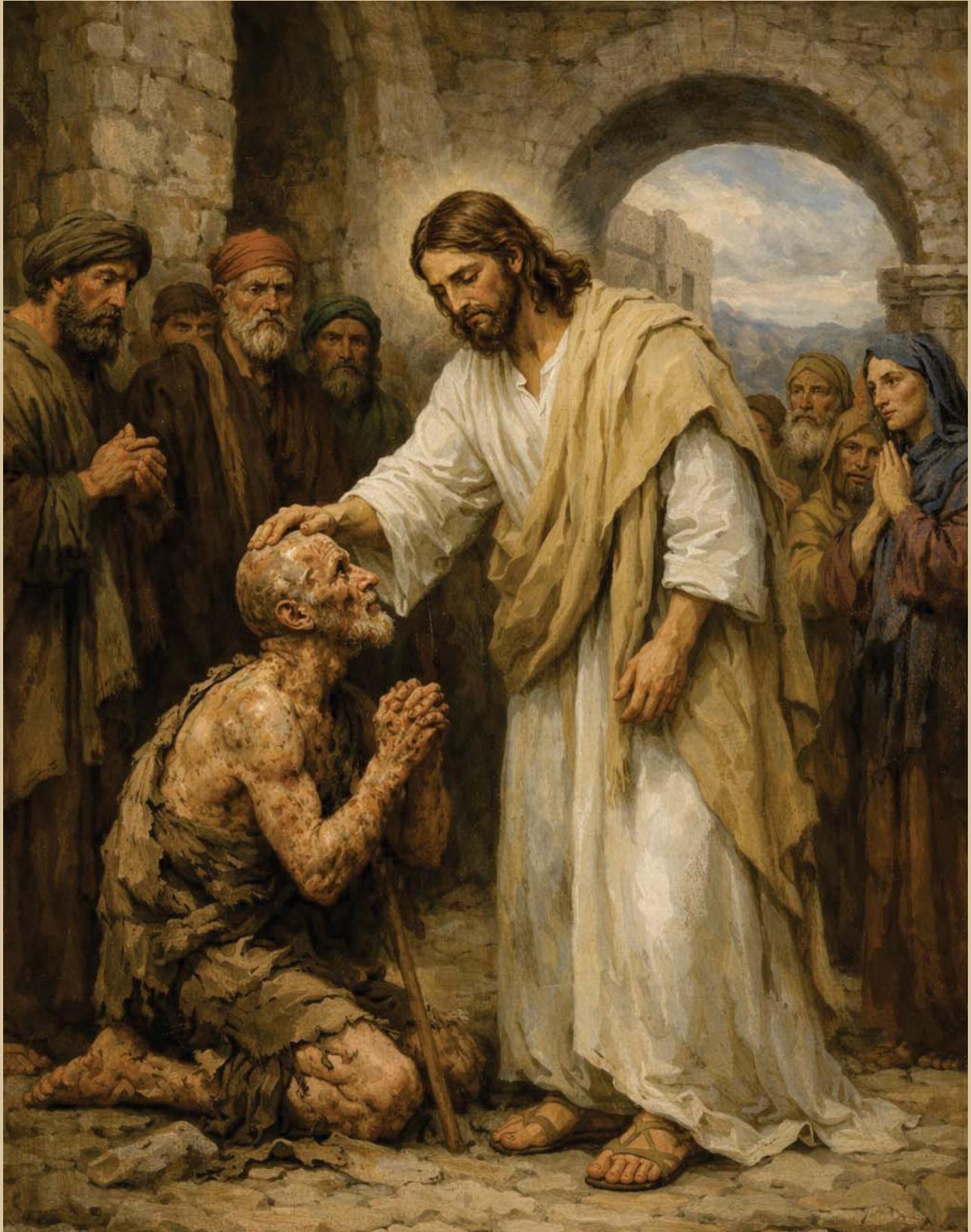


# SEASON OF GREAT LENT

## *Sunday of the Healing of the Leper*

أحد شفاء الأبرص



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

### SEASON OF GREAT LENT

#### Healing of the Leper

#### Saturday, February 21

*St. Eustathius, Patriarch of Antioch*

**4:00 pm** +Antonio, Rita, Renato & Maria  
Pastore, *By Teresa & Jamil Kamari &  
Family.*

#### Sunday, February 22

*Establishment of the Chair of St. Peter in Antioch*

**8:00 am** +Samia El-Hachem, *By her Family*

**9:30 am** 1st Anniversary +Joseph Abou Khalil, *By  
his daughters, Catherine & Chantale,  
his siblings: Kozhaya, Kamil, Hanane,  
Claudine & their Families*

**11:00 am** +Yvonne Sarkis Fazaa, Milady Nehme,  
Ramona & Jessy Costantine, *By Pascal  
Costantine & Family*

#### Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman

#### Saturday, February 28

*St. Koura and Marana, Disciples of St. Maron*

**4:00 pm** Private Intention

#### Sunday, March 1

*St. Domnina, Disciple of St. Maron*

*St. Eudokia (Afdokia) of Baalbek*

**8:00 am** Private Intention

**9:30 am** +Frances Shibel, *By Fred & Lorry Ganem*

**11:00 am** +George, Nemra, Rose, Peter, Brandon  
& Matthew Hashem, *By their Family*

**5:00 pm** Vigil - Feast of St. John Maron

### Daily Liturgies

#### Monday, February 23

*St. Polycarp of Smyran*

*1 Thes 3:6-13/Mt 6:22-24*

**9:00 am** +Jabar & Helene Awad, *By Silvana  
Awad*

#### Tuesday, February 24

*St. Margaret the Penitent*

*Gal 2:11-17/Mt 7:1-12*

**9:00 am** +Larry & Dora M. Pereira, *By Dora  
Pereira*

#### Wednesday, February 25

*Pope St. Felix III (+492)*

*Rom 3:19-27/Mt 12:38-45*

**9:00 am** In Honor of Our Lady of Lebanon  
Sodality, *By Silvana Awad*

#### Thursday, February 26

*St. Alexander, Patriarch of Alexandria*

*Phil 4:4-10/Lk 8:4-15*

**9:00 am** +Jeffrey & Anthony Waters, Mary Rita  
Costa, Carole Amabello, Kay Wilson &  
Noreen Duxbury, *By Patricia Waters*

**9:30 am - 7:00 pm** **Eucharistic Adoration**

#### Friday, February 27 - OFFICE CLOSED

*St. Thalaleus, Disciple of St. Maron*

*St. Gregory of Narek, Doctor of the Church*

*Rom 1:18-25/Mt 18:23-35*

**7:00 pm** **Stations of the Cross**



## PASTOR'S CORNER

### “Lord, If You Will”: Fidelity That Heals and Generates the Future

Dear Parishioners,

“Fidelity is not the repetition of the past; it is the courage to let the grace received bear fruit in the present and generate the future.” (*Pope Leo XIV, A Fidelity that Generates the Future*)

Lent begins not with a theory, but with a wounded man. A leper comes to Jesus. He is isolated, excluded, untouchable. According to the law, he should keep his distance. Instead, he does something daring: he approaches. He kneels. And he says, “If you will, you can make me clean.” This is fidelity. Not a sterile observance of rules. Not fear. Not hiding in shame. But the courage to move toward Christ with one’s wounds exposed.

The leper had probably lived years defined by his condition. His identity had become his illness. Society had labeled him. Religion had separated him. But in that moment, he refuses to let his past define his future. And Jesus does something even more striking.

The Gospel says: “Moved with compassion, He stretched out His hand and touched him.” He touched him. Fidelity that generates the future begins with this touch of Christ.

Lent is not about repeating old practices mechanically. It is about allowing the grace we have already received — our baptism, our faith, our belonging to Christ — to become alive again. It is about letting Christ touch the places we hide, the wounds we are ashamed of, the sins we have grown accustomed to.

The leper says, “If you will...” He trusts not in himself, but in the will of Jesus. And Jesus responds: “I will. Be made clean.” That “I will” is the foundation of our hope. Pope Leo reminds us that fidelity generates the future. The leper’s fidelity — his humble trust — opens a new future for him. No longer isolated. No longer defined by disease. He is restored to communion.

Lent asks us the same question: Will we remain at a safe distance? Or will we approach Christ honestly? Will we let Him touch us?

The future is generated when we kneel and say: “Lord, if you will...”

And we hear Him answer again — not only once in Galilee, but today: “I will.”

This is the beginning of Lent. This is the beginning of healing.

This is fidelity that truly generates the future.

*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*

### MEET OUR OFFICE STAFF:

*Marie Azzi*

*Executive Assistant*

*Christine Ryan*

*Administrative Assistant*

### 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.



### SANCTUARY LAMPS

In Loving Memory of Antonio, Rita,  
Renato & Maria Pastore

By Teresa & Jamil Kamari & Family

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



### UPCOMING SESSIONS

For those who signed up for Friday classes:  
**Friday, February 27 @ 6:30pm-8pm**

For those who signed up for Saturday classes:  
**Saturday, February 28 @ 11:30am - 1pm**

### WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

02/15/2026

Candles	\$226.00
Sunday Collection	\$3,069.00
Ash Monday	\$1,856.00
Fuel	\$270.00
Donations	\$315.00
	<hr/>
	\$5,736.00

### KNIGHTS OF MARY

#### UPCOMING SESSION

**Saturday, February 28 @ 5 - 7pm**



### MYO & Jr MYO

#### UPCOMING SESSION

**Sunday, February 22 @ 6 - 7:30pm**

### BIRTHDAY WISHES

**February 21:** Slaiman Antar, Joseph Maroun,  
Bianca Raad

**February 22:** Chris Bou Abdo, Jennifer Bouraphael,  
Mounira Daher, Jason Hand, Lutfi Kassarji,  
Andre Ndaïra, Isabella Nehme, Kimberly  
Swanson

**February 23:** Linda Abraham, Silvana Awad,  
Beverly Schiripo

**February 24:** Felicia Azzi, Marie Charabati,  
Andrew Haykal, Elizabeth Saab, Charbel  
Yammine

**February 25:** Jake Ata, Pascale Azzi, Pascale  
Moussa

**February 26:** Ella Atallah, Nida El-Boustany,  
Madelyn Greenwood, Sally Lanouette,  
Raymond Nadira

**February 27:** Tanios Ata, Bob Dewan, Andrea  
Doumit, Melhem Hachem, Benjamin Maroon,  
Valentina Maroun

### ANNIVERSARY WISHES

**February 22:** Melhem & Nadia Azzi

**February 23:** Elie & Jane El Hachem

**February 26:** Rabih & Jihane Abou-Ezzi

### M-WINE

**"We Serve Better Together"**

**Next Meeting: Monday, February 23 @ 7pm**

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

*Saturday, February 21*

4:00 pm - Anthony Ata

*Sunday, February 22*

8:00 am - Hitaf Nammour

9:30 am - Therese Bou Sanayeh

11:00 am - (Eng) Elias Azzi

(Ar) Sub-deacon George Merheb

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

*Saturday, February 28*

4:00 pm - Lisa Abdallah

*Sunday, March 1*

8:00 am - Mouna Hbaiter

9:30 am - Meaghan Twing

11:00 am - (Eng) Marita Merheb

(Ar) Layla Merheb

### MYA NORTHERN RETREAT

Are you a young adult between the ages of 18 and 39? Are you looking to grow deeper in your faith and connect with other like-minded young adults from your culture and faith? Join our MYA family February 28th at St. John Paul II at the Immaculate Conception Maronite Church in Sleepy Hollow, NY for an unforgettable experience. The theme will focus on "Stillness in the Noise: Meeting God This Lent". The retreat will include meals, breakouts, adoration, confession, fellowship and more.

To learn more or to register for the retreat visit [myaeparchystmaron.org](http://myaeparchystmaron.org).

Registration is now open!

### DAUGHTERS OF SAINT ANTHONY

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

**Next Meeting: Monday, March 2 @ 12:00 noon**

Please contact either Elaine Ferris 978-273-9227 or Christine Hassan: 978-996-0556 to confirm your attendance so we will be adequately prepared.

Throughout March, the Daughters will collect non-perishable food items for parish families. Donations may be placed in the collection area in the church foyer. Thank you for your generosity and support.

### OUR SYMPATHIES TO

The loving family of **Beatrice "Bea" Ameen**, beloved wife of Samuel Ameen, who passed away on February 9.

We express our sincere condolences to her children, Karen Lang, Susan Chory (George), Nancy Rheault, Samuel Ameen, Jr (Lori), David Ameen (Jennifer) & Beatrice Tiberii (Bruce Flynn), as well as her extended family members.

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

### CONGRATULATIONS!

**On Your New Baby**

**Maya Rose Younes**  
Daughter of  
**Pierre & Meara (Maalouf) Younes**

**Maya Abourjeili**  
Daughter of  
**Danny & Marla (Maroun) Abourjeili**

**Sophia Murphy**  
Daughter of  
**Sam & Renee (Mouawad) Murphy**

**Christian Azzi**  
Son of  
**Christopher & Pascale (Moussa) Azzi**

*"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him."* Psalm 127:3

**SUMMER**  
**"We Believe" BIBLE CAMP**  
Join us for our Light of Life Bible Camp  
**JULY 15-17 | 10AM TO 2PM**  
Saint Anthony Maronite Church  
145 Amesbury Street, Lawrence MA

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**

- Interactive Bible Stories
- Lessons on the Creed
- Exciting Games & Activities
- Creative Crafts
- Meals & Snacks
- Music & Singing
- Friendship & Fun

SPONSORED BY ST. ANTHONY'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM.

PRESENTED BY THE MARONITE SERVANTS OF CHRIST THE LIGHT

Scan QR Code to Register

Camp open to Grades K-6  
Cost: \$75 per child

### NAM DELEGATE NEEDED

We are looking for a new NAM Delegate for our parish. Delegates are appointed by the Clergy, and their primary goal is to promote the works & goals of NAM within the parish. Contact the parish office if you are interested.



Saint Anthony Maronite Church - Lawrence, MA

## One Family, One Faith, One Mission

### Ash Monday, Feb 16:

We begin our Lenten journey with Liturgy & Blessing of the Ashes at **9:00 AM and 7:00 PM.**

### Every Thursday "Shrine Thursday" :

Join us for Liturgy at **9:00 AM**, followed by silent Eucharist Adoration from **9:30 AM to 7:00 PM.** The day will conclude with Prayers, Hymns, Procession, and the Final Blessing.

### Friday March 20, 4:00 to 8:00 PM;

Women's Lenten Retreat, hosted by M-Wine, and led by the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light.

### Every Friday:

We will gather at **7:00 PM** for the Stations of the Cross, a Homily, and the Adoration of the Cross. Homilies are based on the Apostolic Letter of the Holy Father Pope Leo XIV: **"A FIDELITY THAT GENERATES THE FUTURE"**.

### "Qadishat" Series - Season 3:

"One Step Back to the Heart" A daily spiritual reflection by **Fr. Neemtallah**, shared across the parish's social media platforms, inviting the community into a unified spiritual journey of prayer, reflection, and growth.

### "Live Love Lent"

Everyone can receive a Lenten box with a unique number to collect charitable donations throughout Lent. **The boxes will be distributed on the Sunday of Cana and collected by Hosanna Sunday.** The amounts corresponding to each box number (without names) will be published for transparency. This initiative is for everyone, adults, youth, and children, to share the joy of giving.

### Tuesday, March 31, 7:00 PM, "Candlelight of Hope"

a Lenten recital by the **Lebanese musician & Singer Manal Nehme**, to inspire reflection and prayer during Holy Week.



Lent is :  
**PRAY**



**FAST**



**GIVE**

**GREAT LENT:**  
 ACCORDING TO OUR MARONITE  
 LITURGY, SAINTS & TRADITION



Maronite Faith Formation Sessions at 8pm:

February 19- First Pillar: Prayer  
 (Bishop Gregory Mansour)

February 26- Second Pillar: Fasting  
 (Fr. Rabih Aoun)

March 5- Third Pillar: Almsgiving  
 (Fr. Vincent Farhat)




To register scan QR Code

Hosted by the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light in conjunction with the St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center.



**EASTER FLOWERS DONATION FORM**

HONOR OR REMEMBER A LOVED ONE THIS EASTER BY DONATING FLOWERS TO BE PLACED ON THE ALTAR.

FLOWERS ARE \$15  
 PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO ST. ANTHONY CHURCH  
 FORMS CAN BE EITHER BE PLACED IN THE COLLECTION BASKET  
 OR MAILED TO THE PARISH OFFICE

DONATED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF FLOWERS: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE: MONDAY, MARCH 23RD**

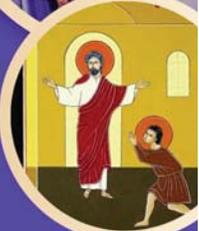


*Women's*  
**LENTEN RETREAT**

Hosted by M-Wine  
 Led by the Maronite Sisters

Join us for an evening of renewal, mercy, and return, including:

- Prayer & Reflection on the Prodigal Son
- Confession & Stations of the Cross
- Potluck supper
- Donation welcomed at the door



 Saint Anthony Maronite Church  
 145 Amesbury Street Lawrence MA

Friday March 20 | 4:00 to 8:00pm

RSVP TO:  
 AMALE: 978-835-7382 OR MARY: 978-960-7479



**AMERICAN LEBANESE AWARENESS ASSOCIATION**

**2026 ALAA SCHOLARSHIP** is now accepting applicants. Please encourage qualified students to apply before the **MARCH 1, 2026** deadline.

The application can be found at:  
<https://americanlebaneseawarenessassociation.org/guidelines-application/>



*Save the Date*

St. Anthony's Annual  
**Golf Tournament**  
 Monday, June 29th  
 Atkinson Country Club  
 Details to follow

## Sunday of the Healing of the Leper

### *2nd book of Kings 5:1-3, 9-14*

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, 'If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.' So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.' But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, 'I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?' He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, 'Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, "Wash, and be clean"?' So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

### *Letter to the Romans 6:12-23*

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### *Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Mark 1:35-45*

In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons. A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, 'If you choose, you can make me clean.' Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I do choose. Be made clean!' Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, 'See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.' But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

## أحد شفاء الأبرص

### سفر الملوك الثاني 5: 1-3 . 9-14

كَانَ نُعْمَانُ، رَئِيسُ جَيْشِ مَلِكِ أَرَامَ، رَجُلًا عَظِيمًا عِنْدَ سَيِّدِهِ مُكْرَمًا لَدَيْهِ، لِأَنَّهُ عَنِ يَدِهِ أَعْطَى الرَّبُّ خَلَاصًا لَأَرَامَ. وَكَانَ الرَّجُلُ مُحَارِبًا بَاسِلًا، وَكَانَ أَبْرَصًا. وَإِنَّ أَرَامِيِّينَ خَرَجُوا غَازِينَ، فَسَبَّوْا مِنْ أَرْضِ إِسْرَائِيلَ فِتْنَةً صَغِيرَةً، وَأَصْبَحَتْ فِي خِدْمَةِ زَوْجَةِ نُعْمَانَ. فَقَالَتْ لِسَيِّدَتَيْهَا: «يَا لَيْتَ سَيِّدِي حَضَرَ أَمَامَ النَّبِيِّ الَّذِي فِي السَّامِرَةِ، فَإِنَّهُ كَانَ يَشْفِيهِ مِنْ بَرَصِهِ». «فَأَقْبَلَ نُعْمَانُ بِخَيْلِهِ وَمَرْكَبَاتِهِ وَوَقَفَ عَلَى بَابِ بَيْتِ أَلِيشَاعَ. فَأَرْسَلَ إِلَيْهِ أَلِيشَاعَ رَسُولًا يَقُولُ لَهُ: «إِمضِ وَأَغْتَسِلْ فِي الْأُرْدُنِّ سَبْعَ مَرَّاتٍ، فَيَعُودَ إِلَيْكَ لَحْمُكَ وَتَطْهَرُ». «فَعَضِبَ نُعْمَانُ وَمَضَى وَقَالَ: «كُنْتُ أَحْسَبُ أَنَّهُ يَخْرُجُ وَيَقِفُ وَيَدْعُو بِأَسْمِ الرَّبِّ إِلَهِي، وَيُحَرِّكُ يَدَهُ فَوْقَ الْمَكَانِ فَيَشْفِي الْبَرَصَ. أَلَيْسَ أَبَانَةٌ وَفَرْفَرٌ، نَهْرًا دِمَشَقَ، خَيْرًا مِنْ جَمِيعِ مِيَاهِ إِسْرَائِيلَ؟ أَفَلَا أَغْتَسِلُ فِيهِمَا وَأَطْهَرُ؟» وَانصَرَفَ رَاجِعًا وَهُوَ مُغْضَبٌ. فَتَقَدَّمَ إِلَيْهِ خُدَامُهُ وَخَاطَبُوهُ وَقَالُوا: «يَا أَبِي، لَوْ أَمَرَكَ النَّبِيُّ بِأَمْرٍ عَظِيمٍ، أَمَا كُنْتَ تَفْعَلُهُ؟ فَكَيْفَ بِالْأُخْرَى وَقَدْ قَالَ لَكَ: اغْتَسِلْ وَأَطْهَرُ؟». «فَنَزَلَ وَغَطَسَ فِي الْأُرْدُنِّ سَبْعَ مَرَّاتٍ، كَمَا قَالَ رَجُلٌ لِلَّهِ، فَعَادَ لَحْمُهُ كَلَحْمِ صَبِيٍّ صَغِيرٍ وَطْهَرَ».

### رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل رومة 6: 12-23

يَا إِخْوَتِي، لَا تَمْلِكَنَّ الْخَطِيئَةُ بَعْدُ فِي جَسَدِكُمْ الْمَائِتِ، فَتُطِيعُوا شَهَوَاتِهِ. وَلَا تَجْعَلُوا أَعْضَاءَكُمْ سِلَاحَ ظُلْمٍ لِلْخَطِيئَةِ، بَلْ قَرَّبُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ لِلَّهِ كَأَحْيَاءٍ قَامُوا مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، وَأَجْعَلُوا أَعْضَاءَكُمْ سِلَاحَ بِرِّ اللَّهِ. فَلَا تَتَسَلَّطْ عَلَيْكُمْ الْخَطِيئَةُ، لِأَنَّكُمْ لَسْتُمْ فِي حُكْمِ الشَّرِيعَةِ بَلْ فِي حُكْمِ النِّعْمَةِ. فَمَاذَا إِذَا؟ هَلْ نَخْطَأُ لِأَنَّ لَسْنَا فِي حُكْمِ الشَّرِيعَةِ، بَلْ فِي حُكْمِ النِّعْمَةِ؟ حَاشَا! أَلَا تَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّكُمْ عِنْدَمَا تَجْعَلُونَ أَنْفُسَكُمْ عَبِيدًا لِأَحَدٍ فَتُطِيعُونَهُ، تَكُونُونَ عَبِيدًا لِلَّذِي تُطِيعُونَهُ: إِمَّا عَبِيدًا لِلْخَطِيئَةِ الَّتِي تَوُولُ إِلَى الْمَوْتِ، وَإِمَّا لِلطَّاعَةِ الَّتِي تَوُولُ إِلَى الْبِرِّ. فَشُكْرًا لِلَّهِ لِأَنَّكُمْ بَعْدَمَا كُنْتُمْ عَبِيدَ الْخَطِيئَةِ، أَطَعْتُمْ مِنْ كُلِّ قَلْبِكُمْ مِثَالَ التَّعْلِيمِ الَّذِي سَلَّمْتُمْ إِلَيْهِ. وَبَعْدَ أَنْ حُرِّرْتُمْ مِنَ الْخَطِيئَةِ، صِرْتُمْ عَبِيدًا لِلْبِرِّ. وَأَقُولُ قَوْلًا بَشَرِيًّا مُرَاعَاةً لضعفكم: فَكَمَا جَعَلْتُمْ أَعْضَاءَكُمْ عَبِيدًا لِلنَّجَاسَةِ وَالْإِثْمِ فِي سَبِيلِ الْإِثْمِ، كَذَلِكَ أَجْعَلُوا الْآنَ أَعْضَاءَكُمْ عَبِيدًا لِلْبِرِّ فِي سَبِيلِ الْقِدَاسَةِ. فَلَمَّا كُنْتُمْ عَبِيدَ الْخَطِيئَةِ، كُنْتُمْ أَحْرَارًا مِنَ الْبِرِّ. فَأَيُّ ثَمَرٍ جَبَيْتُمْ حِينَئِذٍ مِنْ تِلْكَ الْأُمُورِ الَّتِي تَسْتَحُونَ مِنْهَا الْآنَ؟ فَإِنَّ عَاقِبَتَهَا الْمَوْتُ. أَمَّا الْآنَ، وَقَدْ صِرْتُمْ أَحْرَارًا مِنَ الْخَطِيئَةِ وَعَبِيدًا لِلَّهِ، فَإِنَّكُمْ تَجْنُونَ ثَمَرًا لِلْقِدَاسَةِ، وَعَاقِبَتُهَا الْحَيَاةُ الْأَبَدِيَّةُ. لِأَنَّ أَجْرَةَ الْخَطِيئَةِ هِيَ الْمَوْتُ. أَمَّا مَوْهَبَةُ اللَّهِ فَهِيَ الْحَيَاةُ الْأَبَدِيَّةُ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ رَبِّنَا.

### إنجيل القديس مرقس 1: 35-45

قَامَ يَسُوعُ قَبْلَ طُلُوعِ الْفَجْرِ، فَخَرَجَ وَذَهَبَ إِلَى مَكَانٍ قَفْرٍ، وَأَخَذَ يُصَلِّي هُنَاكَ. وَلَحِقَ بِهِ سَمْعَانُ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ، وَوَجَدُوهُ فَقَالُوا لَهُ: «الْجَمِيعُ يَطْلُبُونَكَ». «فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «لِنَذْهَبْ إِلَى مَكَانٍ آخَرَ، إِلَى الْقَرَى الْمُجَاوِرَةِ، لِأُبَشِّرَ هُنَاكَ أَيْضًا، فَإِنِّي لِهَذَا خَرَجْتُ». «وَسَارَ فِي كُلِّ الْجَلِيلِ، وَهُوَ يَكْرُرُ فِي مَجَامِعِهِمْ وَيَطْرُدُ الشَّيَاطِينَ. وَأَتَاهُ أَبْرَصٌ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ، فَجَنَّا وَقَالَ لَهُ: «إِنْ شِئْتَ فَأَنْتَ قَادِرٌ أَنْ تُطَهِّرَنِي!». «فَتَحَنَّنَ يَسُوعُ وَمَدَّ يَدَهُ وَلَمَسَهُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: «قَدْ شِئْتُ، فَاطْهَرُ!». «وَفِي الْحَالِ زَالَ عَنْهُ الْبَرَصُ، فَطْهَرَ. فَانْتَهَرَهُ يَسُوعُ وَصَرَفَهُ خَالًا، وَقَالَ لَهُ: «أَنْظُرْ، لَا تُخْبِرْ أَحَدًا بِشَيْءٍ، بَلْ أَذْهَبْ وَارْ نَفْسَكَ لِلْكَاهِنِ، وَقَدِّمْ عَنْ طَهْرِكَ مَا أَمَرَ بِهِ مُوسَى، شَهَادَةً لَهُمْ». «أَمَّا هُوَ فَخَرَجَ وَبَدَأَ يُنَادِي بِأَعْلَى صَوْتِهِ وَيُذِيعُ الْخَبَرَ، حَتَّى إِنَّ يَسُوعَ لَمْ يَعُدْ قَادِرًا أَنْ يَدْخُلَ إِلَى مَدِينَةٍ عَلَانِيَةً، بَلْ كَانَ يُقِيمُ فِي الْخَارِجِ، فِي أَمَاكِنَ مُقْفَرَةٍ، وَكَانَ النَّاسُ يَأْتُونَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ كُلِّ مَكَانٍ».

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