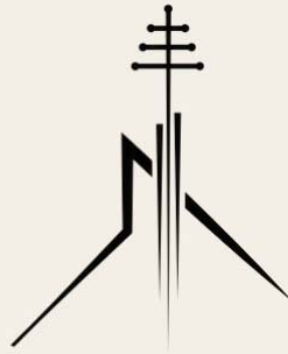


SEASON OF GLORIOUS PENTECOST

The Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost

الأحد الثاني عشر من زمن العنصرة



SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH

MAHRAJAN

LEBANESE FESTIVAL

SINCE 1971

LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2026

FRIDAY
09/04
5PM-12AM

SATURDAY
09/05
5PM-1AM

SUNDAY
09/06
12PM-12AM



**LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT**



**FOLKLORIC
DANCE**



RAFFLES



SOUVENIRS



**KIDS'
ACTIVITIES**



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LEBANESE CUISINE
& PASTRIES**

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 8

*St. Dominic, Founder of the Order of Preachers
Pope St. Sixtus II (+258)*

Acts 26:1-2a, 6-10, 12-19/Lk 12:49-53

4:00 pm +Patricia McDade, By Deacon & Mrs.
James Demers & Family

Sunday, August 9

St. Matthias

8:00 am Private Intention

9:30 am 1st Anniversary +Velma Faunt, By her
Children & their Families

+John Pehl, By his son, James Pehl &
Family

11:00 am 1st Anniversary +Pierre Chakar, By his
children, Chadi & Charbel Chakar, & their Families.

13th Sunday of Pentecost

Saturday, August 15

The Assumption of the Virgin Mary

Rom 12:9-15/Lk 1:46-55

4:00 pm 1st Anniversary +Zazie Awil, also for +Elias
& Mariam Khoder By Mr. & Mrs. Youssef
Khoder & Family

Sunday, August 16

St. Roch

8:00 am Private Intention

9:30 am Private Intention

11:00 am +Abouna Joseph Abi Saad & Marleine
Abdulnour, By Gaby Abdulnour & his
daughters, & Camille Abdulnour

MASS INTENTIONS

Liturgies are offered for many reasons:

- ♦ For the souls in purgatory
- ♦ In remembrance of our loved ones who are deceased
- ♦ In honor of someone's birthday
- ♦ Special anniversary, and more

Liturgy stipend or offering given, signifies the sacrificial nature of giving something of yourself to associate more intimately with Christ who offers himself in the Eucharist.

Daily Liturgies

Monday, August 10

St. Lawrence

Acts 27:1-4, 8a, 14-15, 18-21a, 22-26/Lk 12:54-59

9:00 am +Elias Bou-Chaaya, By his children,
Ghada Nassar & Rabih Bou-Chaaya,
& their Families

Tuesday, August 11

St. Clare of Assisi

Acts 27:27, 33-37, 39-44/Lk 13:1-5

9:00 am +Tony & Therese Bou Mitri, By their
Family

Wednesday, August 12

St. Shaina

Acts 28:1-10/Lk 13:6-9

9:00 am Private Intention

Thursday, August 13

St. Hippolytus of Rome/Bl. Michael McGivney

Acts 28:11-15/Lk 13:10-17

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

Friday, August 14 - OFFICE CLOSED

Micah the Prophet

Acts 28:16-21/Lk 13:18-21

**7:00 pm Vigil of the Assumption of the
Virgin Mary**

PLEASE NOTE

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

LITURGIES SCHEDULE

The 8:00 AM Sunday Liturgy will continue throughout the summer months.

The following services will resume in the fall:

- First Friday & First Sunday Liturgies
- Family of St. Sharbel
- Eucharistic Adoration following the Thursday 9:00AM Daily Liturgy



PASTOR'S CORNER

What can I do to help?

Dear Parishioners,

There is a familiar story about a painter who completed a beautiful painting and displayed it in a museum. Beside it, he placed a sign that read: "If you see anything wrong with this painting, please circle it so that I can fix it." When the painter returned the next day, he was shocked. The entire painting was covered with circles. Every visitor had found something to criticize. The painter then restored the painting and displayed it again. This time, he changed the sign: "If you see anything wrong, please correct it yourself or come speak with me. Brushes, colors, and all the necessary tools are available." He even left his telephone number. The following day, the painting remained untouched. There were no circles, no corrections, and no telephone calls.

Many people are ready to identify what is wrong, but very few are willing to help make it right.

Something similar happens in the Gospel with the Canaanite woman. She approaches Jesus crying out because her daughter is suffering. She is already carrying many burdens: the pain of her child, the helplessness of a mother, and the judgment of a society that considers her an outsider. Those around Jesus hear her cries, but instead of helping her, the disciples say, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us." They notice her, but they do not see her suffering. They identify her as a disturbance, but they offer no compassion. They circle what they believe is wrong with her without lifting a finger to help.

Jesus, however, does not dismiss her. Through their conversation, He allows her faith, humility, courage, and maternal love to become visible. While others see only an annoying outsider, Jesus sees a woman of extraordinary faith. He finally declares, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." Her daughter is healed.

It is always easy to stand at a distance and criticize the painting of another person's life. We circle their mistakes, weaknesses, family problems, decisions, and failures. We may even convince ourselves that criticism is a service. Yet criticism without love rarely heals anything. Jesus invites us to exchange the circle for the brush.

When we see a struggling family, a discouraged young person, a lonely elderly parishioner, or someone who has made a mistake, our first question should not be, "What is wrong with them?" It should be, "What can I do to help?"

The Church does not need more spectators searching for imperfections. It needs disciples willing to listen, encourage, forgive, pray, serve, and accompany. Before criticizing a person, a family, a ministry, or even our parish, let us ask whether we are willing to become part of the solution. Anyone can draw a circle around a problem. A Christian picks up the brush of compassion and helps restore what has been wounded.

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

rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

Christine Ryan

Administrative Assistant

bulletin@stanthonylawrence.org

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/EUCHARISTIC LAMPS

In Memory of Mansour, Charbel &
Stephanie Mouawad,
By Madeleine Mouawad & Family

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:

www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

08/02/2026

Candles	\$164.75
Sunday Collection	\$3,029.00
Fuel	\$460.00
Donations	\$400.00
	\$4,053.75

Please remember to remit your Fuel/Utilities Envelope. Your contribution helps us keep the heat on in the Winter, and the air conditioning in the Summer.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

The family of **Joanne Abdulla**, who passed away on August 2.

We express our sincere condolences to her family members.

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



CONGRATULATIONS!

Baptized & Confirmed

Nicola Michael Azzi

son of
Danny & Rita (Nasr) Azzi

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

~Mark 16:16

SECOND BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Andrew Rogers & Christina Saade

BIRTHDAY WISHES

August 8: Reagan Bistany, Lennon Mosher, Vincent Mouawad, Joshua Nicholson, Madelyn Pelletier, Vincent Puglisi, Christine Ryan

August 9: Charbel Abdilmasih, Cassandra Kinney, Gerald Motta, Sam Murphy, Melissa Rahi, Salwa Ramey, Mary Abdou, Michael Azzi, John Azzi, Sylvie Faris, Talia Joumaa, Valentina Maroun, David Perrone, Sara Poirier

August 10: Brady Abraham, Sophie Azzi, Grace Cherfane, Remie Escobales, Chloe Khoury, Valerie Solia, Marcus George Thompson

August 11: Samirah Gonzalez, Teresa Kamari, Victoria Ann Nassar

August 12: James Abdallah, Adriana Faris, Ryan Jermany

August 13: Romy Abouhamad, Maria Bou Saada, Roy El Hachem, Jonathan Merheb, David Merlino

August 14: Matthew Abou Khalil, Guita BouHabib, Diane Hannagan, Christine Hassan, Angela Khoury, Rani Sadek

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

August 8: Rony & Dalia Fakhry

August 9: Joseph & Alexandria Akiki, George & Felicia Azzi, Tanos & Jeanette El-Helou, Kelvin & Jocelyn Severino, Andre & Ashley Switala

August 10: John & Lena El-Helou, Gaby & Raghida Ramey, Marjo & Maria Salillari, Steve & Mimo Schultz

August 11: Albert & Jean Khoury

August 12: Carl & Sylvie Faris

August 13: George (Liam) Russell & Leah Rizkallah

August 14: Winston & Maureen Ann Thompson

CEMETERY NOTICE

The Cemetery Committee has observed that a number of the older cement urns in the cemetery have deteriorated and are beginning to fall apart. We kindly ask families to remove or replace these urns at their earliest convenience.

Any urns that have not been removed or replaced by September 1st will be removed by the Cemetery Committee to help maintain the safety and appearance of the cemetery grounds.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. May God grant eternal rest to our faithful departed.

ONE OF US IS GOING TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE HOUSE

It is with pride to announce that our parishioner, George Kassas, has filed his candidacy to become a New Hampshire State Representative from Salem, NH.



George is passionate about public service and giving back to the community where he built his successful career and raised his family. To learn more about George's candidacy platform, please visit his campaign website: kassasforsalem.com, or Facebook page: George Kassas for State Representative

To our Salem, NH parishioners, a reminder that the primary date in NH is September 8th and the General election date is November 3rd.

George, your parish family wishes you the best on your campaign!

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

STAY CONNECTED WITH OUR PARISH

Scan the QR code to sign up to receive updates by text and email so you never miss important announcements, events, and opportunities to grow in faith together. It's a simple way to stay informed and involved—join today!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS St. Anthony Council 16204

UPCOMING MEETING

Tuesday, August 11 @ 7 pm

Church Hall

Men 18 yrs. and older are encouraged to attend.

For information email: KOFC16204@gmail.com

ST. ANTHONY
MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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or use this link:
<https://forms.gle/cfYsgKFznogd6UUM8>
to register your children.
Cost: \$600 per child



MAHRAJAN 2026

Planning is underway for our Annual Lebanese Mahrajan, taking place Friday, Saturday & Sunday, September 4, 5 & 6, 2026!

The Mahrajan Committee is inviting our parishioners, families, and friends to join us in making this year's festival another tremendous success. Your generosity, talents, and support are the heart of this beloved parish tradition.

MAHRAJAN RAFFLE

Our annual raffle tickets have been mailed, so please check your mailbox. Thank you to everyone who has already responded—we truly appreciate your prompt support. If you haven't had a chance to do so yet, we kindly ask that you return your tickets at your earliest convenience.

MAHRAJAN BASKETS

We welcome donations for our popular gift baskets. Whether you'd like to create a basket or simply donate items, our committee will gladly assemble them for you.

MAHRAJAN SPONSORS

Sponsorship opportunities are now available. Please consider supporting our festival while promoting your business or honoring a loved one.

MAHRAJAN VOLUNTEERS

Many hands make light work! Volunteers are needed before, during, and after the festival. Sign-up opportunities will be available soon - we'd love to have you join us!

Thank you for helping make Mahrajan 2026 a joyful celebration of our faith, family, culture, and community. More exciting details are coming soon!

ST. ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH PRESENTS MAHRAJAN LEBANESE FESTIVAL

SINCE 1971 - LABOR DAY WEEKEND

2026 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Your sponsorship makes the Mahrajan possible and directly supports parish programs and youth initiatives. We invite your business or family to be part of this year's celebration.

BLACK DIAMOND	\$15,000+	DIAMOND	\$10,000+
- Premium printed banner displayed prominently throughout the festival. - Exclusive premier sponsor recognition. - All Diamond-level benefits included		- Prominent logo placement on digital screens & event banners - Verbal recognition during the festival, 4 dedicated social-media posts, and featured recognition in the Mahrajan digital slideshow. - Full-page ad in the Mahrajan eBook.	
PLATINUM	\$7,500+	- Prominent logo placement on digital screens, website, and promotional materials - Festival recognition, 2 dedicated social-media posts, and featured in the digital slideshow. - Half-page ad in the Mahrajan eBook.	
GOLD	\$5,000+	- Logo displayed on digital screens, website, and festival webpage. - Verbal recognition, featured digital slideshow recognition, 1 dedicated social media post. - Quarter-page ad in the Mahrajan eBook.	
SILVER	\$2,500+	- Logo displayed on digital screens, website, and festival webpage. - Featured recognition in the Mahrajan digital slideshow and social media. - Honorable mention in the Mahrajan eBook.	
BRONZE	\$1,000+	- Logo listed on the festival website with recognition in digital slideshow. - Social media recognition. - Honorable mention in the Mahrajan eBook.	
COPPER	\$750+	- Company name listed on the festival website. - Shared recognition in the Mahrajan digital slideshow. - Honorable mention in the Mahrajan eBook.	
CEDAR CIRCLE	\$250+	- Recognition name listed in the Mahrajan digital slideshow. - Name acknowledged in the Mahrajan eBook.	

Business / Sponsor Name

Mailing Address

Contact Person

Phone

Sponsorship Level

Email Address

In Memory / Honor Of

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Check☐ Venmo☐ Cash

PAYMENT DETAILS

Make checks payable to:

St. Anthony Maronite Catholic Church

Check/Venmo Memo:

Mahrajan Sponsorship

Tax info: to be coordinated with the Church

LOGO & AD SUBMISSION

Email: mahrajan@stanthonylawrence.org

Format: PDF . AI . EPS . SVG . PNG . JPG

Minimum resolution: 300 DPI

Deadline: August 15, 2026

Questions? Call 978-685-7233

The Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost: The Canaanite Women***Book of Ruth 1:5-19a***

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?'

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians 3:1-13

Brothers and Sisters, 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 8*

4:00 pm - Patricia Ferguson

Sunday, August 9

8:00 am - Huguette Sfeir

9:30 am - Bethany Pellerin

11:00 am - (Eng) Rebecca Merheb
(Ar) Gretta Merheb**LECTORS SCHEDULE***Saturday, August 15*

4:00 pm - Carla Khoder

Sunday, August 16

8:00 am - Subdeacon Antoine Nammour

9:30 am - Theresea Bou Sanayeh

11:00 am - (Eng) Mounira Daher
(Ar) Rita Mallat

الأحد الثاني عشر من زمن العنصرة: إيمان المرأة الكنعانية

سفر راعوت 1: 15-19

قَالَتْ نُعْمِي لِرَاعُوثَ: «هَذِهِ سِلْفَتُكَ قَدْ رَجَعَتْ إِلَى شَعْبِهَا وَآلِهَتِهَا. فَأَرْجِعِي أَنْتِ عَلَى أَثَرِ سِلْفَتِكَ.» فَقَالَتْ رَاعُوثُ: «لَا تُلْحِي عَلَيَّ أَنْ أَتْرَكَكَ وَأَرْجِعَ عَنْكَ، فَإِنِّي حَيْثُمَا ذَهَبْتُ أَذْهَبُ وَحَيْثُمَا بَيْتٌ أَبِيْتُ، شَعْبُكَ شَعْبِي وَإِلَهُكَ إِلَهِي وَحَيْثُمَا تَمُوتِي أَمُتُ وَهُنَاكَ أَدْفَنُ. لِيَصْنَعْ الرَّبُّ بِي هَكَذَا وَلِيَزِدْ هَكَذَا إِنْ فَرَّقَ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَكَ غَيْرُ الْمَوْتِ.» فَلَمَّا رَأَتْهَا مُصِرَّةٌ عَلَى الذَّهَابِ مَعَهَا كَفَّتْ عَنْ 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 أَنِّي بَوَّخِي أَطْلَعْتُ عَلَى السِّرِّ، كَمَا كَتَبْتُ إِلَيْكُمْ بِإِيجَازٍ مِنْ قَبْلُ، حِينَئِذٍ يُمْكِنُكُمْ، إِذَا قَرَأْتُمْ ذَلِكَ، أَنْ تَدْرِكُوا فَهْمِي لِسِرِّ الْمَسِيحِ، هَذَا السِّرِّ الَّذِي لَمْ يُعْرَفْ عِنْدَ بَنِي الْبَشَرِ فِي الْأَجْيَالِ الْغَابِرَةِ، كَمَا أُعْلِنُ 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 هَبَةِ نِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ الَّتِي وَهَبَتْ لِي بِفِعْلِ قُدْرَتِهِ؛ لِي أَنَا، أَصْغَرُ الْقَدِيسِينَ جَمِيعًا، وَهَبَتْ هَذِهِ النِّعْمَةَ، وَهِيَ أَنْ أُبَشِّرَ الْأَمَمَ بِغَنَى الْمَسِيحِ الَّذِي لَا يُسْتَقْصَى، وَأَنْ أَوْضِحَ لِلْجَمِيعِ مَا هُوَ تَدْبِيرُ السِّرِّ الْمَكْتُومِ مُنْذُ الدُّهُورِ فِي اللَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، لِكَيْ تُعْرَفَ الْآنَ مِنْ خِلَالِ الْكَنِيسَةِ، لَدَى الرِّئَاسَاتِ وَالسَّلَاطِينِ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ، حِكْمَةُ اللَّهِ الْمُتَنَوِّعَةِ، بِحَسَبِ قَصْدِهِ الْأَزَلِيِّ الَّذِي حَقَّقَهُ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ رَبَّنَا، الَّذِي لَنَا فِيهِ، أَيُّ الْإِيمَانِ بِهِ، الْوُصُولُ بِجُرْأَةٍ وَثِقَةٍ إِلَى اللَّهِ. لِذَلِكَ أَسْأَلُكُمْ أَنْ لَا تَضَعُفَ عَزِيمَتُكُمْ بِسَبَبِ الضِّيقَاتِ الَّتِي أَغَانِيهَا مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ: إِنَّهَا مَجْدٌ لَكُمْ!

إنجيل القديس متى 21: 15-28

إِنْصَرَفَ يَسُوعُ إِلَى نَوَاحِي صُورَ وَصَيْدَا، وَإِذَا بِأَمْرَأَةٍ كَنْعَانِيَّةٍ مِنْ تِلْكَ النَّوَاحِي خَرَجَتْ تَصْرُخُ وَتَقُولُ: «إِرْحَمْنِي، يَا رَبَّ، يَا أَبْنَ دَاوُدَ! إِنَّ أَبْنَتِي 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 رَبَّ!» «فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ: «لَا يَحْسُنُ أَنْ يُؤْخَذَ خُبْرُ الْبَنِينَ، وَيُلْقَى إِلَى جِرَاءِ الْكِلَابِ!» «فَقَالَتْ: «نَعَمْ، يَا رَبَّ!» وَجِرَاءُ الْكِلَابِ أَيْضًا تَأْكُلُ مِنَ الْفَتَاتِ الْمُتَسَاكِطِ عَنْ مَائِدَةِ أَرْبَابِهَا.» حِينَئِذٍ أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهَا: «أَبْنَتُهَا الْمَرْأَةُ، عَظِيمُ إِيْمَانُكَ! فَلْيَكُنْ لَكَ كَمَا تُرِيدِينَ.» وَمِنْ تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ شَفِيَتْ أَبْنَتُهَا.

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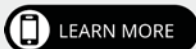
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