

SEASON OF THE HOLY CROSS

Exaltation of the Holy Cross عيد ارتفاع الصليب المقدس

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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

SEASON OF THE HOLY CROSS

Saturday, September 12

*St. Cornelius the Centurion
Jas 5:13-20/Lk 19:41-44*

4:00 pm 40 Day Memorial +Joanne Abdulla, By her husband, Gary, children, Jeremy & Sarah & Taylor & Family
+Nancy Kilmartin, By the Sunshine Committee

Sunday, September 13

Celebration of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:00 am Private Intention

9:30 am Private Intention

11:00 am + President Bachir Gemayel and the Deceased Members of the Lebanese forces, By the Lebanese Forces Methuen Chapter

1st Sunday after Holy Cross

Saturday, September 19

*St. Januarius
Jude 1-7/Jn 18:33-38*

4:00 pm +Peter Bejjani, By his wife, Lili, his Children & their Families

Sunday, September 20

St. Eustatius and His Wife and Children

8:00 am Private Intention

9:30 am +Richard Maroon, By his wife, Louise, & Family

11:00 am +Naim El Hachem, By his wife, Sonia, & Children: Tony, Richard, Ghassan & Vera, Spouses & Families



SANCTUARY/EUCHARISTIC LAMPS

In Honor of all our parish organizations, leaders & members, that the Lord may bless & guide them in their year of service to His Church.

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

Daily Liturgies

Monday, September 14

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Ex 17:8-15/1 Cor 1:18-25/Jn 12:20-32

9:00 am For the well being of Michael Ota, By his wife, Vivian, & Family.

Tuesday, September 15

*St. Shaina/St. Sassine
2 Pet 1:1-11/Jn 3:11-21*

9:00 am +Jeannette Lahoud Nasr, By her Children & their Families

Wednesday, September 16

*St. Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage
2 Pet 1:12-21/Jn 8:21-30*

9:00 am Private Intention

Thursday, September 17

*St. Sophia and Her 3 Daughters
2 Pet 3:1-9/Jn 12:31-36*

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

For the Souls in Purgatory, By Dora Pereira

Friday, September 18

*The Flight of the Lord Jesus to Egypt
2 Pet 3:10-18/Mk 8:31-38*

NO LITURGY/OFFICE CLOSED

PLEASE NOTE

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

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.



Thank You for an Unforgettable Mahrajan

Dear Parishioners,

What a beautiful Mahrajan we shared this year.

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and everywhere I turn, I hear the same words: joy, organization, hospitality, family, and pride. This did not happen by accident. It happened because so many people gave their time, energy, creativity, and heart.

To our Mahrajan Executive Committee, thank you for your leadership, dedication, patience, and countless hours of preparation. You carried a great responsibility, and you carried it with love.

To every department leads, thank you for organizing your teams, solving problems, making decisions, and making sure that every part of the festival worked smoothly.

A very special word of gratitude goes to our Social Media and Marketing Team. You were simply amazing. Long before the festival began, you were creating excitement, promoting the Mahrajan, and telling our story. During the festival, you worked constantly to capture the moments that made us smile, laugh, dance, and remember. Because of you, these memories were not only lived—they were shared and preserved.

Our Dabke Troupe filled us with pride. Our children and young people were wonderful. Their performance was joyful, creative, professional, and full of life. Watching them dance was more than entertainment; it was watching our Lebanese heritage come alive in a new generation.

I also want to give tremendous credit to our IT Team, whose work happened mostly behind the scenes. From setting up televisions and internet connections to managing the cashier system and troubleshooting countless details, you helped keep the entire Mahrajan running. Much of your work was invisible to our guests, but it was absolutely essential.

And to our incredible setup and cleanup teams: thank you. Your work did not end when the music stopped. On Monday and Tuesday, while many were already resting, you were still working—putting everything back in place, cleaning, organizing, lifting, carrying, and restoring our parish grounds. That hard work deserves our deepest appreciation.

But perhaps the most touching image of this year's Mahrajan was seeing our younger generation working side by side with the older generation. Young people were serving, learning, asking questions, carrying trays, preparing food, helping wherever needed. The older generation was teaching, guiding, and passing on not simply tasks, but a spirit of service and belonging.

To every volunteer, every department leader, every member of the Executive Committee, every sponsor and donor, every child, every young person, every parent, every senior, and every person who worked quietly behind the scenes:

THANK YOU.

You made this Mahrajan unforgettable.

You reminded us once again that when generations come together, when hands serve together, and when hearts work for one mission, Saint Anthony is truly one family.

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.



BLACK DIAMOND

Commonwealth Motors – Charles & Elizabeth Daher & Family
Dr. Kumait Jaroje
Cedar's Mediterranean Foods, Inc. – Mrs. Leila Hanna and Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hanna & Family
Butcher Boy Market – The Maroun & Yameen Families
Michael & Sandra Naddif

DIAMOND

Samia Companies
Daher Companies – Ken & Mary Daher
George's Bakery – Mr. & Mrs. Emile & Georgette, George, Emile, Jr. & Jennifer Maroun
Belko Landscaping – Mr. & Mrs. John Belko, Jr.
Charles Daher III & Family

PLATINUM

Elie's Bakery

GOLD

G & E Consulting
Daher Motors of Kingston

SILVER

Medusa Body Piercing
Sevmar, LLC
Kassas Real Estate Development, Inc.
Lebamex – Amigos
MB Appraisal Services
EIS, Inc.
Grace Youseff Realtor
In Loving Memory of Maurice & Mary Ann Hatem
Pleasant Dental Center
Solar By Jazzi

COPPER

Shadi's Restaurant
Fresh Coat Painters
John Breen Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.
Rock Sfeir
IT Distribution
Salame Transport
Kurt Bistany

BRONZE

Preferred Distributors, LLC
Pita Thyme
Gabriel Chiropractic
PETRO-X Realty, LLC
Greater Lawrence Kiwanis Club Foundation, Inc.
Chris George
EZ Dental
Hannoush Jewelers of Salem, NH
Emerald Jewelers
Rockland Trust
Azzi Realty Group
Hashem Law
Bachir LIB LLC
The Fit Traveler Gym
F&B Distributors

J&N Auto – Rt. 114 Sunoco
Wissam Merheb
Yalla Grill, Inc.
Ghassan & Grece Abou-Ezzi
Michael & Betsy Abou-Ezzi
Full Code Official
MMS
NABZ Electrical
Layalina
In Honor of Aida Early & Family
StarSail
Helix Enterprise
Phoenician Restaurant
T&A Heating & Cooling

CEDAR CIRCLE

Jihad & Hilda Rizkallah - Cataudella Funeral Home - Northern Process Servers - Victor Azzi - Barbara Kramer - Bernice Spencer
Elie Rahme & Kathleen Corey Rahme - Kathy Nassif - Fred & Lori Corey - Metro Market, LLC - Riverside Garage, Inc.
Colizzi Memorials, Inc. - Andover gulf - Donna & Roy Rossi - Bruce Touma - Tony & Esperance Ata - Korbani's Bakery
St. Joseph Melkite Church - Matt Tarness - Laser Aesthetic Spa - One Spot Bar & Cocktail Lounge - Danny's Auto Sales
Jelli Realty - USA Auto Sales - Best Bagel - Saints Mary and Joseph Parish, Salem NH - Zakia Russo - Hassey's Grocery
In Honor of Mona & Youssef Khoder and Tony & Bassima Aboujaoude - Amore Pizza, Stoneham MA - Najwah Miceli
St. Anthony of the Desert Church – Fall River, MA

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

09/06/2026

Candles	\$187.00
Sunday Collection	\$2,912.14
Catholic University	\$723.00
Fuel	\$420.00
Donations	\$1,170.00
	\$5,412.14

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 **Dr. Josphe P. Gurka**, who passed away on August 31.

We express our sincere condolences to his family members.

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

FIRST BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Akash Patel & Jessica Chaaya

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!





SAVE THE DATE
Team Fantastically Fantastic
Annual St. Jude Walk
Saturday, September 19th
8:00am – 12:30pm
at St. Anthony Church



WALK ♥ SUPPORT ♥ FIND CURES ♥ SAVE CHILDREN

BIRTHDAY WISHES

September 12: Gretchen Akiki, Amanda Belko, Diane Dewan, Heaven Kareh, Fadi Khoury, Irah rodriguez, Ashley Switala, Joseph Zaarour
September 13: Kayla Bouchrouche, Kyla Bouchrouche, Donna Kattar, Richard Kayrouz, Tony Khoury
September 14: Georgio Abou Nassar, Brian Conway, Leila Geha, Peter Ndaira, Eva Ramey, Patricia Thomas
September 15: Olivia Gabriel, alan Garcia, Mike Homsey
September 16: Amara Dunbar, Michael Geha, Christopher Nasr, Catalina Ramy
September 17: Sophia Abou-Ezzi, Christian Abou Ezzi, Pierre Sader
September 18: Brigitte Abou-Ezzi, Nathan Daher, Maribelle El-Achi, Moni Hachem, Angelina Saad, Laurice Touma

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

September 12: Mitri & Molly Nader
September 13: Elie & Tanya Abdilmasih, Danny & Marla Abourjeili
September 14: Charles & Chantal Bou Sanayeh, Elias & Guita BouHabib
September 15: Joshua & Danielle Garcia, Elie & Mireille Lalo
September 16: Louis & Katia Assaf, Rabih & Rana Dahbour, Stephen & Kathleen George, Ross & Julianne Jefferson
September 17: Ibrahim T. & Lola Ata, Elias & Ashley Gharios, Eli & Nadine Harper
September 18: Mansour & Barbara Boustani

St. Anthony Maronite Church

INTRODUCING OUR NEW Children's Ministries

ONE MINISTRY • ONE COMMUNITY • GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

KINDERGARTEN – GRADE 2 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Building a foundation in our Maronite faith

GRADES 3 – 6 KNIGHTS OF MARY
Growing in faith, friendship, and community

GRADES 7 – 8 JR. MYO
Continuing the journey together

HIGH SCHOOL MYO
Growing as young members of our Maronite Church

As you begin signing your children up for our fall activities, we want to share an exciting change with you.

After much discussion and collaboration, St. Anthony Church is pleased to introduce our new Children's Ministries, which will now bring together both Religious Education and the Knights of Mary under one ministry.

Rather than having two separate programs, we are bringing everything under one Children's Ministries umbrella, with each ministry serving a different stage as our children grow.

The idea is that our children will continue growing within one ministry and one community, moving from one stage to the next just as they do in school.

Although the programs are different for each age group, they are all connected and have the same goal: to help our children grow in their Maronite faith, follow the Eparchy curriculum, and build strong friendships and a sense of community within our Maronite Church.

We are very excited about this change and believe it will be a wonderful benefit for our children and families. Our goal is to simplify the schedule and give families more time during the month to enjoy other family activities together.

COMING SOON!
Please watch the bulletin, our website, and your emails for more information and details about the upcoming calendar, which will be available soon.

FIRST COMMUNION FAMILIES
For our First Communion families, there is very little change. Children in Grades 1 and 2 will continue their preparation to receive the Sacrament of First Communion.

ONE PATH OF FAITH & COMMUNITY
One ministry. One community. One journey of faith. Together, we are raising up faithful, joyful, and confident young members of our Maronite Church.

SCAN TO REGISTER!

We are excited about this new chapter for our children and families and look forward to growing together through our new *Children's Ministries!*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

UPCOMING SESSION

Saturday, September 26
5:00-7:00pm



ARABIC SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE

PARENTS MEETING
Friday, September 25 @ 6:00pm

DAUGHTERS OF SAINT ANTHONY

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

UPCOMING MEETING

Monday, September 14 @ 12:00
Church Hall

BE PART OF OUR MINISTRIES

Religious Education

www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/

Maronite Youth Organization –MYO

www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-2/

Maronite Young Adults –MYA

Please email the Parish to add your name to the MYA Group: rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

Knights of Mary –KOM

www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-4/

Knights of the Altars

www.stanthonylawrence.org/application/

In addition our Parish takes pride and invites you to be part of the other ministries such as:

- **Daughters of St Anthony**
- **Our Lady of Lebanon Sodality**
- **Sunshine Committee**
- **M-Wine**
- **Bereavement Ministry**
- **Ushers**
- **Men's Ministry**

M.Y.O.

MARONITE • YOUTH • ORGANIZATION

THE 2026/2027 MYO SEASON IS HERE

JR MYO

7th & 8th Grade

MYO

High School

JOIN US FOR OUR KICK OFF EVENT
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 • 5:30 P.M.

REGISTER NOW

\$25 REGISTRATION FEE



READY TO JOIN?

Scan the QR code to sign up online, or register with us in person on Sunday, September 20.

QUESTIONS?

Gaby • (978) 960-9992
Reine • (978) 902-1234

ST. ANTHONY MYO / JR MYO • 2026-2027

JOIN THE AMERICAN LEBANESE AWARENESS ASSOCIATION FOR A NIGHT OF

WINE TASTING

AT THE SEARLES CHAPEL IN WINDHAM, NH

Sip, savor, and discover the rich flavors of Lebanon during an evening of award-winning wines, delicious cuisine, and unforgettable company.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 24TH
5:00 - 9:00 PM



\$65 PER PERSON



PURCHASE TICKETS HERE!

ADMISSION INCLUDES WINE TASTINGS, LEBANESE BUFFET, AND AN EXCLUSIVE ALAA WINE GLASS TO TAKE HOME!

MARONITE COLLEGE COMMUNITY

in Boston

DIVINE LITURGY

ONCE A MONTH
DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR

EMMANUEL COLLEGE CHAPEL
Eisner Administration Building
400 Fenway, Boston, MA 02115

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY
20	18	22	13	24
FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	
14	14	11	2	

5:30PM

ACCESSIBLE BY GREEN AND ORANGE T LINES

CELEBRATED BY REV. CHRISTIAN HBAITER

Worship. Community. Faith. **YOU BELONG HERE.**

ALL YOUNG ADULTS STUDYING / LIVING IN BOSTON ALL ARE WELCOME!

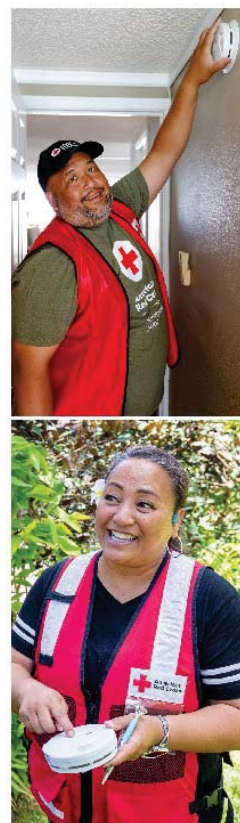
SAVE THE DATE

THE FINAL PROFESSION OF VOWS OF SISTER EMILY MARY

Monday December 7, 2026 | 7:00PM
Our Lady of Purgatory, New Bedford MA



Formal Invitation to follow.
Pray for Sister Emily Mary as she prepares for her Final Profession of Vows and for more vocations to our community. Thank you and God bless you.



Smoke Alarms Save Lives!

Working smoke alarms can cut the risk of death from home fires in half.

That's why we're rallying volunteers, fire departments and partners to *Sound the Alarm*.

Together, we're installing **FREE** smoke alarms in your community. Request a smoke alarm installation today!

Lawrence, MA
October 3, 2026



Scan code for appointment

For an appointment and to learn more, visit SoundtheAlarm.org/ma or call 800-564-1234

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross***Book of Exodus 17: 8-15***

Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Choose some men for us and go out; fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.' So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed; and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands grew weary; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; so his hands were steady until the sun set. And Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the sword. Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Write this as a reminder in a book and recite it in the hearing of Joshua: I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.' And Moses built an altar and called it, The LORD is my banner.

First Letter to the Corinthians 1: 18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint John 12: 20 - 32

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.'

LECTORS SCHEDULE*Saturday, September 12*

4:00 pm - Lisa Abdallah

Sunday, September 13

8:00 am - Mouna Hbaiter

9:30 am - Stephen Pellerin

11:00 am - (Eng) Rebecca Merheb
(Ar) Gretta Merheb**LECTORS SCHEDULE***Saturday, September 19*

4:00 pm - Susan Kalil

Sunday, September 20

8:00 am - Huguette Sfeir

9:30 am - Meaghan Twing

11:00 am - (Eng) Chloe Saade
(Ar) Dana Hady

عيد ارتفاع الصليب المقدس

سفر الخروج 17:8-15

وجاءَ الْعَمَالِقَةُ فَحَارَبُوا إِسْرَائِيلَ فِي رَفِيدِيمَ. فَقَالَ مُوسَى لِيَشُوعَ: «اخْتَرْ لَنَا رَجَالًا وَاخْرُجْ لِمُحَارَبَةِ الْعَمَالِقَةِ، وَغَدًا أَنَا أَقِفُ عَلَى رَأْسِ النَّلِّ وَعَصَا اللَّهِ فِي يَدِي.» فَفَعَلَ يَشُوعُ كَمَا قَالَ لَهُ مُوسَى فِي أَمْرِ مُحَارَبَةِ الْعَمَالِقَةِ. أَمَّا مُوسَى وَهَارُونُ وَخُورُ فَصَعِدُوا إِلَى رَأْسِ النَّلِّ. فَكَانَ إِذَا رَفَعَ مُوسَى يَدَهُ، يَغْلِبُ بَنُو إِسْرَائِيلَ وَإِذَا حَطَّهَا، تَغْلِبُ الْعَمَالِقَةُ. وَلَمَّا ثَقُلَتْ يَدَا مُوسَى أَخَذَا حَجَرًا وَجَعَلَاهُ تَحْتَهُ، فَجَلَسَ عَلَيْهِ وَأَسْنَدَ هَارُونُ وَخُورُ يَدَيْهِ، أَحَدُهُمَا مِنْ هُنَا وَالْآخَرُ مِنْ هُنَاكَ. فَكَانَتْ يَدَاهُ ثَابِتَتَيْنِ إِلَى مَغِيبِ الشَّمْسِ. فَهَزَمَ يَشُوعُ عَمَالِيقَ وَقَوْمَهُ بِحَدِّ السَّيْفِ. وَقَالَ الرَّبُّ لِمُوسَى: «اكَتُبْ هَذَا ذِكْرًا فِي كِتَابٍ، وَضَعْ فِي أُذُنِي يَشُوعَ أَنِّي سَأَمْحُو ذِكْرَ عَمَالِيقَ مَحْوًا مِنْ تَحْتِ السَّمَاءِ.» وَبَنَى مُوسَى مَذْبَحًا وَسَمَّاهُ «الرَّبُّ رَأَيْتِي.»

رسالة القديس بولس الأولى إلى أهل كورنثس 1 : 18-25

يَا إِخْوَتِي، إِنَّ كَلِمَةَ الصَّلِيبِ عِنْدَ الْهَالِكِينَ حِمَاقَةٌ، أَمَّا عِنْدَنَا نَحْنُ الْمُخَلِّصِينَ فَهِيَ قُوَّةُ اللَّهِ؛ لِأَنَّهُ مَكْتُوبٌ: «سَأَبِيدُ حِكْمَةَ الْحُكَمَاءِ، وَأَرْذُلُ فَهْمَ الْفُهَمَاءِ!.» «فَأَيْنَ الْحَكِيمُ؟ وَأَيْنَ عَالِمُ الشَّرِيعَةِ؟ وَأَيْنَ الْبَاحِثُ فِي أُمُورِ هَذَا الدَّهْرِ؟ أَمَّا جَعَلَ اللَّهُ حِكْمَةَ هَذَا الْعَالَمِ حِمَاقَةً؟ فِيمَا أَنَّ الْعَالَمَ بِحِكْمَتِهِ مَا عَرَفَ اللَّهُ بِحَسَبِ حِكْمَةِ اللَّهِ، رَضِيَ اللَّهُ أَنْ يُخَلِّصَ بِحِمَاقَةِ الْبَشَارَةِ الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ؛ لِأَنَّ الْيَهُودَ يَطْلُبُونَ الْآيَاتِ، وَالْيُونَانِيِّينَ يَلْتَمِسُونَ الْحِكْمَةَ. أَمَّا نَحْنُ فَتَنَادِي بِمَسِيحٍ مَصْلُوبٍ، هُوَ عِثَارٌ لِلْيَهُودِ وَحِمَاقَةٌ لِلْأُمَمِ. وَأَمَّا لِلْمَدْعُوعِينَ أَنْفُسِهِمْ، مِنَ الْيَهُودِ وَالْيُونَانِيِّينَ، فَهُوَ مَسِيحٌ، قُوَّةُ اللَّهِ وَحِكْمَةُ اللَّهِ؛ فَمَا يَبْدُو أَنَّهُ حِمَاقَةٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ هُوَ أَحْكَمُ مِنَ النَّاسِ، وَمَا يَبْدُو أَنَّهُ ضَعْفٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ هُوَ أَقْوَى مِنَ النَّاسِ.

إنجيل القديس يوحنا 12:20-32

كَانَ بَيْنَ الصَّاعِدِينَ لِيَسْجُدُوا فِي الْعِيدِ، بَعْضُ الْيُونَانِيِّينَ. فَدَنَا هُؤْلَاءِ مِنْ فِيلِبُّسَ الَّذِي مِنْ بَيْتِ صَيْدَا الْجَلِيلِ، وَسَأَلُوهُ قَائِلِينَ: «يَا سَيِّدَ، نُرِيدُ أَنْ نَرَى يَسُوعَ.» فَجَاءَ فِيلِبُّسُ وَقَالَ لَأَنْدَرَاوُسَ، وَجَاءَ أَنْدَرَاوُسُ وَفِيلِبُّسُ وَقَالَا لِيَسُوعَ. فَأَجَابَهُمَا يَسُوعُ قَائِلًا: «لَقَدْ حَانَتْ السَّاعَةُ لِكَيِ يُمَجَّدَ ابْنُ الْإِنْسَانِ. الْحَقُّ الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: إِنَّ حَبَّةَ الْحِنْطَةِ، إِنْ لَمْ تَقَعْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَتَمُتْ، تَبْقَى وَاحِدَةً. وَإِنْ مَاتَتْ تَأْتِي بِثَمَرٍ كَثِيرٍ. مَنْ يُحِبُّ نَفْسَهُ يَفْقِدُهَا، وَمَنْ يُبْغِضُهَا فِي هَذَا الْعَالَمِ يَحْفَظُهَا لِحَيَاةٍ أَبَدِيَّةٍ. مَنْ يَخْدُمْنِي فَلْيَتَّبِعْنِي. وَحَيْثُ أَكُونُ أَنَا، فَهُنَاكَ يَكُونُ أَيْضًا خَادِمِي. مَنْ يَخْدُمْنِي يُكْرِمُهُ الْآبُ. نَفْسِي الْآنَ مُضْطَرِبَةٌ، فَمَاذَا أَقُولُ؟ يَا أَبَتِ، نَجِّنِي مِنْ هَذِهِ السَّاعَةِ؟ وَلَكِنْ مِنْ أَجْلِ هَذَا بَلَّغْتُ إِلَى هَذِهِ السَّاعَةِ! يَا أَبَتِ، مَجِّدِ اسْمَكَ.» فَجَاءَ صَوْتُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ يَقُولُ: «قَدْ مَجَّدْتُ، وَسَأَمَجِّدُ.» وَسَمِعَ الْجَمْعُ الْحَاضِرُ فَقَالُوا: «إِنَّهُ رَعْدٌ.» وَقَالَ آخَرُونَ: «إِنَّ مَلَاكًا خَاطَبَهُ.» «أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ: «مَا كَانَ هَذَا الصَّوْتُ مِنْ أَجْلِي، بَلْ مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ. هِيَ الْآنَ دَيْتُونَهُ هَذَا الْعَالَمِ. الْآنَ يُطْرَدُ سُلْطَانُ هَذَا الْعَالَمِ خَارِجًا. وَأَنَا إِذَا رُفِعْتُ عَنِ الْأَرْضِ، جَذَبْتُ إِلَيَّ الْجَمِيعَ.»

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