



LENT

A TIME OF MERCY AND GRACE

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The Parable of the Prodigal Son

أحد مثل الابن الشاطر

St Anthony Maronite Church
كنيسة مار أنطونيوس المارونية

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 arrangements 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

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

أحد الأبن الشاطر

Saturday, March 23 @ 4:00 PM

For: +Michael, Boutros, Takla, Rabih, and Kamil El-Hachem, By their daughters, Raghida Naamani, Nada Hachem, and their families.

Sunday, March 24 @ 8:15 AM

For: +James Michael Tarshi, By Irene Tarshi.

For: In Honor of Elias P. Azzi, (Birthday).

Sunday, March 24 @ 9:30 AM

For: +Peter Abdunour By Maria Dominguez

For: +Private Intentions.

Sunday, March 24 @ 11:30 AM

For: + Tanous Ata & Farid Wanis Ata, By Leila Ata & Family

Week of Prodigal Son

أسبوع الأبن الشاطر

Monday, March 25 @ 7 PM

Feast of the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary.

Tuesday, March 26 @ 7 PM - St. Gabriel the Archangel

For: Special Intentions.

Wednesday, March 27 @ 9 AM For: Special Intentions.

Thursday, March 28 @ 7 PM

For: In Honor of Christian Hbaiter (Birthday)

Friday, March 29 @ 7 PM – Stations of the Cross

Sunday of the Paralytic

أحد شفاء المخلع

Saturday, March 30 @ 4:00 PM - St. John Climacus, C

For: +Julie Abi-Khalil and Anis Chantiri,

By Amale Chantiri

Sunday, March 31 @ 8:15 AM

For: Special Intention.

Sunday, March 31 @ 9:30 AM

For: +Deceased Members of the Rahhal and Jesser Families, By their loving family.

Sunday, March 31 @ 11:30 AM

For: +Najib and Handouma Maroun and Deceased Family Members, By Gaby and Adele Maroun, their children and families.

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS

Right Sanctuary Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp will burn
*In Memory of Deceased members of the
Carpenter Family, Offered by Zakia Russo.*

Left Sanctuary Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp will burn
*In Memory of Joseph Russo,
Offered by Zakia Russo.*



**St Anthony Parish Welcomes
H.E. Mr. Gabriel Issa,
Ambassador of Lebanon to
the United States of America**

Sunday March 31, 2019

11:30AM: Divine Liturgy

Followed by a Reception - Parish Hall

TITHES & OFFERINGS

March 17

Sunday Collection (Online)	\$ 3,422.00
Candles	\$ 189.00
Arabic Class	\$ 500.00
Bishop's Appeal	\$ 1,310.00
Fuel	\$ 110.00
Donations (In Memory of, etc..)	\$ 400.00
Total Deposit	\$ 5,931.00

2019 EPARCHIAL CHARITIES APPEAL

Your generosity towards this year's Annual Eparchial Appeal will support:

- 40% of your contribution to this year's Annual Appeal will go for Seminarian Expenses.
- 20% of your contribution will go to support our Retired Priests.
- 10% of your contribution will go to support Christians in Lebanon and the Middle East.
- 30% of your contribution will be deposited into the Eparchy's Endowment.

Our Parish dues to be forwarded to the Eparchy is \$7,500. We thank you in advance for your attention towards this matter.

**Helping for the Spiritual Growth &
Prosperity of Our Parish !**

Contribute to Our Parish Growth.

Apply Online:

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

UPDATES TO OUR PARISH MEMBERSHIP

As for our Annual parishioners record maintenance, a review of the parish list will be executed to update the records. We will assign newly graduated professional parishioners to a new-household with new contribution envelopes Humbled for God's blessings upon our parish that is flourishing because of His Grace and of your faith and charity.

Easter Flowers

Saint Anthony's Church invites you to decorate the sanctuary at St Anthony **"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, April 12**

Given By:

In honor of:

In loving memory of:

PARISH

MINISTRIES , ORGANIZATIONS & NEWS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Susan Veilleux ccd@stanthonylawrence.org

Religious Education Registration

Religious Ed registration for the 2019-2020 school year are now under way. Through our e mail system, parents should have received the registration form this week. Please check your spam folder if you did not receive the e mail. I will also be available during Religious Ed to help in registering your child for the fall.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Please note: We postponed first reconciliation for our Communion class to Saturday March 30 from 9 -12 noon.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS

****SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES****

- ⇒ **Saturday, March 30th @ 9:00 AM**
First Reconciliation, this is mandatory
- ⇒ **Friday, May 17th @ 5:30 PM**
First Communion Practice, with Parents
- ⇒ **Saturday, May 18th @ 10:30 AM**
First Communion, celebration & Liturgy

First Communion Documents Required:

- 1) *Child Baptismal certificates*
- 2) *\$25.00 donation per child: reception for the children after the 1st Communion Liturgy.*



MARONITE YOUTH - MYO

Gloria Azzi

myo@stanthonylawrence.org

Upcoming Events:

A. Sunday, March 24th: MYO Mass/Hang Out
(Parents are welcomed) 5:30pm-8:00pm
Please be sure to check Facebook for schedule updates and changes



KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Sub-Deacon James Demers

Monthly Meeting: Saturday, April 13th

ARABIC SCHOOL -Hitaf Nammour

Classes: Every Saturday @ 10 AM

A LENTEN RETREAT FOR MEN

Deacon Michael Charchaflian

"Top Seven Decisions of Sainly Husbands and Fathers"

At Most Holy Trinity Maronite Monastery in Petersham, MA
Friday 4/5/19 PM - Sunday 4/7/19 AM
Places are limited (1st come, 1st served basis)
Suggested donation \$45/day, including meals and lodging
Contact: Deacon Michael Charchaflian

Knights of Columbus

Elias P. Azzi

Next Meeting: April 9th @ 7 PM

From the Office of Our BISHOP GREGORY

"UNPLANNED is the inspiring true story of one woman's journey of transformation. Abby Johnson as one of the youngest Planned Parenthood clinic directors in the nation, she was involved thousands of abortions. The movie can change the hearts and minds. For more information and tickets, you can check <https://www.unplannedfilm.com/>



KNIGHTS OF MARY

Marie Charabati

kom@stanthonylawrence.org

◇ April 6 (Regular Session)
All sessions are 5:30pm to 7pm
unless otherwise noted.



MARONITE YOUNG ADULTS

Sahar E. Ata

mya@stanthonylawrence.org

More events tbd

PARISH

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

MATTHEW:
THE KING & HIS KINGDOM

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

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday

March 27 @ 10:30 AM
English Session
March 27 @ 7 PM
Arabic Session

FOOD COLLECTION!!!

The list of items donations for the Maronite Monks in Petersham is:

- +Peanut Butter
- +Kashi Cereal
- +Low Carb Bread
- +Dried Prunes
- +Black Russian Pumpernickel Bread

Thank you for your support!

FALAFEL & BAKED FISH LUNCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 24
AFTER 9:30 & 11:30 LITURGIES

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH
145 AMESBURY ST
LAWRENCE MA



FALAFEL SANDWICHES - 7
FALAFEL PLATES - 10
Baked Fish—10
TOGO AVAILABLE



SPONSORED BY ST ANTHONY COUNCIL 16204

Adoration

of the

Blessed Sacrament



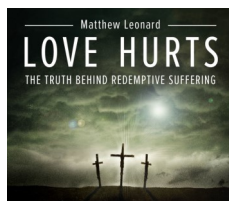
Thursday March 28

@ 7:30 PM

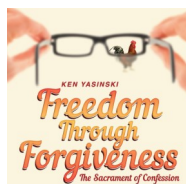
Stanthonychurch.formed.org

Parish Code: N3CCNK

FORMED



Matthew Leonard focuses on the new idea of love proclaimed by Christ and how it gives meaning to human suffering, penance, and ultimately death. Sounds a bit dark, doesn't it? But it's not! By looking at these issues we'll discover the secret to how we can "Rejoice in the Lord always" (Phil 4:4) just like St. Paul, no matter what happens.



Through clever examples and insightful stories, Ken reveals how each of us can obtain freedom from the burden of our sins through the forgiveness that is readily available in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Fr. Mike Schmitz shares important insights on the meaning of Christ's Cross. He shows how God's rescue mission for us includes the need for each person to embrace his own cross in order to reestablish trust in the Father and the understanding that love requires sacrifice.



It is the dramatic retelling of the life of Jesus Christ as seen through the eyes of the last surviving apostle, John. Journey with Jesus and encounter His miracles, His astonishing teaching and His unsurpassed bravery. Discover the power and love of Jesus Christ and see why His followers risked all to carry His message to the ends of the earth.

LITURGY

LECTORS

Saturday, March 23 - 4:00 PM Roy Rossi
 Sunday, March 24- 8:15 AM Mona Hbaiter
 Sunday, March 24- 9:30 AM Jean Sarkis
 Sunday, March 24 - 11:30 AM
English: Elias Azzi Arabic: Sleiman Ramy

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, March 23 - 4:00 PM
 Elias Saab Sharbel Saab
 Sunday, March 24 - 8:15 AM Volunteers
 Sunday, March 24 - 9:30 AM
 Anthony Hassan Logan Gabriel
 Sunday, March 24 - 11:30 AM
 Anthony Sadek Charbel Sadek
 Christopher Bou Saada Jason Maroun

ALTAR SERVES & LECTORS

LECTORS

Saturday, March 30 - 4:00 PM Dianne Dewan
 Sunday, March 31- 8:15 AM Huguette Sfeir
 Sunday, March 31- 9:30 AM Elaine Brousseau
 Sunday, March 31 - 11:30 AM
English: Mounira Daher Arabic: Marcel Saade

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, March 30 - 4:00 PM
 Elias Saab Sharbel Saab
 Sunday, March 31 - 8:15 AM Volunteers
 Sunday, March 31 - 9:30 AM
 Charbel Yammine Max Sheehan
 Sunday, March 31 - 11:30 AM
 Andrew Azzi Anthony Chamoun
 Elias Azzi Rudy Bouraphael

2019-2020

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications are now available for the DCG Scholarships for incoming CCHS Freshman, 2019-2020, school year. If you have been accepted into CCHS and you are a parishioner of Saint Anthony's, to download the scholarship application, please visit www.dcgfoundation.com.

****Applications are due April 15th****

GOLFERS SAVE THE DATE

The Annual DCG Golf Tournament is scheduled for June 24, 2019. Proceeds from this event are to benefit St Anthony's Scholarship fund. To download your application, visit their website or contact Ken @ 508-633-0704

NAM General Application for Scholarships

For MYO and High Schoolers: Range between \$1000 and \$2000 payable for 2 years.

For Colleges and Universities:

~USEK Scholarship: Available for college students; Summer 2020.

~NDU Scholarship: Available for college students; Spring/Fall 202

For more information and applications, visit www.namnews.org, namscholarships@gmail.com or call Nam @ 330-212-9207.

****Applications are due May 17th****

HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE

St. Theresa Church, 22 Plymouth Street, Methuen, MA, invites you to pray with them to end Abortion and respect life. An evening of prayer, readings, and music will be celebrated on the Feast of the Annunciation, Monday, March 25th @ 7 PM.



*Ronald Rolheiser***SEARCHING FOR THE RIGHT FUEL**

Sometimes everything can seem right on the surface while, deep down, nothing is right at all. We see this, for example, in the famous parable in the gospels about the Prodigal Son and his Older Brother. By every outward appearance the Older Brother is doing everything right: He's perfectly obedient to his father, is at home, and is doing everything his father asks of him. And, unlike his younger brother, he's not wasting his father's property on prostitutes and partying. He seems a model of generosity and morality.

However, as soon becomes obvious in the story, things are far from right. While his life looks so good on the outside, he is full of resentment and bitter moralizing inside and is, in fact, envious of his brother's amorality. What's happening? In essence, his actions are right, but his energy is wrong.

But, lest we judge him too harshly, we need to have the honesty to acknowledge that we all struggle in this way, at least if we are moral and generous. What is played out in the bitterness of the Older Brother is, in the astute words of Alice Miller, "the drama of the gifted child", namely, the resentment, self-pity, and propensity for bitter moralizing that inevitably besets those of us who don't stray from our duties, who do stay home, and who carry the brunt of the load for our families, churches, and communities. Sadly, often, the feeling we are left with when we give our lives over in sacrifice is not joy and gratitude for having been given the grace, opportunity, and good sense to stay home and serve but rather resentment that the load fell on our shoulders, that so many others dodged it, and that so many in the world are having a fling while we are on the straight and narrow. Too often, among us, good and honest people who are fighting for truth and God's cause, we find a spirit of bitter moralizing that colors and compromises both our generosity and our sacrifice. But I say this with sympathy: It's not easy to give oneself over, to forego one's dreams, ambitions, comfort, and pleasure for the sake of God, truth, duty, family, and community.

How might we do it? How might we imitate the fidelity of the Older Brother without falling into his envy, self-pity, and bitterness? Where can we access the right fuel to live out the Gospel?

As Christians, of course, we need to look at Jesus. He lived a life of radical generosity and self-surrender and yet never fell into the kind of self-pity that emanates from the sense of having missed out on something. He was never disappointed or bitter that he had given his life over. Nor indeed did he, like Hamlet, turn his renunciation into an existential tragedy, that of the lonely, alienated hero who is outwardly intriguing but not generative. Jesus remained always free, warm, forgiving, non-judgmental, and generative. Moreover, throughout this entire life of self-sacrifice, he always radiated a joy that shocked his contemporaries. What was his secret?

The answer, the gospels tell us, lies in the parable of the man who is ploughing a field and finds a buried treasure and in the parable of the merchant who after years of searching finds the pearl of great price. In each case, the man gives away everything he owns so that he can buy the treasure or the pearl. And what must be highlighted in each of these parables is that neither man regrets for a second what he had to give up but instead each acts out of the unspeakable joy of what he has discovered and what riches this is now going to bring into his life. Each man is so fuelled by the joy of what he has discovered that he is not focused on what he has given up.

Only in this kind of context can self-sacrifice make sense and be truly generative. If the pain of what is sacrificed overshadows the joy of what is discovered, that is, if the focus is more on what we have lost and given up rather than on what we have found, we will end up doing the right actions but with the wrong energy, carrying other people's crosses and sending them the bill. And we will be unable to stop ourselves from being judgmental, bitter, and secretly envious of the amoral.

To the very extent that we die to ourselves in order to live for others, we run the perennial risk of falling into the kind of bitterness that besets us whenever we feel we have missed out on something. That's an occupational hazard, a very serious one, inside Christian discipleship and the spiritual life in general. And so, our focus must always be on the treasure, the pearl of great price, the rich meaning, the self-authenticating joy that is the natural fruit of any real self-sacrifice. And that joyful energy will take us beyond self-pity and envy of the amoral.

READINGS

*Sunday of the Prodigal Son***2 Corinthians 13:5-13**

Brothers and Sisters: Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? unless, indeed, you fail to pass the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed. But we pray to God that you may not do anything wrong not that we may appear to have passed the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. This is what we pray for, that you may become perfect. So I write these things while I am away from you, so that when I come, I may not have to be severe in using the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down. Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. ***Praise be to God always!***

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 15:11-32

The Lord Jesus says: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe the best one and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." ' . ***This is the truth. Peace be with you.***

أحد مثل الابن الشاغل

القرارات

رسالة القديس بولس الثانية إلى أهل كورنثس 13:5-13

يا إخوتي، اِخْتَبِرُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ، هَلْ أَنْتُمْ رَاسِحُونَ فِي الْإِيمَانِ. اِمْتَحِنُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ. أَلَا تَعْرِفُونَ أَنَّ الْمَسِيحَ يَسُوعَ فِيكُمْ؟ إِذَا كُنْتُمْ مَرْفُوضِينَ! فَارْجُوا أَنْ تَعْرِفُوا أَنَّنَا نَحْنُ لَسْنَا مَرْفُوضِينَ! وَنُصَلِّي إِلَى اللَّهِ كَيْ لَا تَفْعَلُوا أَيَّ شَرٍّ، لَا لِتَنْظَهَرَ نَحْنُ مَقْبُولِينَ، بَلْ لِكَيْ تَفْعَلُوا أَنْتُمْ الْخَيْرَ، وَتَكُونَ نَحْنُ كَأَنَّنا مَرْفُوضُونَ! فَإِنَّا لَا نَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ نَفْعَلَ شَيْئًا ضِدَّ الْحَقِّ، بَلْ لِأَجْلِ الْحَقِّ! أَجَلْ، إِنَّنَا نَفْرَحُ عِنْدَمَا نَكُونُ نَحْنُ ضِعْفَاءَ، وَتَكُونُونَ أَنْتُمْ أَقْوِيَاءَ. مِنْ أَجْلِ هَذَا أَيْضًا نُصَلِّي لِكَيْ تَكُونُوا كَامِلِينَ. أَكْتُبُ هَذَا وَأَنَا غَائِبٌ، لِئَلَّا أَعَامِلَكُمْ بِقَسَاوَةٍ وَأَنَا حَاضِرٌ، بِالسُّلْطَانِ الَّذِي أَعْطَانِي إِيَّاهُ الرَّبُّ، لِئُبْنِيَانِكُمْ لَا لِهَدْمِكُمْ. وَبَعْدُ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةَ، اِفْرَحُوا، وَأَسْعُوا إِلَى الْكَمَالِ، وَتَشَجَّعُوا، وَكُونُوا عَلَى رَأْيِي وَاحِدٍ، وَعَيْشُوا فِي سَلَامٍ، وَإِلَهُ الْمَحَبَّةِ وَالسَّلَامِ يَكُونُ مَعَكُمْ! سَلِّمُوا بَعْضُكُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ بِقُبْلَةٍ مُقَدَّسَةٍ. جَمِيعُ الْقَدِيسِينَ يُسَلِّمُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ. نِعْمَةُ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، وَمَحَبَّةُ اللَّهِ، وَشَرَكَةُ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ مَعَكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ!

إنجيل القديس لوقا 15:11-32

«كَانَ لِرَجُلٍ ابْنَانِ. فَقَالَ اصْغَرُهُمَا لِأَبِيهِ: يَا أَبِي، أَعْطِنِي حِصَّتِي مِنَ الْمِيرَاثِ. فَفَسَمَّ لَهُمَا تَرَوْتَهُ. وَبَعْدَ أَيَّامٍ قَلِيلَةٍ، جَمَعَ الْابْنُ الْأَصْغَرُ كُلَّ حِصَّتِهِ، وَسَافَرَ إِلَى بَلَدٍ بَعِيدٍ. وَهُنَاكَ بَدَدَ مَالَهُ فِي حَيَاةِ الطَّيْشِ. وَلَمَّا أَنْفَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، حَدَّثَتْ فِي ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ مَجَاعَةٌ شَدِيدَةٌ، فَبَدَأَ يُحْسُ بِالْعَوَزِ. فَذَهَبَ وَاجَأَ إِلَى وَاحِدٍ مِنْ أَهْلِ ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ، فَأَرْسَلَهُ إِلَى حُفُولِهِ لِيَرَعَ الْخَنَازِيرَ. وَكَانَ يَشْتَهِي أَنْ يَمْلَأَ جَوْفَهُ مِنَ الْخَرُوبِ الَّذِي كَانَتْ الْخَنَازِيرُ تَأْكُلُهُ، وَلَا يُعْطِيهِ مِنْهُ أَحَدٌ. فَارْجَعَ إِلَى نَفْسِهِ وَقَالَ: كَمْ مِنَ الْأَجْرَاءِ عِنْدَ أَبِي، يَفْضَلُ الْخُبْزَ عَنْهُمْ، وَأَنَا هَهُنَا أَهْلِكُ جُوعًا! أَقُومُ وَأَمْضِي إِلَى أَبِي وَأَقُولُ لَهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدُ أَنْ أَدْعَى لَكَ ابْنًا. فَاجْعَلْنِي كَأَحَدِ أَجْرَانِكَ! فَفَقَامَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى أَبِيهِ. وَفِيمَا كَانَ لَا يِرَالُ بَعِيدًا، رَأَهُ أَبُوهُ، فَتَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهِ، وَأَسْرَعَ فَالْقَى بِنَفْسِهِ عَلَى عُنُقِهِ وَقَبَّلَهُ طَوِيلًا. فَقَالَ لَهُ ابْنُهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدُ أَنْ أَدْعَى لَكَ ابْنًا... فَقَالَ الْأَبُ لِعَبِيدِهِ: أَسْرِعُوا وَأَخْرِجُوا الْحُلَّةَ الْفَاجِرَةَ وَالْبِسُوهُ، وَأَجْعَلُوا فِي يَدِهِ خَاتَمًا، وَفِي رِجْلَيْهِ حِذَاءً، وَأَثُوا بِالْعِجْلِ الْمُسَمَّنِ وَأَذْبَحُوهُ، وَلِنَأْكُلَ وَنَتَنَعَّمَ! لِأَنَّ ابْنِي هَذَا كَانَ مَيْتًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فَوُجِدَ. وَبَدَأُوا يَتَنَعَّمُونَ. وَكَانَ ابْنُهُ الْأَكْبَرُ فِي الْحَقْلِ. فَلَمَّا جَاءَ وَأَقْتَرَبَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ، سَمِعَ غِنَاءً وَرَقْصًا. فَدَعَا وَاحِدًا مِنَ الْغُلَّامِ وَسَأَلَهُ: مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هَذَا؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ: جَاءَ أَخُوكَ، فَذَبَحَ أَبُوكَ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَقِيَهُ سَالِمًا. فَغَضِبَ وَلَمْ يَرِدْ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ. فَخَرَجَ أَبُوهُ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ. فَاجَابَ وَقَالَ لِأَبِيهِ: هَا أَنَا أَخْدُمُكَ كُلَّ هَذِهِ السِّنِينَ، وَلَمْ أُخَالِفْ لَكَ يَوْمًا أَمْرًا، وَلَمْ تُعْطِنِي مَرَّةً جَدِيًّا، لِأَتَتَنَعَّمَ مَعَ أَصْدِقَائِي. وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا جَاءَ ابْنُكَ هَذَا الَّذِي أَكَلَ تَرَوْتَكَ مَعَ الرُّوَائِي، ذَبَحْتَ لَهُ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ! فَقَالَ لَهُ أَبُوهُ: يَا وَلَدِي، أَنْتَ مَعِي فِي كُلِّ حِينٍ، وَكُلُّ مَا هُوَ لِي هُوَ لَكَ. وَلَكِنْ كَانَ يَنْبَغِي أَنْ نَتَنَعَّمَ وَنَفْرَحَ، لِأَنَّ أَخَاكَ هَذَا كَانَ مَيْتًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فَوُجِدَ.»

Pope Prayer Intentions - March 2019

Recognition of the Right of Christian Communities: That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.