



SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH

A Parish Family of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn, NY

كنيسة مار أنطونيوس المارونية

March 11, 2018 آذار ٢٠١٨

145 Amesbury St * Lawrence, MA 01841

Phone: 978.685.7233 * Fax: 978.688.4475

Email: rectory@stanthonylawrence.org * Website: www.stanthonylawrence.org

OFFICE HOURS

M-TH: 9 AM - 4PM

Friday: Office is Closed

Saturdays: By Appointment

LITURGIES

Daily Liturgies:

M & W: 9 AM

T & TH: 7 PM

Weekend Liturgies:

Saturday

Vigil Liturgy @ 4 PM

Sunday Liturgies:

8:30 AM - Arabic

9:30 AM - English

11:30 AM - English & Arabic

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

Vigil Liturgy @ 7 PM

Feast Day @ 9 AM

Sacraments of

Baptism & Confirmation

1 month in advance with the Pastor

Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples should make arrangements
six months prior to the wedding date

Sacrament of

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

Lend a Hand

Great Lent زمن الصوم الكبير



Facebook: Saint Anthony Maronite Church Lawrence, MA



Liturgies Intentions



Meet our staff:

Clergy

Father Elie Mikhael, Pastor
pastor@stanthonylawrence.org

Father Tony Youssef,
Parochial Vicar

Phone: 978-685-7233

Emergency Contact:

Fr. Elie Mikhael
305.807.9087

Fr. Tony Youssef
917.545.4955

Sub-Deacon James T. Demers
Sub-Deacon Nadim B. Daou

Secretary:

Mrs. Susan Fuccillo
978.685-7233

rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

Parish Ministries

- ♦ Religious Education
ccd@stanthonylawrence.org
- ♦ Publishing: Bulletin
bulletin@stanthonylawrence.org
- ♦ Choirs (English, Arabic & Syriac)
 - ♦ Kids Choir
 - ♦ Knights of the Altar
 - ♦ Knights of Mary
- ♦ Maronite Youth : MYO
- ♦ Maronite Young Adults
- ♦ Bereavement Ministry
- ♦ Cenacle of the Rosary
(Thursdays @ 6PM)
- ♦ Cenacle of Divine Mercy
(Sundays Before the Liturgies)
- ♦ Sacristan (s)

Healing of the Paralytic

أحد شفاء المفلج

Saturday, March 10	4:00 PM	For+ Mitchell Moses, By his wife, Souad, children and their families.
Sunday, March 11	8:15AM	For: + Nakle Victoria, Jean, and Joseph Jabbour, and Josephine Hanna, By her daughter, Mouna Hbaiter, and her family.
	9:30AM	For: + Dorothy & Thomas Hajj, By Their Children
	11:30 AM	For:+ Najib and Handouma Maroun and deceased family members, By Mr. and Mrs. Gaby Maroun and family. For: + 1st Anniversary - Samia El-Hachem, By her husband, George El-Hachem, and her children, George and Lea.

The Weeks of Miracles Fifth Week of Lent

أسبوعا العجايب الأسبوع الخامس من الصوم المقدس

Monday, March 12 @ 9 AM	For:+ the souls in Purgatory.
Tuesday, March 13 @ 7 PM	Special Intention.
Wednesday, March 14 9AM	In Honor of Marc Abou Ezzi (Birthday) By His Family
Thursday, March 15 @7PM	Private Intentions.
Friday, March 16 @ 7 PM	Stations of the Cross

Sunday of the Blind Man

أحد شفاء الأعمى

Saturday, March 17	4:00 PM	For: Yvonne Yameen, By Her Family
Sunday March 18	8:15AM	For: Private Intentions.
	9:30AM	For: Private Intentions.
	11:30 AM	For:+ George, Nemra, Peter, Brandon and Matthew Hashem, By their Family.

Do Small Things with Great Love

Online Donation—Contribute to Our Parish Growth. Apply Online:
<http://stanthonylawrence.org/donate-now/>
Refer to Page 9 For more info



TITHES & OFFERINGS - March 11, 2018

Sunday Collection	\$ 4,515.00
Fuel	\$ 1,150.00
Candles	\$ 154.00
Bishop's Appeal	\$ 3,220.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,380.00
Total Deposit	\$ 11,419.00

Operation Expenses For the Month of March 2017	
Health Insurance , Retirement & Disability	3,915.00
Total Household (Table Expense,)	349.88
Salaries	
Clergy (Base Salary, Table & Auto Expense)	5,650.00
Organist / Singers	500.00
Secretarial	1,650.00
Eparchial Assessment	2,500.00
Donations to Others	1,500.00
Maintenance & Repairs (Cleaning, Dumpster , Janitorial Supplies & ..)	2,048.83
Religious Supplies (Candles, Hosts & Wines,	3,670.46
Utilities (Phone, Cable, Internet, Electric, Fuel, Sewer & Water)	3,301.53
Office Expense (supplies, Postage, Printing, Subscription)	1,284.67
Parish Programs (Knights of Mary, MYO, MYA, Sunday Coffee Hours)	1,434.79
Total Monthly Expenses	\$ 27,805.16
Net Income needed to Balance per Week	\$6,951.29

Right Sanctuary Lamp
 This week's Sanctuary Lamp will burn
In Loving Memory of Dorothy and Thomas Hajj
 Offered by their children.
Left Sanctuary Lamp
 This week's Sanctuary Lamp will burn for
In Loving Memory of Dorothy and Thomas Hajj
 Offered by their children.

✂

Easter Flowers

Saint Anthony's Church invites you to place an Easter Lily or Tulips on the sanctuary **"In Honor" or "In Memory" of special loved ones.**

Please complete this form and either place it in the offering plate, hand in at the rectory, or mail it to the church, along with your payment of \$15.00 per plant. **The deadline to order is Monday, March 26th.**

Given By: _____

In honor of: _____

In honor of: _____

In honor of: _____

In loving memory of: _____

In loving memory of: _____

In loving memory of: _____

Our Parish Contribution and dues toward our Eparchy are divided into:

- 1-Bishop Appeal: \$7,500.00. Must be paid by Good Friday March 30, 2018**
- 2-Eparchial Assessment: \$25,000.00. Divided into 10 Payments**

Amount collected to date for Bishops Appeal: \$ 6,525.00 —Balance Due: \$ 975.00

PARISH MINISTRIES & NEWS

Religious Education - Sunday School

Thank you parents for continuing to make our program strong by continuing to bring your children weekly to CCD. Our classrooms are full and it is a wonderful environment for all of our children. It is exciting to walk through and hear them learning about their faith and Jesus. Please continue to support us in our efforts by doing any extended activity with your child. Even if it is saying prayers daily with them.

Stay tuned for upcoming registration for next year. The CCD program would like to improve on last year, and have all of our students registered for our program this spring. Forms will be coming after Easter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Susan Veilleux,
ccd@stanthonylawrence.org

Bible Study

everyone is welcome

Tuesday, March 13, 7 PM - ENGLISH
Wednesday, March 14, 7 PM - ARABIC

مواعيد السهرات الانجيلية:
باللغة الانكليزية: الثلاثاء 13 آذار الساعة 7 مساء.
باللغة العربية: الأربعاء 14 آذار الساعة 7 مساء.

The Family of Saint Charbel: Thursday, March 15th
♦ 6:30 PM - Rosary of Saint Charbel

عائلة مار شربل: الخميس ١٥ آذار
6:30 مساء: صلاة المسبحة

Rosary Group
Every Wednesday @ 6PM
صلاة المسبحة الوردية:
الأربعاء من كل أسبوع الساعة السادسة مساء

Next Adoration: Thursday, April 5th

Adoration

of the Blessed Sacrament

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Next Meeting:
Tuesday, March 13th

MYA -Maronite Young Adults

Next Meeting Sunday March 11 @ 7PM

Knights of Mary Schedule

Upcoming Meetings: March 17th, April 14th

All Events run from 5PM - 7PM After 4PM Liturgy
Dates are Subject to change

Children's Choir

April 7, April 21

Practices are held from 5:00PM - 6:30PM



MYO Schedule of Events 2018

Saturday, March 17 th	Merrimack Valley Catholic Youth Conference*
Friday, April 13 th	MYO Youth Liturgy Faith Formation
Saturday, April 28 th	Regional MYO/MYA Retreat*
Friday, May 11 th	Faith Formation
Saturday, May 26 th	Social Outing

www.facebook.com/stanthonysmyo

Faith Formation	5:15pm-7:30pm
Community Service	5:00pm-7:30pm
Special Events	Details To Be Provided

*These events may involve additional cost not included in the Registration Fee

Condolences...

We join with the parish of Saint Anthony to offer our condolences to families of the late Thomas Hajj. Our sympathies are expressed to his children: Judith Romano, Thomas Hajj, David Hajj, and Eileen Boyle; his siblings: James Hajj, Emily Grasso, and Effie Saba; along with their spouses and families. May his soul rest in peace and his loved ones be comforted.

THE CHALDEAN MISSION IN BOSTON
INVITES YOU TO AN EVENT OF PRAISE
RECITAL IN PREPARATION FOR HOLY WEEK

Dr. Nizar Fares
Accompanied by the mission's choir

Saturday March 17th, 2018 | At 7:30 PM

Address: Mary Immaculate of Lourdes
270 Elliot St. Newton, MA

FREE ADMISSION

WELCOMING
a new baby girl

We share the happiness and rejoice with Darine and Joseph Maroun, on the birth of their new baby girl, Valentina. Our warm wishes are extended to their families and loved ones.

Holy Week Schedule



PALM SUNDAY -MARCH 24-25:

SATURDAY MARCH 24 @ 4 PM: VIGIL LITURGY

SUNDAY MARCH 25:

8:15 AM: ARABIC LITURGY

9:30 AM: CHILDREN LITURGY (ENGLISH)

11:30 AM: CHILDREN LITURGY (ENGLISH & ARABIC)

HOLY WEEK

MONDAY MARCH 26 @ 7PM:

Coming to Harbor & LITURGY

WEDNESDAY MARCH 28 @ 7PM:

Ritual of the Lamp & LITURGY

THURSDAY OF MYSTERIES -THURSDAY MARCH 29

7PM: WASHING OF FEET

Followed by ADORATION: 8PM-10PM

GOOD FRIDAY

4:30PM: Adoration of the Cross

7PM: Adoration of the Cross

EASTER SUNDAY

SATURDAY MARCH 31

4PM: EASTER VIGIL

11:59 PM: MIDNIGHT EASTER LITURGY

SUNDAY APRIL 1 -EASTER DAY LITURGIES

9:30 AM: EASTER LITURGY (English)

11:30 AM: EASTER LITURGY (English & Arabic)

The Way of The Cross ~ Good Friday

Friday April 30TH @ 5:30 PM

**Starting at St Joseph Church
(241 Hampshire St)**

**Ending at St Anthony's Church
(145 Amesbury St)**



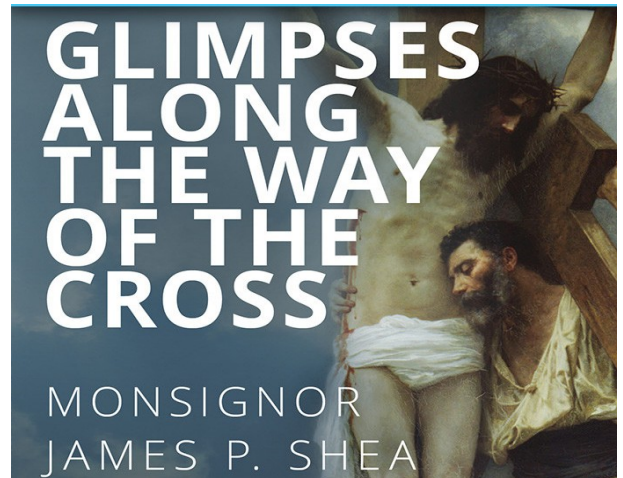
For any questions or to VOLUNTEER, Please Contact:

Marie Charabati @ 603.275.5409

Elias Azzi @ 978.420.7606

LENT ON FORMED

<https://formed.org/listen/56ba021b084df3e40bdf0b73>



Parish Code: N3CCNK

<https://formed.org/listen/59889ae66a6552cc0f3d9be1>



POPE PRAYER INTENTIONS - MARCH - 2018

Formation in Spiritual Discernment
That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.

MYO Youth Liturgy & Pro-Life Discussion

Saint Anthony Maronite Church, Lawrence, MA, Sunday, March 11, 2018



Lectors

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Lectors</u>
Saturday, March 10	4:00 PM	Roy Rossi
Sunday, March 11	8:15 AM	Hugette Sfeir
Sunday, March 11	9:30 AM	CCD-Grade 3
Sunday, March 11 11:30 AM		English: Mansour Chaya Arabic: Marcel Saade

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Lectors</u>
Saturday, March 17	4:00 PM	Dianne Dewan
Sunday, March 18	8:15 AM	Maroun Nassar
Sunday, March 18	9:30 AM	Josephine McDougall
Sunday, March 18 11:30 AM		English: George Saab Arabic: Selim Matta

ALTAR SERVERS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
Saturday, March 10	4:00 PM	Elias Saab Sharbel Saab
Sunday, March 11	8:15 AM	Volunteers
Sunday, March 11	9:30 AM	Noah Hassan Sebastian Ramey
Sunday, March 11 11:30 AM		Anthony Sadek, Charbel Sadek Elias Azzi, Elie Daou

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
Saturday, March 17	4:00 PM	Elias Saab Sharbel Saab
Sunday, March 18	8:15 AM	Volunteers
Sunday, March 18	9:30 AM	Anthony Hassan Charbel Yammine
Sunday, March 18 11:30 AM		Charbel Merheb, Geryes Geha Samir Maroun, Steven Maroun

1 Timothy 5:24-6:5

Healing of the Paralytic

1 طيموتاوس 5:24-6:5

The sins of some people are conspicuous and precede them to judgment, while the sins of others follow them there. So also good works are conspicuous; and even when they are not, they cannot remain hidden. Let all who are under the yoke of slavery regard their masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be blasphemed. Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful to them on the ground that they are members of the church; rather they must serve them all the more, since those who benefit by their service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these duties. Whoever teaches otherwise and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that is in accordance with godliness, is conceited, understanding nothing, and has a morbid craving for controversy and for disputes about words. From these come envy, dissension, slander, base suspicions, and wrangling among those who are depraved in mind and bereft of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

مِنَ النَّاسِ مَنْ تَكُونُ خَطَايَاهُمْ وَاضِحَةً قَبْلَ الْحُكْمِ فِيهَا، وَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ لَا تَكُونُ وَاضِحَةً إِلَّا بَعْدَهُ. كَذَلِكَ فَإِنَّ الْأَعْمَالَ الصَّالِحَةَ هِيَ أَيْضًا وَاضِحَةٌ، وَآتِي هِيَ غَيْرُ وَاضِحَةٍ فَلَا يُمَكِّنُ أَنْ تَبْقَى خَفِيَّةٌ. عَلَى جَمِيعِ الَّذِينَ تَحْتَ نِيرِ الْعُبُودِيَّةِ أَنْ يَحْسَبُوا أَسْيَادَهُمْ أَهْلًا لِكُلِّ كَرَامَةٍ، لِئَلَّا يُجَدَّفَ عَلَى أَسْمِ اللَّهِ وَتَعْلِيمِهِ. أَمَّا الَّذِينَ لَهُمْ أَسْيَادٌ مُؤْمِنُونَ فَلَا يَسْتَهْيِئُوا بِهِمْ، لِأَنَّهُمْ إِخْوَةٌ، بَلْ بِالْأَحْرَى فَلْيَخْدُمُوهُمْ، لِأَنَّ الْمُسْتَفِيدِينَ مِنْ خِدْمَتِهِمُ الطَّيِّبَةَ هُمْ مُؤْمِنُونَ وَأَحِبَّاءُ، ذَلِكَ مَا يَجِبُ أَنْ تُعَلِّمَهُ وَتُعْظِ بِهِ. فَإِنْ كَانَ أَحَدٌ يَعْلَمُ تَعْلِيمًا مُخَالِفًا، وَلَا يَتَمَسَّكُ بِالْكَلَامِ الصَّحِيحِ، كَلَامِ رَبَّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، وَبِالتَّعْلِيمِ الْمُوَافِقِ لِلنَّقْوَى، فَهُوَ إِنْسَانٌ أَعْمَهُ الْكِبْرِيَاءُ، لَا يَفْهَمُ شَيْئًا، بَلْ مُصَابٌ بِمَرَضِ الْمُجَادَلَاتِ وَالْمُمَاحَكَاتِ، الَّتِي يَنْشَأُ عَنْهَا الْحَسَدُ وَالْخِصَامُ وَالتَّجْدِيفُ وَسُوءُ الظَّنِّ، وَالْمُشَاجَرَاتُ بَيْنَ أَنْاسٍ فَاسِدِي الْعَقْلِ، زَانِفِينَ عَنِ الْحَقِّ، يَظُنُّونَ أَنَّ النَّقْوَى وَسِيلَةٌ لِلرَّيْحِ

Mark 2:1-12

أحد شفاء المخلع

مرقس 2:1-12

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.' Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 'Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?' At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, 'Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven", or to say, "Stand up and take your mat and walk"? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins' he said to the paralytic 'I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.' And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'

عَادَ يَسُوعُ إِلَى كَفَرْنَاحُومَ. وَسَمِعَ النَّاسُ أَنَّهُ فِي الْبَيْتِ. فَتَجَمَعَ عَدَدٌ كَبِيرٌ مِنْهُمْ حَتَّى غَصَّ بِهِمُ الْمَكَانُ، وَلَمْ يَبْقَ مَوْضِعٌ لِأَحَدٍ وَلَا عِنْدَ الْبَابِ. وَكَانَ يُخَاطِبُهُمْ بِكَلِمَةِ اللَّهِ. فَأَتَوْهُ بِمُخْلَعٍ يَحْمِلُهُ أَرْبَعَةُ رِجَالٍ. وَبِسَبَبِ الْجَمْعِ لَمْ يَسْتَطِيعُوا الْوُصُولَ بِهِ إِلَى يَسُوعَ، فَكَشَفُوا السَّقْفَ فَوْقَ يَسُوعَ، وَنَبَشَوْهُ، وَدَلُّوا الْفِرَاشَ الَّذِي كَانَ الْمُخْلَعُ مَطْرُوحًا عَلَيْهِ. وَرَأَى يَسُوعُ إِيمَانَهُمْ، فَقَالَ لِلْمُخْلَعِ: «يَا ابْنِي، مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ!». وَكَانَ بَعْضُ الْكَتَّابَةِ جَالِسِينَ هُنَاكَ يُفَكِّرُونَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ: لِمَاذَا يَتَكَلَّمُ هَذَا الرَّجُلُ هَكَذَا؟ إِنَّهُ يُجَدِّفُ! مَنْ يَقْدِرُ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ الْخَطَايَا إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ؟ وَفِي الْحَالِ عَرَفَ يَسُوعُ بِرُوحِهِ أَنَّهُمْ يُفَكِّرُونَ هَكَذَا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «لِمَاذَا تُفَكِّرُونَ بِهِذَا فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ؟ مَا هُوَ الْأَسْهَلُ؟ أَنْ يُقَالَ لِلْمُخْلَعِ: مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ؟ أَمْ أَنْ يُقَالَ: قُمْ وَاحْمِلْ فِرَاشَكَ وَامْشِ؟ وَلَكِي تَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ لَابْنَ الْإِنْسَانِ سُلْطَانًا أَنْ يَغْفِرَ الْخَطَايَا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ؟»، قَالَ لِلْمُخْلَعِ: لَكَ أَقُولُ: قُمْ، احْمِلْ فِرَاشَكَ، وَأَذْهَبْ إِلَى بَيْتِكَ!. فَقَامَ فِي الْحَالِ وَحَمَلَ فِرَاشَهُ، وَخَرَجَ أَمَامَ الْجَمِيعِ، حَتَّى دَهَشُوا كُلُّهُمْ وَمَجَّدُوا اللَّهَ قَائِلِينَ: «مَا رَأَيْنَا مِثْلَ هَذَا النَّبَةِ!»

Guidelines:

Baptismal Guidelines: *(Check our Website)*

- ♦ Guidelines & Registration Form

Marriage Guidelines: *(Check our Website)*

- ♦ Guidelines & Check List Forms

Banquet Hall Guidelines:

- ♦ Contract Form *(Check our Website)*
- ♦ Banquet Hall Usage Donations:
 1. \$500 (For 6 Hours)
 2. \$250 For Registered & Active parish-ioners *(with contribution history)*
 3. Security Deposit \$250 *(Returned after the event, if no Damages)*
 4. Cleaning Donations: \$100

Be in Touch!! Stay Connected !!

Membership Registration:

<http://stanthonylawrence.org/member-information-form/>

Online Donation:

<http://stanthonylawrence.org/donate-now/>

Upcoming Events:

<http://stanthonylawrence.org/upcoming-events/>

Monthly Calendar:

<http://stanthonylawrence.org/upcoming-events/calendar/>

Apply For Scholarship 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

DCG SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are now available @ WWW.DCGFOUNDATION.COM. Scholarships are to be awarded to 2018-2019 freshman entering Central Catholic High School. Applications may also be picked up in the Church Rectory.

SAVE THE DATE

DCG Annual Fundraiser to be held at Merrimack Golf Course in Methuen on Monday, June 25th with an 8:30 AM shotgun start. Call Ken at 508-63-0704 to register by phone or download an entry form @WWW.DCGFOUNDATION.COM.

DONATIONS NEEDED!

The DCG Foundation is looking for prize donations for its Grand Raffle. Patriots, Red Sox, Bruins, or Celtics tickets, Vacation Spots or Restaurants, Grocery and Gas gift Certificates would be appropriate and appreciated.

2017-2018 SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS
TOTALLED: **\$6,700.00**. Help us top that total!!!

****DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS:**
SUNDAY, APRIL 15TH**

Saint Anthony Burial Guidelines

Burial Charges and Fees:

<http://stanthonylawrence.org/charges-and-fees/>

The following charges for cemetery services are in effect January 1, 2017 at St. Anthony Cemetery and are subject to change without notice.

- Adult Opening – Graveside (Summer) \$875.00
- Adult Opening – Graveside (Winter) \$875.00
- Child Opening – (one to eight years) \$100.00
- Infant Opening – NO CHARGE
- Saturday & Holiday Overtime \$75.00
- Burial of Cremated Remains \$550.00
- Cremation Burial Unit \$350.00

When arrangements are made with a family and they wish to purchase a lot, we ask that you call the cemetery office (978) 685-7233 and arrange an appointment for them.

Financial arrangements for new lot sales will be handled directly with the family.

Cemetery charges for grave openings are due and payable to the cemetery the morning of the funeral, unless charged to the funeral director's account. Cemetery charges billed to the funeral director's account are due and payable to the cemetery in 10 days

Lot Sales

<http://stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/>

Saint Anthony Cemetery offers affordable payment plans to fit any family's budget. Please call us at 978-685-7233 or email rectory@stanthonylawrence.org for more information about availability.

Burial Pre-Arrangements

Making arrangements for a burial in advance should be no more difficult than providing insurance or having a will. It is a sensible thing to do. By pre-arranging your burial, you can avoid the unnecessary confusion plus the financial and emotional stress that death often brings.

Funeral pre-arrangements are available and recommended with guarantees of no increase in cemetery charges at the time of interment. Pre-Arrangement Funds are placed in a separate account and are withdrawn at the time of the interment. An interest free Time-Payment Plan is available for your convenience.

ALAA Scholarships

www.americanlebaneseawarenessassociation.org/scholarships

TAKING OUR WOUNDS TO THE EUCHARIST

By Ronald Rolheiser

Recently a man came to me, asking for help. He carried some deep wounds, not physical wounds, but emotional wounds to his soul. What surprised me initially was that, while he was deeply wounded, he had not been severely traumatized either in childhood or adulthood. He seemed to have just had to absorb the normal bumps and bruises that everyone has to absorb: some belittling, some bullying, never being the favorite, dissatisfaction with his own body, unfairness within his family and siblings, career frustration, unfairness in his workplace, the sense of being chronically ignored, the sense of never being understood and appreciated, and the self-pity and lack of self-confidence that results from this.

But he was a sensitive man and the combination of all these seemingly little things left him, now in late mid-life, unable to be the gracious, happy Elder he wanted to be. Instead, by his own admission, he was chronically caught-up in a certain wounded self-absorption, namely, in a self-centered anxiety that brought with it the sense that life had not been fair to him. Consequently he was forever somewhat focused on self-protection and was resentful of those who could step forward openly in self-confidence and love. "I hate it," he shared, "when I see persons like Mother Teresa and Pope John Paul speak so with such easy self-confidence about how big their hearts are. I always fill with resentment and think: 'Lucky you!' You haven't had to put up with what I've had to put up with in life!"

This man had been through some professional therapy that had helped bring him to a deeper self-understanding, but still left him paralyzed in terms of moving beyond his wounds. "What can I do with these wounds?" he asked.

My answer to him, as for all of us who are wounded, is: Take those wounds to the Eucharist. Every time you go to a Eucharist, stand by an altar, and receive communion, bring your helplessness and paralysis to God, ask him to touch your body, your heart, your memory, your bitterness, your lack of self-confidence, your self-absorption, your weaknesses, your impotence. Bring your aching body and heart to God. Express your helplessness in simple, humble words: Touch me. Take my wounds. Take my paranoia. Make me whole. Give me forgiveness. Warm my heart. Give me the strength that I cannot give myself.

Pray this prayer, not just when you are receiving communion and being physically touched by the body of Christ, but especially during the Eucharistic prayer because it is there that we are not just being touched and healed by a person, Jesus, but we are also being touched and healed by a sacred event. This is the part of the Eucharist we generally do not understand, but it is the part of the Eucharist that celebrates transformation and healing from wound and sin. In the Eucharist prayer we commemorate the "sacrifice" of Jesus, that is, that event where, as Christian tradition so enigmatically puts it, Jesus was made sin for us. There is a lot in that cryptic phrase. In essence, in his suffering and death, Jesus took on our wounds, our weaknesses, our infidelities, and our sins, died in them, and then through love and trust brought them to wholeness.

Every time we go to Eucharist we are meant to let that transforming event touch us, touch our wounds, our weaknesses, our infidelities, our sin, and our emotional paralysis and bring us to a transformation in wholeness, energy, joy, and love.

The Eucharist is the ultimate healer. There is, I believe, a lot of value in various kinds of physical and emotional therapies, just there is immeasurable value in 12-Step programs and in simply honestly sharing our wounded selves with people we trust. There is too, I believe, value in a certain willful self-effort, in the challenge contained in Jesus' admonition to a paralyzed man: Take up your couch and walk! We should not allow ourselves to be paralyzed by hyper-sensitivity and self-pity. God has given us skin to cover our rawest nerves. But, with that being admitted, we still cannot heal ourselves. Therapy, self-understanding, loving friends, and disciplined self-effort can take us only so far, and it is not into full healing. Full healing comes from touching and being touched by the sacred. More particularly, as Christians, we believe that this touching involves a touching of the sacred at that place where it has most particularly touched our own wounds, helplessness, weaknesses, and sin, that place, where God "was made sin for us". That place is the event of the death and rising of Jesus and that event is made available to us, to touch and enter into, in the Eucharistic prayer and in receiving the body of Christ in communion.

We need to bring our wounds to the Eucharist because it is there that the sacred love and energy that lie at the ground of all that breathes can cauterize and heal all that is not whole within us.