

# SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD

*Birth of John the Baptist*

أحد مولد يوحنا المعمدان



## LITURGIES INTENTIONS

### SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD

#### Birth of John the Baptist

**Saturday, December 6**

*St. Nicholas (Zakhia)*

**4:00 pm** +Cecelia Hatem, *By Linda Prenaveau*  
+Therese Bou Mitri, *By her children & their families*

**Sunday, December 7**

*St. Ambrose, Doctor of the Church*

**8:00 am** For the Souls in Purgatory & the  
Forgotten Souls, *By Mouna & Kamil  
Hbaiter*

**9:30 am** 40 Day Anniversary +Rose El-Hachem,  
*By her children & their families*

**11:00 am** 40 Day Memorial +Jean-Paul Daou,  
*By the Family*

**5:00 pm** IMMACULATE CONCEPTION VIGIL

#### Revelation to Joseph

**Saturday, December 13**

*St. Lucy*

**4:00 pm** +Joseph Getchell, Edmond & Theresa  
Solomon, Fred & Mary Faris, *By their  
Family*

**Sunday, December 14**

*St. Neemtallah El-Hardini*

**8:00 am** Private Intention

**9:30 am** In Honor of Team Fantastically  
Fantastic & their Sponsors

**11:00 am** +Jamileh (Barbar) & Chafic Zaarour, *By  
their daughters, Georgina Maroun &  
Jouma Feghali & their families*

+Baby Leo Alexander Maroun, *By his  
parents, Danny & Chantale Maroun, &  
brother, Lucas*

**5:00 pm** IMMACULATE CONCEPTION VIGIL

## Daily Liturgies

**Monday, December 8 - OFFICE CLOSED**

*Heb 78:11-17/Lk 11:27-32*

**9:00 am** FEAST DAY OF THE IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION

**Tuesday, December 9**

*St. Francis of Paola*

*Rom 9:6-13/Mt 11:11-15*

**9:00 am** +Emile Youssef Dagher, *By Nada Asmar*  
+Jean-Paul Daou, *By Dr. & Mrs. George  
Abou-Ezzi*

**Wednesday, December 10**

*Pope St. Miltiades (+314)*

*Rom 9:14-18/Mt 17:9-13*

**9:00 am** +Emile Youssef Dagher, *By Nada Asmar*

**Thursday, December 11**

*St. Daniel the Stylite*

*Rom 9:19-29/Mt 21:23-27*

**9:00 am** +Deceased Members of the Goulart &  
Pereira Families, *By Dora Pereira*

**Friday, December 12 - OFFICE CLOSED**

*St. Spyridon the Wonderworker*

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

*Rom 9:30-33/Mt 11:16-19*

**NO LITURGY**



### SANCTUARY LAMPS

**For the Living & Deceased  
Members of the Hassan Family**

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



### ANGEL TREE

Tags are still available.  
Place tagged gifts under the tree in the Foyer.  
**Deadline is Tuesday, December 16**



# PASTOR'S CORNER

## Name: Identity and Mission

Dear Parishioners,

As we meditate on the Birth of John the Baptist, one detail in the Gospel stands out with remarkable clarity: the moment when Zechariah confirms the child's name, "*His name is John.*" This is not a mere cultural formality. It is a divine moment. The name is not chosen by Elizabeth or Zechariah, nor inherited from a family ancestor. It is given directly by God.

The name John means "*God is gracious,*" and in this simple act of naming, we are taught something essential about life, identity, and vocation.

First, the story reveals that every human life is called by God. Before John is born, God already knows him, forms him, and assigns him a mission. This echoes the words spoken to the prophet Jeremiah: "*Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born, I consecrated you.*" No life is accidental. No person is forgotten. Each of us carries a divine imprint and a purpose spoken by God Himself.

Second, this moment teaches that identity is received, not invented. In a world that often encourages us to "create ourselves," Scripture gently reminds us that our truest identity is a gift. We do not have to fabricate who we are. Instead, we discover who God has already called us to be. John's identity is not shaped by popularity, culture, or personal ambition. It flows from God's grace and God's plan.

Third, the naming of John shows that vocation begins before birth. The child is born already bearing a mission—to prepare the way of the Lord, to awaken hearts, to call people back to God. His destiny is not an afterthought; it is woven into his very name. And so it is with us. We are baptized with a name, sealed with the Holy Spirit, and entrusted with a mission unique to each of our lives.

In a season where we celebrate the birth of Christ and the wonder of new beginnings, the naming of John invites us to rediscover our own God-given identity. Who has God called me to be? What mission has He placed in my hands? And how can I live more faithfully the grace spoken over my life?

Always remember, before being the child of our parents, we are the children of God, He named us, He shaped us, He sends us forth.

*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](mailto: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.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

### Baptized & Confirmed

**Leon Grayson Dazelle**  
son of  
Ethan & Karen (Abouhamad) Dazelle

**Alena Daccach**  
Daughter of  
Elie & Michelle (Azzi) Daccach

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

~Mark 16:16

### OUR SYMPATHIES TO

The loving family of **Frances Marie Shibel**, beloved sister of Barbara, wife of Ed Zraket, who passed away unexpectedly on November 29.

We express our sincere condolences to her nieces & nephews, Fred (Eileen) Palazzolo, Susan (George) Kalil, Karen Pappalardo & Eddie (Stacey) Zraket, as well as her extended family members.

*May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace*

### BIRTHDAY WISHES

**December 6:** Ayiman Ata, Caden Haddad, George Maroun, Lisa Prezzano

**December 7:** Karen Daher, Paige Frias, Amira Imad, Abigail Karam, Brittany Metchell, Christian Rached, Paul Sadek, August Sfeir

**December 8:** Jennie Abdallah, Rony Bassil, Gianna Bassil, Marian Ead, Jeffrey Getchell, Edith Maroun

**December 9:** Anthony Bistany, Richard Habib, TJ Hatem, Amanda Iskandar, Maroun Kannan

**December 10:** Monica Abou-Ezzi, John Belko, Hyam Bou Habib, Fouad Bouraphael, Paulina Eid, Jaret Farhat, Robert Hamman, Diala Khoury, Lucas Levy, Jovani Nader, Melanie Phares

**December 11:** Kozhaya Abou Khalil, Rayan Alghoul, Jennifer Bassil, Joelle Ziade

**December 12:** Tanya Abdilmasih, William Gabriel, Fuad Hawwa, Anthony Karam, Louis Roberts, Colette Sadek

### ANNIVERSARY WISHES

**December 7:** Guy & Katherine Kassas

**December 9:** David & Marilyn Leard

**December 12:** Abdullah & Yolla Harb

## WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

**11/23/2025**

Candles	\$92.00
Sunday Collection	\$3,560.00
Utilities, Fuel & Electricity	\$90.00
Donations	\$5,283.00
	<hr/>
	\$9,025.00

**11/30/2025**

Candles	\$85.75
Sunday Collection	\$2,987.00
Utilities, Fuel & Electricity	\$45.00
Donations	\$8,950.00
	<hr/>
	\$12,067.75



### MYO & Jr MYO

December 6 Community Service is rescheduled to December 20.

December 14 Session is cancelled

SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH LAWRENCE PRESENTS

**MENS CHRISTMAS PARTY**

MUSIC - GAMES - FUN - CASH BAR

**\$60**

NO TICKETS AT DOOR

**9TH DEC**

AT

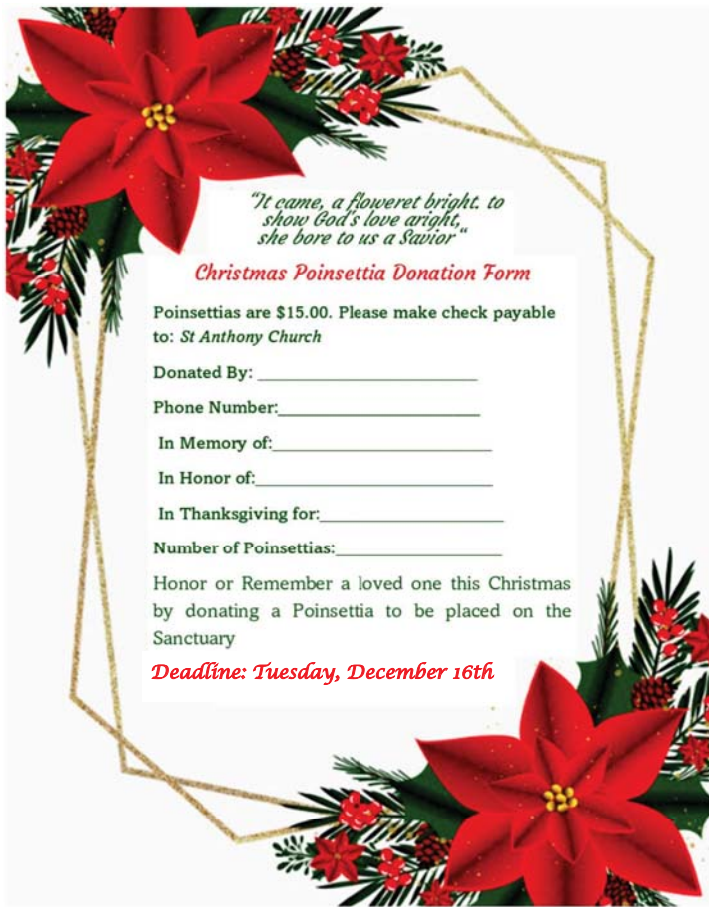
**PHOENICIAN RESTAURANT  
MICHAEL'S FUNCTION HALL  
12 ALPHA STREET  
HAVERHILL, MA**

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





*"It came, a floweret bright, to show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior"*

**Christmas Poinsettia Donation Form**

Poinsettias are \$15.00. Please make check payable to: *St Anthony Church*

Donated By: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Poinsettias: \_\_\_\_\_

Honor or Remember a loved one this Christmas by donating a Poinsettia to be placed on the Sanctuary

**Deadline: Tuesday, December 16th**



**SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH**

70+

*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

**Meelad**

**Christmas Recital-2025**

**Friday Dec 12, 7PM**

11 O'clock Choir

4 O'clock Choir

9:30 O'clock Choir



SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH - LAWRENCE

PRESENTS

*Christmas*

*Recital & Pageant*

**KIDS CHOIR**

**SATURDAY**

**DECEMBER 13**

**5:30 PM**





### 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



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: Thursday, 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](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org) (978) 685-7233

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



[rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org) [StanthonyLawrence.org](https://www.stanthonylawrence.org) Saint Anthony Maronite Church Lawrence MA [StanthonyLawrence.org](https://www.stanthonylawrence.org) Tel: 978.685.7233 Fax: 978.685.4475



## *Christmas. New Year & Epiphany Liturgy Schedule*

CHRISTMAS EVE - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4PM - CHRISTMAS VIGIL LITURGY (ENG)

MIDNIGHT - CHRISTMAS LITURGY (AR/ENG)

CHRISTMAS DAY - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:30AM - CHRISTMAS LITURGY (AR)

11AM - CHRISTMAS LITURGY (AR/ENG)

FELICITATION OF THE VIRGIN MARY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

6PM - LITURGY (AR/ENG)

NEW YEAR'S DAY - THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

6PM - LITURGY (AR/ENG)

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

6PM - EPIPHANY VIGIL LITURGY (AR/ENG)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

6PM - EPIPHANY LITURGY

## Birth of John the Baptist

### *1st book of Samuel 1,9-11.19b-22*

After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD, and wept bitterly. She made this vow: 'O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, They rose early in the morning and worshipped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the LORD.' The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.'

### *Letter to the Galatians 4,21-31.5.1*

Tell me, you who desire to be subject to the law, will you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman. One, the child of the slave, was born according to the flesh; the other, the child of the free woman, was born through the promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One woman, in fact, is Hagar, from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the other woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, 'Rejoice, you childless one, you who bear no children, burst into song and shout, you who endure no birth pangs; for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than the children of the one who is married.' Now you, my friends, are children of the promise, like Isaac. But just as at that time the child who was born according to the flesh persecuted the child who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also. But what does the scripture say? 'Drive out the slave and her child; for the child of the slave will not share the inheritance with the child of the free woman.' So then, friends, we are children, not of the slave but of the free woman. For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

### *Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 1:57-66*

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

#### LECTORS SCHEDULE

*Saturday, December 6*

4:00 pm - Lisa Abdallah

*Sunday, December 7*

8:00 am - *Huguette Sfeir*

9:30 am - *Meaghan Twing*

11:00 am - *(Eng) Elie Daou*

*(Ar) Samir Daou*

#### LECTORS SCHEDULE

*Saturday, December 13*

4:00 pm - Janice Solomon

*Sunday, December 14*

8:00 am - Sub-deacon Antoine Nammour

9:30 am - Angela Dahbour

11:00 am - *(Eng) Rebecca Merheb*

*(Ar) Gretta Merheb*



## أحد مولد يوحنا المعمدان

### سفر صموئيل الأول 1: 9-11. 19b - 22

وَقَامَتْ حَنَّةُ، مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا أَكَلُوا فِي شَيْلُو وَشَرَبُوا، وَكَانَ عَلَيَّ الْكَاهِنُ جَالِسًا عَلَى الْكُرْسِيِّ إِلَى دِعَامَةِ هَيْكَلِ الرَّبِّ، فَصَلَّتْ إِلَى الرَّبِّ فِي مَرَارَةٍ نَفْسِهَا وَبَكَتْ بُكَاءً وَنَذَرَتْ نَذْرًا وَقَالَتْ: «يَا رَبَّ الْقُوَّاتِ، إِنْ أَنْتَ نَظَرْتَ إِلَى بُوسِ أَمْتِكَ، وَذَكَرْتَنِي وَلَمْ تَنْسَ أَمْتَكَ وَأَعْطَيْتَ أَمْتَكَ مَوْلودًا ذَكَرًا، أُعْطِهِ لِلرَّبِّ لِكُلِّ أَيَّامِ حَيَاتِهِ، وَلَا يَغْلُو رَأْسُهُ مُوسَى. «وَعَرَفَ أَلْقَانَةُ حَنَّةَ زَوْجَتَهُ، وَذَكَرَهَا الرَّبُّ. فَكَانَ فِي أَنْقِضَاءِ الْأَيَّامِ أَنَّ حَنَّةَ حَمَلَتْ وَوَلَدَتْ أَبْنًا، فَدَعَتْهُ صَمُوئِيلَ، لِأَنَّهَا قَالَتْ: «مِنْ الرَّبِّ التَّمَسُّهُ. «وَصَعِدَ زَوْجُهَا أَلْقَانَةُ وَكُلَّ بَيْتِهِ لِيُقَدِّمَ لِلرَّبِّ الذَّبِيحَةَ السَّنَوِيَّةَ وَيُفِي بِنَذْرِهِ. وَأَمَّا حَنَّةُ، فَلَمْ تَصْعَدْ، لِأَنَّهَا قَالَتْ لِزَوْجِهَا: «مَتَى فُطِمَ الصَّبِيُّ، أَذْهَبُ بِهِ لِيَمْتَلُ أَمَامَ الرَّبِّ وَيُقِيمَ هُنَاكَ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ. »

### رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل غلاطية 5: 31-1: 4-21

يَا إِخْوَتِي، قُولُوا لِي، أَنْتُمْ الَّذِينَ تُرِيدُونَ أَنْ تَكُونُوا فِي حُكْمِ الشَّرِيعَةِ، أَمَا تَسْمَعُونَ الشَّرِيعَةَ؟ فَإِنَّهُ مَكْتُوبٌ: كَانَ لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ أَبْنَانِ، وَاحِدٌ مِنَ الْجَارِيَةِ، وَوَاحِدٌ مِنَ الْحُرَّةِ. أَمَّا الَّذِي مِنَ الْجَارِيَةِ فَقَدْ وُلِدَ بِحَسَبِ الْجَسَدِ، وَأَمَّا الَّذِي مِنَ الْحُرَّةِ فَبِقُوَّةِ الْوَعْدِ. وَفِي ذَلِكَ رَمَزٌ: فَسَارَةُ وَهَاجِرُ ثَمَثِلَانِ عَهْدَيْنِ، عَهْدًا مِنْ جَبَلِ سِينَاءَ يُلِدُ لِلْعُبُودِيَّةِ، وَهُوَ هَاجِرٌ؛ لِأَنَّ هَاجَرَ هِيَ جَبَلُ سِينَاءَ الَّذِي فِي بِلَادِ الْعَرَبِ، وَتُؤَافِقُ أُورُشَلِيمَ الْحَالِيَّةَ، لِأَنَّهَا فِي الْعُبُودِيَّةِ هِيَ وَأَوْلَادُهَا. أَمَّا أُورُشَلِيمُ الْعُلْيَا فَهِيَ حُرَّةٌ، وَهِيَ أُمُّنَا؛ لِأَنَّهُ مَكْتُوبٌ: «إِفْرَحِي، أَيَّتُهَا الْعَاقِرُ الَّتِي لَمْ تَلِدْ؛ اِنْدَفِعِي بِالتَّرْنِيمِ وَاصْرُخِي، أَيَّتُهَا الَّتِي لَمْ تَتَمَخَّضْ؛ لِأَنَّ أَوْلَادَ الْمَهْجُورَةِ أَكْثَرُ مِنْ أَوْلَادِ الْمُتَزَوِّجَةِ. «أَمَّا أَنْتُمْ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ، فَإِنَّكُمْ أَوْلَادُ الْوَعْدِ مِثْلُ إِسْحَقَ. وَلَكِنْ، كَمَا كَانَ حِينَئِذٍ أَلْمُولُودُ بِحَسَبِ الْجَسَدِ يَضْطَهُدُ الْمُولُودَ بِحَسَبِ الرُّوحِ، فَكَذَلِكَ الْآنَ أَيْضًا. وَلَكِنْ مَاذَا يَقُولُ الْكِتَابُ؟ «أُطْرِدِ الْجَارِيَةَ وَأَبْنَهَا، لِأَنَّ ابْنَ الْجَارِيَةِ لَا يَرِثُ مَعَ ابْنِ الْحُرَّةِ. «إِذَا، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ، لَسْنَا أَوْلَادَ جَارِيَةٍ، بَلْ أَوْلَادُ الْحُرَّةِ. إِنَّ الْمَسِيحَ قَدْ حَرَّرَنَا لِنَبْقَى أَحْرَارًا. فَاتَّبِعُوا إِذَا وَلَا تَعُودُوا تَخْضَعُونَ لِنِيرِ الْعُبُودِيَّةِ.

### إنجيل القديس لوقا 66: 1-57

تَمَّ زَمَانُ الْيَصَابَاتِ لِنَلِدْ، فَوَلَدَتْ أَبْنًا وَسَمِعَ جِيرَانُهَا وَأَقَارِبُهَا أَنَّ الرَّبَّ قَدْ عَظَّمَ رَحْمَتَهُ لَهَا، فَفَرَحُوا مَعَهَا. وَفِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّامِنِ جَاءُوا لِيَخْتِنُوا الصَّبِيَّ، وَسَمَوْهُ بِاسْمِ أَبِيهِ زَكَرِيَّا. فَأَجَابَتْ أُمُّهُ وَقَالَتْ: «لَا! بَلْ يُسَمَّى يُوحَنَّا! «فَقَالُوا لَهَا: «لَا أَحَدٌ فِي قَرَابَتِكَ يُدْعَى بِهَذَا الْأَسْمِ « وَأَشَارُوا إِلَى أَبِيهِ مَاذَا يُرِيدُ أَنْ يُسَمِّيَهُ. فَطَلَبَ لَوْحًا وَكَتَبَ: «إِسْمُهُ يُوحَنَّا! «فَتَعَجَّبُوا جَمِيعُهُمْ. وَأَنْفَتَحَ فَجَاءَ قَمُ زَكَرِيَّا، وَأَنْطَلَقَ لِسَانُهُ، وَجَعَلَ يَتَكَلَّمُ وَيُبَارِكُ اللَّهَ، فَاسْتَوْلَى الْخَوْفُ عَلَى جَمِيعِ جِيرَانِهِمْ، وَتَحَدَّثَ النَّاسُ بِكُلِّ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورِ فِي كُلِّ جَبَلِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ. وَكَانَ كُلُّ مَنْ سَمِعَ بِذَلِكَ يَحْفَظُهُ فِي قَلْبِهِ قَائِلًا: «مَا عَسَى هَذَا الطِّفْلُ أَنْ يَكُونَ؟ «وَكَاثَتْ يَدُ الرَّبِّ حَقًّا مَعَهُ.

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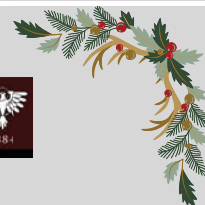
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