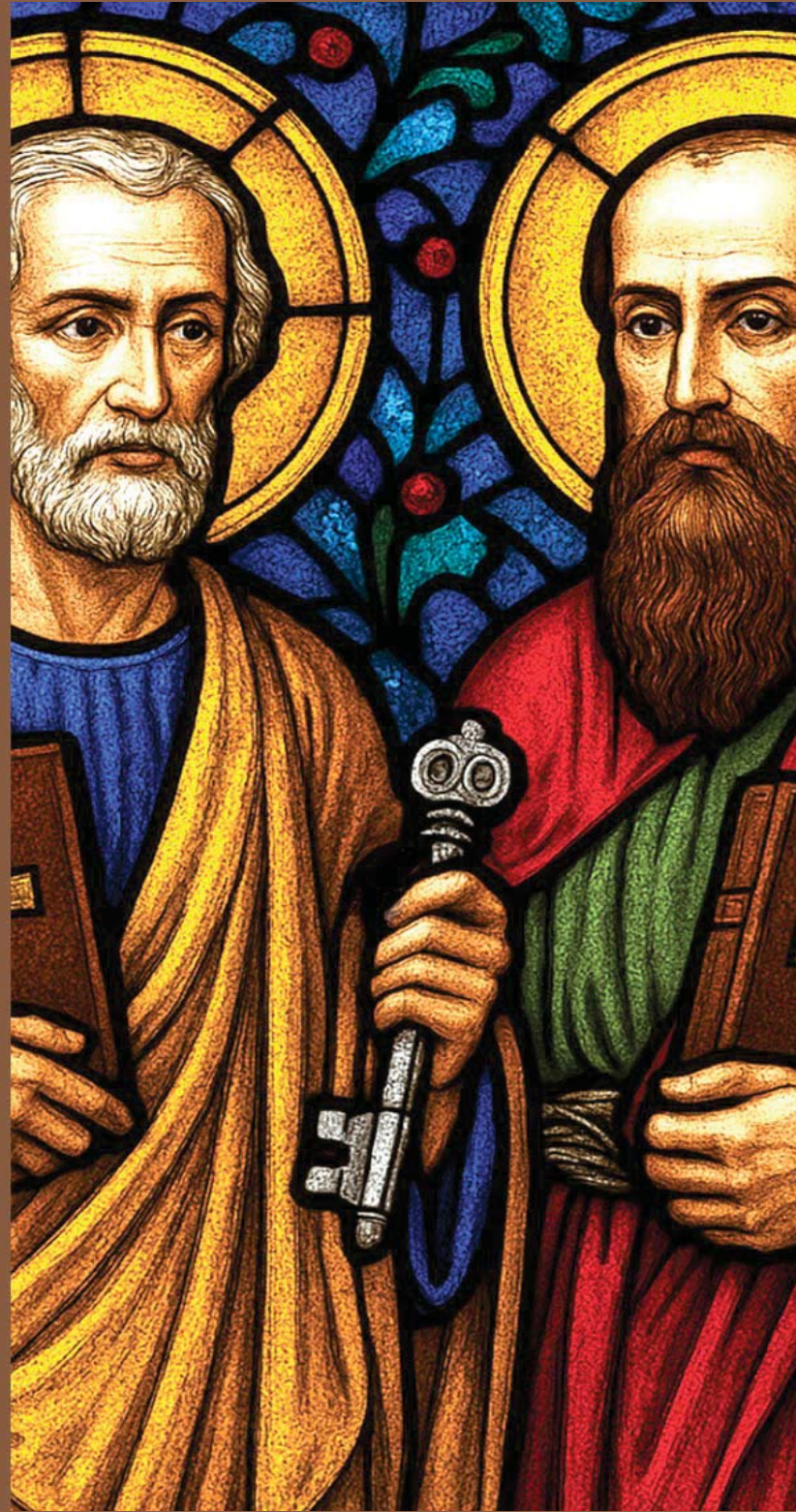
“You are Peter, and  
upon this rock I will  
build my Church.”

—Jesus Christ  
(Matthew 16:18)

“I have fought the  
good fight, I have  
finished the race, I  
have kept the faith.”

—St. Paul  
(2 Timothy 4:7)

[ChristianCatholicMedia.com](http://ChristianCatholicMedia.com)



#### **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  
E-mail: [rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)

FAX: 978-688-4475

Website: [stanthonylawrence.org](http://stanthonylawrence.org)

Address: 145 Amesbury Street, Lawrence, MA 01841



## LITURGIES INTENTIONS

### Sts. Peter & Paul

**Saturday, June 28** (Eng)

*The Immaculate Heart of Mary*

**4:00 pm** + Deceased Members of our Knights of Columbus Council & our Parish, *By St. Anthony's Knights of Columbus Council.*

**Sunday, June 29**

**8:00 am** Private Intention

**9:30 am** Private Intention

**11:00 am** + **40 Day Anniversary** - Maryann Hatem, *By her daughter, Alyce, wife of Pierre Sader, & Family*

+Tanos Sadek, *By his wife, Nouhad, children & their families.*

### 5th Sunday of Pentecost

**Saturday, July 5** (Eng) *St. Macarius of the Cross*

**4:00 pm** Private Intentions.

**Sunday, July 6** *St. Maria Goretti*

**9:30 am** Private Intentions.

**11:00 am** +Boutros Merheb & Deceased members of the Merheb Family, *By George Merheb & Family.*

## Daily Liturgies

♦ **NAM Clergy Conference -**  
There will be: **NO Daily Liturgies this week: Monday, June 30th - Thursday July 3rd.**

### SUMMER LITURGIES SCHEDULE

***Please take notice:***

Sunday, July 6th begins our Summer Liturgy schedule: There will be **NO 8AM** Liturgy, and we will resume in October.

### UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION

**Sts. Peter & Paul – June 29, 2025**

### PLEASE NOTE

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

### SANCTUARY LAMPS



**In Memory of Stephanie & Fred Schiripo, Love, Beverly & Bob.**

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:  
[www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/)

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Coming Soon-  
Registration for the 2025-2026 school year!**



# PASTOR'S CORNER

## Feast of Saints Peter and Paul

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we celebrate two great pillars of the Church, Saints Peter and Paul, apostles who gave everything for Christ, even their lives. At the same time, we mark Independence Day, July 4th, a civic celebration that reminds us of the values of freedom, responsibility, and unity.

Saint Peter, the humble fisherman, became the rock on which Jesus built His Church. Saint Paul, the former persecutor, became the tireless missionary to the nations. Though different in background and temperament, they were united by a single fire: the love of Christ. As Pope Benedict XVI beautifully said: "Peter and Paul are like two stars shining in the firmament of the Church. Their witness and martyrdom remain a source of light and courage for us today."

Their feast reminds us that the Church is built not on perfection, but on faithfulness. Peter denied Christ three times, and Paul once persecuted Christians—yet they became saints because they said yes to the grace of God. As Saint John Paul II once noted, "The Church's foundation is not in human strength but in the power of Christ's mercy."

Their courage speaks loudly to us today. In a time when truth is often compromised and faith is tested, Peter and Paul call us back to the essentials: love for Christ, fidelity to His Church, and the bold proclamation of the Gospel.

This week also marks our national celebration of July 4th, a time to give thanks for the gift of freedom and to pray for our nation. Freedom is not only the ability to choose, but the grace to choose what is good, just, and true. I know, all that we are hearing in today's news is creating fear and anxiety for some, always remember Jesus words, "do not let your hearts be troubled". Let us today and everyday pray for peace, and being agents of peace. may we always use our freedom to build a society rooted in justice, compassion, and peace.

May Saints Peter and Paul inspire us to be courageous in faith, and may our celebration of Independence Day be a moment of prayer for our country and gratitude for those who serve and protect our freedoms.

*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.



## FIRST BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Oliver Ata & Carla Geha

### CONGRATULATIONS!

#### Baptized & Confirmed

*Jeremy Marc McKone Saldivar*

*Son of*

*Michael & Erin McKone- Saldivar*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Chris Charbel Bou Abdo*

*Son of*

*Charbel & Carla Bou Abdo*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Damian, Kelvin & Jaxon Severino*

*Sons of*

*Kelvin Severino & Sheila Fernandez*

*"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but  
whoever does not believe will be condemned."*

*~Mark 16:16*

## ST ANTHONY ANNUAL CHARITABLE GOLF TOURNAMENT

*Monday, June 30, 2025  
at the Atkinson Country Club*

### Thank You & Best Wishes!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who committed, supported, and will be participating in Saint Anthony's Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser. Your generosity and spirit make this event a true success.

*Best of luck to all our golfers—may your drives be long and your putts be true!*

## Join ST ANTHONY CHURCH

LAWRENCE, MA

for a

### FALAFEL LUNCH

ALL PROCEEDS  
TO SUPPORT  
ST. GEORGE CHURCH  
DOVER, NH

JULY 6, 2025

AFTER 9AM AND 11AM LITURGY  
PRE-ORDER AVAILABLE

\$10



Falafel Wrap

\$2



Drink

\$15



Falafel Plate - 6pc

\$25



Falafel Dozen

PLATE AND DOZEN  
INCLUDE  
TAHINI - VEGGIES - BREAD

To Pre Order - Contact:

Wissam Merheb @ 978.853.5145

Elias Azzi @ 978.651.1040

Cash  
Or  
Check

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

-St. Anthony Council 16204



*"In Service To One,*

*In Service To All"*

Next meeting:

**Tuesday July 8, 2025 @ 7 pm, Church Hall**

Men 18 yrs. and older are encouraged to attend.

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

## Family of St Sharbel &

## Our Lady of Lebanon Sodality



### Monthly Liturgy will resume in the Fall

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)



## Independence Day Blessings

As we celebrate the Fourth of July, we give thanks to God for the gift of freedom and the blessings of our nation. Let us remember those who have sacrificed for our liberty and pray that we may always be a people who seek justice, peace, and unity under God. May this holiday be a time of gratitude, reflection, and joyful fellowship.

God Bless America!

## WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS 06/22/2025

*Collection Totals for this week will be published in the next bulletin.*

*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!*

## BIRTHDAY WISHES

**June 28:** Lillian Callahan, Mark Clement, Alexander Najjar,

**June 29:** Anthony Ata, Brady Barry, Brooke Gill, George Hand, Joelle Karam, Julie Martino, Lina Merheb, Richard Sadek, Jasmine Tannoury, Tiah Tarabay

**June 30:** Bevely Harvey, Sandra Naddif, Peter Ramy, Hilda Rizkallah, Brittany Souza, Phyllis Thomas

**July 1:** Marie Azzi, Aubrie Brault, Nina Dow, Elian Dunbar, Tania Farhat, Naya Nassar, Linton Ranson, Donna Rossi

**July 2:** Carmen Abdulla, David Abou Ezzi, Eli Kalil, Mourad Phares, Simeon Ramey, Maria Salillari

**July 3:** Veronica Cherabie, Geryes Geha, Elie Nammour, Jacob Saab, Jennifer Saouma, Danielle Sfeir

**July 4:** Kenneth Yameen, Charbel Zaarour

## ANNIVERSARY WISHES

**June 28:** Franklin & Monica Guzman Jr

**June 30:** Richard & Yolla Haddad

**July 1:** Rami & Cayla Daher, Raymond & Lilliane Maroun, Milad & Hanane Salame

**July 2:** Elie & Juliette Ata, Nathan & Ashley Daher, Kamal & Julie Haddad, Stephen & Bethany Pellerin

**July 4:** George & Mirna Abou-Ezzi

## 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)



SAINT SHARBEL SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER PRESENTS



**2025 Maronite Music WORKSHOP**

For Maronite Parish Music Directors & Choir Members

**AUGUST 12 - 13, 2025**

Registration \$165 includes meals

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!**

For those traveling in need of hotel accommodations, contact the Holiday Inn Express & Suites Pittsburgh West-Greentree at 412-922-7070 to reserve one of the rooms blocked off for the workshop.

**WORKSHOP LED BY**  
Fr. Neemtallah (Edgard) Oneissy  
from St. Anthony Church, Lawrence, MA

**SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS**

- Talk: Spirituality of Choir Members
- Talk: Challenges of Choir Ministry
- Talk: Future of Choir Ministry
- Workshop on Communion Hymns
- Workshop on Virgin Mary Hymns
- Discussion with Bishop Gregory
- Daily Divine Liturgy & Adoration
- Rehearsals & Recital

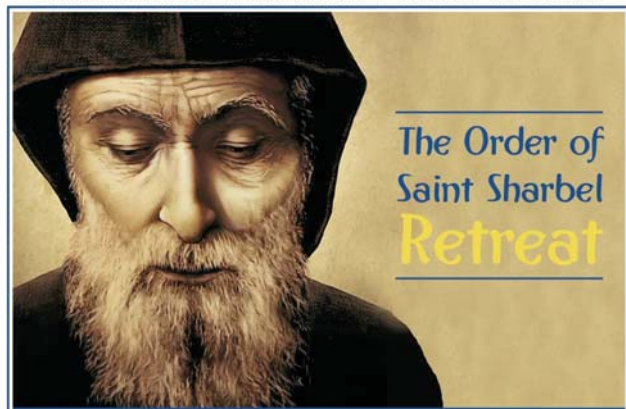


To register, go under "Programs" on our website at:

**SaintSharbelCenter.org**

820 Crane Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15216  
info@SaintSharbelCenter.org

SAINT SHARBEL SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER PRESENTS



**The Order of Saint Sharbel Retreat**

**"Jubilee Year: Facing All Challenges with Hope"**

a weekend for the members & guests of The Order

**SEPTEMBER 12 - 14, 2025**

Registration \$165 includes meals and all materials

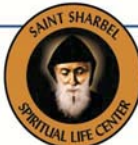
**RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!**

For those traveling in need of hotel accommodations, contact the Holiday Inn Express & Suites Pittsburgh West-Greentree at 412-922-7070 to reserve one of the rooms blocked off for the retreat.

**SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS**

- Talks by Bishop Gregory Mansour
- Talk by Fr. Boniface Hicks
- Talk by Dr. Anne Borik
- Daily Divine Liturgy
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Confession
- Spiritual Direction
- Time for silent prayer and spiritual reading

For more information about The Order of Saint Sharbel, go to [www.ordershsharbel.org](http://www.ordershsharbel.org).



To register, go to "Programs" on our website.

**SaintSharbelCenter.org**

820 Crane Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15216  
info@SaintSharbelCenter.org

## MAHRAJAN 2025

The Mahrajan committee is soliciting interest and commitments from our parishioners and friends for our **53rd Annual Lebanese Mahrajan, August 29, 30, & 31, 2025.**

Your support and generosity are always crucial to the success of this fundraiser. More Information to come!

**Mahrajan Raffle** will be out soon by Mail and Electronically!

**Mahrajan Baskets:** Relying on your creativity, but we are also here to help. Drop your donations and we can take over assembly!

**Mahrajan Sponsors:** Letter and forms will be forthcoming!

**Mahrajan Volunteers:** More help is needed! Sign up sheet will be available and published soon!

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

*Saturday, June 28- 4 pm - Elias Azzi*

*Sunday, June 29*

8:00 am - Huguette Sfeir

9:30 am - Brady Barry

11:00 am - (Eng) Nadine Sader

(Ar) Joelle Sader

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

*Saturday, July 5 - 4 pm - Lisa Abdallah*

*Sunday, July 6*

9:30 am - David Brousseau

11:00 am - (Eng) Marita Merheb

(Ar) George Merheb

# CITY OF LAWRENCE ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

## Project Description:

The City of Lawrence and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division are reconfiguring and making roadway improvements along approximately 3,300' of Amesbury Street and 1,050' of Lawrence Street.

The proposed improvements include conversion of Amesbury Street from one way travel to two way, construction of a single lane roundabout at the intersection on Amesbury Street and Lawrence Street. Traffic signal reconstruction, bike lanes, sidewalk reconstruction, ADA complainant ramps, pavement resurfacing, pavement markings and minor drainage improvements.

The construction schedule keeps changing. What we know right now is sidewalk reconstruction along Saint Anthony's Church will not take place until late September / October 2025 or 2026. We have had several meetings with the City, State and Design Consultant. All are well aware of our annual Mahrajan and are graciously working with us to minimize impacts.

## What does this mean in the near future for Saint Anthony's Church?

Lawrence Street in front of the church will remain one way traffic.

A roundabout (rotary) will be installed at the intersection of Lawrence, Amesbury and Chestnut Streets.

Amesbury Street will be two way traffic.

Lawrence Street after the roundabout will remain two way traffic.

For those exiting the church parking lot and the rectory parking lot on to Amesbury Street you will be able to take a right and go around the roundabout or go left. Must look left first before exiting.

For those exiting the church parking lot on to Lawrence Street you will continue taking a left.

For those exiting the church parking lot on to Lebanon Street you will continue taking a left as it will remain a one way street.

For those coming along Amesbury Street in front of Breen Funeral Home to church there will be a "Stop" sign at Lebanon Street at the intersection of Amesbury. No traffic lights. You will be able to go, straight and enter church from Lebanon Street or go left and enter church from Amesbury Street.

The City of Lawrence is requesting a temporary construction easement (TCE) from 10' to 15' from our property line (approx. 6,361sf).

There will be two Permanent Utility Easements (PUE) 24sf and 32sf for light poles. Located in front of the rectory parking area.

Saint Anthony's Church will be compensated at the fair market value for the TCE and PUE's. TCE will be restored to pre-existing conditions once completed.

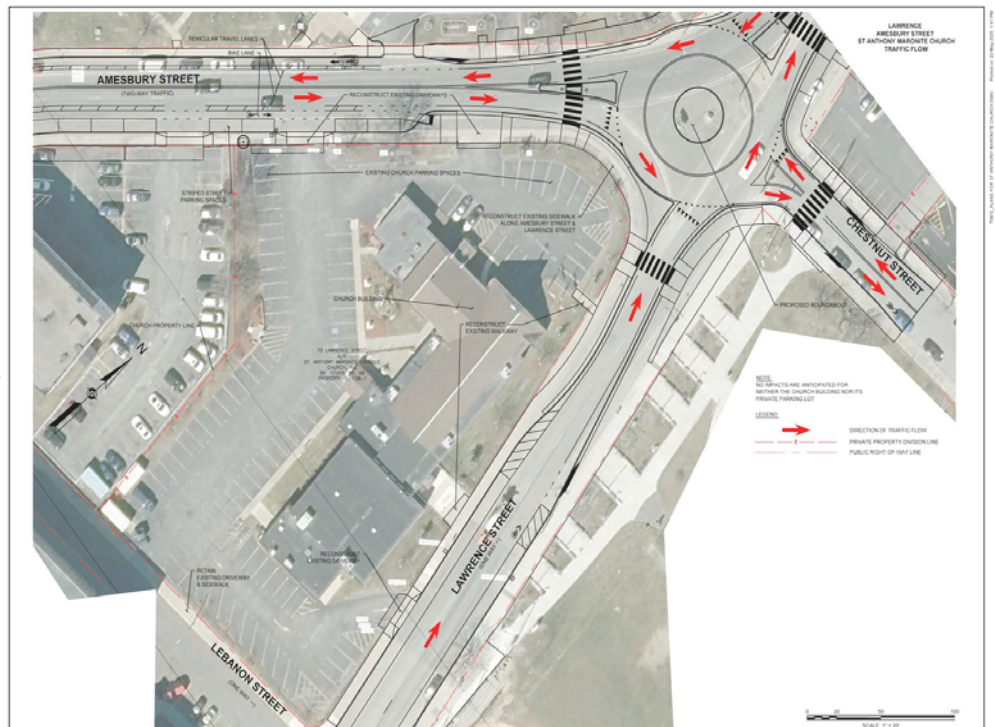
## Conclusion

The above is our initial communication on this significant project. As we get more information and are told the commissioning dates of Amesbury Street and the new rotary, further communication will be shared. It is our goal to inform you as far in advance as possible. Please keep in mind unknown issues arise during construction which could alter plans and timelines. There will be impacts entering and exiting our church for a period of time during sidewalk reconstruction. We will do our best to keep our parishioners informed.

Sincerely,

Fred Corey, P.E.

Saint Anthony's Parish Council





## Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, Ap

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### *Book of Wisdom 7:7-14*

Therefore I prayed, and prudence was given me; I pleaded and the spirit of Wisdom came to me. I preferred her to scepter and throne, And deemed riches nothing in comparison with her, nor did I liken any priceless gem to her; Because all gold, in view of her, is a bit of sand, and before her, silver is to be accounted mire. Beyond health and beauty I loved her, And I chose to have her rather than the light, because her radiance never ceases. Yet all good things together came to me with her, and countless riches at her hands; I rejoiced in them all, because Wisdom is their leader, though I had not known that she is their mother. Sincerely I learned about her, and ungrudgingly do I share her riches I do not hide away; For she is an unfailing treasure; those who gain this treasure win the friendship of God, being commended by the gifts that come from her discipline.

### *Second Letter to the Corinthians 11:21-30*

To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that! But whatever anyone dares to boast of I am speaking as a fool I also dare to boast of that. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ? I am talking like a madman I am a better one: with far greater labours, far more imprisonments, with countless floggings, and often near death. Five times I have received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked; for a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from bandits, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers and sisters; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, hungry and thirsty, often without food, cold and naked. And, besides other things, I am under daily pressure because of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I am not indignant? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness

### *Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew 16:13-20*

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah!



## عيد القديسين بطرس وبولس الرسولين

## سفر الحكمة 7:7 - 14

قال الحكيم: «لِذَلِكَ صَلَّيْتُ فَأَوْتَيْتُ الْفِطْنَةَ وَدَعَوْتُ فَاتَانِي رُوحُ الْحِكْمَةِ. فَفَضَّلْتُهَا عَلَى الصَّوَالِجَةِ وَالْعُرُوشِ وَعَدَدْتُ الْغِنَى كَلَا شَيْءٍ بِالْقِيَّاسِ إِلَيْهَا. وَلَمْ أُعِدِلْ بِهَا الْحَجَرُ الَّذِي لَا يُقَدَّرُ لِأَنَّ كُلَّ الذَّهَبِ بِإِزَائِهَا قَلِيلٌ مِنَ الرَّمْلِ وَالْفِضَّةِ عِنْدَهَا تُحَسَّبُ طِينًا. وَأَحْبَبْتُهَا فَوْقَ الْعَافِيَةِ وَالْجَمَالِ وَأَثَرْتُ أَنَّ اتَّخَذَهَا قَبْلَ النُّورِ لِأَنَّ رَوْقَهَا لَا يَقُورُ لَهُ قَرَارٌ. فَاتَّعَنِّي مَعَهَا جَمِيعُ الْخَيْرَاتِ وَعَنْ يَدَيْهَا غِنًى لَا يُحْصَى. فَسُرَرْتُ بِهَذِهِ الْخَيْرَاتِ كُلِّهَا لِأَنَّهَا بِإِمْرَةِ الْحِكْمَةِ وَلَمْ أَكُنْ عَالِمًا بِأَنَّهَا أُمُّ لَهَا جَمِيعًا. وَمَا تَعَلَّمْتُهُ بِإِخْلَاصٍ أَشْرَكَ فِيهِ بِسَخَاءٍ وَلَا أَكْتُمُ غِنَاهَا. فَإِنَّهَا كَنْزٌ لِلنَّاسِ لَا يَنْفَدُ وَالَّذِينَ أَقْتَنَوْهُ كَسَبُوا صَدَاقَةَ اللَّهِ وَقَدْ أَوْصَتْهُ بِهِمُ الْمَوَاهِبُ الصَّادِرَةُ عَنِ التَّأْدِيبِ.»

## رسالة القديس بولس الثانية إلى أهل كورنثس 11: 21 - 30

يَا إِخْوَتِي، أَقُولُ وَأَخْجَلُ، كَمَا لَوْ كُنَّا ضُعَفَاءَ! وَأَقُولُ كَجَاهِلٍ: إِنَّ كُلَّ مَا يَجْرُؤُ عَلَيْهِ هُؤُلَاءِ، أَجْرُؤُ عَلَيْهِ أَنَا أَيْضًا: أَهْمُ عِبْرَانِيُّونَ؟ أَنَا أَيْضًا عِبْرَانِيٌّ! أَهْمُ إِسْرَائِيلِيُّونَ؟ أَنَا أَيْضًا إِسْرَائِيلِيٌّ! أَهْمُ نَسْلُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ؟ أَنَا أَيْضًا نَسْلُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ! أَهْمُ خُدَّامٌ لِلْمَسِيحِ؟ أَقُولُ كَمَنْ فَقَدْ صَوَّابُهُ: أَنَا أَكْثَرُ! فِي الْإِتْعَابِ أَكْثَرُ! فِي السُّجُونِ أَكْثَرُ! فِي الضَّرَبَاتِ أَكْثَرُ جِدًّا! فِي أخطارِ الْمَوْتِ أَكْثَرُ بِمَرَّاتٍ كَثِيرَةٍ! تَلَقَّيْتُ الْجِلْدَ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ خَمْسَ مَرَّاتٍ، كُلَّ مَرَّةٍ أَرْبَعِينَ جِلْدَةً إِلَّا وَاحِدَةً! ضُرِبْتُ بِالْعَصِيِّ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ! رُجِمْتُ مَرَّةً وَاحِدَةً! أُنْكَسَرْتُ بِبَيِّ السَّفِينَةِ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ! قَضَيْتُ فِي غُرْضِ الْبَحْرِ لَيْلَةً وَنَهَارًا! قُمْتُ بِأَسْفَارٍ كَثِيرَةٍ، كُنْتُ فِي أخطارٍ مِنَ الْإِنْتِهَارِ، أخطارٍ مِنَ اللَّصُوصِ، أخطارٍ مِنْ أُمَّتِي، أخطارٍ مِنَ الْأُمَمِ، أخطارٍ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ، أخطارٍ فِي الصَّحَرَاءِ، أخطارٍ فِي الْبَحْرِ، أخطارٍ بَيْنَ الْإِخْوَةِ الْكَذِبَةِ! عَانَيْتُ التَّعَبَ، وَالْكَدَّ، وَالسَّهَرَ مَرَّاتٍ كَثِيرَةٍ، وَالْجُوعَ، وَالْعَطَشَ، وَالصَّوْمَ مَرَّاتٍ كَثِيرَةٍ، وَالْبَرْدَ، وَالْحَرَّ! أَضِيفُ إِلَى ذَلِكَ، مَا عَلَيَّ مِنَ الْأَعْبَاءِ كُلِّ يَوْمٍ، وَالْأَهْتِمَامِ بِجَمِيعِ الْكَنَائِسِ! مَنْ يَضْعُفُ وَلَا أَضْعُفُ أَنَا؟ وَمَنْ يَقَعُ فِي الْخَطِيئَةِ وَلَا أَحْتَرِّقُ أَنَا؟ وَإِنْ كَانَ لَا بُدَّ مِنَ الْإِفْتِخَارِ، فَأَنَا أَفْتَخِرُ بِأَوْهَانِي!

## إنجيل القديس متى 13: 16 - 20

جَاءَ يَسُوعُ إِلَى نَوَاحِي قَيْصَرِيَّةِ فِيلِبُّسَ فَسَأَلَ تَلَامِيذَهُ قَائِلًا: «مَنْ يَقُولُ النَّاسُ إِلَيَّ أَنَا أَبْنُ الْإِنْسَانِ؟» فَقَالُوا: «بَعْضُهُمْ يَقُولُونَ: يُوحَنَّا الْمَعْمَدَانُ؛ وَآخَرُونَ: إِيْلِيَّا؛ وَغَيْرُهُمْ: إِرْمِيَا أَوْ أَحَدُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ.» قَالَ لَهُمْ: «وَأَنْتُمْ مَنْ تَقُولُونَ إِلَيَّ أَنَا؟» فَأَجَابَ سِمْعَانُ بَطْرُسُ وَقَالَ: أَنْتَ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ اللَّهِ الْحَيِّ! «فَأَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: «طُوبَى لَكَ يَا سِمْعَانُ بَنَ يُونَا! لِأَنَّهُ لَا لَحْمَ وَلَا دَمَ أَظْهَرَ لَكَ ذَلِكَ، بَلْ أَبِي الَّذِي فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ. وَأَنَا أَيْضًا أَقُولُ لَكَ: أَنْتَ هُوَ بَطْرُسُ، أَيُّ الصَّخْرَةِ، وَعَلَى هَذِهِ الصَّخْرَةِ سَأَبْنِي بِنِعَتِي، وَأَبْوَابُ الْجَحِيمِ لَنْ تَقْوَى عَلَيْهَا. سَأُعْطِيكَ مَفَاتِيحَ مَلَكُوتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ، فَكُلُّ مَا تَرْتَبُطُهُ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ يَكُونُ مَرْبُوطًا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ، وَمَا تَحُلُّهُ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ يَكُونُ مَحْلُولًا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ.» حِينَئِذٍ أَوْصَى تَلَامِيذَهُ أَلَّا يَقُولُوا لِأَحَدٍ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ!

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