WEEKLY BULLETIN: THE SEASON OF GREAT LENT - ST. ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH - MARCH 07, 2021

I am the prodigal son every time I search for unconditional love where it cannot be found.

HENRI NOUWEN

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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

PARISH SECRETARY: 978.685.7233 ... rectory@stanthonylawrence.org **MEET OUR PRIESTS:**

Fr. Elie Mikhael305-807-9087.... pastor@stanthonylawrence.org Fr. Manuel Rahmeh ...978-873-5363...pv@stanthonylawrence.org

MEET OUR DEACONS

Deacon Nadim B. Daou /Deacon Michael Charchaflian Sub-Deacon James T. Demers / Sub-Deacon Antoine Nammour

SACRAMENTS

Baptism & Confirmation: *1 month in advance with the Pastor* **Donations:** *Church & Priest: \$200*

Matrimony: Couples should make arrangements six months prior to the wedding date

Donations: Church \$500—Priest : Free Will

Reconciliation: One hour Before Thursday & Saturday Liturgies, or by appointment

Anointing of the Sick: *Please notify the Rectory if a member of your family is ill, hospitalized, or unable to come to Church and would like to receive communion at home*

Please refer to our website for more Sacrament Celebrations Guidelines.



facebook.com/SaintAnthonyLawrence

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

Hours of Liturgical services changed due to COVID-19

Weekday Liturgies Mon - Thu: 9:00 AM

Saturday Liturgies: 4:00 PM Vigil (English)

Sunday Liturgies: 9:00 AM (English) 11:00 AM (English & Arabic)

Holy days of obligation: Vigil Liturgy @ 7:00 PM

OFFICE HOURS M-TH: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM Friday: 9:00 AM-2:00 PM Saturdays: By Appointment

SUNDAYS & WEEKLY LITURGIES

Sunday of the Parable of the Prodigal Son - أحد مثل الإبن الضّال Fourth Sunday of Great Lent - الأحد الرابع من الصوم الكبير

Sat 4:00 PM	Mar. o6 English	For: + Peter Bijjani By his daughter Micheline Bijjani Dabrowski
Sun 9:00 AM	Mar. 07 English	For: 40 Day Anniversary - Philip Gabriel By his family
11:00 AM	Ara/Eng Church	For: 40 Day Anniversary - Zakia Geryes Diab wife of Youssef Geryes Haddad By her Son Moussa Haddad and Family For: Andy & Micheline Dabrowski In Honor of Stephanie Sayegh By her Grandmother
Mon 9:00 AM	Mar. o8	 For: + Jamil, Angel and Nadia Abd El-Hay & + Edward Maalouf By Mr. & Mrs. Beshara and Huguette Sfeir For: The intentions and donors of Catholic Extension
Tue 9:00 AM	Mar. 09	For: + Rocco Rossi By Theresa Rossi, Donna & Roy and Lisa & Robert Rossi
Wed 9:00 AM	Mar. 10	For: Souls in Purgatory <i>By Lili Bijjani</i> For: The intentions and donors of Catholic Extension
Thu 9:00 AM	Mar. 11	 For: + Larry and Dora M. Pereira and Souls in Purgatory by Dora Pereira For: The intentions and donors of Catholic Extension 9:30 AM-12:00 Noon: ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Fri 7:00 PM	Mar. 12	Stations of the Cross
		ay : Healing of the Paralytic - أحد شفاء المخلّع ifth Sunday of Great Lent - الأحد الخامس من الصوم الكبير
Sat 4:00 PM	Mar. 13 English	For: 1st Year Anniversary - Assad Saysouk By his daughter Rima wife of Mr. Beshara Wazen and family
Sun 9:00 AM	Mar. 14 English	For: + Thomas & Dorothy Hajj By their Children
11:00 AM	Ara/Eng Church	For: 40 Day Anniversary - Helena Lalo By her Son Elie Lalo and Family For: In Honor of Mark Abou-Ezzi and Msgr. Issam Abi Khalil By Dr. and Mrs. Georges & Mirna Abou-Ezzi

TITHES & OFFERINGS WEEKLY / MONTHLY / ANNUAL GIVING COMMITMENT



stanthonylawrence.org/donate-now/

PALM SUNDAY - HOLY WEEK— EASTER

PALM SUNDAY SATURDAY MARCH 27 @ 4PM SUNDAY MARCH 28 8 AM –ARABIC 9AM –ENGLISH 11AM-CHURCH & HALL (Arabic & English)

HOLY WEEK

MONDAY MARCH 29 @ 7PM Coming to Harbor

WEDNESDAY MARCH 31 @ 7PM

Rite of Lamp Blessing & Anointing with Oil

THURSDAY APRIL 1 @ 7PM Washing of Feet followed by Adoration (10pm)

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 2

Adoration of the Cross 5PM (English) 7PM (Arabic & English)

EASTER VIGIL APRIL 3 4PM -ENGLISH

MIDNIGHT LITURGY -(Arabic & English)

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 4

9AM –ENGLISH 11AM-CHURCH & HALL (Arabic & English)

EASTER BAKE SALE

Pay with Venmo, Cash , Check & CC

Maamoul 6pieces: **\$9**

.....walnutspistachios......dates

Kaak 6pieces: \$5

Sablet 6pieces: \$5

(w/apricot jam) Macaroon......6pieces: **\$5**

(with walnuts)

Ghraybeh 6pieces: \$5

Nammoura......6pieces: \$7

Knafe Box \$40

Pick Up......weekend of Palm Sunday Order Now Bassima 603.571.3003 Rectory 978.685.7233

To defray the following expenses:

Building Insurance: \$18,68.00 Diocesan Appeal: \$23,000.00 Bishop Appeal: \$ 7,500.00 Existing Salaries

The drawing will be held Easter weekend and the prizes will be

Prize 1: \$5000

Prize 2: \$2500

Prize 3: \$1000

Tickets Collected: 230 Tickets Out of 945 tickets mailed



CASH PRIZES Prize 1: \$5000 Prize 2: \$2500 Prize 3: \$1000 CASH, CHECKS, CC & VENMO ACCEPTED

RAFFLE DRAWING SUNDAY APRIL 4, 2021 @ NOON

DCG FOUNDATION - APPLY NOW

Awarded in memory of Dorothy C. Gabriel. Awarded to members of St Anthony Maronite Church who will be attending Central Catholic High School.

Application Form:

https://www.dcgfoundation.com/



Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

السلام عليكَ يا حامي المخلّص، وخطّيبَ العذراء مريم. لقد ائتمنك الله على ابنه؛ وبكَ وضعَت مريم ثقتها؛ ومعكَ صارَ يسوغُ رجلًا. أيّها الطوباوي يوسف، كنْ أبًا لنا نحن أيضًا، وأرشِدنا في درب الحياة. التَمِسْ لنا النعمةَ والرحمةَ والشجاعةَ، واحْمِنا من كلّ شرّ. آمين.

Prayer by Pope Francis. "Year of Saint Joseph" from 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021.)

BIBLE STUDY

Arabic and English Sessions are taking place every Wednesday. For more info send an email to: rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

<u>MYA</u>

Upcoming Activities: **March 14, 2021** Snowmobiling Liturgy @ 9AM followed by breakfast Departure at 10:30AM

<u>MYO</u>

Upcoming Meeting March 14, 2021 @ 6:00 PM *Adoration & Confessions* Pot luck to follow : **Parish Hall**

Religious Education

We are so excited to consistently see the children in person for Religious Education!!!! Our next class will be held on **Saturday**, **March 6 @ 5:15 PM**.

We will be sending home Lenten rice bowls as we have done in the past.

Any contributions made are appreciated.

If your child is making First Communion in May, please note the following important dates and times. We will be having only one liturgy this year.

Saturday, March 6, 2021 @ 5:15 PM Reconciliation

Your child should be able to recite The Our Father, The Hail Mary, and the Act of Contrition. These have been provided and are reviewed in class, but your practice with your child is necessary.

Saturday, May 1, 2021 @ 1:300 PM First Communion liturgy

See your guidelines for further information on communion dress and expectations.

Knights of the Altar

Next meeting : March 6

TREE OF LIFE

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES BY PUTTING THEIR NAMES ON TREE OF LIFE BRASS ALUMINUM PLAQUES SIZES:

1.5" X 3" = \$75 / 3"X 6"= \$150 / 4"X8"= \$250 Please submit your request either by

Phone: 978.685.7233

or by E-mail:

rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

AVAILABLE ONLINE

www.stanthonylawrence.org

PARISH RESOURCES

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

Religious Education: <u>cd@stanthonylawrence.orq</u> Knights of Mary: <u>kom@stanthonylawrence.orq</u> Maronite Youth -MYO: <u>myo@stanthonylawrence.orq</u>

Publishing: Bulletin: bulletin@stanthonylawrence.org

Choirs (English, Arabic & Syriac)

Daughter's of St. Anthony—Family of St. Sharbel - Kids Choir -Knights of the Altar Maronite Young Adults -M-WINE Bereavement Ministry -Cenacle of the Rosary - Cenacle of Divine Mercy -Sacristan (s) -Sunshine Committee—Women's Ministry

CEMETERY LOT SALES AND AVAILABILITY

Saint Anthony Cemetery offers affordable payment plans to fit any family's budget. For more information:

By Phone (*During Office Hours*) 978-685-7233 or email <u>rectory@stanthonylawrence.org</u> Or by visiting: <u>www.stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/</u>

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.

ONLINE BURIAL SEARCH

UPDATE YOUR LOVED ONES RECORD !!

The following steps will help you access the tool:

- 1. Go to www.stanthonylawrence.org
- 2. Scroll to the bottom and click on BURIAL ONLINE SEARCH.
- 3. Type in the last/first name or in some cases just last name and click search.
- 4. Click on the name.
- 5. In the middle of the page, look for "Do you know more about this person or their ancestors"? Click here.
- 6. You can then complete any or all the fields and click submit.
- If desired, you may send obituary notice, special documents, letters, receipts etc. to <u>rectory@stanthonylawrence.org</u> and we will attach that to your loved one's record.

Guidelines For Public Liturgies During Pandemic –Capacity %25

Should I come to Liturgy?

Anyone who is ill, symptomatic, or has been exposed to someone else with the coronavirus within 14 days cannot enter the church. This is in accord with national, state, and local health directives. We also ask everyone to check their temperature at home before deciding if you are coming to Liturgy. You can find the current symptoms of the coronavirus at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's website www.cdc.gov

Those who are at risk because of an underlying health issue or who are over 60 are strongly encouraged, for their own health, to avoid the risk of attending public celebrations of the Liturgy.

What should I do if I cannot come to Liturgy?

We will continue to livestream our Liturgies on our <u>Facebook page</u>. Monday through Thursday Liturgy will be at 9:00 am. Saturday Liturgy will be at 4:00 pm and Sunday liturgies will be at 9:00 am & 11:00 am .

Parishioners who would like to have Holy Communion brought to their homes should contact the office @ 978.685.7233 during normal business hours. The frequency of our visits for Holy Communion will depend upon the number of requests.

How will we be kept safe when we come to Liturgy?

All pews are wiped down with disinfectant; and all Qurbono Books are removed; and all surfaces used frequently (restroom facilities, door handles, etc.) are sanitized before each service.

<u>Everyone attending Liturgy is obligated to wear a mask or other facial covering</u>. The only exception during Liturgy is when receiving Holy Communion.

You'll be asked to observe social distancing – staying at least six feet from people not in your household. Only certain pews are available for seating. When you arrive, please use your good judgment about where to sit. Be respectful and accommodating towards others as they arrive and look for seating.

You'll find the holy water fonts are empty and that there is hand sanitizer available. You'll notice there will be no offertory procession, no sign of peace, and no passing of the collection basket.

You can drop your donation in a stationary basket, or continue to use the online provided by your parish.

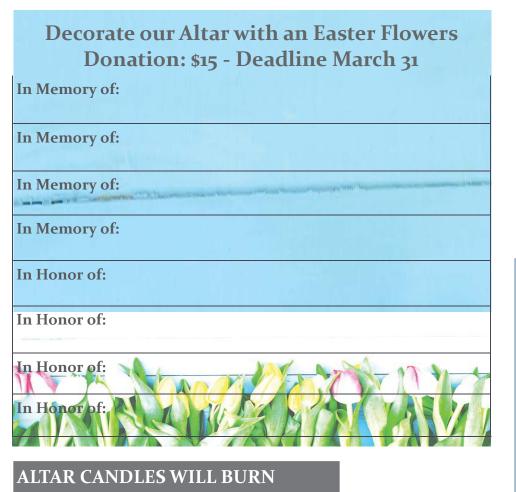
Can we receive Holy Communion?

Yes, but only the Most Precious Body and only by hand. Floor markings shall be placed six feet apart in the aisles in which the congregation approaches the sanctuary for Holy Communion to facilitate proper social distancing.

When approaching the Communion minister, the communicant is to present one hand resting on the palm of the other. Moving in front of one of the side alter the communicant pulls their mask or other facial covering below their chin and reverently places the Eucharist in his or her mouth and immediately replaces their mask or other facial covering and returns to their place.

What do we need to keep in mind as we leave Liturgy?

Please leave Liturgy together as a household, wearing your masks or other facial covering and observing six feet of distance from others. You will not be permitted to congregate in the foyer, and no receptions or social gathering following Liturgy can be held.



IN HONOR OF DORA PEREIRA

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mar 07: Hanan Abi Samra, Valerie Tarabay

Mar o8: Ghassan Abou Ezzi, Ramon Elbeery, Dalia Fakhry, Samer Geha, Missy Kalil, Therese Jbeily, Jackson Lenotte, Benjamin Nehme, Kristy Parolisi

Mar 09: Joe Lalo, Arthur Mansor, IV, Juliana Saad

Mar 10: Chahine Ramey

Mar 11: Abraham Bashara, Maryann Hatem, Joshua Pelletier Mar 12: Mark Khalife, Katelyn Maroon, Katherine Veilleux Mar 13: Jaclyn Becotte, Peter Bou Saada, Sean Khoury

IN REMEBRANCE OF OUR LOVED ONES

Mar o8: Jeanne L. Farrah - Josephine M. Ganem, Marion Beshara Mar 10: Emily B. Coughlin - Gilda Mansour, Rocco Rossi Mar 12: Alice M. Abraham Mar 13: Mary B. El Kareh MENTAL HEALTH & SEVERE AUTISTIC HOMES DEIR el SALEEB HOLY CROSS MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTION FOOD & MEDICINE DRIVE: ITEMS NEEDED

RAISINS TABLE SALT SUGAR LENTILS RED BEANS BURGHOL JELLY HOMMUS CANILLA RICE PASTA SPAGETTI SAUCE MACARONI & CHEESE

TOOTH BRUSHES TOOTH PASTE SHAMPOOS DISH DETERGENT ADULT DIAPERS BAR SOAP BODY WASH SPORT SOCKS TOWELS

INSTNAT POTATOES RICE CANNED VEGETABLES CANNED MEAT: CHICK-EN, BEEF, TUNA, SARDINES TEA FLOUR HONEY DRY MILK Epistle: Second Letter to the Corinthians 13: 5-13 Brothers and sisters, Examine your-

selves 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.

Gospel: 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 gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he the younger son 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.""

رسالة القديس بولس الثانية إلى أهل قورنتس 13: 5-13 رَاسِخُونَ فِي الإَيْمَان. إَمْتَحِنُوا أَنْفُسَتُم. أَلا تَعْرفُونَ أَنَّ المَسِيحَ يَسُوعَ فِيكُم؟ إلاَّ إِذَا كُنْتُم مَرْفُوضِين! فأَرْجُو أَنْ تَعْرفُوا أَنَّنا تَحْنُ لَسْنا مَرْفُوضِين! ونُصَلِّي إلى الله كَيْ لا تَقْعَلُوا أَيَّ شَرّ، لا لِنَظْهَرَ نَحْنُ مَقْبُولِين، بَلْ لِكَي تَقْعَلُوا أَنْتُمُ الخَيْر، ونَكُونَ نَحْنُ كَأَنَّنا مَرْفُوضُون! فَإِنَّا لا نَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ نَفْعَلَ شَيْئًا ضِدَ الحَقّ، بَلْ لأَجْلِ الحَقّ! أَجَلْ، إِنَّنا نَفْرَ حُوْدُمُون! فَإِنَّنا لا نَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ نَفْعَلَ شَيْئًا مِنْ أَجْلِ هذَا أَيْنا لأَحْرُ الحَقّ! أَجَلْ، إِنَّنا نَفْرَ حُ عِنْدَما نَكُونُ نَحْنُ ضَعْفَاء، وتَكُونُونَ أَنْتُم أَقُويَاء. وأنا حَاضِر، بِالسُّلْطَانِ الذي أعْطَانِي إِيَّاهُ الرَّبَ، لِبُنْيَانِكُم لا لِهَدْمِكُم. وبَعْدُهُ وَعَناوَ وأَنا حَاضِر، بِالسُّلْطَانِ الذي أعْطَانِي إِيَّاهُ الرَّبَ، لِبُنْيَانِكُم لا لِهَدْمِكُم. وبَعْدُهُ وَقَسَاوَة وأَنا حَاضِر، بِالسُّلْطَانِ الذي أعْطَانِي إِيَّاهُ الرَّبَ، لِبُنْيَانِكُم لا لِهَدْمِكُم. وبَعْدُونَ أَنْ المَاعَوْ وأَنا حَاضِر، والسَعُوا إلى الكَمَان وتَشَتَعُوا، وكُونُوا عَلَيْ أَنْ المَامِيةِ إِيَّا الْحُوْمَة وأَنا حَاضِر، والسَتُو فَوضَ أَنْشُرُ فَوْ وَاعَا وَالْعَانِهُ أَعْرَانَ اللَا أَنْ فَعْرَ عَنْ مَعْتُونَ أَنْ أَعْمائَكُمْ بِقُنْكَمُ مُنْ أَعْلَنُ ومَنْ حَدْنَ وَالسَعْرَا إِنْ الْحَامِ الَّذِي أَعْطَانِي إِنَّنَ مَنْكَونُ مَعْتُ والْنَا مَا أَعْمائَكُم والله المَحَتَبَةِ والسَعُوا إلى الكَمَان وتَسَتَعُوا، وكُونُوا عَلى رَأْمَ واجَدهُ، واللهُ والما مُحُمَعُهُ واللهُ واللهُ المُوت المَحَتَبَة والسَعُوا عَامَا مَنْ أَعْرَا اللَهُ مِنْعَانُ الذي أَنْ المَاسِي واللهُ اللهُ مُوْنَ أَنْ أَعْمَوْنُ أَنْ أَعْمَاء المُحَتَبَةِ والسَعُور والمَا مُعْمُوا إلَنُ أَعْمَانُ الْنُنُونُ مُعْتُونُ فَيْ أَنْ أَنْ أَعْمَائُهُ مُنْ مَنْ

قَالَ الرَبُّ يَسُوع: "كانَ لِرَجُل ٱبْنَان. فَقالَ أَصْغَرُهُمَا إنجيل القديس لوقا 15: 11-32 لأَبِيه: يَا أَبِي، أَعْطِنِي حِصَّتِي مِنَ المِيرَاث. فَقَسَمَ لَهُمَا ثَرْوَتَهُ. وَبَعْدَ أَيَّامٍ قَلِيلَة، جَمَعَ الأَبْنُ الأَصْغَرُ كُلَّ حِصَّتِّهِ، وسَافَّرَ إلى بَلَدٍ بَعِيد. وَهُنَاكَ بَدَّد مَالَهُ في حَيَاةِ الطَّيْشِ. وَلَمَّا أَنْفَقَ كُلَّ شَيء، حَدَثَتْ في ذلِكَ البَلَدِ مَجَاعَةٌ شَدِيدَة، فَبَدَأَ يُحِسُّ بِالعَوَزِ فَذَهَبَ وَلَجَأَ إِلى وَاحِدٍ مِنْ أَهْلِ ذَلِكَ البَلَد، فَأَنَّ سَلَهُ إلى حُقُولِهِ لِيَرْعَى الخَنَازِير. وَكَانَ يَشْتَهِي أَنْ يَمْلاً جَوْفَهُ مِنَ إِلْخَرُّوبِ الَّذِي كَانَتِ الْخَنَازَ بِرُ تَأْكُلُهُ، وَلا يُعْطِيهِ مِنْهُ أَحَد. فَرَجَعَ إِلَى نَفْسِهِ وَقَال: كَمْ مِنَ الأُجَرَاءِ عِنْدَ أَبَّى، يَفْضُلُ الخُبْزُ عَنْهُم، وَأَنا ههُنَا أَهْلِكُ جُوعًا! أَقُومُ وَأَمْضِي إلى أَبِي وَأَقُولُ لَهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إلى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلا أَسْتَحِقُ بَعْدُ أَنْ أَدْعَى لَكَ ٱبْنَّا. فَٱجْعَلْنِي كَأَحَدِ أَجَرَائِكَ! فَقَامَ وَجَاءَ إلى أَبِيه. وفِيمَا كَانَ لا يَزَالُ بَعِيدًا، رَآهُ أَبُوه، فَتَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْه، وَأَسْرَعَ فَأَلْقَى بِنَفْسِهِ عَلى عُنْقِهِ وَقَبَّلَهُ طَويلاً. فقالَ لَهُ ٱبْنُهُ: يَا أَبِي، خِطِئْتُ إلى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلا أَسْتَحِقُ بَعْدُ أَنْ أُدْعَى لَكَ أُبْنًا... فقالَ الأَب لِعَبِيدِهِ: أَسْرِعُوا وَأَخْرِجُوا الحُلَّةَ الفَاخِرَةَ وَأَلْبِسُوه، وٱجْعَلُوا في يَدِهِ خَاتَمًا، وفي رِجْلَيْهِ حِذَاء، وَأَثُوا بِالعِجْلِ المُسَمَّنِ وٱذْبَحُوه، وَلْنَأْكُلْ وَنَتَنَعَّمْ! لأَنَّ ٱبْنِّي هذا كَانَ مَيْتَّا فَعَاش، وَضَائِعًا فَوْجِد. وَبَدَأُوا يَتَنَعَّمُون. وكانَ ٱبْنُهُ الأَكْبَرُ في الحَقْل. فَلَمَّا جَاءَ وٱقْتَرَبَ مِنَ الْبَيْت، سَمِعَ غِنَاءً وَرَقْصًا. فَدَعا وَاحِدًا مِنَ الْغِلْمَانِ وَسَأَلَهُ: مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هذا؟ فَقالَ لَهُ: جَاءَ أَخُوك، فَذَبَحَ أَبُوكَ العِجْلَ المُسَمَّن، لأَنَّهُ لَقَيَهُ سَالِمًا. فَغَضِبَ وَلَمْ يُرِدْ أَنْ يَدْخُل. فَخَرَجَ أَبُوهُ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ. فَأَجَابَ وقَالَ لأَبِيه: هَا أَنا أَخْدُمُكَ كُلَّ هذِهِ السِّنِين، وَلَمْ أُخَالِفْ لَكَ يَوْمًا أَمْرًا، وَلَمْ تُعْطِّنِي مَرَّةً جَدْيًا، لأَتَنَعَّمَ مَعَ أَصْدِقَائِي. ولكِنْ لَمَّا جَاءَ ٱبْنُكَ هذا الَّذي أَكَلَ ثَرْوَتَكَ مَعَ الزَّوَانِي، ذَبَحْتَ لَهُ العِجْلَ المُسَمَّنِ! فَقَالَ لَهُ أَبُوه: يَا وَلَدِي، أَنْتَ مَعِي في كُلّ حِينٍ، وَكُلُّ مَا هُوَ لِي هُوَ لَكَ. ولكِنْ كانَ يَنْبَغِي أَنْ نَتَنَعَّمَ وَنَفْرَح، لأَنَّ أَخَاكَ هذا كان مَيْتًا فَعَاش، وَضَائِعًا فَوُجد.



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