

Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost: The Canaanite Women
الأحد الثاني عشر من زمن العنصرة: إيمان المرأة الكنعانية

Matthew 15:28

"Then **Jesus** answered her,
'O woman, *great* is your
faith! Be it done for you as
you *desire*.' And her daughter
was healed **instantly**."

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

E-mail: rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

Address: 145 Amesbury Street, Lawrence, MA 01841

LITURGIES INTENTIONS

12th Sunday of Pentecost

Saturday, August 23 (Eng)

St. Isaac of Nineveh

4:00 pm 40 Day Anniversary +Albert Lahood,
By his wife, Linda, his children & their
families

+Robin Bellmore, By Al & Jean
Khoury

Sunday, August 24

St. Eutyches of Sebastia

9:30 am +Renee Carabello, By her family

11:00 am +Naim El Hachem, By his wife Sonia,
Children: Tony, Richard, Ghassan, &
Vera, their Spouses & Children.

1st Anniversary - Abouna Joseph Abi
Saad, Also, For: +Marleine Abdelnour,
By Gaby Abdelnour & his daughters,
& Camille Abdelnour

12th Sunday of Pentecost

Saturday, August 30 (Eng)

Bl. Brother Estephan Ne'mee

4:00 pm In Honor and Thanksgiving for our
volunteers, parishioners & friends of
St. Anthony Church

Sunday, August 31

*St. Zakhia (Nicholas),
St. Aegidius (Giles), St. Abda*

11:00 am In Honor and Thanksgiving for our
volunteers, parishioners & friends of
St. Anthony Church

PLEASE NOTE

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

UPCOMING EPARCHIAL 2ND COLLECTION

**Catholic University of America &
Maronite Seminary – September 7, 2025**

Daily Liturgies

Monday, August 25

*St. Titus, One of the 72 Disciples
Acts 27:1-4, 8a, 14-15, 18-21a, 22-26/Lk 12:54-59*

9:00 am Private Intention
(please park in front of the rectory)

Tuesday, August 26

*Pope St. Zephyrinus
Acts 27:27, 33-37, 39-44/Lk 13:1-5*

9:00 am Private Intention
(please park in front of the rectory)

Wednesday, August 27

*St. Biyameen (Poemen) the Hermit
Acts 28:1-10/Lk 13:6-9*

9:00 am Private Intention
(please park in front of the rectory)

Thursday, August 28

*St. Moses the Ethiopian
St. Augustine, Doctor of the Church
Acts 28:11-15/Lk 13:10-17*

NO LITURGY

Friday, August 29 - OFFICE CLOSED

*Beheading of St. John the Baptist
Acts 28:16-22/Lk 13:18-21*

NO LITURGY

PLEASE NOTE

There will be **NO DAILY LITURGIES** and
the **OFFICE** will be **CLOSED** from
**Monday, September 1 to Friday,
September 5** due to Mahrajan clean up
and inventory. Thank you.

SUMMER LITURGIES SCHEDULE

Reminder:

We are officially on Summer Liturgy schedule:
The following services will resume in the fall:
-8AM Liturgy
-First Friday & First Sunday Liturgies
-Family of St Sharbel
-Eucharistic Adoration following the
Thursday 9AM Daily Liturgy

SINCE 1971
**Lebanese
Mahrajan**
Annual Festival



08/29



George Deeb

5:00 PM Gates Open
7:00 PM Official Festival Opening
7:30 PM Dabke Performance
8:00 PM – 9:30 PM DJ Roy C
8:30 PM Special Daily Raffle
9:30 – 12:00 AM Singer George Deeb
12:00 AM – 1:00 AM DJ Roy C



DJ Roy C

*Mazej Beirut is a group of amateur and professional musicians based in Massachusetts. Mazej Beirut, embodies the spirit of our ensemble, hailing from different parts of the globe, we are unified by our passion for the rich tradition of Lebanese and Arabic music. Esprit-Ange Andraos (voice), Antonius Chedid (violin), Alejandro Castellano (oud), and Tareq Rantisi (percussion) – as we bring you tunes from Beirut and beyond!

☑ Plenty of Shuttles & Available Parking ☑ ADA Bathrooms ☑ Lost and Found Available During & After

08/30



Wissam Ibrahim

5:00 – 7:00 PM ABRAXAS Santana tribute band
7:00 PM Disney Characters
7:30 PM Dabke Performance
8:00 PM – 9:30 PM DJ Roy C
8:30 PM Special daily Raffle
9:30 – 12:00 AM Singer Wissam Ibrahim
11:00 PM Kids' games close
12:00AM –Close DJ Roy C



08/31



George Kouz

12:00 PM – 2:00PM Mazej Beirut*
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM Karaoke w/ DJ Roy C
3: 00 PM – 3:30 PM Disney Characters
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM Kids' entertainment
4:30 PM– 5:00 PM DJ Roy C
5:00 PM – 5:30 PM Grape Leaves Contest
5:30 PM – Dabke Performance
6:00 – 8:00 PM – DJ Roy C
8:00 PM – Dabke Performance
9:30 – Singer George Kouz
10:30 PM – Raffle drawing
11:00 PM – Close George Kouz

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

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.

MAHRAJAN NEWS



MAHRAJAN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Join us in making this year's Mahrajan unforgettable!
We're looking for volunteers to help with food, games, setup, cleanup, and more.
Please scan the QR Code to sign up today!
Thank you for your time and support!

STUDENTS—NEED TO COMPLETE SERVICE HOURS?

Do you need to complete service hours for school or a confirmation program? The Mahrajan is a great way to fulfill your student service requirements while supporting your parish and having fun!
Volunteer opportunities are available throughout Labor Day Weekend in a variety of roles. Please scan the QR Code to sign up today! We will be happy to sign off on your hours.

MAHRAJAN RAFFLES - ON SALE NOW!

Get ready for this year's exciting Mahrajan Raffles - a fun and easy way to support our parish while entering for your chance to win cash prizes or exclusive getaways!

RAFFLE OPTIONS:

CASH RAFFLE

1st prize \$1,000 - 2nd prize \$750 - 3rd prize \$500 - 4th prize \$250
Tickets are \$5 each or a book of 10 for \$45 (save \$5!)

LAKE HOUSE GETAWAY RAFFLE

Win a weekend away, November 14-16, 2025, at a 4 bedroom, 7 beds, 2 bath lake house in beautiful Middleton, NH!
Tickets are \$20 each

YACHT EXPERIENCE RAFFLE

Enjoy 4 hours aboard a private yacht in Miami, FL for up to 13 guests! The yacht features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, attentive crew service, and plenty of opportunities for swimming & sunbathing!
Tickets are \$20 each

Tickets have been mailed and are also available online now via QR code, or from the parish office. Buy for yourself, friends, and family - or help us by sharing the QR code. Every ticket brings us closer to our fundraising goals and helps sustain our parish for future generations.

Winners will be drawn during the Mahrajan on Labor Day Weekend; August 29th, 30th & 31st.
Thank you for your continued faith, support and generosity!



BECOME A MAHRAJAN SPONSOR!

This year, all sponsors will be featured in our brand-new **Ad Book!**

Our updated sponsorship forms are available in the bulletin, parish office, church foyer, or online.



St Anthony Maronite Church

@StAnthony-
MaroniteChurch

To support this year's Mahrajan, donations can be made easily through our Venmo!
Please include "Mahrajan Sponsorship" in the memo. **Cash & Check payments are also accepted**

Thank you in advance for your generous support and for partnering with us to make this beloved tradition a success!

MAHRAJAN BASKET RAFFLE DONATIONS

We're looking for your help—and creativity! Our upcoming Basket Raffle needs donated baskets, and we'd love to see the unique themes and ideas you can come up with. Whether it's a movie night, spa day, gardening, or gourmet goodies, every donation helps make our event a success!

If you're able to contribute a basket (big or small!), drop off your donations for us to assemble, or if you have questions, please contact Claudia Saysouk at 978-390-0996.

Thank you for your generosity and imagination!



ST. ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH

DIAMOND

\$10,000+

- Prominent logo placement on digital screens and event banners.
- Logo featured on the church website, festival webpage, parish bulletin, printed and digital promotional materials
- Company name highlighted in the Mahrajan digital slideshow
- Verbal recognition during the festival (4 mentions per day)
- Special recognition in 4 dedicated social media posts
- 1 full page ad in Mahrajan booklet (deadline August 1, 2025)

PLATINUM

\$7,500+

- Logo displayed on digital screens and event banners.
- Logo included on the church website, festival webpage, and parish bulletin
- Company name recognized in the Mahrajan digital slideshow
- Verbal recognition during the festival (2 mentions per day)
- Special recognition in 2 dedicated social media posts
- 1 half page ad in Mahrajan booklet (deadline August 1, 2025)

GOLD

\$5,000+

- Logo displayed on digital screens and event banners.
- Logo included on the church website, festival webpage, and parish bulletin
- Company name recognized in the Mahrajan digital slideshow
- Verbal recognition during the festival (2 mentions per day)
- Special recognition in 1 dedicated social media post
- 1 quarter page ad in Mahrajan booklet (deadline August 1, 2025)

SILVER

\$2,500+

- Logo displayed on digital screens and event banners
- Logo included on the church website, festival webpage, and parish bulletin
- Company name recognized in the Mahrajan digital slideshow
- Special recognition on social media
- Honorable mention in Mahrajan booklet (deadline August 1, 2025)

BRONZE

\$1,000+

- Company name listed on festival website and parish bulletin
- Recognition in the Mahrajan digital slide show
- Special recognition on social media
- Honorable mention in Mahrajan booklet (deadline August 1, 2025)

COPPER

\$750+

- Name listed on festival website and parish bulletin
- Shared recognition in Mahrajan digital slide show
- Honorable mention in Mahrajan booklet (deadline August 1, 2025)

CEDAR CIRCLE

\$250+

- Acknowledgement in Mahrajan booklet (deadline August 1, 2025)

NAME/BUSINESS: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

MAHRAJAN SPONSORSHIP LEVEL: _____

SPONSORSHIP IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR OF: _____

- Please make checks payable to: **St. Anthony Maronite Catholic Church** (Memo: Mahrajan Sponsorship)
- Sponsor must provide high resolution digital logo at its expense. Please email to mahrajan@stanthonylawrence.org.
- Sponsorships accepted at the discretion of the Pastor and the Mahrajan Committee. All decisions are final.
- To have your ad printed in the physical Mahrajan Booklet, please submit all materials by **August 1, 2025**. Ads received after this date will only appear in the Mahrajan E-Booklet.
- Final deadline for digital submissions is **August 25, 2025**.

MYA CONFERENCE 2025
SEPTEMBER 19 - 21 - PHILLY, PA

Friday September 19

- 3:00 PM Guest Check-In
- 4:00 PM Welcome Event
- 5:00 PM Divine Liturgy
- 6:15 PM Dinner
- 7:15 PM Speaker Introduction
- 8:00 PM Workshop
- 9:00 PM Evening Social Outing

Saturday September 20

- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 10:30 AM Break
- 10:45 AM Talk #1 with Fr. Mark
- 11:30 AM Breakout Session
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:00 PM Talk #2 with Fr. Mark + Q&A
- 1:45 PM Break
- 2:00 PM Adoration + Confession
- 3:30 PM Break
- 7:30 PM Cocktail Hour
- 8:00 PM Dinner & Hafl

Sunday September 21

- 10:30 AM Rosary
- 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy at St. Maron
- 12:30 PM Parish Luncheon

Sonesta Rittenhouse Square
 1800 Market Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19103

**Schedule is subject to change*

Register using this QR code!

St. Maron Church
 1013 Ellsworth Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19147

This is a Church sponsored event. Please be mindful to dress modestly for all liturgical events and activities. Register now at myaeparchystmaron.org/book-online

Questions?
 Contact mya.eparchystmaron@gmail.com
 Hotel block info can be found at myaeparchystmaron.org/book-online

MARONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION
 Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn

NEW ENGLAND
MID-ATLANTIC EAST
MID-ATLANTIC WEST
EPARCHIAL RETREAT

Save THE Date

COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND
OCTOBER 11-13

2025

MARIST BROTHER'S CENTER
ESOPUS, NY

REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 31
MORE INFO TO FOLLOW

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

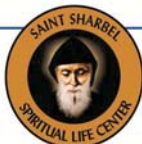
SEPTEMBER 12 - 14, 2025
Registration \$165
includes meals and all materials
RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

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.orderstsharbel.org.



To register, go to "Programs" on our website.
SaintSharbelCenter.org
 820 Crane Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15216
info@SaintSharbelCenter.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SAVE THE DATE!!!

September 6th Religious Education Open House & Knights of Mary Registration

Religious education will run the first ever open house after the 4:00 liturgy from 5:00-6:00. We will start in the church at 5:00 with a brief general meeting and overview of the year. You and your child will then be able to visit your child's classroom and meet their teacher. We encourage all families to join us first at the 4 p.m. liturgy.

At 6:00 we will have a brief meeting for all those families planning to make First Communion in May of 2026.

Knights of Mary will also be with us that night with a table in the foyer for those that want to register for this coming year.

As always, registration for both organizations can be found on the parish website. It is never too early to sign your child/children up for the many wonderful activities we have in our community.

SIGN UP ON OUR WEBSITE!!

BIRTHDAY WISHES

August 23: Georges Bou Saada, Anthony El Hachem, Lara Geha, Aboud Kassari, Bassil Zaza

August 24: Kristen Arsenault, Reine Ata, Nabil Bou-Mitri, Marcus Dahbour, Brendan Melvin, Orion Pehl, Bethany Pellerin

August 25: Vita Abdoo, Ryan Bouchrouche, Freya Dagher, Dana Drees, John Ead, Robine Hachem

August 26: Jihane Abou-Ezzi, Samya Ayoub, Wallace Hatem, Jean Kossaifi, Liana Said

August 28: Michael Abou-Ezzi, Nicholas Albert, Anthony Antar, Bennett Daher, Nawal Kamel

August 29: Charbel Daher, Andria Hawwa, Mark Rahi, Andrew Ramey, David Sader, Banks Santos, Anthony Tarabay

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

August 23: Rami & Mariana Ata, Patrick & Giselle Gerges, Richard & Noreen Mallen

August 24: Walid & Silvana Awad, Chadi & Sandy Ramey

August 27: Fredy & Bobbi Corey,

August 28: Zeidan & Reine Ata, John & Amanda Belko, Josh & Elizabeth Frias, Joseph & Gina Nassar

August 29: Dean & Christa Levy, Abboud & Sonia Safi

CONGRATULATIONS!

Baptized & Confirmed

Amalia Mercil Archil

daughter of

Richardson Archil & Gabriela Gonzalez

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

~Mark 16:16

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

08/17/2025

Candles	\$134.00
Sunday Collection	\$2,358.00
Assumption	\$470.00
Donations	\$1,120.00
Utilities, Fuel & Electricity	\$85.00
	<hr/>
	\$4,167.00

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!

WELCOME BACK!

We're happy to see our families returning from summer travels. We hope you had a joyful and restful vacation!

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

SAVE THE DATE



Team *Fantastically Fantastic*
Annual St. Jude Walk
Saturday, September 20th
Stay tuned for details!

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

Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost: The Canaanite Woman

Book of Ruth 1:15-19a

So she said, 'See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.' But Ruth said, 'Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!' When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her. So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, 'Is this Naomi?'

Letter to the Ephesians 3,1-13

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew 15, 21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 23- 4 pm - Patricia Ferguson

Sunday, August 24

9:30 am - Brady Barry

11:00 am - (Eng) Chloe Saade

(Ar) Dana Hady

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 30 - 4 pm - Susan Kalil

Sunday, August 31

11:00 am - (Eng) Mansor Chaya

(Ar) Amale Chantiri

الأحد الثاني عشر من زمن العنصرة: إيمان المرأة الكنعانية

سفر راعوث 1: 15 - 19a

قَالَتْ نُعْمِي لِرَاعُوثَ: «هَذِهِ سِلْفَتُكَ قَدْ رَجَعَتْ إِلَى شَعْبِهَا وَآلِهَتِهَا. فَارْجِعِي أَنْتِ عَلَى أَثَرِ سِلْفَتِكَ». فَقَالَتْ رَاعُوثُ: «لَا تُلْجِي عَلَيَّ أَنْ أَتْرُكَكَ وَأَرْجِعَ عَنكَ، فَإِنِّي حَيْثُمَا ذَهَبْتُ أَذْهَبُ وَحَيْثُمَا بَيْتٌ أَبِيتُ، شَعْبُكَ شَعْبِي وَالْإِلَهُ إِلَهِي وَحَيْثُمَا تَمُوتِي أَمُتُ وَهُنَاكَ أُدْفَنُ. لِيَصْنَعَ الرَّبُّ بِي هَكَذَا وَلِيَزِدْ هَكَذَا إِنَّ فَرْقَ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنِكَ غَيْرُ الْمَوْتِ». فَلَمَّا رَأَتْهَا مُصِرَّةً عَلَى الذَّهَابِ مَعَهَا كَفَّتْ عَنِ مُحَادَثَتِهَا بِالْأَمْرِ. وَذَهَبَتَا كِلْتَاهُمَا حَتَّى وَصَلَتَا إِلَى بَيْتِ لَحْمٍ. وَذَهَبَتَا كِلْتَاهُمَا حَتَّى وَصَلَتَا إِلَى بَيْتِ لَحْمٍ. وَكَانَ عِنْدَ وَصُولِهِمَا إِلَى بَيْتِ لَحْمٍ أَنَّ الْمَدِينَةَ كُلَّهَا تَحَرَّكَتْ بِسَبَبِهِمَا، وَقَالَتِ النِّسَاءُ: «أَهْذِهِ نُعْمِي؟»

رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل أفسس 3: 1-13

يَا إِخْوَتِي، أَنَا بُولُسُ، أَسِيرُ الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ، أَيُّهَا الْأَمَمُ... إِنْ كُنْتُمْ قَدْ سَمِعْتُمْ بِتَدْبِيرِ نِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ الَّتِي وَهَبَتْ لِي مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ، وَهُوَ أَتَى بِوَحْيٍ أَطْلَعْتُ عَلَى السِّرِّ، كَمَا كَتَبْتُ إِلَيْكُمْ بِإِنْجَازٍ مِنْ قَبْلِ، حِينَئِذٍ يُمَكِّنُكُمْ، إِذَا قَرَأْتُمْ ذَلِكَ، أَنْ تُدْرِكُوا فَهْمِي لِسِرِّ الْمَسِيحِ، هَذَا السِّرِّ الَّذِي لَمْ يُعْرَفْ عِنْدَ بَنِي الْبَشَرِ فِي الْأَجْيَالِ الْغَابِرَةِ، كَمَا أُعْلِنَ الْآنَ بِالرُّوحِ لِرُسُلِهِ الْقَدِيسِينَ وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، وَهُوَ أَنَّ الْأَمَمَ هُمْ، فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ، شُرَكَاءُ لَنَا فِي الْمِيرَاثِ وَالْجَسَدِ وَالْوَعْدِ، بِوَاسِطَةِ الْإِنْجِيلِ، الَّذِي صِرْتُ خَادِمًا لَهُ، بِحَسَبِ هِبَةِ نِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ الَّتِي وَهَبَتْ لِي بِفِعْلِ قُدْرَتِهِ؛ لِي أَنَا، أَصْغَرَ الْقَدِيسِينَ جَمِيعًا، وَهَبَتْ هَذِهِ النِّعْمَةَ، وَهِيَ أَنْ أَبَشِّرَ الْأَمَمَ بِغَنَى الْمَسِيحِ الَّذِي لَا يُسْتَقْصَى، وَأَنْ أَوْضَحَ لِلْجَمِيعِ مَا هُوَ تَدْبِيرُ السِّرِّ الْمَكْتُومِ مُنْذُ الدُّهُورِ فِي اللَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، لِكَيْ تُعْرِفَ الْآنَ مِنْ خِلَالِ الْكَنِيسَةِ، لَدَى الرِّئَاسَاتِ وَالسَّلَاطِينِ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ، حِكْمَةَ اللَّهِ الْمُتَنَوِّعَةَ، بِحَسَبِ قَصْدِهِ الْأَزَلِيِّ الَّذِي حَقَّقَهُ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ رَبِّنَا، الَّذِي لَنَا فِيهِ، أَيُّ الْإِيمَانِ بِهِ، الْوُصُولُ بِجُرْأَةٍ وَثِقَةٍ إِلَى اللَّهِ. لِذَلِكَ أَسْأَلُكُمْ أَنْ لَا تَضْعَفَ عَزِيمَتُكُمْ بِسَبَبِ الضِّيقَاتِ الَّتِي أَغَانِيهَا مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ: إِنَّهَا مَجْدٌ لَكُمْ!

إنجيل القديس متى 21: 15 - 28

إِنْصَرَفَ يَسُوعُ إِلَى نَوَاحِي صُورَ وَصَيْدَا، وَإِذَا بِامْرَأَةٍ كَنْعَانِيَّةٍ مِنْ تِلْكَ النِّوَاحِي خَرَجَتْ تَصْرُخُ وَتَقُولُ: «إِرْحَمْنِي، يَا رَبِّ، يَا أَبْنَ دَاوُدَ! إِنَّ ابْنَتِي بِهَا شَيْطَانٌ يُعَذِّبُهَا جَدًّا». فَلَمْ يُجِبْهَا بِكَلِمَةٍ. وَدَنَا تَلَامِيذُهُ فَأَخَذُوا يَتَوَسَّلُونَ إِلَيْهِ قَائِلِينَ: «إِصْرِفْهَا، فَإِنَّهَا تَصْرُخُ فِي إِثْرِنَا!». «فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ: «لَمْ أَرْسَلْ إِلَّا إِلَى الْخَرَافِ الضَّالَّةِ مِنْ بَيْتِ إِسْرَائِيلَ». «أَمَّا هِيَ فَاتَتْ وَسَجَدَتْ لَهُ وَقَالَتْ: «سَاعِدْنِي، يَا رَبِّ!». «فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ: «لَا يَحْسُنُ أَنْ يُؤْخَذَ خُبْرُ الْبَنِينَ، وَيُلْقَى إِلَى جِزَاءِ الْكِلَابِ!». «فَقَالَتْ: «نَعَمْ، يَا رَبِّ! وَجِزَاءُ الْكِلَابِ أَيْضًا تَأْكُلُ مِنَ الْفَتَاتِ الْمُنْسَاقِطِ عَنْ مَائِدَةِ أَرْبَابِهَا». «حِينَئِذٍ أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهَا: «أَيُّهَا الْمَرْأَةُ، عَظِيمُ إِيْمَانِكَ! فَلْيَكُنْ لَكَ كَمَا تُرِيدِينَ». «وَمِنْ تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ شُفِيَتْ ابْنَتُهَا.

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