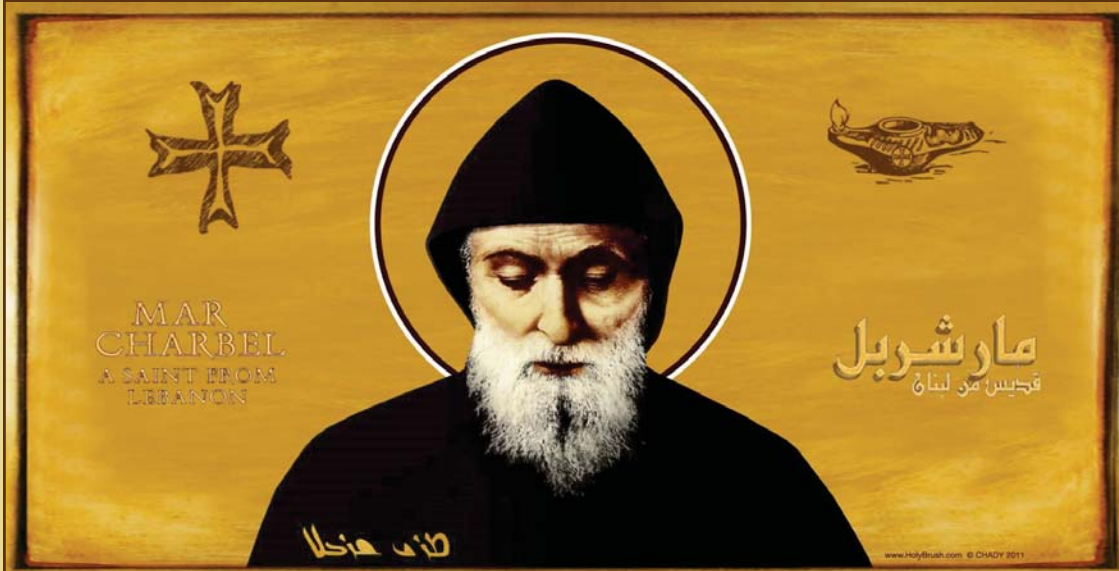


PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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



PARISH OFFICE: ... 978.685.7233 ... FAX: 978-688-4475 ... rectory@stanthonylawrence.org



DAILY LITURGIES *gam*

MON (*Arabic*)

TUE (*English*)

WED (*Arabic*)

THU (*English*)

WEEKEND LITURGIES

SAT 4:00PM(*English*)

SUN

9:00AM (*English*)

11:30AM (*English & Arabic*)

Holy days of obligation:

Vigil Liturgy @ 7:00 PM

OFFICE HOURS

M-TH 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

FRI 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

SAT By Appointment

MEET OUR PRIESTS:

Fr. Elie Mikhael ...305-807-9087

... pastor@stanthonylawrence.org

Fr. Neemtallah Oneissy-...857-390-4838

MEET OUR DEACONS:

Deacon David Leard

Deacon Nadim B. Daou

Sub-Deacon James T. Demers

Sub-Deacon Antoine Nammour



SaintAnthonyLawrence



venmo

Scan QR code for payment

SACRAMENTS

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

Matrimony: Arrangements should be made by couples 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.

LITURGIES

Seventh Sunday of Pentecost: Sending of the Seventy-two

الأحد السابع من زمن العنصرة: إرسال التلاميذ الاثنتين والسبعين

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

**Seventh Sunday of Pentecost
Feast of Saint Sharbel
St Marina Nun of Qannubin**

Saturday, July 16, 2022

The Scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

4:00 pm For: +Deceased Members of the Shadeed & Fitzpatrick Families, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Shadeed.

Sunday, July 17, 2022

9:00 am For: +Helen Thompson, *By Sub-Deacon James Demers, his wife, Maureen, & Family.*

11:00 am For: +Wadad Ramey, & for the Good Health of Fr. Abdallah Ramey, *By the Family.*

Eighth Sunday of Pentecost

Saturday, July 23, 2022 St. Sharbel

4:00 pm For: 1st Anniversary- Gayle Touma , *By her Family.*

Sunday, July 24, 2022 St Christina of Tyre

9:00 am For: Special Intention.

11:00 am For: Special Intention.

Monday, July 18 -(Ar.)

Daily Readings: Acts 14: 1-7 / Luke 10: 8-12

9AM For: +Elias, Ramza, & Kamal Geha,
By Marie Geha Maroun

Tuesday, July 19 (En.) St. Margaret of Antioch

Daily Readings: Acts 14:8-18 / Luke 10:13-16

9AM For: The Souls in Purgatory, *By Dora Pereira*

Wednesday, July 20 (Ar.) St. Elias

Daily Readings: Acts 14:19-28 / Luke 10:17-20

9AM For: +Antoine, Sami, & Marie Maroun & Marleine Abdounour,
By Marie Geha Maroun

Thursday, July 21(En.) St. Simeon & St John

Daily Readings: Acts 15:1-12 / Luke 10:25-28

9AM For: In Honor of Samir & Leila Daou,
Wedding Anniversary

10 am- 12 noon Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, July 22, St. Mary Magdalene

7PM Feast of Saint Sharbel



Sanctuary Lamps

*In Honor of Samir & Leila Daou,
(Wedding Anniversary)*

LITURGIES INTENTIONS

PLEASE NOTE:

40 Day Liturgies are considered a priority. When necessary, they will be scheduled with other previously reserved intentions.

SUMMER LITURGIES SCHEDULE

Please take notice:

There is no 8AM Liturgy on Sundays.

Schedule is as follows:

9 AM-English & 11 AM-English & Arabic



The Lebanese Mahrajan features Live Entertainment including;

- Folkloric Dance & Belly Dancing
- Homemade Lebanese & American Cuisine & Pastries
- Children's Games & Activities
- Raffles, Hookah, and Souvenirs
- Free Cooking and Belly Dancing Classes!

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

145 Amesbury Street Lawrence, MA 01841



Friday 9 / 2 from 6PM to 1AM
Saturday 9 / 3 from 5PM to 2AM
Sunday 9 / 4 from 12PM to 12AM

for more info:

978-685-7233

www.stAnthonyLawrence.org

Facebook: Saint Anthony Lawrence

**FREE
entry**

RAFFLE

Raffle tickets have been mailed to your homes this past week. Please remit your ticket stubs at your earliest convenience, by mail or dropping it in the collection basket. We rely on you, our parishioners, the heart of Saint Anthony's Church, through your support, we keep beating.

BASKET RAFFLE

Through your generosity and support, we had a wonderful Basket Raffle outcome last year. We appeal to you once again for your creative basket donation(s). Kindly drop your themed basket/donation at the Rectory during office hours for your convenience. Help us make this year's raffle even more successful than the last!

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

If you find old photos, newspaper clippings, etc., please drop them off at the Rectory during office hours or email them to *Abbas* at: video@atsproduction.com or contact him by phone at 978-390-0150. We look forward to sharing your memories as we continue to make more together!

ANNUAL MAHRAJAN NEWS

We rely on all of you for your volunteer time. Celebrating 50 years is extra special. We want everyone to be able to take time and enjoy the Mahrajan with family and friends. The committee encourages individuals to sign up early. The benefit is to schedule as many as possible prior to the event, allowing more time so share and celebrate with your loved ones. If you would like to volunteer, kindly let us know as early as possible by emailing us at: mahrajan@stanthonylawrence.org

You Are Cordially Invited
TO
THE ORDINATION OF
SUBDEACON JAMES DEMERS
AND
SUBDEACON CHRISTIAN HBAITER
TO
The Order of Deacons
BY THE IMPOSITION OF HANDS OF
**THE MOST REVEREND
GREGORY J. MANSOUR**
BISHOP OF THE EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN

CELEBRATION OF DIVINE MYSTERIES AND ORDINATION
ON
SEPTEMBER 24, 2022, 11:00 AM
AT
SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH
145 AMESBURY STREET
LAWRENCE, MA 01841

LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW IN CHURCH HALL
ALL ARE WELCOME

DIVINE LITURGY AND ORDINATION WILL BE LIVESTREAMED
VIA PARISH FACEBOOK @SAINTANTHONYLAWRENCE



- Yours is the first of Christ's faces to greet God's people as they assemble for prayer.
- Yours is the word that welcomes the stranger to be at home.
- Yours is the task of discretion: knowing how to welcome, and when and where to seat the latecomer.
- Yours is the Lord's face and voice.
- Assist in passing the collection baskets
- Help the Communion flow
- Assist those who become ill or need aid
- Distribute bulletins and other materials
- After mass area check

St. Anthony Dabke Troop
Ages 6-11 Years Old

Dabke Sessions, Ages 6-11 years:

•July 20 th	•August 17 th
•July 27 th	•August 23 rd – TUESDAY
•August 3 rd	•August 31 st
•August 10 th	

Anyone absent more than **3 times**, will **not be allowed** to perform, as we ask that parents respect the time of the volunteers and committed children. Training will be held every **Wednesday** through the summer at **5:30 pm to 6:30 pm** in the church hall.

Reine Ata and Colette Sadek



**MARONITE-
Women IN the New
Evangelization**

***Coming back with new
administration***

M-WINE is a creative and inspired ministry to invigorate women's groups and parishes through encouraging, supporting, and nurturing women in the Maronite Catholic faith and by equipping and mobilizing women as intentional disciples of Christ.



Open Letter to the Parish,

The Stewardship Council’s responsibility is to execute on the wishes of the parishioners but to do so we need to make sure we are listening to what our parishioners really want. Sometimes, this is difficult due to the broad nature of our parishioners; some have been part of the church for 3 generations and some we have just opened our hearts too. We have created a survey to gather information to hopefully create a vision for tomorrow.

After 2 years of COVID we are finally getting back to normalcy and this awakening is a perfect time to reflect and listen to the voice of the entire parish. We are so proud of how this community always steps up and supports the needs of others, but do we ever ask what you want. We are not asking for money or time or sweat, that will come, today all we want is for you to share with us your vision of the church’s future.

Don’t answer how you think Father Elie wants you to answer, or your Sitto or Jido wants you to answer - listen to your heart and describe your vision for St Anthony’s for the next 10 years or 50 years. We hope the questions below stimulate your thoughts on where St. Anthony’s is headed. We want to hear your voice. Fill in the form online by clicking on the link:

<https://forms.gle/kYYN7yD8uVVLk8co8>

Respectfully, Stewardship Council

OUR SYMPATHIES TO:

Barbara, Toni, Susan, and Charles, and their spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren **for the loss of their mother & grandmother, Helen Rage.**

May her soul rest in peace & her memory be eternal.

MASS INTENTIONS

Liturgies are offered for many reasons: for the souls in purgatory, in remembrance for someone who is deceased, or in honor of a birthday or special anniversary, and more.

Liturgy stipend or offering given, signifies the sacrificial nature of giving of something of yourself to associate more intimately with Christ who offers himself in the Eucharist.

If you would like to have a Liturgy said for someone, please contact the Parish Office by phone or email for help with available dates and times.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- July 16:** Elie Rahme
- July 17:** Remy Cherabie, Khalil Matta, Stephanie Nader, Michael Rahme, Kathleen Rahme
- July 18:** Joe Abi Samra, Laurie El-Boustany, Andrew Haddad, John Hassan, Matthew Rizkallah, Ryan Shepherd, Samuel Yazbek
- July 19:** Laurence Bejjani, Mansour Boustani, Christian Merheb, Andre Switala
- July 20:** Carla Clement, Elie El Hachem, Eli Harper, Eliane Kazzi, Janice Peters, Nicole Shadeed, Eleanor Yazbek
- July 21:** Joseph Bashara, Joanne Ganem, George Hbaiter, Matthew Maroon, John Nazzaro, Elias Saad
- July 22:** Arabella Borruso, Rosemary Bouchrouche, Miriam El Hachem, Muriel Merheb

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- July 16:** Michel & Hinde Asmar
- July 17:** Antoine & Susan Assaf, Dany & Joelle Karam, Ziad & Michelle Saab
- July 18:** Albert & Colleen Abraham, George & Desiree Saab
- July 19:** Matthew & Melissa Tarness, Elias & Eliane Yammine
- July 20:** Kozhaya & Lola Abou Khalil
- July 21:** Fadi & Mary Francis
- July 22:** Alfred & Jennifer Ata, Charles & Carla Clement, Samir & Leila Daou

St Anthony-Grave Purchase & Burial

Grave Purchase—*For Active Parishioners

- Grave Purchase–Double Depth: \$1900 (*one time fee*)
 - Perpetual Care: \$200 (*one time fee*)
- Total of Grave (Double Depth) Purchase: \$2100
- Memorial Stone Permit: \$75 (*one time fee paid upon installation*)

Burial Costs (*Itemized*)

- Opening and Closing (Summer Fees): \$1000
- Opening and Closing (Winter Burial): \$1,200
- Church Stipend: \$250
- Church Stipend (Wake in Church): \$450
- Soloist: \$150
- Organist: \$150
- Clergy Stipend: \$200 or left to the Family Discretion

Total of Burial Costs:

- Burial (Summer Fees): \$1,750
- Burial (Summer Fees-Wake in Church): \$1,950
- Burial (Winter Fees): \$1,950
- Burial (Winter Fees-Wake in Church): \$2,150

Prices are subject to change.

**Active Parishioners are considered those who have participated: Socially, spiritually and have contributed regularly in our database.*

Please take the time to review the complete cemetery guidelines by visiting our website www.stanthonylawrence.org/cemetery/

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

Looking for a Loved one buried at St Anthony's Cemetery?

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.

CEMETERY LOT SALES & AVAILABILITY

St Anthony Cemetery offers affordable payment plans to fit any family's budget.

For more information:

By Phone (*During Office Hours*) 978-685-7233

Email rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

or Visit: www.stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/

Headstones & Cemetery Markers

Kindly review the information provided regarding acceptable dimensions per grave/lot on our website: <https://www.stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/>.

Please note: Double-Depth Graves are considered "One Grave Size"

DONATE A TREE IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE

Enhancing the beauty of Historic Saint Anthony Maronite Catholic Cemetery.

Plant-A-Tree A—

For a donation of \$400.00 : memorial plaque will be displayed by the tree for a period of ten years.

Plant-A-Tree B—

For a donation of \$250.00: memorial plaque will be displayed by the tree for the period of five years.

Your Donation is Tax-Deductible

Your contribution is tax deductible. You will receive a written acknowledgement of your donation from the Saint Anthony Maronite Catholic Cemetery.

If you like to donate a tree, please call the office at 978.685.7233 or email us at:

rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

Tree to be planted : Kousa Dogwood

HONORING AN ABUNDANT AND PRODIGAL GOD

By Ronald Rolheiser

There's a disturbing trend within our churches today. Simply put, we are seeing the embrace of our churches become less-and-less inclusive. More-and-more, our churches are demanding a purity and exclusivity not demanded by Jesus in Gospels.

Indeed the very word "inclusivity" is often glibly dismissed as being part of the "I am spiritual but not religious" ethos, as if being inclusive were some kind of light-weight, New-Age, thing rather than a central demand within Christian discipleship itself.

What does it mean to be inclusive? We can begin with the word "Catholic": The opposite of being "Catholic" is not being "Protestant". The opposite of "Catholic" is being narrow, exclusive, and overly selective in our embrace. The opposite of being "Catholic" is to define our faith-family too-narrowly. "Catholic" means wide, universal. It means incarnating the embrace of an abundant and prodigal God whose sun shines on all indiscriminately, the bad as well as the good. Jesus once defined this by saying: "In my father's house there are many rooms." God's heart is wide, abundance, prodigal, and universally-embracing, a heart that takes care to pray for those "other sheep who are not of this fold". To be "Catholic" is to imitate that.

In the Gospels we see that Jesus' passion for inclusivity virtually always trumps his concern for purity and worthiness. He associates and dines with sinners without setting any prior moral conditions that have to be met to before those sinners are deemed worthy of his presence. His disciples, much like many good sincere church-people today, were forever trying to keep certain people away from him because they deemed them unworthy; but Jesus always protested that he didn't need that kind of protection and that, indeed, he wanted them all to come to him: Let them come to me! Indeed, that is still Jesus' call: Let them come to me, all of them!

We need to be more inclusive. I highlight this because today our faith families are shrinking and instead of us weeping empathically about this loss of wholeness we are more prone to be secretly gleeful about it: Good riddance: they weren't real Christians anyway! Or, in the words of some Catholic commentators, they were Cafeteria-Catholics, picking and choosing which parts of the Gospel they like and turning a meaty Catholicism into Catholic-Light.

Such a judgment, however sincere and well intentioned, needs to operate under two huge caution flags: First, such a judgment leaves the person making it rather vulnerable. Who is a true, fully practicing Catholic? Several years ago, I was asked by a Roman Catholic School Board to write a definition of what it means to be a "practicing Catholic". I agonized over the task, examined the classical working definitions for that, and eventually produced a bit of a formula. But I prefaced the definition with this preamble: Only Jesus and Mary were fully practicing Catholics. Everyone else, without a single exception, falls short. We are all Cafeteria-Catholics. We all fall short; all have shortcomings, and all live the Gospel somewhat selectively. To cite the most salient example: Many of us bear down more on church-going and private morality, to the neglect of the non-negotiable Gospel demand apposite justice; others simply reverse this. Who's closer to Jesus? Who's more of a Cafeteria-Catholic?

The answer to that question lies inside the secret realm of conscience. But what we do know is that none of us gets it fully right. All of us stand in need of God's forgiveness and all of us stand in need of the patience of our ecclesial communities.

The second caution flag is this: The God that Jesus reveals to us is a God of infinite abundance. Inside God there is no scarcity, no stinginess, no sparing of mercy. As the parable of the Sower makes clear, this God scatters his seed indiscriminately on every kind of soil – bad soil, mediocre soil, good soil, excellent soil. God can do this because God's love and mercy are limitlessness. God, it seems, never worries about someone receiving cheap, undeserved grace. As well, Jesus assures us that God is prodigal: Like the father of the prodigal son and his older brother, God embraces both the missteps of our immaturity as well as the bitterness and resentment within our maturity. Good religion needs to honor that.

Today, on both sides of the ideological divide, conservative or liberal alike, we need to remind ourselves of what it means to live under an abundant, prodigal, universally-embracing, and "Catholic" God. What it means, among other things of course, is a constant stretching of the heart to an ever-wider inclusivity. How wide are our hearts? Exclusivity can mask itself as depth and as passion for truth; but it invariably reveals itself, in its inability to handle ambiguity and otherness, as rigidity and fear, as if God and Jesus needed our protection. More importantly, it often too reveals itself as lacking genuine empathy for those outside its own circle; and, in that, it fails to honor its own abundant and prodigal God.

Seventh Sunday of Pentecost: Sending of the Seventy-two

Numbers 11:16-17.24-29

So the LORD said to Moses, 'Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you. I will come down and talk with you there; and I will take some of the spirit that is on you and put it on them; and they shall bear the burden of the people along with you so that you will not bear it all by yourself. So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, 'My lord Moses, stop them!' But Moses said to him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!'

Romans 8,28-39.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13,36-43

Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 16- 4PM Lisa Abdallah

Saturday, July 23- 4PM Patricia Ferguson

Sunday, July 17- 9AM

Sunday, July 24- 9AM Elaine Ferris

Sub Deacon James Demers

11:00AM Eng: Elias Azzi

11:00AM Eng: Gisele Dahbour

Ar: Sub Deacon Antoine Nammour

Ar: Mounira Daher

الأحد السابع من زمن العنصرة: إرسال التلاميذ الاثنتين والسبعين

سفر العدد 16:11-17:24-29

فَقَالَ الرَّبُّ لِمُوسَى: «اجْمَعْ لِي سَبْعِينَ رَجُلًا مِنْ شُيُوخِ إِسْرَائِيلَ الَّذِينَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّهُمْ شُيُوخُ الشَّعْبِ وَكَتَبْتَهُمْ، وَخُذْهُمْ إِلَى خَيْمَةِ الْمَوْعِدِ، فَيَقِفُوا هُنَاكَ مَعَكَ. فَأَنْزَلَ أَنَا وَأَتَكَلَّمْتُ مَعَكَ هُنَاكَ وَأَخَذْتُ مِنَ الرُّوحِ الَّذِي عَلَيْكَ وَأَجَلُّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ، فَيَحْمِلُونَ مَعَكَ عِبَاءَ الشَّعْبِ وَلَا تَحْمِلُهُ أَنْتَ وَحْدَكَ. فَخَرَجَ مُوسَى وَأَخْبَرَ الشَّعْبَ بِكَلَامِ الرَّبِّ، وَجَمَعَ سَبْعِينَ رَجُلًا مِنْ شُيُوخِ الشَّعْبِ وَأَقَامَهُمْ حَوْلِي الْخَيْمَةِ. فَنَزَلَ الرَّبُّ فِي الْغَمَامِ وَخَاطَبَ مُوسَى، وَأَخَذَ مِنَ الرُّوحِ الَّذِي عَلَيْهِ وَأَحَلَّهُ عَلَى الرِّجَالِ السَّبْعِينَ، أَيِّ الشُّيُوخِ. فَلَمَّا اسْتَقَرَّ الرُّوحُ عَلَيْهِمْ، تَنَبَّأُوا، إِلَّا أَنَّهُمْ لَمْ يَسْتَمِرُّوا. وَبَقِيَ رَجُلَانِ فِي الْمُخِيمِ، اسْمُ أَحَدَهُمَا أَلْدَادُ وَاسْمُ الثَّانِي مِيدَادُ. فَاسْتَقَرَّ الرُّوحُ عَلَيْهِمَا لِأَنَّهُمَا كَانَا مِنَ الْمُسَجَّلِينَ فِي اللَّائِحَةِ، وَلِكِنَّهُمَا لَمْ يَخْرُجَا إِلَى الْخَيْمَةِ، فَتَنَبَّأَا فِي الْمُخِيمِ. فَاسْرَعَ فَنَيَّ وَأَخْبَرَ مُوسَى وَقَالَ: «إِنَّ أَلْدَادُ وَمِيدَادُ يَتَنَبَّأَانِ فِي الْمُخِيمِ.» فَاجَابَ يَشُوعُ بْنُ نُونٍ، وَهُوَ مُسَاعِدُ مُوسَى مُنْذُ حَدَاتِهِ: «يَا سَيِّدِي، يَا مُوسَى، امْنَعَهُمَا.» «قَالَ لَهُ مُوسَى: «الْعَلَّكَ تَعَارُ أَنْتَ لِي؟ لَيْتَ كُلَّ شَعْبِ الرَّبِّ أَنْبِيَاءَ بِإِحْلَالِ الرَّبِّ رُوحَهُ عَلَيْهِمْ.»

رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل رومة 8:28-39

يَا إِخْوَتِي، نَحْنُ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْمَلُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ لِخَيْرِ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَهُ، أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ دَعَاهُمْ بِحَسَبِ قَصْدِهِ؛ لِأَنَّ الَّذِينَ سَبَقَ فَعَرَفَهُمْ، سَبَقَ أَيْضًا فَحَدَّدَهُمْ أَنْ يَكُونُوا مُشَابِهِينَ لِصُورَةِ ابْنِهِ، حَتَّى يَكُونَ ابْنُهُ بِكَرًّا لِإِخْوَةِ كَثِيرِينَ. وَالَّذِينَ سَبَقَ فَحَدَّدَهُمْ، هُوَ أَيْضًا دَعَاهُمْ، وَالَّذِينَ دَعَاهُمْ، هُوَ أَيْضًا بَرَّرَهُمْ، وَالَّذِينَ بَرَّرَهُمْ، هُوَ أَيْضًا مَجَّدَهُمْ. إِذَا فَمَاذَا نَقُولُ بَعْدَ؟ إِذَا كَانَ اللَّهُ مَعَنَا، فَمَنْ عَلَيْنَا؟ فَاللَّهُ الَّذِي لَمْ يَخُلْ بِابْنِهِ، بَلْ سَلَّمَهُ إِلَى الْمَوْتِ مِنْ أَجْلِنا جَمِيعًا، كَيْفَ لَا يَهْبُ لَنَا مَعَهُ أَيْضًا كُلَّ شَيْءٍ؟ فَمَنْ يَشْكُو مُخْتَارِي اللَّهِ؟ اللَّهُ يُبَرِّرُهُمْ. فَمَنْ الَّذِي يَدِينُ؟ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ يَسُوعُ الَّذِي مَاتَ، بَلْ أَقِيمَ، وَهُوَ أَيْضًا عَنْ يَمِينِ اللَّهِ، وَهُوَ أَيْضًا يَتَنَفَّعُ لَنَا! مَنْ يَفْصِلُنَا عَنْ مَحَبَّةِ الْمَسِيحِ؟ أَضِيقُ، أَمْ شِدَّةٌ، أَمْ أَضْطِهَادٌ، أَمْ جُوعٌ، أَمْ عُرْيٌ، أَمْ خَطَرٌ، أَمْ سَيْفٌ؟ كَمَا هُوَ مَكْتُوبٌ: «إِنَّا مِنْ أَجْلِكَ نُمَاتُ النَّهَارَ كُلَّهُ، وَقَدْ حُسِبْنَا مِثْلَ غَنَمٍ لِلذَّبْحِ!». «إِلَّا أَنَّنَا فِي كُلِّ ذَلِكَ نَغْلِبُ بِالَّذِي أَحَبَّنَا. فَإِنِّي لَوَاتِقٌ أَنَّهُ لَا مَوْتَ وَلَا حَيَاةَ، وَلَا مَلَائِكَةَ وَلَا رِئَاسَاتَ، وَلَا حَاضِرَ وَلَا مُسْتَقْبَلَ، وَلَا قُوَاتَ، وَلَا غُلُوَ وَلَا عُمُقَ، وَلَا أَيَّ خَلِيقَةٍ أُخْرَى تَقْدِرُ أَنْ تَفْصِلَنَا عَنْ مَحَبَّةِ اللَّهِ الَّتِي فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ رَبَّنَا.

إنجيل القديس متى 13:36-43

تَرَكَ يَسُوعُ الْجُمُوعَ وَاتَى إِلَى الْبَيْتِ، فَدَنَا مِنْهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ وَقَالُوا لَهُ: «فَسِرْ لَنَا مِثْلَ زُرَّانِ الْحَقْلِ.» فَاجَابَ وَقَالَ: «زَارِعُ الزَّرْعِ الْجَيِّدِ هُوَ ابْنُ الْإِنْسَانِ، وَالْحَقْلُ هُوَ الْعَالَمُ، وَالزَّرْعُ الْجَيِّدُ هُمُ ابْنَاءُ الْمَلَكُوتِ، وَالزُّرَّانُ هُمُ بَنُو الشَّرِّيرِ، وَالْعَدُوُّ الَّذِي زَرَعَ الزُّرَّانَ هُوَ إِبْلِيسُ، وَالْحِصَادُ هُوَ نِهَايَةُ الْعَالَمِ، وَالْحَصَادُونَ هُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ. فَكَمَا يُجْمَعُ الزُّرَّانُ وَيُحْرَقُ بِالنَّارِ، كَذَلِكَ يَكُونُ فِي نِهَايَةِ الْعَالَمِ. يُرْسِلُ ابْنُ الْإِنْسَانِ مَلَائِكَتَهُ، فَيَجْمَعُونَ مِنَ مَمْلَكَتِهِ كُلَّ الشُّكُوكِ وَفَاعِلِي الْإِثْمِ، وَيُلْقُونَهُمْ فِي آتُونِ النَّارِ. هُنَاكَ يَكُونُ الْبُكَاءُ وَصَرَيفُ الْأَسْنَانِ. حِينَئِذٍ يَسْطَعُ الْأَبْرَارُ كَالشَّمْسِ فِي مَلَكُوتِ أَبِيهِمْ. مَنْ لَهُ أُذُنَانِ فَلْيَسْمَعْ!

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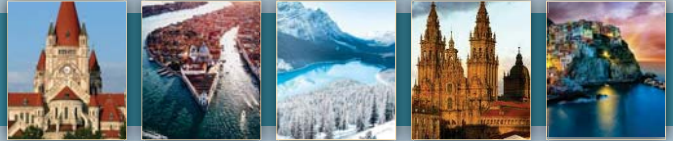


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