

Christmas Season

THE COMING



St Anthony Maronite Church
كنيسة مار أنطونيوس المارونية

Announcement to Mary

أحد بشارة العذراء مريم

OFFICE HOURS

M-TH: 9 AM - 4PM

Friday: 9 AM—2 PM

Saturdays: By Appointment

MAILING ADDRESS

145 Amesbury Street
Lawrence, MA 01841

Phone: 978.685.7233

Fax: 978.688.4475

rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

www.stanthonylawrence.org

MEET OUR PRIESTS & DEACONS

Pastor

Fr. Elie Mikhael 305.807.9087

pastor@stanthonylawrence.org

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Jebrael Moussallem... 412.616.4144

pv@stanthonylawrence.org

Deacon Nadim B. Daou

Visiting Deacon

Michael Charchaflian

Sub-Deacon James T. Demers

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

You are welcomed and loved
by St Anthony Community.
We are transformed through
prayer, acts of love,
forgiveness, service and
stewardship.

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

Daily Liturgies

M & W: 9 AM

T & TH: 7 PM

Weekend Liturgies:

Saturday: 4 PM Vigil

Sunday Liturgies:

8:15 AM - Arabic

9:30 AM - English

11:30 AM - English & Arabic

Holy days of obligation

Vigil Liturgy @ 7 PM

Feast Day @ 9 AM

SACRAMENTS

Baptism & Confirmation

1 month in advance with the
Pastor

Matrimony

Couples should make arrange-
ments six months prior to the
wedding date

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

PARISH SECRETARY

Pat McKeever

rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

PARISH MINISTRIES

Religious Education

ccd@stanthonylawrence.org

Knights of Mary

kom@stanthonylawrence.org

Maronite Youth : MYO

myo@stanthonylawrence.org

Publishing: Bulletin

bulletin@stanthonylawrence.org

Choirs (English, Arabic & Syriac)

Kids Choir

Knights of the Altar

Maronite Young Adults

Bereavement Ministry

Cenacle of the Rosary

(Tuesdays @ 6PM before Liturgy)

Cenacle of Divine Mercy

(Sundays Before the Liturgies)

“Sacristan (s)

RESOURCES

AVAILABLE ONLINE

www.stanthonylawrence.org

Membership Registration

Under Welcome

Baptism & Confirmation:

Guidelines & Registration

Under Sacraments –Baptism

Sacrament of Marriage:

Guidelines , Foccus & Pre-Cana

Under Sacraments-Marriage

Banquet Hall Guidelines:

Contract Form & Donations

Under Events

Burial Guidelines:

Charges , Fees & Lot Sales

Under Cemetery

Announcement to the Virgin Mary

أحد بشارة العذراء

Saturday, November 24 @ 4:00 PM

- Special Intentions, *By the Pastor.*

Sunday, November 25 @ 8:15 AM

- Special Intentions, *By the Pastor.*

Sunday, November 25 @ 9:30 AM

- For: + Michelle Yameen Brown *By Annette Gutt.*

Sunday, November 25 @ 11:30 AM

- For: +Jean El-Helou, *By their children, Tony, and Lola, wife of Abe Ata, and their families.*

Week of the Announcement to Virgin Mary أسبوع بشارة العذراء

Monday, November 26 @ 9 AM

- For: + Special Intentions By Fr. Jebrael Moussallem

Tuesday, November 27 @ 7 PM

- For: + Special Intentions By Fr. Jebrael Moussallem

Wednesday, November 28 @ 9 AM

- For: Good health- Lee Venturi *By The Pastor*

Thursday, November 29 @ 7 PM

- For: Alice Mullegan,

By Sub-Deacon and Mrs. James Demers.

Friday, November 30: No Liturgy

Visitation to Elizabeth

زيارة العذراء لإليصابات

Saturday, December 1 @ 4:00 PM

- For: +Millerd & Josephine Touma,

By their children & family

Sunday, December 2 @ 8:15 AM

- For: Special Intentions.

Sunday, December 2 @ 9:30 AM

- For: + 1st Anniversary-Dora Maria Pereira

By her mother, Dora and her Sister, Lisa.

Sunday, December 2 @ 11:30 AM

- For: +Said Boutros, Chafica, Joseph & Nancy Azzi,

By Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Azzi and Family.

- For: +40 Day Anniversary-Milad Abi Moussa *By His*

wife Eugenie, Children: Henry and Joseph & their Families

Pope Prayer Intentions -November 2018

In Service of Peace: That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict

CHRISTMAS AT ST ANTHONY

- ◇ Christmas Novena: December 16th - 24th
- ◇ CCD Pageant: December 16th @ 9:30 AM

Christmas Eve Liturgies

Vigil Liturgy: Monday December 24 @ 4PM
 Midnight Liturgy December 25 @ 12AM

Christmas Day Liturgies

Christmas Liturgy -Arabic @ 10 AM
 Christmas Liturgy-Arabic & English @ 11:30AM

SHARING THE JOY WITH THE NEEDY

- ◇ Donate a Meal
- Further details to follow, stay Tuned!!!*

TITHES & OFFERINGS - November 18, 2018

Due to holiday publishing deadline by our parish bulletin provider -the Pilot Bulletin, Archdiocese of Boston-, The last Weekly Collection will be printed in the next Bulletin.

**Contribute to Our Parish Growth.
 Apply Online:**

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

**Adorn St Anthony's Altar
 With a Christmas Poinsettias**



Donated By

In Honor of

In Honor of

In Honor of

In Memory of

In Memory of

In Memory of

A Celebration of Christmas

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM

St Anthony Maronite Church

Followed by a Reception-Parish Hall

FEATURING

St Anthony choirs and guests

Merry Christmas

Donation \$10 per Poinsettia. Make Check payable to St Anthony Church.

Please submit your donation and your list no later than December 16 either by mailing or emailing them to the parish office.

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS

Right Sanctuary Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp will burn
In Memory of Jean El-Helou
Offered by Tony El-Helou, Lola Ata and Their Families

Left Sanctuary Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp will burn
In Memory of Jean El-Helou
Offered by Tony El-Helou, Lola Ata and Their Families

ANNUAL Christmas GIVING TREE

Do NOT wrap your Gifts!!

Drop them no later than December 9

CELEBRATE THE SEASON

Annual Christmas Parties

Knights of Mary: Saturday December 15

MYO: Friday December 28

Ladies Party: Sunday December 2.

Tickets available for sale

Men's Party: Wednesday December 5.

Tickets available for sale

PARISH

MINISTRIES , ORGANIZATIONS & NEWS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Susan Veilleux ccd@stanthonylawrence.org

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Bake Sale this past weekend. It was a huge success.

The Christmas Pageant is coming up next for Religious Education. Children should have a permission slip that went home with them this week. The Pageant will be held during the 9:30 liturgy on December 16.

The children's Christmas Party is being held on Saturday, December 15. It is sponsored by the Knights of Mary. All children of the parish are welcome to attend.

Knights of Columbus "Keeping Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest is going on until December 9. Children are encouraged to create a poster for this annual contest. Some students are working on the posters in class as an assignment. There is still a permission slip that needs to be signed by you. Students participating will be bringing that permission slip home next week.

There is **NO Religious Ed** on Sunday November 25.

Our family wants to thank you, Father Elie, Susan Veilleux, the Knights of Mary, MYO, and all the parishioners of Saint Anthony for your kindness and support for us.

We feel so blessed to be a part of this loving and caring parish. We also ask God to bless you all and keep you in good health. Happy Thanksgiving to all of you! We thank God for everyone of you.

George and Rita Bejjani and family.

KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Sub Deacon James Demers

Meeting: Saturday, December 8th @ 11AM

DAUGHTERS OF SAINT ANTHONY

Elaine Ferris

Christmas Party: Monday December 3
At Sand Trap Restaurant @ Merrimack Golf Course

Becoming an MYO Advisor?

Christian Hbaiter myo@stanthonylawrence.org

We are looking for a committed and motivated **parishioner**, **aged 25+** that is interested in becoming a MYO Advisor.

If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Christian at myo@stanthonylawrence.org or call the Church Office.

Sunday, November 25th, 5:30pm-8:30pm: MYO Liturgy followed by a Thanksgiving Pot-luck (*members will sign up to bring a food item*)

Friday, Nov. 30th - Sunday, Dec. 2nd: MYO Regional Christmas Retreat (*for those that are registered to attend*)

KNIGHTS OF MARY

Marie Charabati kam@stanthonylawrence.org

Changes to the Schedule!!!!

- ◇ December 8 (Regular Session)
- ◇ December 15 (Christmas Party)
- ◇ January 5 (Regular Session)

All sessions are 5:00pm to 7pm unless otherwise noted.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Meeting: Tuesday, December 11th @ 7 PM

Congratulations to the October Knight of the Month:

Christian Hbaiter



Also, we congratulate Matthew Matta, who has received the Honor of First Degree on Saturday, November 17th.

PARISH

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

MATTHEW:
THE KING & HIS KINGDOM

Holy Adult Mind
Follow Soul Faith Spirit Believe
Heart Catholic Formation Understand Relationship
Prayer Christ
Love of God

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday

November 28 @ 10:30AM

English Session

November 28 @ 7:00PM

Arabic Session

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday at 7:30 PM



Please Note!!!

Liturgy and Adoration will be canceled for Thanksgiving Day

FAMILY OF ST SHARBEL

Thursday, November 29th

- ◇ 6:30 PM - Rosary of Saint Charbel
- ◇ 7:00 PM - Divine Liturgy
- ◇ 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM - Eucharistic Adoration

عائلة مار شربل: الخميس 29 تشرين الثاني:

6:30 مساء: صلاة المسبحة

7:00 مساء: القداس الألهي



Today Christmas has become a commercial celebration, whose bright lights hide the mystery of God's humility, which in turn calls us to humility and simplicity. Let us ask the Lord to help us see through the superficial glitter of this season, and to discover behind it the child in the stable in Bethlehem, so as to find true joy and true light.

— Pope Benedict XVI —

LECTORS

Saturday, November 24 - 4:00 PM Christine Ryan

Sunday, November 25 - 8:15 AM Mona Hbaiter

Sunday, November 25 - 9:30 AM Sub Deacon Jim

Sunday, November 25 - 11:30 AM

English: Mansour Chaya Arabic: Selim Matta

Saturday, December 1 - 4:00 PM Joel Habib

Sunday, December 2 - 8:15 AM Zizi Francis

Sunday, December 2 - 9:30 AM Elizabeth Frias

Sunday, December 2 - 11:30 AM

English: George Saab Arabic: Ajia Elia

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, Nov. 24 - 4:00 PM

Elias Saab Sharbel Saab

Sunday, Nov. 25 - 8:15 AM Volunteers

Sunday, Nov. 25 - 9:30 AM

Antonio Hbaiter Logan Gabriel

Sunday, Nov. 25 - 11:30 AM

Charbel Merheb Geryes Geha
Samir Maroun Steven Maroun

Saturday, December 1 - 4:00 PM

Elias Saab Sharbel Saab

Sunday, December 2 - 8:15 AM Volunteers

Sunday, December 2 - 9:30 AM

Anthony Hassan Joseph Safi

Sunday, December 2 - 11:30 AM

Anthony Sadek Charbel Sadek
Jonathan Merheb Michael Merheb

READINGS

Sunday of the Announcement to Virgin Mary

Galatians 3:15-22: I give an example from daily life: once a person's will has been ratified, no one adds to it or annuls it. Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring; it does not say, 'And to offsprings', as of many; but it says, 'And to your offspring', that is, to one person, who is Christ. My point is this: the law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. For if the inheritance comes from the law, it no longer comes from the promise; but God granted it to Abraham through the promise. Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring would come to whom the promise had been made; and it was ordained through angels by a mediator. Now a mediator involves more than one party; but God is one. Is the law then opposed to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could make alive, then righteousness would indeed come through the law. But the scripture has imprisoned all things under the power of sin, so that what was promised through faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Luke 1:26-38 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK



• "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas," or, at least that's the assumption based on that familiar holiday song. But

what does that look like at your house? Most of us anticipate the great sales at the mall on the day after Thanksgiving, string lights on the outside of our house, and decorating the inside of our homes. But how exactly are we preparing our hearts for the greatest gift we've ever been given? Through an exploration of the mystery of the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, and the events surrounding the arrival of Jesus, this Advent study offers an opportunity to experience the joy of the true meaning of Christmas.



How will you prepare for Christmas? This Advent, enrich your daily prayer by walking with **Dr. Tim Gray** on a journey of renewal. Ready your heart for the coming of Christ.

- **Watch, Read, and Reflect each day**
Watch an inspiring video reflection from Dr. Tim Gray
Read a passage from the Word of God
Reflect on how you can prepare for Christ's coming
- **Want to include the whole family?**

Add children's reflections to your daily reflection email! Herald Entertainment's beloved Brother Francis will help your children prepare for Christmas with joyful songs and valuable lessons.

أحد بشارة العذراء مريم

يا اخوتي، كَبَشِّرْ أَقُول: إِنَّ الْوَصِيَّةَ، وَإِنْ كَانَتْ مِنْ إِنْسَانٍ، إِذَا أَقْرَبَتْ، لَا أَحَدَ يُبْطِلُهَا أَوْ يَزِيدُ عَلَيْهَا. فَالْوَعْدُ فَبِئْتِ لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ وَلِنَسَلِهِ. وَمَا قِيلَتْ: «وَلَأَنْسَالِهِ» كَأَنَّهُ لِكَثِيرِينَ، بَلْ «وَلِنَسَلِكَ»، كَأَنَّهُ لَوَاحِدٍ، وَهُوَ الْمَسِيحُ! فَأَقُولُ هَذَا: إِنَّ وَصِيَّةَ سَبَقَ اللَّهُ فَأَقْرَبَهَا، لَا تُلْغِيهَا شَرِيعَةٌ جَاءَتْ بَعْدَ أَرْبَعِ مِئَةِ وَثَلَاثِينَ سَنَةً، فَتُبْطَلُ الْوَعْدُ. وَإِذَا كَانَ الْمِيرَاثُ مِنَ الشَّرِيعَةِ، فَهُوَ لَمْ يَعْذُ مِنَ الْوَعْدِ؛ وَالْحَالُ أَنْ اللَّهُ يُوْعِدُ أَنْعَمَ بِالْمِيرَاثِ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ. إِذَا فَلَمَّاذَا الشَّرِيعَةُ؟ إِنَّهَا أُضِيفَتْ بِسَبَبِ الْمَعَاصِي، حَتَّى مَجِيءِ النَّسْلِ الَّذِي جُعِلَ الْوَعْدُ لَهُ. وَقَدْ أَعْلَنَهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ عَلَى يَدِ وَسِيطٍ، هُوَ مُوسَى. غَيْرَ أَنْ الْوَاحِدَ لَا وَسِيطَ لَهُ، وَاللَّهُ وَاحِدٌ! إِذَا فَهَلْ تَكُونُ الشَّرِيعَةُ ضِدَّ وَعُودِ اللَّهِ؟ حَاشَا! فَلَوْ أُعْطِيتَ شَرِيعَةً قَادِرَةٌ أَنْ تُحْيِي، لَكَانَ التَّبْرِيرُ حَقًّا بِالشَّرِيعَةِ. وَلَكِنَّ الْكِتَابَ حَبَسَ الْكُلَّ تَحْتَ الْخَطِيئَةِ، لِكَيْمَا بِالْإِيمَانِ بِيَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ يُعْطَى الْوَعْدُ لِلَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ.

وفي الشهر السادس، أُرْسِلَ الْمَلَاكُ جِبْرَائِيلُ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ إِلَى مَدِينَةٍ فِي الْجَلِيلِ أَسْمُهَا النَّاصِرَةَ، إِلَى عَذْرَاءٍ مَخْطُوبَةٍ لِرَجُلٍ مِنْ بَيْتِ دَاوُدَ أَسْمُهُ يُوسُفُ، وَأَسْمُ الْعَذْرَاءِ مَرْيَمَ. وَلَمَّا دَخَلَ الْمَلَاكُ إِلَيْهَا قَالَ: «السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ، يَا مَمْلُوءَةٌ نِعْمَةً، أَلَرَّبُّ مَعَكَ!». «فَأَضْطَرَبَتْ مَرْيَمَ لِكَلَامِهِ، وَأَخَذَتْ تُفَكِّرُ مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هَذَا السَّلَامُ! فَقَالَ لَهَا الْمَلَاكُ: «لَا تَخَافِي، يَا مَرْيَمَ، لِأَنَّكَ وَجَدْتِ نِعْمَةً عِنْدَ اللَّهِ. وَهَا أَنْتِ تَحْمَلِينَ، وَتَلِدِينَ أَبْنَاءً، وَتُسَمِّيْنَهُ يَسُوعَ. وَهُوَ يَكُونُ عَظِيمًا، وَأَبْنُ الْعَلِيِّ يُدْعَى، وَيُعْطِيهِ الرَّبُّ الْإِلَهَ عَرْشَ دَاوُدَ أَبِيهِ، فَيَمْلِكُ عَلَى بَيْتِ يَعْقُوبَ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ، وَلَا يَكُونُ لِمُلْكِهِ نَهَايَةٌ!». فَقَالَتْ مَرْيَمَ لِلْمَلَاكُ: «كَيْفَ يَكُونُ هَذَا، وَأَنَا لَا أَعْرِفُ رَجُلًا؟». «فَأَجَابَ الْمَلَاكُ وَقَالَ لَهَا: «الرُّوحُ الْقُدُسُ يَجِلُّ عَلَيْكَ، وَقُدْرَةُ الْعَلِيِّ تُظَلِّلُكَ، وَلِذَلِكَ فَالْقُدُّوسُ الْمَوْلُودُ مِنْكَ يُدْعَى ابْنُ اللَّهِ! وَهَا إِنَّ الْيَصَابَاتِ نَسِيبَتِكَ، قَدْ حَمَلْتِ هِيَ أَيْضًا بِأَبْنٍ فِي شَيْخُوخَتِهَا. وَهَذَا هُوَ الشَّهْرُ السَّادِسُ لِتِلْكَ الَّتِي تُدْعَى عَاقِرًا، لِأَنَّهُ لَيْسَ عَلَى اللَّهِ أَمْرٌ مُسْتَحِيلٌ!». فَقَالَتْ مَرْيَمَ: «هَا أَنَا أَمَةٌ الرَّبِّ، فَلْيَكُنْ لِي بِحَسَبِ قَوْلِكَ!». «وَأَنْصَرَفَ مِنْ عِنْدِهَا الْمَلَاكُ.

FORMED CODE

Stanthonychurch.formed.org- Parish Code: N3CCNK



“There are not a hundred people who hate the Catholic Church. There are millions who hate what they wrongly believe to be the Catholic Church—which of course, is quite a different thing.” –Archbishop Fulton Sheen

Largely hidden from the cultural, religious, and political tempest surrounding homosexuality, the wisdom and truth of the Catholic Church lies ageless. This five-part film series and study guide explores Catholic teaching on a wide range of questions connected to same-sex attraction.

The series begins with a look at the lived reality of women and men who experience same-sex attractions, who are ultimately drawn to the power and interior peace found in the virtue of chastity. The series also examines:

- The “Divine Design” and meaning of sex, rooted in natural law;
- Insights from medical and social science experts who unpack the secular research about homosexuality that often confounds cultural understanding;
- A guide for parents and others whose sons and daughters, family and friends are involved in homosexual relationships;
- An authentic roadmap to pastoral care, including the work of Courage International, a worldwide apostolate supporting Catholics who experience same-sex attraction in their efforts to live chastely.

I live on both sides of a border. Not a geographical one, but one which is often a dividing line between two groups.

I was raised a conservative Roman Catholic, and conservative in most other things as well. Although my dad worked politically for the Liberal party, most everything about my upbringing was conservative, particularly religiously. I was a staunch Roman Catholic in every way. I grew up under the papacy of Pius XII (the fact that my youngest brother is named Pius, will tell you how loyal our family was to that Pope's version of things). We believed that Roman Catholicism was the one true religion and that Protestants needed to convert and return to the true faith. I memorized the Roman Catholic catechism and defended its every word. Moreover, beyond being faithful church-goers, my family was given over to piety and devotions: we prayed the rosary together as a family every day; had statues and holy pictures everywhere in our house; wore blessed medals around our necks; prayed litanies to Mary, Joseph, and the Sacred Heart; and practiced a warm devotion to the saints. And it was wonderful. I will forever be grateful for that religious foundation.

I went from my family home to the seminary at the tender age of seventeen and my early seminary years solidly reinforced what my family had given me. The academics were good and we were encouraged to read great thinkers in every discipline. But this higher learning was still solidly set within a Roman Catholic ethos that valued all the things religiously and devotionally I'd been raised on. My studies were still friends with my piety. My mind was expanding, but my piety remained intact.

But home is where we start from. Gradually though through the years my world changed. Studying at different graduate schools, teaching on different graduate faculties, being in daily contact with other expressions of the faith, reading contemporary novelists and thinkers, and having academic colleagues as cherished friends has, I confess, put some strain on the piety of my youth. It's no secret; we don't often pray the rosary or litanies to Mary or the Sacred Heart in graduate classrooms or at faculty gatherings.

However academic classrooms and faculty gatherings bring something else, something vitally needed in church pews and in circles of piety, namely, wider theological vision and critical principles to keep unbridled piety, naïve fundamentalism, and misguided religious fervor within proper boundaries. What I've learned in the academic circles is also wonderful and I am forever grateful for the privilege of higher education.

But, of course, that's a formula for tension, albeit a healthy one. Let me use someone else's voice to articulate this. In a recent book, *Silence and Beauty*, a Japanese-American artist, Makoto Fujimura, shares this incident from his own life. Coming out of church one Sunday, he was asked by his pastor to add his name to a list of people who had agreed to boycott the film, *The Last Temptation of Christ*. He liked his pastor and wanted to please him by signing the petition, but felt hesitant to sign for reasons that, at that time, he couldn't articulate. But his wife could. Before he could sign, she stepped in and said: "Artists may have other roles to play than to boycott this film." He understood what she meant. He didn't sign the petition.

But his decision left him pondering the tension between boycotting such a movie and his role as an artist and critic. Here's how he puts it: "An artist is often pulled in two directions. Religiously conservative people tend to see culture as suspect at best, and when cultural statements are made to transgress the normative reality they hold dear, their default reaction is to oppose and boycott. People in the more liberal artistic community see these transgressive steps as necessary for their 'freedom of expression'. An artist like me, who values both religion and art, will be exiled from both. I try to hold together both of these commitments, but it is a struggle."

That's also my struggle. The piety of my youth, of my parents, and of that rich branch of Catholicism is real and life-giving; but so too is the critical (sometimes unsettling) iconoclastic, theology of the academy. The two desperately need each other; yet someone who is trying to be loyal to both can, like Fujimura, end up feeling exiled from both. Theologians also have other roles to play than boycotting movies.

The people whom I take as mentors in this area are men and women who, in my eyes, can do both: Like Dorothy Day, who could be equally comfortable, leading the rosary or the peace march; like Jim Wallis, who can advocate just as passionately for radical social engagement as he can for personal intimacy with Jesus, and like Thomas Aquinas, whose intellect could intimidate intellectuals, even as he could pray with the piety of a child.

Circles of piety and the academy of theology are not enemies; they need to embrace.

Monthly Income -November 2017

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Candles / Other Devotional Item/ Liturgical Music / Fuel Interest & Dividends /Miscellaneous (SPECIFY) Parking Lot Donations /Sunday Coffee Hour | 5,544.66 |
| Donations | 3,875.43 |
| Fund Raising Special Events Breakfast | 264.00 |
| 2nd Collections to be forwarded | 11,855.80 |
| Sunday & Holy Day Collections | 590.00 |
| Programs: MYO, CCD, Daughters | 22,129.89 |
| Total Income | |

Monthly Expense—November 2017

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Security | 19.43 |
| Benefits: Insurance - Disability Employee Health Insurance Insurance - Medical - Other Total Insurance - Medical Pension Plan Contr to Eparchy | 4,125.00 |
| Furniture & Equipment | 239.95 |
| Fund Raising Events Haffis | 314.83 |
| Household Supplies /Spring Water Table Expenses | 3,179.69 |
| Insurance on Personal Belonging | 17.50 |
| Salaries | |
| Clergy | 3,800.00 |
| Housekeeping | 260.00 |
| Office Work | 500.00 |
| Organist / Singers | 525.00 |
| Parochial Vicar Salary | 3,400.00 |
| Secretarial | 2,750.00 |
| Total Salaries | 11,235.00 |
| Other Ordinary | |
| 2nd Collections forwarded | 25.00 |
| Books, Periodicals & Subscript | 130.92 |
| Decorations & Flowers | 459.95 |
| Funeral Donation to Priest | 200.00 |
| Maintenance & Repairs : Cemetary Ground Maintenance Cleaning Software Maintenance Waste Management Maintenance & Repairs - Other | 1,925.91 |
| Religious Supplies Candles Religious Supplies - Other | 163.50 |
| Sewer & Water Assessment | 58.41 |
| Sunday Coffee Hour (Expenses) | 74.07 |
| Utilities: Cellular Phone Cable / Satellite TV /Electric / Fuel or Gas | 2,081.98 |
| Total Other Ordinary | 5,119.74 |
| Parish Office Administration: Advertising & Public Relations Auto Exp/ Bus for Church /Auto Expenses (Gas, Ins., etc.) /Copier (new lease) /Office Supplies / Postage/Printing /Professional Fees /Travel Expenses | 2,827.53 |
| Parish Programs: MYO /Religious Education/ Veterans Day event /Women's Club | 1,787.64 |
| Payroll Expenses | 210.37 |
| Reimbursable Expenses | -7.06 |
| Total Expense | 29,069.62 |
| Net Ordinary Income | -6,939.73 |

What does your Church's Financial Statements say about YOUR Church?

What does your church's financial statements (Balance Sheet, Income Statements, Cash Flow, Ministry Budget, etc.) tell you about the following:



- Are we **giving**? (Core, Missions, Giving Streams, Child Care, Community, other)
- Are we **saving**? (3-6 months operating \$\$)
- Are we **avoiding debt**? (conserving energy, recycling, redundant programs)
- Are we being **accountable**? (keeping track of funds? Large 'misc.'?)
- Are we **spending** in the areas of our vision? (Ministry Map)
- Are we **communicating** this? (Is the budget accessible/easy to understand?)
- Are people **supporting** our vision? (Why or why not?)

WHEN GOD BLESSES YOU FINANCIALLY, DON'T RAISE YOUR STANDARD OF LIVING. RAISE YOUR STANDARD OF GIVING

~ Mark Batterson ~