

SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD

Announcement to the Virgin Mary

أحد بشارة العذراء



LITURGIES INTENTIONS

SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD

Announcement to the Virgin Mary

Saturday, November 22

*Sts. Joachim & Anne, Parents of Our Lady,
the Virgin Mary*

4:00 pm +Maroun Mouawad, *By his wife,
Habouba, children, Simon, Michael &
Renee*

Sunday, November 23

St. Sassine, Bishop of Cyzicus

8:00 am +Walid Bejjani, *By Lili Bejjani & Family*

9:30 am +Jean-Paul Daou, *By Lili Bejjani & Family*

11:00 am +Said Boutros & Chafica Azzi & Elham
Azzi, *By Pierre Azzi & Family*

Visitation of the Virgin to Elizabeth

Saturday, November 29

St. Andrew

4:00 pm +Evon Danus, *By the Rembis Family*

For the good health & well-being of all
the Mahrajan Sponsors & their
Families

Sunday, November 30

St. Andrew

8:00 am Private Intention

9:30 am In Honor of Elie Daou, *By his parents,
Deacon & Mrs. Nadim Daou*

11:00 am +Ibrahim, Saide & Dalal Kassas &
Deceased Family Members, *By Mr. &
Mrs. George Kassas & Family*

Daily Liturgies

Monday, November 24

*St. Catherine of Alexandria
Gal 3:1-6/Lk 11:27-32*

9:00 am +Nakhle & Victoria Jabbour, their
children, & Marie Graige Jabbour, *By
Mouna & Kamil Hbaiter.*

Tuesday, November 25

*Pope St. Clement I (+97)
Gal 3:7-14/Nt 11:25-30*

9:00 am +Mariam Abou Khalil, *By Lola &
Kozhaya Abou Khalil & Family.*

Wednesday, November 26

*St. Peter, Patriarch of Alexandria
Gal 3:23-29/Mt 13:54-58*

9:00 am +Metanios & Cecilia Hbaiter &
deceased members of their family, *By
Kamil & Mouna Hbaiter*

Thursday, November 27 - THANKSGIVING

*St. James Intercisus
Gal 4:1-7/Mt 12:46-50*

OFFICE CLOSED - NO LITURGY

Friday, November 28 - OFFICE CLOSED

*St. Stephen the Younger
Gal 4:8-12/Jn 6:40-44*

NO LITURGY



SANCTUARY LAMPS

**Deceased Members of the Goulart &
Pereira Families, *By Dora Pereira***

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

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

11/16/2025

Candles	\$113.80
Sunday Collection	\$3,522.00
Utilities, Fuel & Electricity	\$150.00
Donations	\$3,350.00
	\$7,135.80

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.*



PASTOR'S CORNER

The Annunciation: The Freedom of Obedience

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday, we contemplate the Annunciation—the moment when God quietly entered our world through the humility and freedom of a young woman in Nazareth (Luke 1:26–38). Mary's response to the angel, "*Let it be done to me according to your word,*" reveals the deepest truth about Christian obedience: it is not about losing freedom, nor is it a form of slavery. True obedience to God is the path to authentic freedom, because God never imposes—He invites, He proposes, He calls.

Mary did not fully understand the mystery placed before her, yet her "yes" was free, mature, and rooted in deep trust. Her obedience was not passive; it was courageous. When believers surrender to the will of God, they do not become less human—they become more fully alive. As Jesus Himself teaches, "*the truth will set you free*" (John 8:32). And the truth is this: obedience to God frees us from fear, ego, sin, and the illusions of self-sufficiency.

The Fathers of the Church remind us that through Mary's obedience, the knot of Eve's disobedience is untied. Her fiat opens the way for salvation and reveals that God's will is not a burden, but a gift that leads to peace. Christian obedience is the harmony between our hearts and God's wisdom.

A simple spiritual story illustrates this mystery. A young monk once asked his elder, "Why does God's will sometimes feel heavy?" The elder replied, "Two paths lie before every soul—the one we choose and the one God chooses. Ours may seem easier, but His leads to peace. When you choose His will, even if it feels heavy at first, your heart becomes light." Mary walked this path. She didn't know where it would lead, but she knew Who walked with her.

As we enter this sacred season, may Mary's obedience inspire us to trust God more deeply, to embrace His will with freedom, and to allow His Word to become flesh in our daily lives.

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 PRIEST:

Fr. Edgard -Neemtallah- Oneissy
pastor@stanthonylawrence.org

MEET OUR DEACONS:

Nadim Daou, James T. Demers
& David Leard

Sub-Deacons: Antoine Nammour
& George Merheb

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.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

November 22: Colleen Abraham, Helen Bouchrouche, Yvonne Phares, Meara Younes

November 23: Olga Sarkis, Elena Zaarour, Danielle Zaza

November 24: Cristina Chedid, Mark El Zaklit, Julianne Jefferson, Zakhia Kosseifi, Maya Najjar, Christian St. Jean

November 25: Lauren Prezzano

November 26: Christina Corey, Ella Hashem, Shannon Khoury, Lilliane Maroun, Elie Sfeir, Pierre Silfani, Angelina Wehbe

November 27: Ronald Giantonio. Elias Kamel, Venize Mason,

November 28: Elias Chaya, Anthony Chaya, Matthew Ferguson, Souad Moses, David Nehme, George Rached, Liam Russell IV

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

November 24: Mounir & Ramons Bou-Mitri, Jason & Julie Martino

November 25: Radwan & May Maroun

November 26: Fouad & Eliane Bouraphael

November 28: Georgio & Jennifer Bassil



St. Anthony



Knights of Columbus Men's Group
Thanksgiving Food Drive

**Please help us assist the Maronite Monks at
Petersham and consider donating the
following:**

- Honey
- Canned Vegetables
- Pure Maple Syrup
- Canned Soup
- Dried Lentils
- Dried Fruit
- Cheese (any)
- Healthy Breakfast Cereal
- Onions
- Ketchup-Mustard-Relish
- Potatoes
- Lemon Juice
- Old Fashioned Oats
- Stevia Sweetener Packets
- Brown Rice-Barley-Quinoa
- Za'atar
- Canned Chicken Salad
- Canned Chickpeas
- Canned Tuna-Sardines
- Canned Tomato Paste
- Canned Sliced Mushrooms
- Canned Diced Tomatoes
- Canned Green Beans, Carrots
- Pasta Sauce (Ragu etc.)

Please drop off food items in the church lobby by
November 23, 2025

Thank you for your generosity & continued support

CONGRATULATIONS!

Sacrament of Matrimony

Dylan Abourjeili & Tammy Naser

*"Confirm them in faith, hope, love and just deeds.
Rite of the Covenant"*

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

The loving family of **Jean-Paul Daou**, beloved son of Cesar & Breda Daou, and devoted brother of Pierre Daou, who passed away unexpectedly on October 30.

We extend our sincere condolences to his loving uncles, Deacon Nadim Daou & his wife, Marie-Christine, Samir, & his wife, Leila, as well as his cousins & extended family members.

*May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace
and their memories be eternal*

CONGRATULATIONS!

Baptized & Confirmed

Isla Belko

daughter of

John & Amanda Belko, Jr.

Elliott Anthony Abraham

son of

Ryan & Kimberly Abraham

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

~Mark 16:16

DAUGHTERS OF SAINT ANTHONY

"The Oldest Organization of St. Anthony's Church"

MEETING & CHRISTMAS PARTY LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 4th @ 12pm

Join us for our annual Christmas celebration!

\$5 Scratch Ticket Swap

Karaoke & Christmas Carols

Please remember to bring your gift for our
adopted family.



ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH SHAWARMA LUNCH

*A fundraising effort to support
Family of St Charbel*

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2025

10:30AM-2:00PM

145 AMESBURY ST. LAWRENCE, MA

Chicken Shawarma

Garlic, pickles, French fries

- **Sandwich** \$12
- **Plate \$15** (includes soda)
- **Family platter \$45**
(includes bread, 16oz Tabouli & Hummus)

Beef Shawarma

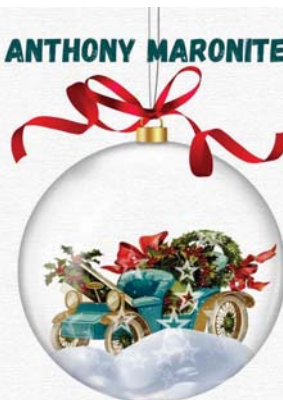
Tahini sauce, parsley, tomato, onion, pickles

- **Sandwich** \$14
- **Plate \$17** (includes soda)
- **Family platter \$55**
(includes bread, 16oz Tabouli & Hummus)

Sides

Tabouli, Hummus, Rice or French fries \$5
Soda or Water \$2

SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH



Seniors Christmas JUBILEE

SATURDAY 20 DECEMBER

11:00 AM LITURGY

12:00 - 2:00 PM LUNCH

ENTERTAINMENT, DANCE AND SPECIAL VISIT FROM SANTA

PLEASE RSVP BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

RECTORY: 978-685-7233, MIRNA ABOU-EZZI: 978-807-5308

145 Amesbury St, Lawrence, MA, 01841

SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH LAWRENCE PRESENTS

MENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

MUSIC - GAMES - FUN - CASH BAR

\$60

NO TICKETS AT DOOR

9TH DEC

PHOENICIAN RESTAURANT
MICHAEL'S FUNCTION HALL
12 ALPHA STREET
HAVERHILL, MA

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM
DINNER SERVED AT 7:45PM

MENU INCLUDES:
APPS: HUMMUS, TABOULI, BABA, RAW KIBBEE, VEGETABLE PLATTER, FRIES
MAIN: CHICKEN KABOB OVER RICE PILAF, TENDERLOIN WITH PEPPERS & ONIONS

FOR INFO OR TICKETS CONTACT:
FRED COREY | ROD PICA | WISSAM MERHEB | ELIAS AZZI | DANNY AZZI

YOU ARE INVITED TO

Christmas Ladies Party

DINNER. ORNAMENTS EXCHANGE. RAFFLES PRIZES.
GAMES. DJ. LIVE MUSIC & MORE!!!

SATURDAY AT 07:00 PM | **6** | DECEMBER
TICKET \$100

MICHAEL'S FUNCTION HALL
12 Alpha Sreet, Haverhil, MA 01832

RSVP TO
MARY FRANCIS 978-960-7479
MOUNIRA DAHER 603-235-0801



Saint Anthony Maronite Church - Lawrence

MEELAD CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

SCHEDULE

Friday, December 12 (4:00 pm – 9:00 pm)

- 4:00 pm: Sook Vendors Open
- 7:00 pm: Meelad Christmas Recital
- 8:00 pm: Pictures with Santa
- 9:00 pm: Sook Closing

Saturday, December 13 (3:00 pm– 9:00 pm)

- 3:00 pm: Sook Vendors Open
- 4:00 pm: Liturgy
- 5:30 pm: Kids Choir Recital & Christmas Pageant
- 6:30 pm: Pictures with Santa
- 7:00 pm: Karaoke & Dance
- 9:00 pm: Sook Closing

Sunday, December 14 (9:00 am – 6:00 pm)

- 9:00 am: Sook Vendors Open
- 9:30 - 12 pm: Liturgies
- 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm: Kids Christmas Party, Magic Show & Special Visit From Santa
- 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm: Live Performance by Maddi Ryan
- 4:30 pm: Marching Band Show
- 5:00 pm: Tree Lighting Ceremony
- 6:00 pm: Festival Closing



Festival Food: Saj, finger Foods, Popcorn, Hot dogs, Chestnuts, Corn on the cob, Sweets, and hot beverages.

Outdoor Heaters & Heated Tent Available • Handicap Parking



145 Amesbury St Lawrence MA 01841



Saint Anthony Maronite Church

Celebrating the birth of Jesus
through faith, color, and creativity!

CHRISTMAS DRAWING COMPETITION 2025



You are invited to express
the joy of Christ's birth through art.
you must reflect
the spiritual meaning of Christmas –
the Nativity, the Holy Family, or any symbol
of Christ's light and peace and you should inspire
faith, joy, and hope, in harmony with the Advent and
Christmas season.

Size: 8.5 x 11 inches (standard paper) or 11 x 14 inches maximum.

Cash Prize:
\$200



**art works
presented
will be displayed
during the
Meelad Christmas
Festival**



**and
many
more
surprises**

Submission Deadline: Sunday, December 11, 2025

Final Decision & Announcement of Winners:

Sunday, December 14, 2025,

during the Tree lighting

Submit your artwork by December 11, 2025,
to be delivered to the Parish Office (in person).

Include your full name, age, phone number,
on the back of the artwork.

For more information, please contact:
rectory@stanthonylawrence.org (978) 685-7233

Let your creativity reflect
the true meaning of Christmas love, hope, and light!



Announcement to the Virgin Mary

2nd book of Samuel 7:8-10, 11b-12, 13b-17

Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever. In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

Letter to the Galatians 3: 15-22

I give an example from daily life: once a person's will has been ratified, no one adds to it or annuls it. Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring; it does not say, 'And to offsprings', as of many; but it says, 'And to your offspring', that is, to one person, who is Christ. My point is this: the law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. For if the inheritance comes from the law, it no longer comes from the promise; but God granted it to Abraham through the promise. Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring would come to whom the promise had been made; and it was ordained through angels by a mediator. Now a mediator involves more than one party; but God is one. Is the law then opposed to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could make alive, then righteousness would indeed come through the law. But the scripture has imprisoned all things under the power of sin, so that what was promised through faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 22

4:00 pm - Patricia Ferguson

Sunday, November 23

8:00 am - Hitaf Nammour

9:30 am - Joey Safi

11:00 am - (Eng) Elias Azzi

(Ar) Sub-deacon Antoine Nammour

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 29

4:00 pm - Anthony Ata

Sunday, November 30

8:00 am - Mouna Hbaiter

9:30 am - August Sfeir

11:00 am - (Eng) Anthony Kassas

(Ar) George Kassas

أحد بشارة العذراء

سفر صموئيل الثاني 7: 8-10, 11-12, 13-17

قَالَ الرَّبُّ لِنَاتَان، قُلِ الْآنَ لِعَبْدِي دَاوُدَ: هَكَذَا يَقُولُ رَبُّ الْقَوَاتِ: «إِنِّي أَخَذْتُكَ مِنَ الْمَرْعَى مِنْ وَرَاءِ الْغَنَمِ، لَتَكُونَ رَئِيسًا عَلَى شَعْبِي إِسْرَائِيلَ. كُنْتُ مَعَكَ حَيْثُمَا سِرْتُ، وَقَرَضْتُ جَمِيعَ أَعْدَائِكَ مِنْ أَمَامِكَ، وَسَأَقِيمُ لَكَ اسْمًا عَظِيمًا كَأَسْمَاءِ الْعُظَمَاءِ الَّذِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ، وَأَجْعَلُ مَكَانًا لِشَعْبِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَأَغْرِسَهُ فَيَسْتَقَرُّ فِي مَكَانِهِ وَلَا يَضْطَرُّ مِنْ بَعْدٍ، وَلَا يَعُودُ بَنُو الْإِثْمِ يُدْلِلُونَهُ كَمَا كَانَ مِنْ قَبْلُ. وَقَدْ أَخْبَرَكَ الرَّبُّ أَنَّهُ سَيُقِيمُ لَكَ بَيْتًا. وَإِذَا تَمَّتْ أَيْامُكَ وَأَضْطَجَعْتَ مَعَ آبَائِكَ، أَقِيمُ مَنْ يَخْلُفُكَ مِنْ نَسْلِكَ الَّذِي يَخْرُجُ مِنْ صُلْبِكَ، وَأَنَا أَتَيْتُ عَرْشَ مُلْكِهِ لِلأَبَدِ. أَنَا أَكُونُ لَهُ أَبَا وَهُوَ يَكُونُ لِي أَبْنًا. وَإِذَا أَتِمَّ أَوْدَبُهُ بِقَضِيبِ النَّاسِ وَبِضَرْبَاتِ بَنِي الْبَشَرِ. وَأَمَّا رَحْمَتِي فَلَا تَنْزِعُ عَنْهُ، كَمَا نَزَعْتُهَا مِنْ شَاوُلَ الَّذِي أَبْعَدْتُهُ مِنْ أَمَامِ وَجْهِكَ. بَلْ يَكُونُ بَيْتُكَ وَمُلْكُكَ ثَابِتَيْنِ لِلأَبَدِ أَمَامَ وَجْهِكَ، وَعَرْشُكَ يَكُونُ رَاسِخًا لِلأَبَدِ.» فَكَلَّمَ نَاتَانُ دَاوُدَ بِهَذَا الْكَلَامِ كُلَّهُ وَهَذِهِ الرُّؤْيَا كُلُّهَا.

رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل غلاطية 3: 15-22

يَا إِخْوَتِي، كَبَشِّرْ أَقُولُ: إِنَّ الْوَصِيَّةَ، وَإِنْ كَانَتْ مِنْ إِنْسَانٍ، إِذَا أَقِرَّتْ، لَا أَحَدَ يُبْطِلُهَا أَوْ يَزِيدُ عَلَيْهَا. فَالْوُعْدُ قِيلَتْ لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ وَلِنَسْلِهِ. وَمَا قِيلَتْ: «وَلَا نَسَالَهُ»، كَأَنَّهُ لِكَثِيرِينَ، بَلْ «وَلِنَسْلِكَ»، كَأَنَّهُ لِوَاحِدٍ، وَهُوَ الْمَسِيحُ! فَأَقُولُ هَذَا: إِنَّ وَصِيَّةَ سَبَقِ اللَّهِ فَاقَرَّهَا، لَا تُلْغِيهَا شَرِيعَةٌ جَاءَتْ بَعْدَ أَرْبَعِ مِئَةٍ وَثَلَاثِينَ سَنَةً، فَتُبْطِلُ الْوَعْدَ. وَإِذَا كَانَ الْمِيرَاثُ مِنَ الشَّرِيعَةِ، فَهُوَ لَمْ يَعْذُ مِنَ الْوَعْدِ؛ وَالْحَالُ أَنَّ اللَّهَ بَوَّعِدَ أَنْعَمَ بِالْمِيرَاثِ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ. إِذَا فَلِمَ إِذَا الشَّرِيعَةُ؟ إِنَّهَا أُضِيفَتْ بِسَبَبِ الْمَعَاصِي، حَتَّى مَجِيءِ النَّسْلِ الَّذِي جُعِلَ الْوَعْدُ لَهُ. وَقَدْ أَعْلَنَهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ عَلَى يَدِ وَسِيطٍ، هُوَ مُوسَى. غَيْرَ أَنَّ الْوَاحِدَ لَا وَسِيطَ لَهُ، وَاللَّهُ وَاحِدٌ! إِذَا فَهَلْ تَكُونُ الشَّرِيعَةُ ضِدَّ وَعْدِ اللَّهِ؟ حَاشَا! فَلَوْ أُعْطِيتُ شَرِيعَةً قَادِرَةً أَنْ تُحْيِيَ، لَكَانَ النَّبِيرُ حَقًّا بِالشَّرِيعَةِ. وَلَكِنَّ الْكِتَابَ حَبَسَ الْكُلَّ تَحْتَ الْخَطِيئَةِ، لِكَيْمَّا بِالْإِيمَانِ بِيَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ يُعْطَى الْوَعْدُ لِلَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ.

إنجيل القديس لوقا 1: 26-38

وَفِي الشَّهْرِ السَّادِسِ (بَعْدَ بَشَارَةِ زَكَرِيَّا)، أُرْسِلَ الْمَلَكُ جِبْرَائِيلُ مِنَ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ إِلَى مَدِينَةٍ فِي الْجَلِيلِ اسْمُهَا النَّاصِرَةُ، إِلَى عَذْرَاءَ مَخْطُوبَةٍ لِرَجُلٍ مِنْ بَيْتِ دَاوُدَ اسْمُهُ يُوسُفُ، وَاسْمُ الْعَذْرَاءِ مَرْيَمَ. وَلَمَّا دَخَلَ الْمَلَكُ إِلَيْهَا قَالَ: «السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ، يَا مَمْلُوءَةٌ نِعْمَةً، أَلَرَّبُّ مَعَكَ!». «فَاضْطَرَبَتْ مَرْيَمُ لِكَلَامِهِ، وَأَخَذَتْ تَفَكِّرُ مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هَذَا السَّلَامُ! فَقَالَ لَهَا الْمَلَكُ: «لَا تَخَافِي، يَا مَرْيَمَ، لِأَنَّكَ وَجَدْتَ نِعْمَةً عِنْدَ اللَّهِ. وَهَا أَنْتِ تَحْمِلِينَ، وَتَلِدِينَ ابْنًا، وَتُسَمِّيَنَّهُ يَسُوعَ. وَهُوَ يَكُونُ عَظِيمًا، وَأَبْنُ الْعَلِيِّ يُدْعَى، وَيُعْطِيهِ الرَّبُّ الْإِلَهَ عَرْشَ دَاوُدَ أَبِيهِ، فَيَمْلِكُ عَلَى بَيْتِ يَعْقُوبَ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ، وَلَا يَكُونُ لِمُلْكِهِ نِهَايَةٌ!». «فَقَالَتْ مَرْيَمُ لِلْمَلَكِ: «كَيْفَ يَكُونُ هَذَا، وَأَنَا لَا أَعْرِفُ رَجُلًا؟». فَأَجَابَ الْمَلَكُ وَقَالَ لَهَا: «الرُّوحُ الْقُدُسُ يَحِلُّ عَلَيْكَ، وَفُذْرَةُ الْعَلِيِّ تَظَلُّكَ، وَلِذَلِكَ فَالْقُدُّوسُ الْمَوْلُودُ مِنْكَ يُدْعَى ابْنُ اللَّهِ! وَهَا إِنَّ الْإِصَابَاتِ نَسِيبَتِكَ، قَدْ حَمَلْتَ هِيَ أَيْضًا بِأَبْنٍ فِي شَيْخُوخَتِهَا. وَهَذَا هُوَ الشَّهْرُ السَّادِسُ لِتِلْكَ الَّتِي تُدْعَى عَاقِرًا، لِأَنَّهُ لَيْسَ عَلَى اللَّهِ أَمْرٌ مُسْتَحِيلٌ!». «فَقَالَتْ مَرْيَمَ: «هَا أَنَا أَمَةٌ لِلرَّبِّ، فَلْيَكُنْ لِي بِحَسَبِ قَوْلِكَ!». وَانْصَرَفَ مِنْ عِنْدِهَا الْمَلَكُ.

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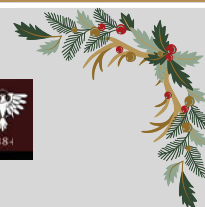
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