



SINCE 1971

Lebanese Mahrajan Annual Festival



LABOR DAY WEEKEND

08/29

5 PM - 1 AM

08/30

5 PM - 2 AM

08/31

12 PM - 12 AM



Featuring Live Entertainment, Folkloric Dance, Homemade
Lebanese Cuisine and Pastries, Kid's Activities,
Lebanese Arts & Crafts, Raffles, Souvenirs



St. Anthony Maronite Catholic Church
145 Amesbury St. Lawrence, MA 01841



 [StAnthonyLawrence](#)

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 [StAnthonyLawrence.org](#)



LITURGIES INTENTIONS

Daily Liturgies

13th 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

14th Sunday of Pentecost

Saturday, September 6 (Eng)

St. Michael the Archangel

4:00 pm +Carol Hatem, *By Fred & Lorry Ganem*

Sunday, September 7

St. Sozon

9:30 am +Father Naji Kiwan, *By Deacon & Mrs. David Leard*

11:00 am 40 Day Anniversary +Georgette Abou Samra Hayek, Also for her husband & son, +Elia & Joseph Abou Maila Hayek, *By their son, Jacques Hayek & daughter, Samira Hayek & their families*

There will be **NO DAILY LITURGIES** and the **OFFICE** will be **CLOSED** from **Monday, September 1st through Friday, September 5th**



SANCTUARY LAMPS

For the living & deceased members of the Goulart & Periera Families,
By Dora Periera

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

UPCOMING EPARCHIAL 2ND COLLECTION

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

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS 08/24/2025

Candles	\$106.00
Sunday Collection	\$2,508.00
Utilities, Fuel & Electricity	\$25.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,639.00

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!*

PLEASE NOTE

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

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



Dear Beloved Parishioners, Friends, and Visitors,

With gratitude and joy, I welcome you to our Annual Lebanese Mahrajan at Saint Anthony Maronite Catholic Church. What a blessing it is to gather again to celebrate our faith, heritage, and community. This tradition unites generations of parishioners, neighbors, and friends, transforming our parish grounds into a vibrant reflection of our identity.

Since its founding in 1971 under the visionary leadership of Msgr. Semaan Farris, the Mahrajan has grown from a modest gathering into one of the most beloved cultural and spiritual events in our community. Its endurance is a testimony to the dedication of priests, parish leaders, and lay faithful who, through prayer, service, and love, built what we cherish today.

Each year on Labor Day weekend, we also pause to honor those who have gone before us—priests, parishioners, family members, and friends—who once prepared the food, played the music, led the raffles, and welcomed the crowds. Though they are no longer with us, their legacy lives on. May their memory be eternal, and their joyful spirit inspire us.

Behind every moment of this Mahrajan—every plate of food, every note of music, every smile—are the hands of dedicated volunteers. Our Mahrajan Committee begins planning months in advance, coordinating logistics, recruiting volunteers, and making countless decisions. In addition, more than 120 parishioners devote hours of preparation, culminating in three days of joyful service and witness. To each of you, I say: *thank you*. Your work is sacred. As Saint Paul reminds us: *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord”* (Colossians 3:23).

We are also deeply grateful to our sponsors. Your generosity sustains this Mahrajan and supports the mission of Saint Anthony Church—our liturgy, our youth and families, our care for the elderly and vulnerable, and our parish as a spiritual home.

Dear friends, the Mahrajan is more than a festival. It is a testament to who we are—a people of faith, rooted in tradition, united in love, committed to service. May this celebration renew in us the joy of belonging, the beauty of our Lebanese roots, and the hope that comes from trusting in God.

May we walk forward together into this Jubilee Year of Hope with courage, unity, and faith, inspired by our ancestors and strengthened by the example of Saint Anthony, our beloved patron.

May the Lord bless you and your families. May Saint Anthony intercede for you always. And may this year’s Mahrajan inspire in each of us a renewed commitment to our faith, heritage, and Church.

With all my prayers and blessings,

*Fr. Neemtallah (Edgard) Oneissy
Administrator*

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.

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

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

*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



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!!



Jr MYO & MYO Registration is Now Open!

Grades 7 to 12 scan the QR code to register for Jr MYO & MYO 2025-2026 Season Now!



BIRTHDAY WISHES

August 30: Perla Assaf, Josef Joumaa, Jeremy Kamari, Richard Naoum, Maya Saab, Reita Tawitian

August 31: George Atallah, Elia Bou Jabbour, Richard Naoum, John Veilleux

September 1: George Chaya, Adel Dreik, Jad El Hayek, Marc Hachem, Jamil Kamari, Rachel Moussa, George Nammour, Janice Solomon

September 2: Nassif Ata, Angela Dahbour, Christopher Getchell, Grace Mansor

September 3: Joey Abi-Moussa, Mario Fares, Isabella Imad, Samir Maroun, Leo Pelletier, Jack Rached

September 4: Allan Bistany, Megan El Hayek, Therese Leone, Layla Merheb, Abbas Sadek

September 5: Lyanna Abboud, Harrison Ameen, Stephanie Constantine, Dominic Maroun, Liliana Tabet, Bruce Touma

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

August 30: Antoine Fadel & Nora Maroun


August 31: James & Maureen Demers

September 1: Jad & Mariane El Hayek

September 2: Joseph & Marlene Abdunour

September 3: George & Rita Bejjani, Raymond & Janette Nadira

September 5: Antoine & Hyam Bou Habib



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



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



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 & Hafla

Sunday September 21

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





St. Maron Church
1013 Ellsworth Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147

Sonesta Rittenhouse Square
1800 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

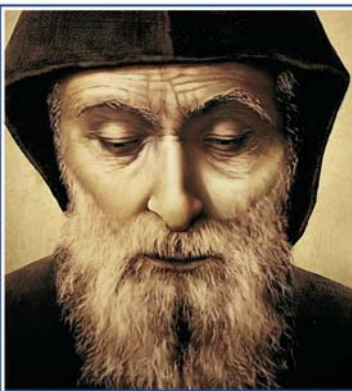
*Schedule is subject to change

Register using this QR code!



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

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

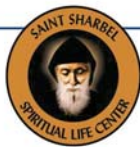
RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

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

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

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF ABORTED CHILDREN

Holy Mass for Aborted Children

Saturday, September 13, 2025

10am

Knights of Columbus Memorial for the Unborn
St. Mary's Cemetery - 29 Barker Street - Lawrence, MA
Event will be held rain or shine



On September 13, Pro-Life Americans throughout the country will gather at the gravesites of aborted babies & other memorial sites dedicated in their honor for the annual National Day of Remembrance of Aborted Children. Solemn prayer vigils & Masses will be held at these sites to commemorate the more than 60 million children who have lost their lives to legal abortion since 1973, and to remind our society of the humanity of the unborn child.

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 30 - 4 pm - Susan Kalil

Sunday, August 31

11:00 am - (Eng) Mansor Chaya

(Ar) Amale Chantiri

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 6- 4 pm - Lisa Abdallah

Sunday, September 7

9:30 am - David Brousseau

11:00 am - (Eng) Anthony Merheb

(Ar) Sassine Merheb

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

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

Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost: Parable of the Sower

Book of Genesis 2:8-10.15-17

And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

First Letter to the Corinthians 3: 1-11

I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, 'I belong to Paul', and another, 'I belong to Apollos', are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 8: 1-15

Jesus went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources. When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: 'A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.' As he said this, he called out, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!' Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that "looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand." 'Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.

الأحد الثالث عشر من زمن العنصرة: مثل الزارع

سفر التكوين 2: 8-10-15-17

وَعَرَسَ الرَّبُّ الْإِلَهَ جَنَّةً فِي عَدْنٍ شَرْقًا وَجَعَلَ هُنَاكَ الْإِنْسَانَ الَّذِي جَبَلَهُ. وَأَنْبَتَ الرَّبُّ الْإِلَهَ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ كُلَّ شَجَرَةٍ حَسَنَةٍ الْمَنْظَرِ وَطَيِّبَةِ الْمَأْكَلِ وَشَجَرَةَ الْحَيَاةِ فِي وَسْطِ الْجَنَّةِ وَشَجَرَةَ مَعْرِفَةِ الْخَيْرِ وَالشَّرِّ. وَكَانَ نَهْرٌ يَخْرُجُ مِنْ عَدْنٍ فَيَسْقِي الْجَنَّةَ وَمِنْ هُنَاكَ يَنْشَعِبُ فَيَصِيرُ أَرْبَعَةَ فُرُوعٍ. وَأَخَذَ الرَّبُّ الْإِلَهَ الْإِنْسَانَ وَجَعَلَهُ فِي جَنَّةِ عَدْنٍ لِيَفْلَحَهَا وَيَحْرُسَهَا. وَأَمَرَ الرَّبُّ الْإِلَهَ الْإِنْسَانَ قَائِلًا: «مِنْ جَمِيعِ أَشْجَارِ الْجَنَّةِ تَأْكُلُ، وَأَمَّا شَجَرَةُ مَعْرِفَةِ الْخَيْرِ وَالشَّرِّ فَلَا تَأْكُلْ مِنْهَا، فَإِنَّكَ يَوْمَ تَأْكُلُ مِنْهَا تَمُوتُ مَوْتًا.»

رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل كورنتس 3: 1-11

يا إِخْوَتِي، أَنَا، لَمْ أَسْتَطِعْ أَنْ أَكَلِّمَكُم كَأَناسٍ رُوحَانِيِّينَ بَلْ كَأَناسٍ جَسَدِيِّينَ، كَأَطْفَالٍ فِي الْمَسِيحِ. قَدْ عَدَوْتُكُمْ بِالْحَلِيبِ لَا بِالطَّعَامِ، لِأَنَّكُمْ لَمْ تَكُونُوا بَعْدُ قَادِرِينَ، وَلَا حَتَّى الْآنَ أَنْتُمْ قَادِرُونَ. فَأَنْتُمْ لَا تَرَالُونَ أَناسًا جَسَدِيِّينَ: فَمَا دَامَ بَيْنَكُمْ حَسَدٌ وَخِصَامٌ، أَفَلَا تَكُونُونَ جَسَدِيِّينَ، وَسَلُوكًا جَسَدِيًّا تَسْلُكُونَ؟ فَإِذَا كَانَ أَحَدُكُمْ يَقُولُ: أَنَا لِبُولُسِ! وَآخَرُ: أَنَا لِأَبْلُوسِ! أَفَلَا تَكُونُونَ جَسَدِيِّينَ؟ فَمَا هُوَ أَبْلُوسُ؟ وَمَا هُوَ بُولُسُ؟ هُمَا خَادِمَانِ آمَنْتُمْ عَلَى أَيْدِيهِمَا، عَلَى قَدْرِ مَا أَعْطَى الرَّبُّ كُلًّا مِنْهُمَا. أَنَا عَرَسْتُ، وَأَبْلُوسُ سَقَى، وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الَّذِي كَانَ يُنْمِي. فَلَا الْغَارِسُ بِشَيْءٍ وَلَا السَّاقِي، بَلِ اللَّهُ الَّذِي يُنْمِي! لَكِنَّ الْغَارِسَ وَالسَّاقِي وَاحِدٌ، وَكُلُّ مِنْهُمَا يَأْخُذُ أَجْرَهُ عَلَى قَدْرِ تَعَبِهِ. فَحَنْنُ مُعَاوَنَانِ لِلَّهِ، وَأَنْتُمْ حَقْلُ اللَّهِ وَبِنَاءُ اللَّهِ. وَأَنَا بِنِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ الَّتِي وَهَبْتُ لِي، وَضَعْتُ الْأَسَاسَ كِبْنَاءً حَكِيمًا، لَكِنَّ آخَرَ يَبْنِي عَلَيْهِ: فَلْيَنْظُرْ كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ كَيْفَ يَبْنِي عَلَيْهِ! فَمَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ يُمَكِّنُهُ أَنْ يَضَعَ أُسَاسًا آخَرَ غَيْرَ الْأَسَاسِ الْمَوْضُوعِ، وَهُوَ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ.

إنجيل القديس لوقا 8: 1-15

أَخَذَ يَسُوعُ يَطُوفَ الْمُدْنَ وَالْفَرَى، يُنَادِي وَيُبَشِّرُ بِمَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ، وَمَعَهُ الْاثنَا عَشَرَ، وَبَعْضُ النِّسَاءِ اللَّوَاتِي شَفَاهُنَّ مِنْ أَرْوَاحِ شَرِّيرَةٍ وَأَمْرَاضٍ، هُنَّ: مَرِيَمُ الْمَدْعُوعَةُ بِالْمَجْدَلِيَّةِ، الَّتِي كَانَ قَدْ خَرَجَ مِنْهَا سَبْعَةُ شَيَاطِينٍ، وَحَنَّةُ امْرَأَةُ خُوزَى وَكَيْلِ هِيرُودُسَ، وَسُوسَنَةُ، وَغَيْرُهُنَّ كَثِيرَاتٌ كُنَّ يَبْدُلْنَ مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِنَّ فِي خِدْمَتِهِمْ. وَلَمَّا أَحْتَشَدَ جَمْعٌ كَثِيرٌ، وَأَقْبَلَ النَّاسُ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ كُلِّ مَدِينَةٍ، خَاطَبَهُمْ بِمَثَلٍ: «خَرَجَ الزَّارِعُ لِيَزْرَعَ زَرْعَهُ. وَفِيمَا هُوَ يَزْرَعُ، وَقَعَ بَعْضُ الْحَبِّ عَلَى جَانِبِ الطَّرِيقِ، فَدَاسَتْهُ الْأَقْدَامُ، وَأَكَلَتْهُ طُيُورُ السَّمَاءِ. وَقَعَ بَعْضُهُ الْآخَرَ عَلَى الصَّخْرَةِ، وَمَا إِنْ نَبَتَ حَتَّى يَبْسَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ رُطُوبَةٌ. وَقَعَ بَعْضُهُ الْآخَرَ فِي وَسْطِ الشُّوكِ، وَنَبَتَ الشُّوكُ مَعَهُ فَخَنَقَهُ. وَقَعَ بَعْضُهُ الْآخَرَ فِي الْأَرْضِ الصَّالِحَةِ، وَنَبَتَ فَأَثْمَرَ مِئَةَ ضِعْفٍ. قَالَ يَسُوعُ هَذَا، وَنَادَى: «مَنْ لَهُ أُذُنَانِ سَامِعَتَانِ فَلْيَسْمَعْ!» «وَسَأَلَهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ: «مَا تَرَاهُ يَعْنِي هَذَا الْمَثَلُ؟» فَقَالَ: «قَدْ أُعْطِيَ لَكُمْ أَنْتُمْ أَنْ تَعْرِفُوا أَسْرَارَ مَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ. أَمَّا الْبَاقُونَ فَأَكَلِمُهُمْ بِالْأَمْثَالِ، لِكَيْ يَنْظُرُوا فَلَا يُبْصِرُوا، وَيَسْمَعُوا فَلَا يَفْهَمُوا. وَهَذَا هُوَ مَعْنَى الْمَثَلِ: الزَّرْعُ هُوَ كَلِمَةُ اللَّهِ. وَالَّذِينَ عَلَى جَانِبِ الطَّرِيقِ هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ، ثُمَّ يَأْتِي إبْلِيسُ فَيَنْتَزِعُ الْكَلِمَةَ مِنْ قُلُوبِهِمْ، لِئَلَّا يُؤْمِنُوا فَيَخْلُصُوا. وَالَّذِينَ عَلَى الصَّخْرَةِ هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ الْكَلِمَةَ وَيَقْبَلُونَهَا بِفَرَحٍ؛ هَوْلًا لَا أَصْلَ لَهُمْ، فَهَمُ يُؤْمِنُونَ إِلَى حِينٍ، وَفِي وَقْتِ التَّجْرِبَةِ يَتَرَجَعُونَ. وَالَّذِي وَقَعَ فِي الشُّوكِ هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ وَيَمْضُونَ، فَتَخْنُقُهُمُ الْهُمُومُ وَالْغَنَى وَمَلْدَاتُ الْحَيَاةِ، فَلَا يَنْضِجُ لَهُمْ ثَمَرٌ. أَمَّا الَّذِي وَقَعَ فِي الْأَرْضِ الْجَيِّدَةِ فَهُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ الْكَلِمَةَ بِقَلْبٍ جَيِّدٍ صَالِحٍ فَيَحْفَظُونَهَا، وَيَبْتَنُونَ فَيُثْمِرُونَ.»

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