

Joy to the World

He will be a joy and delight to you,
and many will rejoice because of his birth...

Luke 1:14

JOY: Jesus First, Others Second, You Third

Merry Christmas

ولد المسيح!! هلوليا

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 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

Genealogy of Jesus

أحد النسبة

Saturday, December 22 @ 4:00 PM

For: +Special Intentions, By the Pastor.

Sunday, December 23 @ 8:15 AM

In Honor of Hussein and Marie Youssef (Anniversary)

Sunday, December 23 @ 9:30 AM

For: +Marwan Ksaifi By Mr. & Mrs. Eddy Sfeir & Family

Sunday, December 23 @ 11:30 AM

For: 40 Day Anniversary - Abdo Abou Zeid, By the Family.

Christmas Liturgies

عيد الميلاد المجيد

Christmas Eve Liturgies

Vigil Liturgy: Monday December 24 @ 4PM

Midnight Liturgy December 25 @ 12 AM

Christmas Day Liturgies

Tuesday December 25-Arabic @ 10 AM

Tuesday December 25 -English & Arabic @ 11:30 AM

Christmas Vigil & Day Liturgies are offered for:

In Thanksgiving for Our Parishioners By the Pastor

Wednesday, December 26 @ 7 PM -Felicitations to Mary

For: Special Intentions By The Pastor

OFFICE IS CLOSED

Thursday, December 27 @ 7 PM—Feast of St Stephen

For: Special Intentions

Friday, December 28 - NO LITURGY

The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple

Saturday, December 29 @ 4:00 PM

For: +First Anniversary-Bomar Kramer,

By His wife Barbara, Children and Families

Sunday, December 30 @ 8:15 AM

For: +Special Intentions, By the Pastor.

Sunday, December 30 @ 9:30 AM

For: +Marwan Ksaifi By Mr. & Mrs. Eddy Sfeir & Family

Sunday, December 30 @ 11:30 AM

For: First Anniversary - Saadallah Azzi,

By his wife Nabihah, Daughter Rita and Family

CHRISTMAS

Poinsettias: In Loving Memory

Donated By	In Memory Of
<i>Victor Azzi</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Khalil S. Azzi / Mr. & Mrs. Elias Naffah
<i>Robert & Elaine Brousseau</i>	Corey Brousseau
<i>Christopher George & Family</i>	Donald George
<i>Olga Sarkis</i>	"Dan" Ghandour Sarkis
<i>Jeanne D'Arc Bistany</i>	"Chick" Checralla Bistany
<i>Theresa Solomon & Family</i>	Edmond Solomon/ Mr. & Mrs. Fred and Mary Faris Deceased members of the Solomon & Hatem Families
<i>Elaine Ferris</i>	Jennie & Toufi Ferris & Family/ Anna & Antonio Ricci & Family Mary & Joseph Ferris & Family
<i>Beverly & Bob Schiripo</i>	Rose & Peter Lucchesi / Mary Shadeed / Fred & Stephanie Schiripo
<i>Mounir & Ramona Bou-Mitri</i>	Romanos Nammour
<i>Abboud Safi</i>	Kamel Safi, Yvonne Safi & Hanna Aoun
<i>Rodney & Mary Pica</i>	Sadie Souma
<i>Mary Nasser & His Loving Family</i>	Fred Nasser
<i>Albert Lahood</i>	Abraham Normand Lahood, Angele Meccas Lahood, Eva Lahood Gabour, Joseph W. Lahood
<i>Noreen Murphy & sons, Timothy & Daniel</i>	Denis J. Murphy
<i>Phyllis Thomas</i>	John Thomas
<i>Bill, Christine & Maddi Ryan</i>	John Thomas
<i>Children of</i>	James & Margaret Hajj
<i>Barbara Kramer</i>	Bomar G. Kramer
<i>Bernice Spencer & Cecelia Hatem</i>	Deceased Members of Our Family
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Kamari</i>	Farideh Tadros, Fahd Kamari, Antoine Tadros, Nabiha Youssef
<i>Katy Abraham</i>	Al Abraham Jr, Stephanie Abraham
<i>A Grateful Parishioner</i>	Stephanie Ota
<i>Therese Jbeily</i>	Elias Jbeily, Cherfan Family, Abou-Fayssal Family
<i>George Kalil Family</i>	Eli & Helen Kalil, Margaret Kalil McDonough, Carol Ann Kalil, Elaine Kalil Ahearn
<i>Teresa & Jamil Kamari</i>	Rita Pastore, Fahd Kamari, & Emilio Venturi
<i>Walid El Khoury</i>	Elia El Khoury, Antoinette El Khoury, Gergis & Jamila Merheb, Hanna & Akla Merheb
<i>John Hassan</i>	Deceased Members of the Hassan Family
<i>Tuffic & Rosine Hatem</i>	Diana B. Hatem
<i>Venize, Bob Mason & Children</i>	Diana B. Hatem
<i>Mr & Mrs Fred Corey</i>	Dr. & Mrs. Edward Moore
<i>Joan Taga</i>	Julie & Phillip Taga, Frederich Taga, Our Grandparents
<i>Jean Foley</i>	Edward Foley, Peter & Nellie Ackarey
<i>Joan Hatem-Roy</i>	Albert & Lorraine Hatem
<i>Habbouba Mouawad & Family</i>	Maroun Mouawad
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Simon Mouawad</i>	Nazira & Elias ElKazzi
<i>John & Patty Thomas & Family</i>	John Thomas Sr.
<i>Robert & Joanne Comtois</i>	Janet Maroun
<i>Dr. & Mrs. George Abou-Ezzi</i>	Jeannette Lahoud Nasr, Antoine Abou-Ezzi, Mike & Marie-Noel Nassar
<i>Danny & Chantale Fadel Maroun</i>	Joseph Maroun, Kilikia Maroun, Fadlallah Fadel, Alice Fadel, Raymond Fadel
<i>Michael Faris</i>	George & Elsie Faris
<i>Scot & Logan Gabriel</i>	Laura Gabriel
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Bistany</i>	Roy Bistany, Fadlallah & Adele Bistany, Phil & Susan Nicolas Mike Bistany, Rocco & Jane Ditaranto
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Abdo Abou Raad</i>	Nehmeh Abou Raad & Micheline Azzi
<i>John Belko Sr & Family</i>	Joyce M. Daher Belko
<i>Donna & Christine Kattar</i>	Tom & Victoria Kattar and Frances Coccoza
<i>Barbara Bistany</i>	Samuel & Louise Bistany

CHRISTMAS

Poinsettias: In Honor of

Donated By	In Honor Of
<i>Bechara & Rima Wazen</i>	Laurice, Elie, Maroun Wazen
<i>Elie, Maria, Laura Wazen</i>	Maroun Sayssouk
<i>Albert Lahood</i>	Sally Lahood
<i>A Grateful Parishioner</i>	Fr. Elie Mikhael, Mother & Family
<i>Bernice Spencer & Cecelia Hatem</i>	Living Members of Our Family
<i>Walid El Khoury</i>	Walid & Mona El Khoury, Farah & Ryan El Khoury
<i>John Hassan</i>	Fr. Joseph Abisaad
<i>Dr. & Mrs. George Abou-Ezzi</i>	Our sons Marc & Michael (Mikey) and daughters Monica & Mia, All of our Godchildren, & Parents: Sonia Abou-Ezzi, Joseph Nasr
<i>Mansor-Laliberte</i>	Elias & Rose Mansor & Children, Nicholas & Effie Debs, & Children
<i>Jihad and Hilda Rizkallah</i>	Jihad & Hilda Rizkallah & Family, Mounir & Najat Rizkallah
<i>Michael Faris</i>	Addison & Olivia Leavitt
<i>Christine Kattar</i>	Donna Kattar



PARISH

MINISTRIES , ORGANIZATIONS & NEWS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Susan Veilleux ccd@stanthonylawrence.org

There will be no Religious Education for the weeks of December 23 and December 30.

Classes will resume on January 6. Thank you to all the families who continue to support the importance of our Maronite Religious Education by bringing your children week after week to class.

On behalf of the entire Religious Education staff we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

KNIGHTS OF MARY

Marie Charabati kom@stanthonylawrence.org

◇ January 5 (Regular Session)

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

KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Sub-Deacon James Demers

Meeting: Saturday, January 5th @ 11AM

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Meeting: Tuesday, January 15th @ 7 PM

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, January 6th: Nursing home Visit



MYO CHRISTMAS PARTY

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28TH
6:00PM – 8:30PM**

WEAR YOUR UGLY SWEATER!



BEST ONE WINS A PRIZE!

FOOD, GAMES, PRIZES!

YANKEE SWAP

BRING A UNISEX GIFT (MAX. \$15 VALUE) TO JOIN THE SWAP

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

January 9 @ 10:30AM

English Session

January 9 @ 7:00PM

Arabic Session

Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament
Resuming After New Year



FAMILY OF ST SHARBEL
Resuming After New Year

تعاود عائلة مار شربل لقائها
أشهري في السنة القادمة

وع م ش ي
ج LET'S LEARN ARABIC ط

Learn Arabic !!!
Stay Tuned !!!
Classes to begin in January 2019
On Saturday Mornings.

Classes are limited to Children age 7 and up
Program: Reading, Writing and Speaking
Cost per Semester: \$300 - Materials Included

MINISTRIES @

WOMEN @ ST ANTHONY CHURCH

wine+
Women IN the New Evangelization

COMING SOON !!!!

A NEW MINISTRY FOR WOMEN

COMING TO OUR CHURCH

The Lord said to St. Francis, "Rebuild my Church," for such a time as this, the Lord is calling to women, asking them to work in the beauty of their natural gifts as women, and is saying to them, "Heal my body."

جمعية سيدة لبنان للنساء

جمعية سيدة لبنان
يفتح باب الأنتساب في بداية
السنة الجديدة

يسعى عضو الأخوية إلى أن
يكون إنساناً ناضجاً ومسيحياً
عميقاً ورسولاً في المجتمع من
خلال الالتزام في دعوة
ورسالة الكنيسة في العالم



Our Lady of Lebanon Ladies Guild , an outreach to women who speak Arabic to nurture their faith and to nature their cultural background

Pope Prayer Intentions—December 2018 Evangelization : In the Service of the Transmission of Faith That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

READINGS

Genealogy Sunday

Romans 1:1-12: Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you — or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

Matthew 1:1-17 An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations

LECTORS

Saturday, December 22 - 4:00 PM Roy Rossi

Sunday, December 23 - 8:15 AM Hugette Sfeir

Sunday, December 23 - 9:30 AM Elaine Brousseau

Sunday, December 23 - 11:30 AM

English: Raghida Ramey **Arabic:** Claudine Raad

Saturday, December 29 - 4:00 PM Dianne Dewan

Sunday, December 30 - 8:15 AM Maroun Nassar

Sunday, December 30 - 9:30 AM Elaine Ferris

Sunday, December 30 - 11:30 AM

English: Elias Azzi **Arabic:** Sleiman Ramy

أحد النسبة

القرارات

من بولس عبد المسيح يسوع، الذي دُعي ليكون رسولاً، وفرز لإنجيل الله، هذا الإنجيل الذي وعد به الله من قبل، بأنبيائه في الكتب المقدسة، في شأن ابنه الذي ولد بحسب الجسد من نسل داود، وجعل بحسب روح القداسة ابن الله بقوة أي بالقيامة من بين الأموات، وهو يسوع المسيح ربنا؛ به نلنا النعمة والرسالة لكي نهدى إلى طاعة الإيمان جميع الأمم، لمجد اسمه؛ ومن بينهم أنتم أيضاً مدعوون لتكونوا ليسوع المسيح؛ إلى جميع الذين في روما، إلى أحبباء الله، المدعوين ليكونوا قديسين: النعمة لكم والسلام من الله أبينا والرب يسوع المسيح! قبل كل شيء، أشكر إلهي يسوع المسيح من أجلكم جميعاً، لأن إيمانكم يُنادى به في العالم كله. يشهد عليّ الله، الذي أعبده بروحي، بحسب إنجيل ابنه، أنني أذكركم بغير انقطاع، ضارعاً في صلواتي على الدوام أن يتيسر لي يوماً، بمشيئة الله، أن آتي إليكم. فإني أتشوق أن أراكم، لأشرككم في موهبة روحية وأشددكم، أي لأتعرى معكم وبينكم بإيماني وإيمانكم المشترك.

كتاب ميلاد يسوع المسيح، ابن داود، ابن إبراهيم: إبراهيم ولد إسحق، إسحق ولد يعقوب، يعقوب ولد يهوذا وإخوته، يهوذا ولد فارص وزارح من تمار، فارص ولد حصرون، حصرون ولد آرام، آرام ولد عميناداب، عميناداب ولد نحشون، نحشون ولد سلمون، سلمون ولد بوعر من راحاب، بوعر ولد عوبيد من راعوت، عوبيد ولد يسي، يسي ولد داود الملك داود ولد سليمان من امرأة أوريا، سليمان ولد رحبعام، رحبعام ولد أبيا، أبيا ولد آسا، آسا ولد يوشافاط، يوشافاط ولد يورام، يورام ولد عوزيا، عوزيا ولد يوتام، يوتام ولد آحاز، آحاز ولد حزقيا، حزقيا ولد منسى، منسى ولد أمون، أمون ولد يوشيا، يوشيا ولد يوكنيا وإخوته، وكان السبي إلى بابل. بعد السبي إلى بابل، يوكنيا ولد شالتييل، شالتييل ولد زربابل، زربابل ولد أبيهود، أبيهود ولد إلياقيم، إلياقيم ولد عازور، عازور ولد صادوق، صادوق ولد أخيم، أخيم ولد إليهود، إليهود ولد إليعازر، إليعازر ولد مثنان، مثنان ولد يعقوب، يعقوب ولد يوسف رجل مريم، التي منها ولد يسوع، وهو الذي يدعى المسيح. فجميع الأجيال من إبراهيم إلى داود أربعة عشر جيلاً، ومن داود إلى سبي بابل أربعة عشر جيلاً، ومن سبي بابل إلى المسيح أربعة عشر جيلاً.

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, December 22 - 4:00 PM
Elias Saab Sharbel Saab
Sunday, December 23 - 8:15 AM Volunteers
Sunday, December 23 - 9:30 AM
George Hbaiter Max Sheehan
Sunday, December 23 - 11:30 AM
Anthony Chamoun Anthony Sadek
Charbel Sadek Giorgio Abounasr

Saturday, December 29 - 4:00 PM
Elias Saab Sharbel Saab
Sunday, December 30 - 8:15 AM Volunteers
Sunday, December 30 - 9:30 AM
Caleb Hassan Noah Hassan
Sunday, December 30 - 11:30 AM
Andrew Azzi Elias Azzi
Michael Lalo Michael Merheb

READINGS

Christmas: Feast of Birth of Our Lord

Letter to the Hebrews 1,1-12.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.' Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.' But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.' And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 2,1-20.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS**Right Sanctuary Lamp**

This week's Sanctuary Lamp will burn

In Memory of Saadallah Azzi

Offered by his wife, Nabihah, daughter, Rita, & Family.

Left Sanctuary Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp will burn

In Memory of Saadallah Azzi

Offered by Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Azzi

عيد الميلاد المجيد

القرارات

الرسالة إلى العبرانيين 12:1-1

يا إخواني، إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَلَّمَ الآبَاءَ قَدِيمًا فِي الْأَنْبِيَاءِ، مَرَّاتٍ كَثِيرَةٍ، وَبأَنْوَاعٍ شَتَّى، وَفِي آخِرِ هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامِ، كَلَّمَنَا فِي الْإِبْنِ، الَّذِي جَعَلَهُ وَارثًا لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ. وَبِهِ أَنْشَأَ الْعَالَمِينَ. وَهُوَ شِعَاعٌ مَجْدِهِ وَصُورَةُ جَوْهَرِهِ، وَضَابِطُ الْكُلِّ بِكَلِمَةٍ قُدْرَتِهِ. فَبَعْدَمَا أَنْتَمُ تَطْهِيرَ الْخَطَايَا، جَلَسَ عَنِ يَمِينِ الْجَلَالَةِ فِي الْأَعَالِي، فَصَارَ أَعْظَمَ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ، بِمَقْدَارِ مَا الْأَسْمُ الَّذِي وَرَثَهُ أَفْضَلُ مِنْ أَسْمَائِهِمْ. فَلَمَنْ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَوْمًا: «أَنْتَ ابْنِي، أَنَا الْيَوْمَ وَلَدْتُكَ؟» وَقَالَ أَيْضًا: «أَنَا أَكُونُ لَهُ أَبًا، وَهُوَ يَكُونُ لِي أَبْنًا؟» أَمَا عِنْدَمَا يُدْخِلُ ابْنَهُ الْبِكْرَ إِلَى الْعَالَمِ فَيَقُولُ: «فَلْتَسَجُدْ لَهُ جَمِيعُ مَلَائِكَةِ اللَّهِ!». «وَعَنِ الْمَلَائِكَةِ يَقُولُ: «أَلصَّانِعُ مَلَائِكَتَهُ أَرْوَاحًا، وَخُدَامَهُ لَهَيْبِ نَارٍ. «أَمَا عَنِ الْإِبْنِ فَيَقُولُ: «عَرْشُكَ يَا اللَّهُ، لِدَهْرٍ الدَّهْرِ، وَصَوْلَجَانِ الْأَسْتِقَامَةِ صَوْلَجَانِ مُلْكِكَ. أَحْبَبْتَ الْبِرَّ وَأَبْغَضْتَ الْإِثْمَ. لِذَلِكَ مَسَحَكَ إِلَهَكَ، يَا اللَّهُ، بِدُهْنِ الْبَهْجَةِ أَفْضَلَ مِنْ شَرَكَايِكَ. «وَيَقُولُ أَيْضًا: «أَنْتَ، يَا رَبِّ، فِي الْبَدْءِ أَسَسْتَ الْأَرْضَ، وَالسَّمَاوَاتِ صُنْعَ يَدَيْكَ. هِيَ تَزُولُ وَأَنْتَ تَبْقَى، وَكُلُّهَا كَالثَّوْبِ تَبْلَى، وَتَطْوِيهَا كَالرِّدَاءِ، وَكَالثَّوْبِ تَتَبَدَّلُ، وَأَنْتَ أَنْتَ وَسُوءُكَ لَنْ تَفْنَى

إنجيل القديس لوقا 20:2-1

فِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ، صَدَرَ أَمْرٌ مِنْ أَعُوسَطُسَ قَيْصَرَ بِإِحْصَاءِ كُلِّ الْمَعْمُورَةِ. جَرَى هَذَا الْإِحْصَاءُ الْأَوَّلُ، عِنْدَمَا كَانَ كِيرِينْيُوسُ وَالْيَا عَلَى سُورِيَا. وَكَانَ الْجَمِيعُ يَذْهَبُونَ، كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ إِلَى مَدِينَتِهِ، لِيَكْتَتِبُوا فِيهَا. وَصَعِدَ يُوسُفُ أَيْضًا مِنَ الْجَلِيلِ، مِنْ مَدِينَةِ النَّاصِرَةِ، إِلَى الْيَهُودِيَّةِ، إِلَى مَدِينَةِ دَاوُدَ الَّتِي تُدْعَى بَيْتَ لَحْمٍ، لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ مِنْ بَيْتِ دَاوُدَ وَعَشِيرَتِهِ، لِيَكْتَتِبَ مَعَ مَرْيَمَ خَطِيبَتِهِ، وَهِيَ حَامِلٌ. وَفِيمَا كَانَا هُنَاكَ، تَمَّتْ أَيَّامُهَا لِتَلِدَ، فَوَلَدَتْ ابْنَهَا الْبِكْرَ، وَقَمَطَتْهُ، وَأَضْجَعَتْهُ فِي مِذْوَدٍ، لِأَنَّهُ لَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُمَا مَوْضِعٌ فِي قَاعَةِ الضِّيُوفِ. وَكَانَ فِي تِلْكَ النَّاحِيَةِ رُعَاةٌ يُقِيمُونَ فِي الْحُقُوفِ، وَيَسْهَرُونَ فِي هَجَعَاتِ اللَّيْلِ عَلَى فُطَعَانِهِمْ. فَإِذَا بِمَلَاكِ الرَّبِّ قَدْ وَقَفَ بِهِمْ، وَمَجَّدَ الرَّبَّ أَشْرَقَ حَوْلَهُمْ، فَخَافُوا خَوْفًا عَظِيمًا. فَقَالَ لَهُمُ الْمَلَاكُ: «لَا تَخَافُوا! فَهَذَا أَنَا أَبَشِّرُكُمْ بِفَرَحٍ عَظِيمٍ يَكُونُ لِلشَّعْبِ كُلِّهِ، لِأَنَّهُ وُلِدَ لَكُمْ الْيَوْمَ مُخَلِّصٌ، هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ الرَّبُّ، فِي مَدِينَةِ دَاوُدَ. وَهَذِهِ عَلَامَةٌ لَكُمْ: تَجِدُونَ طِفْلًا مَقْمَطًا، مُضْجَعًا فِي مِذْوَدٍ!». «وَأَنْضَمَّ فَجَاءَهُ إِلَى الْمَلَاكِ جُمُهورٌ مِنَ الْجُنْدِ السَّمَاوِيِّ يَسْبِخُونَ اللَّهَ وَيَقُولُونَ: أَلْمَجْدُ لِلَّهِ فِي الْعُلَى، وَعَلَى الْأَرْضِ السَّلَامُ، وَالرَّجَاءُ الصَّالِحُ لِبَنِي الْبَشَرِ. وَلَمَّا أَنْصَرَفَ الْمَلَائِكَةُ عَنْهُمْ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ، قَالَ الرَّعَاةُ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ: «هَيَّا بِنَا، إِلَى بَيْتِ لَحْمٍ، لِنَرَى هَذَا الْأَمْرَ الَّذِي حَدَّثَ، وَقَدْ أَعْلَمْنَا بِهِ الرَّبُّ. «وَجَاءُوا مُسْرِعِينَ، فَوَجَدُوا مَرْيَمَ وَيُوسُفَ، وَالطِّفْلَ مُضْجَعًا فِي الْمِذْوَدِ. وَلَمَّا رَأَوْهُ أَخْبَرُوا بِالْكَلامِ الَّذِي قِيلَ لَهُمْ فِي شَأْنِ هَذَا الصَّبِيِّ. وَجَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ سَمِعُوا، تَعَجَّبُوا مِمَّا قَالَهُ لَهُمُ الرَّعَاةُ. أَمَا مَرْيَمُ فَكَانَتْ تَحْفَظُ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورَ كُلَّهَا، وَتَتَأَمَّلُهَا فِي قَلْبِهَا. ثُمَّ عَادَ الرَّعَاةُ وَهُمْ يُمَجِّدُونَ اللَّهَ وَيُسَبِّحُونَهُ عَلَى كُلِّ مَا سَمِعُوا وَرَأَوْا، حَسَبَمَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ.

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS

Right Sanctuary Lamp

This Christmas & New Year
Sanctuary Lamp will burn

In Honor of Our Parishioners by Fr. Elie Mikhael
and St Anthony Clergy family.

Left Sanctuary Lamp

This Christmas & New Year
Sanctuary Lamp will burn

In Honor of Our Parishioners by Fr. Elie
Mikhael and St Anthony Clergy Team.

TITHES & OFFERINGS

December 23

Sunday Collection (Online)	\$ 3,179.00
Candles	\$ 105.90
Poinsettias & Decorations	\$ 623.00
Donations (Masses, Baptism, Calendars, Arabic Books Pastor Charities)	\$ 485.00
Fuel	\$ 210.00
Christmas Offerings	\$ 65.00
Total Deposit	\$ 4,667.90

Fuel Collection Envelopes

Throughout the winter months, you will notice a Fuel collection Envelope. Be advised that this collection is taken for us to help defer the costs of the Church heating bill. We thank you for your attention to this matter.

GIFT CARDS FOR MEALS

Our gratitude to the following organizations: *Knights of Columbus* for 6 Cards, value of \$300 *Lebanese Info Center - Methuen Chapter* \$500
Thank you for your kindness in donating Gift Cards for meals!

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?)



News

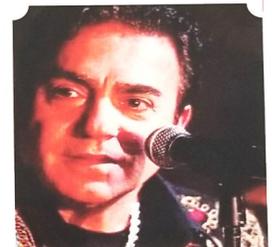
Neighboring Events

SAINT BASIL SEMINARY
2019
FAMILY NEW YEAR Party
PERFORMANCE BY
ANDRE KEEDY
MON, DEC 31ST
\$85 PER ADULT; \$20 FOR 12 YEARS & UNDER (BABY SITTER PROVIDED)
FULL LEBANESE MEZZA; SWEETS; CASH BAR
ST. BASIL SEMINARY - 30 EAST ST, METHUEN 01844
DOORS OPEN AT 9PM
FOR RESERVATION PLEASE CALL: (978) 683-2959; SAINTBASILSEMINARY

SAINT JOSEPH'S MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

241 Hampshire St. • Lawrence, Mass. 01841
Celebrating the Baptism of Our Lord, Theophany
Sunday, January 6th 2019
from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Admission:
\$45.00 Adults
\$20.00 Children under 12
For Tickets Please Call:
Judy Farrah: 978-683-7624
Jeanane Kassis: 603-401-4740
Lara Francis: 978-902-1033
Arabic Mazza, Buffet and Dessert



Music by George Maalouf and ensemble

OUTSIDE THE CITY By Ronald Rolheiser

God, it seems, favors the powerless, the unnoticed, children, babies, outsiders, and refugees with no resources or place to go.

That's why Jesus was born outside the city, in a stable, unnoticed, outside all fanfare, away from all major media, and away from all the persons and events that were deemed important at the time, humble and anonymous. God works like that. Why?

In the rock opera, Jesus Christ Superstar, that question is asked of Jesus: Why'd you choose such a backward time in such a strange land? If you'd come today you could have reached a whole nation. Israel in 4 BC had no mass communication.

Scripture answers by telling us that God's ways are not our ways and our ways are not God's ways. That's true here. We tend to understand power by how it works in our world. There it works through popularity, through mass media, through historical privilege, through financial clout, through higher education, through idiosyncratic genius, and, not infrequently, through raw aggression, greed, and insensitivity to the needs of others and of nature.

But even a quick reading of scripture tells us that's not how God works. The God that Jesus incarnates doesn't enter into this world with a huge splash, as a royal birth eagerly anticipated and then announced by all the major media outlets, with photos of him and his parents on the cover of every popular magazine, with universal predictions as to his future greatness and influence, and then with privileged access to the best educational institutions and circles of power and influence.

Clearly, clearly, that's not the story of Jesus' birth, nor of how his life unfolded. God, as scripture shows, works more through anonymity than through the headlines, more through the poor than the powerful, and more through those outside the circles of power than those inside them. When we examine how God works, we see it's no accident that Jesus was born outside the city and that after he was crucified he was also buried outside the city.

God's work in our world generally does not make the headlines. God never breaks into our world or into our consciousness by showy displays of power. God works more discretely, in quiet, touching soul, touching conscience, and touching that previously touched part inside of us where we still unconsciously bear the memory of once, long before birth, being touched, caressed, and loved by God. That's why Christ was born into this world as a baby and not as superstar, as someone whose only power was the capacity to touch and soften the hearts of those around him. Babies overpower no one, physically, intellectually, or athletically. They lie helpless and cry for love and care. That's why, paradoxically, at the end of the day, they're more powerful than anyone else. No physical, intellectual, or athletic power can ultimately touch the human conscience as can a baby – and similar sights of innocent helplessness, a wounded bird, an abandoned kitten, a young child alone and crying. What's best in us enflames, healthily, in the presence of powerlessness and innocence.

That's how God enters into us, gently, unnoticed. No big splash. That's also why God tends to bypass circles of power to favor the abandoned and vulnerable. For example, when the Gospel of Luke records how John the Baptist came to be specially blessed, it takes a scathing swipe at both the civic and religious powers of its time. It names all the major civil and religious leaders of the time (the Roman rulers, the kings in Palestine, and the religious high priests) and then tells us plainly that the word of God bypassed them all and came instead to John, a solitary, living in the wilderness. (Luke 3, 1-3) According to the Gospels, the wilderness is where we're most likely to find and experience God's presence because God tends to bypasses the centers of power and influence to find a place instead in the hearts of those outside those circles.

You see this too, though admittedly without the same theological weight as is manifest in scripture, in the various apparitions of Mary, Jesus' mother, that have been approved by the church. What's common to all of them? Mary has never appeared to a president, a pope, a major religious leader, a Wall Street banker, the CEO of a major company, or even to an academic theologian in his study. None of these. She's appeared to children, to a young woman of no earthly importance, to an illiterate peasant, and to various other persons of no worldly status.

We tend to understand power as residing in financial influence, political clout, charismatic talent, media influence, physical strength, athletic prowess, grace, health, wit, and attractiveness. On the surface, that assessment is accurate enough, and indeed none of these are bad in themselves. But, looked at more deeply, as we see in the birth of Christ, God's word bypasses the centers of power and gestates instead in the hearts and consciences of those outside the city.