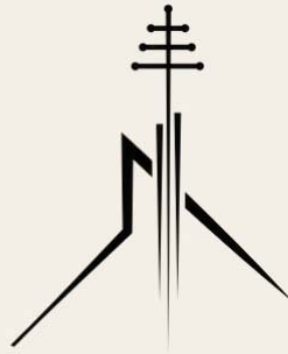


SEASON OF GLORIOUS PENTECOST

The Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost

الأحد الرابع 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**



**HOMEMADE
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

14th Sunday of Pentecost

Saturday, August 22

St. Symphorian
1 Jn 3:11-22/Lk 14:25-35

4:00 pm +Nancy Kilmartin, By Bill & Christine Ryan

Sunday, August 23

St. Isaac of Nineveh

8:00 am +Abdallah Sfeir, By his son, Beshara Sfeir

9:30 am Private Intention

11:00 am +Chadi Azzi, By his siblings & their families

14th Sunday of Pentecost

Saturday, August 29

Beheading of St. John the Baptist
3 Jn 1:15/Lk 17:1-4

4:00 pm +Allan Bistany, By Bob & Dianne Dewan
+Frank Ahearn, By Deacon & Mrs. James Demers

Sunday, August 30

Bl. Brother Estephan Ne'mee

8:00 am Private Intention

9:30 am +Renee Carabello, By her Family

11:00 am 40 Day Memorial +George Azar, By his wife, Gisele & his Children

2:00 pm 40 Day Memorial +Jean Hayek,
1st Anniversary +Nabil Hayek, & +Mona Hayek, By Jad, Khairallah, & Khalil Hayek & Hala Namek, & their Families.

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.

Please contact the Parish Office to book your mass intentions or for more inquiries.

Daily Liturgies

Monday, August 24

St. Eutyches of Sebastia
1 Jn 3:23-4:6/Lk 15:1-7

9:00 am Private Intention

Tuesday, August 25

St. Titus, One of the 72 Disciples
1 Jn 4:7-21/Lk 15:8-10

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

Wednesday, August 26

Pope St. Zephyrinus (+217)
1 Jn 5:1-12/Lk 16:1-8

9:00 am Private Intention

Thursday, August 27

St. Biyameen (Poemen) the Hermit
1 Jn 5:13-21/Lk 16:9-12

9:00 am +Joanne Abdulla, By Joanne Van Billiard & Family

Friday, August 28

St. Moses the Ethiopian
St. Augustine, Doctor of the Church
2 Jn 1:13/Lk 16:13-17

NO LITURGY/OFFICE CLOSED



SANCTUARY/EUCHARISTIC LAMPS

*In Honor of our
Mahrajan Volunteers*

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

PLEASE NOTE

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

LITURGIES SCHEDULE

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

The Right Thing at the Right Time

In the home of Martha and Mary, Jesus gives us a lesson that goes far beyond the familiar contrast between working and praying. Martha is serving, and serving is good. Mary is listening to the Word of God, and listening is good. Jesus is not teaching us that prayer is good and work is bad. He is teaching something more subtle: we must learn to do the right thing at the right time.

Martha's problem is not her service. Her problem is that she becomes "worried and distracted by many things." At that particular moment, Jesus is in her home speaking, and the greater need is not another plate on the table but a heart sitting at His feet. Perhaps Mary will serve later. Perhaps Martha will listen later. Christian maturity is knowing what this moment requires from me.

I love this passage from the book of Ecclesiastes:

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to get, and a time to lose a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace."
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

This is a lesson about how we manage our time. We often ask, "Is what I am doing good?" But perhaps we should ask another question: "Is this what God is asking of me right now?"

Sunday gives us a beautiful example. We come to church for the Divine Liturgy. We have entered a sacred hour to worship, listen to God's Word, receive the Eucharist, and allow the Lord to renew us. Yet how easily our minds become like Martha's kitchen! We think about work, messages, appointments, family concerns, or even good parish activities. None of these things may be wrong. But they can become distractions when they steal the moment that belongs to God.

Sometimes the greatest enemy of what is necessary is not something bad, but something good being done at the wrong time.

This is why, as we prepare for our Mahrajan, we do not begin only with tables, food, music, schedules, and responsibilities. Before we serve, we first gather to listen, pray, and prepare our hearts. All Mahrajan volunteers will meet together on Tuesday, August 25, at 7:00 PM. Before the work begins, we want to sit for a moment at the feet of Jesus.

Because Christian service must first come from discipleship. Before our hands become busy, our hearts must become ready. Before we work for the Lord, we must listen to the Lord.

Jesus tells Martha, "Mary has chosen the better part." He is teaching us the proper order of life. There is a time to work and a time to pray, a time to speak and a time to listen, a time to serve and a time simply to remain with God.

May we have Martha's generous hands, Mary's listening heart, and the wisdom to know when God is asking for each.

In Christ's love,

Fr. Edgard (Neemtallah) 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.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

08/09/2026

Candles	\$134.00
Sunday Collection	\$2,790.00
Assumption	\$385.00
Fuel	\$70.00
Donations	\$410.00
	\$3,789.00

BIRTHDAY WISHES

August 22: Kallie Blanchet, Christian Chedid, Yara El Hayek, Fay T. Feghali, Eva Khoury, Lucia Sadek
August 23: Georges Bou Saada, Anthony El Hachem, Laya Geha, Abboud Kassarji, Bassil Zaza
August 24: Kristen Arsenault, Reine Ata, Nabil Bou-Mitri, Marcus Dahbour, Brendan Melvin, Orion Pehl, Bethany Pellerin
August 25: Vita Abdoo, Ryan Bouchrouche, Freya Dagher, Dana Drees, John Ead, Robine Hachem
August 26: Jihane Abou-Ezzi, Samya Ayoub, Wallace Hatem, Jean Kossaidi, Liana Said
August 27: Natalia Todesca
August 28: Michael Abou-Ezzi, Nicholas Albert, Anthony Antar, Bennett Daher, Nawal Kamel

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

August 22: Danny & Rita Azzi, Jamil & Teresa Kamari, Vincent & Alison Puglisi
August 23: Rami & Mariana Ata, Patrick & Giselle Gerges, Richard & Noreen Mallen
August 24: Walid & Silvana Awad, Chadi & Sandy Ramey
August 27: Fredy & Bobbi Corey
August 28: Zeidan & Reine Ata, John & Amanda Belko, Josh & Elizabeth Frias, Joseph & Gina Nassar

CONGRATULATIONS!

Baptized & Confirmed

Ava Louise Hannagan

daughter of

Gary & Caitlin (Briggs) Hannagan

Alexandrino Paul Cunha

son of

Andrew & Joelle (Ramey) Cunha

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

~Mark 16:16

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!

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.

ST. ANTHONY
MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

LEARN ARABIC

CONNECT TO YOUR FAITH • CULTURE • ROOTS

ARABIC LANGUAGE & HERITAGE PROGRAM

AGES 7-18
 READ & WRITE ARABIC
 DISCOVER LEBANESE TRADITIONS
 GROW IN MARONITE FAITH

Call Amale Chantiri at 978-835-7382 or use this link:
<https://forms.gle/cfYsgKFznogd6UUM8>
 to register your children.
 Cost: \$600 per child

ST. ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH PRESENTS
MAHRAJAN LEBANESE FESTIVAL
 SINCE 1971 - LABOR DAY WEEKEND



MEMORIAL & HONOR CANDLE DEDICATION

"A Light of Prayer and Remembrance"

During our Annual Mahrajan Lebanese Festival, a memorial candle will burn continuously throughout the entire three-day event

September 4-6, 2026 as a prayerful tribute to your loved ones.

You are invited to dedicate a candle, "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of", those who hold a special place in your heart. Whether you list one name or many, one candle will be dedicated per application and will remain lit throughout the festival.

Your generous donation supports the mission and ministries of St. Anthony Maronite Church while offering a beautiful expression of faith, remembrance, and thanksgiving.

DEDICATE A CANDLE

— IN MEMORY OF —
 OR
 — IN HONOR OF —



DEADLINE: AUGUST 30th



Your candle will be dedicated in prayer throughout the festival — a beautiful expression of faith, remembrance, and thanksgiving.



DONATION: \$100 PER CANDLE*

DONOR INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

This Candle Is Being Offered:

☐ In Memory of ☐ In Honor of

PAYMENT: Checks Payable to St. Anthony Maronite Church
 Check/Venmo: Memo "Candle Dedication"

☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Venmo

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

NAMES TO BE COMMEMORATED:

Please print clearly. List all names (up to 5) you wish to include.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

***PLEASE NOTE:** Regardless of the number of names listed above, one candle will be lit for this dedication throughout the three-day Mahrajan.



A LIGHT
OF PRAYER

DEDICATE A CANDLE. KEEP THEIR MEMORY ALIVE.

Forms available at the church office or visit www.stanthonylawrence.org



A SYMBOL OF
REMEMBRANCE



A GIFT OF FAITH
AND LOVE

Thank you for helping make our Annual Mahrajan a success. May God bless you and those whom you lovingly remember or honor through this special offering.

"Your light shines before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven." —Matthew 5:16

Saint Anthony Maronite Church
 145 Amesbury St, Lawrence, MA 01841
 978-685-7233 | www.stanthonylawrence.org
mahrajan@stanthonylawrence.org

MAHRAJAN NEWS

RAFFLES - Return your tickets for a chance to win cash prizes!
BASKET DONATIONS - can be dropped off at the Parish Office.
SPONSORS - Support our festival while promoting your business or honoring a loved one.
VOLUNTEERS - Many hands make light work! Sign up today!

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP



Scan to volunteer

RAFFLES & SPONSORSHIPS



Scan to pay by Venmo

MANDATORY MAHRAJAN MEETING & TRAINING ALL TEAM LEADS & VOLUNTEERS

A mandatory meeting and training session will be held:

**Tuesday, August 25th @ 7:00PM
in the Church Hall**

All team leads & volunteers are required to attend as we review important procedures and final preparations for Mahrajan 2026.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to making our Mahrajan a success!



SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH
MAHRAJAN
 LEBANESE FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

145 AMESBURY ST. LAWRENCE, MA

FRIDAY

| 04 SEP 2026 |
5PM-MIDNIGHT

5:00 PM
DJ Roy C

7:00 PM
Opening Ceremony

7:30 PM
DJ Roy C

8:00 PM
Dabke Performance

9:00 PM
Live Auction

9:30 PM
Singer: Ayad Atallah

SATURDAY

| 05 SEP 2026 |
5PM-1AM

5:00 PM
Singer: Maddi Ryan

7:00 PM
Disney Characters

8:00 PM
Dabke Performance

9:00 PM
Live Auction

9:30 PM
Singer: Rami Badr

MIDNIGHT
DJ Roy C

SUNDAY

| 06 SEP 2026 |
NOON-MIDNIGHT

NOON
6 Arab Project Band

2:00 PM
DJ Roy C

3:00 PM
Kids Entertainment

4:30 PM
DJ Roy C

5:00 PM
Grape Leaves Contest

5:30 PM
DJ Roy C

6:30 PM
Singer: Andre Keedy

8:00 PM
Dabke Performance

9:00 PM
Auction/Raffle Drawings

9:30 PM
Singer: Andre Ibrahim



DJ ROY C



AYAD ATALLAH



MADDI RYAN



RAMI BADR



6 ARAB TARAB



ANDRE KEEDY



ANDRE IBRAHIM

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 Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost: Martha and Mary***Book of Deuteronomy 6:4-9***

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

First Letter to the Thessalonians 2: 1-13

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us. You remember our labour and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was towards you believers. As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you should lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 10: 38-42

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

LECTORS SCHEDULE*Saturday, August 22*

4:00 pm - Lisa Abdallah

Sunday, August 23

8:00 am - Hitaf Nammour

9:30 am - Paula Daher Wright

11:00 am - (Eng) Elias Azzi

(Ar) Subdeacon George Merheb

LECTORS SCHEDULE*Saturday, August 29*

4:00 pm - Susan Kalil

Sunday, August 30

8:00 am - Roula Nassar

9:30 am - Luke Pellerin

11:00 am - (Eng) Angela Dahbour

(Ar) Giselle Dahbour

الأحد الرابع عشر من زمن العنصرة: مرتا ومريم

سفر تثنية الاشتراع 6: 4-9

إِسْمَعْ يَا إِسْرَائِيلُ: «إِنَّ الرَّبَّ إِلَهُنَا هُوَ رَبٌّ وَاحِدٌ. فَاحْبِبِ الرَّبَّ إِلَهَكَ بِكُلِّ قَلْبِكَ وَكُلِّ نَفْسِكَ وَكُلِّ قُوَّتِكَ. وَلِتَكُنْ هَذِهِ الْكَلِمَاتُ الَّتِي أَنَا أَمُرُكَ بِهَا الْيَوْمَ فِي قَلْبِكَ. وَرَدِّدْهَا عَلَى بَنِيكَ وَكَلِّمْهُمْ بِهَا، إِذَا جَلَسْتَ فِي بَيْتِكَ وَإِذَا مَشَيْتَ فِي الطَّرِيقِ وَإِذَا نَمْتَ وَقُمْتَ. وَأَعْقِدْهَا عَلَامَةً عَلَى يَدِكَ وَلِتَكُنْ عَصَائِبَ بَيْنَ عَيْنَيْكَ. وَاكْتُبْهَا عَلَى دَعَائِمِ أَبْوَابِ بَيْتِكَ.

رسالة القديس بولس الأولى إلى أهل تسالونيقي 2: 1-13

يَا إِخْوَتِي، أَنْتُمْ أَنْفُسُكُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ، أَنَّ دُخُولَنَا إِلَيْكُمْ لَمْ يَكُنْ بَاطِلًا. وَلَكِنْ، كَمَا تَعْلَمُونَ، بَعْدَ أَنْ تَأَلَّمْنَا وَشَتِمْنَا فِي فِيلِيبِّي، تَجَرَّأْنَا بِالْإِلهِ أَنْ نُكَلِّمَكُمْ بِإِنْجِيلِ اللَّهِ، فِي جِهَادٍ كَثِيرٍ. وَلَمْ يَكُنْ وَغْظُنَا عَنْ ضَلَالٍ، وَلَا عَنْ نَجَاسَةٍ، وَلَا بِمَكْرٍ، بَلْ كَمَا اخْتَبَرْنَا اللَّهُ فَأَمَّنَّا عَلَى الْإِنْجِيلِ، هَكَذَا نَتَكَلَّمُ، لَا إِرْضَاءً لِلنَّاسِ بَلْ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي يَخْتَبِرُ قُلُوبَنَا. فَإِنَّا وَلَا مَرَّةً أَتَيْنَاكُمْ بِكَلِمَةٍ تَمْلُقُ، كَمَا تَعْلَمُونَ، وَلَا بِدَافِعِ طَمَعٍ، وَاللَّهُ شَهِيدٌ، وَلَا طَلَبْنَا مَجْدًا مِنْ بَشَرٍ، لَا مِنْكُمْ وَلَا مِنْ غَيْرِكُمْ، مَعَ أَنَّنَا قَادِرُونَ أَنْ نَكُونَ ذَوِي وَقَارٍ، كَرُسُلٍ لِلْمَسِيحِ، لَكِنَّا صِرْنَا بَيْنَكُمْ ذَوِي لُطْفٍ، كَمَا رُضِعَ تَحْتِضُنْ أَوْلَادَهَا. وَهَكَذَا فَإِنَّا مِنْ شِدَّةِ الْحَزَنِ إِلَيْكُمْ، نَرْتَضِي أَنْ نُعْطِيَكُمْ لَا إِنْجِيلَ اللَّهِ وَحَسْبُ، بَلْ أَنْفُسَنَا أَيْضًا، لِأَنَّكُمْ صِرْتُمْ لَنَا أَحِبَّاءَ. وَإِنَّكُمْ تَتَذَكَّرُونَ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ، تَعَبَنَا وَكَدَّنَا: فَلَقَدْ بَشَرْنَاكُمْ بِإِنْجِيلِ اللَّهِ، وَنَحْنُ نَعْمَلُ لَيْلَ نَهَارٍ، لئَلَّا نُثْقَلَ عَلَى أَحَدٍ مِنْكُمْ. أَنْتُمْ شُهُودٌ، وَاللَّهُ شَهِيدٌ، كَيْفَ كُنَّا مَعَكُمْ، أَنْتُمْ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ، فِي نِقَاوَةٍ وَبِرٍّ وَبِغَيْرِ لَوْمٍ، نُعَامِلُ كُلًّا مِنْكُمْ، كَمَا تَعْلَمُونَ، مُعَامَلَةً الْآبِ لِأَوْلَادِهِ. وَكُنَّا نُنَاشِدُكُمْ، وَنُسَجِّعُكُمْ، وَنَحْتَكُمُ عَلَى أَنْ تَسْلُكُوا مَسَلَكًا يَلِيقُ بِاللَّهِ، الَّذِي يَدْعُوكُمْ إِلَى مَلَكُوتِهِ وَمَجْدِهِ. لِذَلِكَ نَحْنُ أَيْضًا نَشْكُرُ اللَّهَ بِغَيْرِ انْقِطَاعٍ، لِأَنَّكُمْ لَمَّا تَقَبَّلْتُمْ كَلِمَةَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي سَمِعْتُمُوهَا مِنَّا، قَبِلْتُمُوهَا لَا بِأَنَّهَا كَلِمَةُ بَشَرٍ، بَلْ بِأَنَّهَا حَقًّا كَلِمَةُ اللَّهِ. وَإِنَّهَا لَفَاعِلَةٌ فِيكُمْ، أَيُّهَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ.

إنجيل القديس لوقا 10: 38-42

فِيمَا (كَانَ يَسُوعُ وَتِلَامِيذُهُ) سَائِرِينَ، دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ إِحْدَى الْفَرَى، فَاسْتَقْبَلَتْهُ فِي بَيْتِهَا أَمْرَأَةٌ اسْمُهَا مَرْتَا. وَكَانَ لِمَرْتَا أُخْتُ تُدْعَى مَرِيمَ. فَجَلَسَتْ عِنْدَ قَدَمَيِ الرَّبِّ تَسْمَعُ كَلَامَهُ. أَمَّا مَرْتَا فَكَانَتْ مُنْهَمِكَةً بِكَثْرَةِ الْخِدْمَةِ، فَجَاءَتْ وَقَالَتْ: «يَا رَبِّ، أَمَّا تُبَالِي بِأَنَّ أُخْتِي تَرَكَتْنِي أَخْدُمُ وَحْدِي؟ فَقُلْ لَهَا أَنْ تُسَاعِدَنِي!». فَأَجَابَ الرَّبُّ وَقَالَ لَهَا: «مَرْتَا، مَرْتَا، إِنَّكَ تَهْتَمِينَ بِأُمُورٍ كَثِيرَةٍ، وَتَضْطَرِّبِينَ! إِنَّمَا الْمَطْلُوبُ وَاحِدٌ! فَمَرِيمُ اخْتَارَتْ النَّصِيبَ الْأَفْضَلَ، وَلَنْ يُنْزَعَ مِنْهَا.»

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