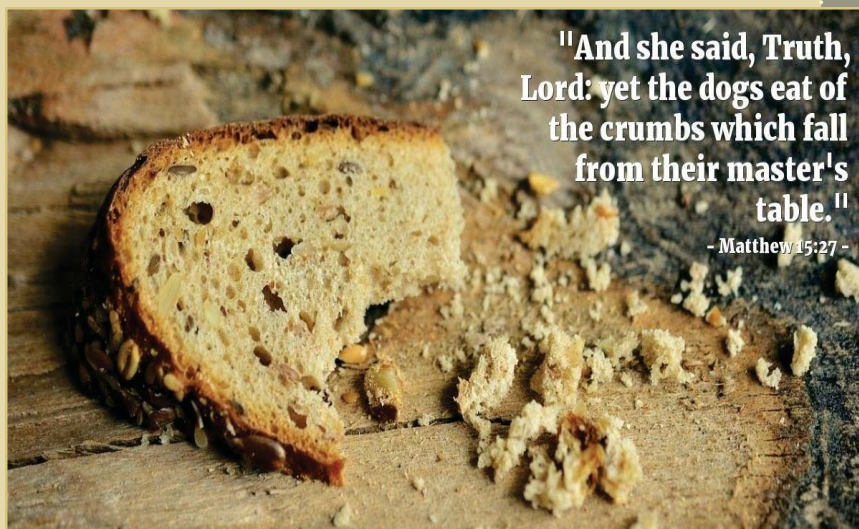
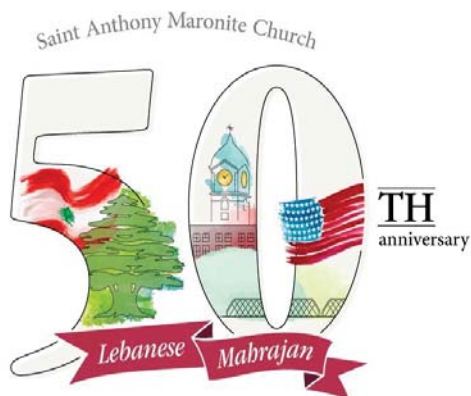


PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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



"And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table."

- Matthew 15:27 -

DAILY LITURGIES 9am

MON (Arabic)

TUE (English)

WED (Arabic)

THU (English)

WEEKEND LITURGIES

SAT 4:00PM(English)

SUN

9:00AM (English)

11:00AM (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. Edgard (Neemtallah) Oneissy

857-390-4838...

pv@stanthonylawrence.org

MEET OUR DEACONS:

Deacon David Leard

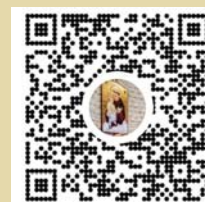
Deacon Nadim B. Daou

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.



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



FREE entry

Friday 9 / 2 from 6PM to 1AM featuring Michel Rmeih

Saturday 9 / 3 from 5PM to 2AM featuring Salah Elkurdi

Sunday 9 / 4 from 12PM to 12AM featuring Chris Hawat

for more info: 978-685-7233

www.stAnthonyLawrence.org | Facebook: Saint Anthony Lawrence

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!

RAFFLE

Raffle tickets -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 St Anthony's Church, through your support, we keep beating.

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.



*"You make a living by what you get.
You make a life by what you give."*

We need your help now more than ever!

Sign up today and give us some of your time.
Volunteer at our 50th Annual Mahrajan!

<https://www.volunteersignup.org/33BYQ>

Department Volunteers:

Kitchen-Sandwiches-Pastries- Raffles- Saj- Bar (21 & up)- Hookah- Baskets-Kids Activities

CHANGING

\$7,500

- ✓ LOGO PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED ON ALL DIGITAL LED SCREEN DURING MAHARAJAN WEEKEND AND SHORTLY AFTER
- ✓ LOGO LISTED ON ST. ANTHONY'S WEBSITE, PARISH BULLETIN, AND ON MAHARAJAN WEBSITE, PUBLICATIONS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA
- ✓ 2 RESERVED PARKING SPACES
- ✓ 4 DINNER TICKETS (VALUE OF \$100)
- ✓ 4 MAHARAJAN RAFFLE BOOKS
- ✓ LOGO ON EVENT PROMOTIONAL T-SHIRTS
- ✓ BUSINESS NAME AND SPONSORSHIP CATEGORY RECOGNITION IN DESIGNATED SECTION IN 50TH MAHARAJAN SLIDESHOW

SUSTAINING

\$5,000

- ✓ LOGO PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED ON ALL DIGITAL LED SCREEN DURING MAHARAJAN WEEKEND AND SHORTLY AFTER
- ✓ LOGO LISTED ON ST. ANTHONY'S WEBSITE, PARISH BULLETIN, AND ON MAHARAJAN WEBSITE, PUBLICATIONS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA
- ✓ 1 RESERVED PARKING SPACES
- ✓ 4 DINNER TICKETS (VALUE OF \$100)
- ✓ 4 MAHARAJAN RAFFLE BOOKS
- ✓ LOGO ON EVENT PROMOTIONAL T-SHIRTS

GROWING

\$2,500

- ✓ INDIVIDUAL DIGITAL ADVERTISEMENT SLIDE WITH LOGO TO RUN ON SCREENS DURING MAHARAJAN WEEKEND AND SHORTLY AFTER
- ✓ LOGO LISTED ON ST. ANTHONY'S WEBSITE, PARISH BULLETIN, AND ON MAHARAJAN WEBSITE, PUBLICATIONS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA
- ✓ 2 DINNER TICKETS (VALUE OF \$50)
- ✓ 2 MAHARAJAN RAFFLE BOOKS

OUTREACH

\$1,000

- ✓ INDIVIDUAL DIGITAL ADVERTISEMENT SLIDE WITH LOGO TO RUN ON TELEVISION DURING THE MAHARAJAN WEEKEND WITH LIMITED SCREEN TIME
- ✓ LOGO LISTED ON ST. ANTHONY'S WEBSITE, PARISH BULLETIN, AND ON MAHARAJAN WEBSITE, PUBLICATIONS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA
- ✓ 1 DINNER TICKETS (VALUE OF \$25)
- ✓ 1 MAHARAJAN RAFFLE BOOKS

FRIENDS

\$250

- ✓ SPONSOR'S NAME WILL BE MENTIONED ON THE COMMON "FRIENDS OF THE MAHARAJAN" DIGITAL SLIDE ADVERTISEMENT
- ✓ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IN PARISH BULLETIN

HELPING

\$500

- ✓ SHARED DIGITAL ADVERTISEMENT WITH NAME/LOGO IN THE MAHARAJAN
- ✓ COMPANY NAME OR LOGO LISTED ON ST. ANTHONY'S WEBSITE AND PARISH BULLETIN
- ✓ 1 RAFFLE BOOK

NAME/BUSINESS: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

MAHARAJAN SPONSORSHIP LEVEL: _____

SPONSORSHIP IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR OF: _____

-CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ST. ANTHONY MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH (MEMO: MAHARAJAN SPONSORSHIP)
-SPONSOR MUST PROVIDE HIGH RESOLUTION ELECTRIC LOGO AT HIS EXPENSE. SPONSORSHIPS ACCEPTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PASTOR AND THE MAHARAJAN COMMITTEE. ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL.

PHONE: _____

LITURGIES

Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost: The Canaanite Women

الأحد الثاني عشر من زمن العنصرة: إيمان المرأة الكنعانية

LITURGIES INTENTIONS

Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost

Saturday, August 20, 2022 St Bernard

4:00 pm For: +Chadi Azzi, *By his mother, Siham, sibilings, & Family.*

Sunday, August 21, 2022 Samuel, Prophet

9:00 am For: +Elias & Mariam Khoder, *By their daughter, Therese Sarkis, & Family.*

11:00 am For: 1 Year Anniversary– Marleine (Maroun) Abdelnour, *By her husband, Gaby, & children, Regina & Gabrielle.*

Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Saturday, August 27, 2022

St. Biyameen (Poemen) Hermit

4:00 pm For: 1st year Anniversary– Ramon & Nancy Moore *by their sons, Kevin, his wife, Sheryl, & Keith Moore*

Sunday, August 28, 2022 St. Augustine

9:00 am For: +Helen Yameen, *By The Pastor*

11:00 am For: In Honor of Mikey Abou-Ezzi, *By his Family.*

PLEASE NOTE:

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

EUCHRISTIC ADORATION

Please take notice:

Eucharistic Adoration will be Canceled during the month of August to resume back to Normal Schedule in September

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

Monday, August 22 St. Symphoriam

Daily Readings:

acts: 27:1-4,8a,14-15,18-21a,22-26 / Luke 12:54-59

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

Tuesday, August 23 (En.) St. Isaac of Ninveh

Daily Readings: Acts 27:27,33-37,39-44 / Luke 13:1-5

9AM For: + Abdallah Sfeir *By His son, Beshara Sfeir, & Family*

Wednesday, August 24(Ar.) St. Eutyches

Daily Readings: Acts 28:1-10 / Luke 13:6-9

9AM For: +Antoine, Samir, Marie Maroun & Marleine Abdunour, *By Marie Geha Maroun*

Thursday, August 25 (En.) St. Titus

Daily Readings: Acts 28:11-15 / Luke 13:10-17

9AM For: +Louis Zraket, *By his wife, Alyce, & Family.*

Friday, August 26, Pope St Zephyrinus

NO LITURGY



Sanctuary Lamps

In Honor of

Michael Abou Ezzi

& Lissette Digasvarro

NEW LITURGIES SCHEDULE

Since Religious Education is moved to Saturdays, Sunday Liturgies will be as

Follow:

8AM Arabic

9AM English

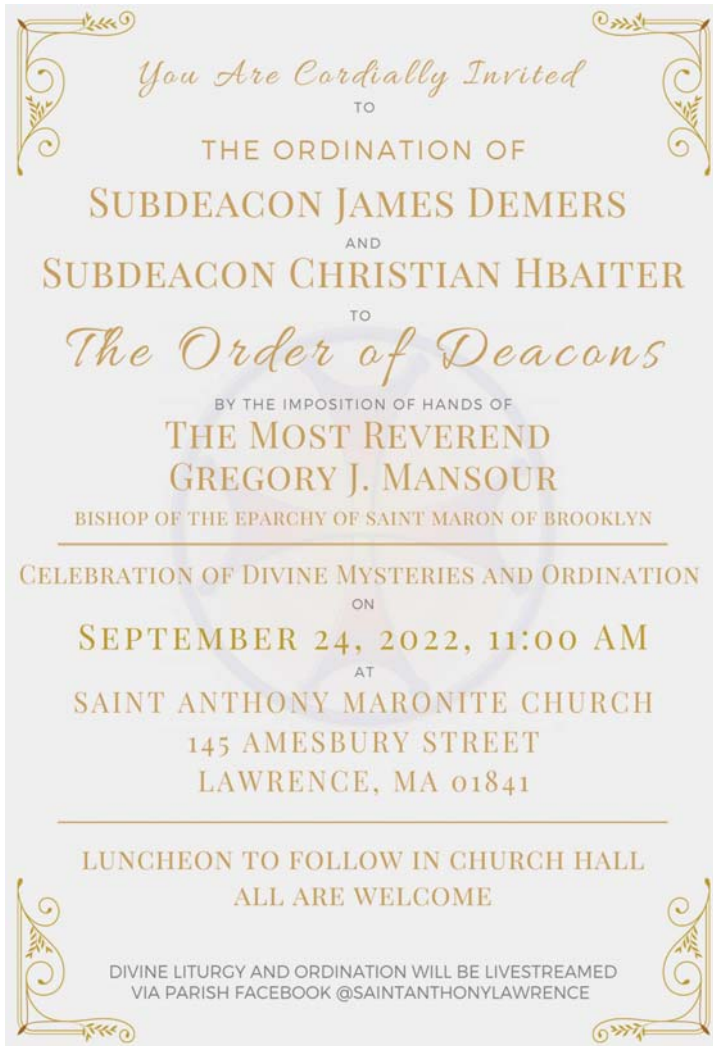
11AM Arabic & English

OUR SYMPATHIES TO:

The families of the late:

Joseph Coury & Jennie Basabis

May their souls rest in peace & their 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2022-2023

MOVING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TO SATURDAY- TWICE A MONTH

5PM-6:30 PM

Registration is now open!

Sign up your kids today!

Full Calendars will be posted soon!

First Class is Saturday, September 17th

<https://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/>

Knights of Mary

2022-2023

<https://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-4/>

Registration ENDS September 25th

Kick off is Saturday, October 1st

At 3:45PM

Knights of Mary sessions will be Bi Weekly from 5-7PM

BIBLE CAMP 2023

Our appreciation to the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light for another successful Bible Camp with our Children! Your dedication to our Faith and youth is immeasurable!

Our gratitude to the ALAA organization and Pamela Yameen for their generous donations, supporting and providing for our camp Program this year. Your kindness is truly appreciated.

Looking forward to next year's

LOL Bible Camp!!! Save the dates -

Tuesday, July 12, 2023 through

Saturday, July 15, 2023

The Sacraments of Baptism & Confirmation were administered to:

Ella C Daher

Child of: Carlos & Christiane Daher

“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God, through faith, for all you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ”

Galatians 3:26-27

SAINT JUDE FUNDRAISER

Dear family and friends, parishioners of St Anthony church,

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

As you know, September is a month consecrated for cancer awareness. Since 2010, until now, ST Jude Hospital takes care of my son, Mark Bejjani.

Mark relapsed in 2014, but thanks to Father Elie who lifted him up on the altar every single day, thanks to your prayers and also the awesome care provided by St Jude Hospital, Mark survived this dangerous and awful disease.

September 10th at 9:00 AM, you are all invited to come walk with us around St Anthony Church, while praying the rosary. Please come earlier so we could start the walk on time. The gathering time is 8:30 AM. There will be a Manouche breakfast sale following the walk.

Please be many...Mark needs your support!

Donations for the cause may be made payable to: Saint Anthony Church, please be sure to write in the memo: DONATION FOR ST JUDE.

I thank the Lord for my parish, without you, I can't do this fundraising.

God bless you all and keep everyone in good health.

Rita Bejjani



**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.



- 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, & 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 & other materials
- After mass area check

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Aug 20: Jean Paul AbiAwad, Nicolas Azzi, Antoinette El Jamous, Daad Elnar, Cole Hashem, John-Paul Matta, Michael Najjar, Beki Vincent,

Aug 21: Delaney Bradley, Kelsey Khoury, Charles Maroun

Aug. 22: Kallie Blanchet, Christian Chedid, Yara El Hayek, Emma Faris, Fay T. Feghali, Eva Khoury, Lucia Sadek,

Aug. 23: Anthony Azzi, Georges Bou Saada, Anthony El Hachem, Lara Geha, Aboud Kassarji, Bassil Zaza

Aug. 24: Reine Ata, Nabil Bou- Mitri, Marcus, Dahbour, Brendan Melvin,

Aug. 25: Vita Abdoo, Ryan Bouchrouche, John Ead, Robine Hachem

Aug. 26: Jihane Abou-Ezzi, Samya Ayoub, Wallace Hatem, Jean Kossai, Liana Said

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Aug 20: Matthew & Jaclyn Pratt

Aug 21: Henry & Joelle Sader

Aug. 22: Danny & Rita Azzi, Jamil & Teresa Kamari, Vincent & Alison Puglisi, Issam & Gill Ramey

Aug. 23: Rami & Mariana Ata, Patrick & Giselle Gerges, Richard & Noreen Mallen

Aug. 24: Walid & Silvana Awad, Chadi & Sandy Ramey

Aug. 26: Vincent & Winifred DiTommaso

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" X 8" = \$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

Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost: The Canaanite Women

Book of Ruth 1,15-19a.

So she said, 'See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.' But Ruth said, 'Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!' When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her. So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, 'Is this Naomi?'

Letter to the Ephesians 3,1-13.

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew 15, 21-28.

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 20- 4PM Lisa Abdallah

Saturday, August 27- 4PM Susan Kalil

Sunday, August 21- 9AM Michael Faris

Sunday, August 28- 9AM David Brousseau

**11:00AM Eng: Regina Abdulnour
Ar: Marie Christine Daou**

**11:00AM Eng: Giselle Dahbour
Ar: Selim Matta**

الأحد الثاني عشر من زمن العنصرة: إيمان المرأة الكنعانية

سفر راعوت 1: 15-19a

فَقَالَتْ نُعْمِي: «هَذِهِ سِلْفَتُكَ قَدْ رَجَعَتْ إِلَى شَعْبِهَا وَآلِهَتِهَا. فَارْجِعِي أَنْتِ عَلَيَّ أُنْثَى سِلْفَتِكَ». فَقَالَتْ رَاعُوتُ: «لَا تُلْجِي عَلَيَّ أَنْ أَتْرُكَكَ وَأَرْجِعَ عَنكَ، فَإِنِّي حَيْثُمَا ذَهَبْتُ أَذْهَبُ وَحَيْثُمَا بَيْتٌ أَبِيتُ، شَعْبُكَ شَعْبِي وَإِلَهِي وَإِلَهِي وَآلِهَتِي وَآلِهَتِي أَدْفَنُ. لِيَصْنَعَ الرَّبُّ بِي هَكَذَا وَلِيَزِدَ هَكَذَا إِنَّ فَرْقَ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَكَ غَيْرُ الْمَوْتِ». فَلَمَّا رَأَتْهَا مُصِرَّةً عَلَى الذَّهَابِ مَعَهَا كَفَّتْ عَنِ مُحَادَثَتِهَا بِالْأَمْرِ. وَذَهَبَتْ كِلْتَاهُمَا حَتَّى وَصَلْنَا إِلَى بَيْتِ لَحْمٍ.

رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل أفسس 3، 1-13

يَا إِخْوَتِي، أَنَا بُولُسُ، أَسِيرُ الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ، أَيُّهَا الْأُمَّمُ... إِنَّ كُنْتُمْ قَدْ سَمِعْتُمْ بِتَدْبِيرِ نِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ الَّتِي وَهَبْتُ لِي مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ، وَهُوَ أَنِّي بَوَّحِي أُطْلِعْتُ عَلَى السِّرِّ، كَمَا كَتَبْتُ إِلَيْكُمْ بِإِيحَازٍ مِنْ قَبْلِ، حِينَئِذٍ يُمَكِّنُكُمْ، إِذَا قَرَأْتُمْ ذَلِكَ، أَنْ تُدْرِكُوا فَهْمِي لِسِرِّ الْمَسِيحِ، هَذَا السِّرِّ الَّذِي لَمْ يُعْرَفْ عِنْدَ بَنِي الْبَشَرِ فِي الْأَجْيَالِ الْغَابِرَةِ، كَمَا أُعْلِنُ الْآنَ بِالرُّوحِ لِرُسُلِهِ الْقَدِيسِينَ وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، وَهُوَ أَنَّ الْأُمَّمَ هُمْ، فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ، شُرَكَاءُ لَنَا فِي الْمِيرَاثِ وَالْجَسَدِ وَالْوَعْدِ، بِوَأَسِطَةِ الْإِنْجِيلِ، الَّذِي صِرْتُ خَادِمًا لَهُ، بِحَسَبِ هِبَةِ نِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ الَّتِي وَهَبْتُ لِي بِفِعْلِ قُدْرَتِهِ؛ لِي أَنَا، أَصْغَرَ الْقَدِيسِينَ جَمِيعًا، وَهَبْتُ هَذِهِ النِّعْمَةَ، وَهِيَ أَنْ أُبَشِّرَ الْأُمَّمَ بِغِنَى الْمَسِيحِ الَّذِي لَا يُسْتَقْصَى، وَأَنْ أُوضِحَ لِلْجَمِيعِ مَا هُوَ تَدْبِيرُ السِّرِّ الْمَكْتُومِ مُنْذُ الدُّهُورِ فِي اللَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، لِكَيْ تُعْرَفَ الْآنَ مِنْ خِلَالِ الْكَنِيسَةِ، لَدَى الرِّئَاسَاتِ وَالسَّلَاطِينِ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ، حِكْمَةُ اللَّهِ الْمُتَنَوِّعَةِ، بِحَسَبِ قَصْدِهِ الْأَزَلِيِّ الَّذِي حَقَّقَهُ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ رَبِّنَا، الَّذِي لَنَا فِيهِ، أَيُّ بِالْإِيمَانِ بِهِ، الْوُصُولُ بِجُرْأَةٍ وَثِقَةٍ إِلَى اللَّهِ. لِذَلِكَ أَسْأَلُكُمْ أَنْ لَا تَضْعَفَ عَزِيمَتُكُمْ بِسَبَبِ الضَّيِّقَاتِ الَّتِي أَعَانِيهَا مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ: إِنَّهَا مَجْدٌ لَكُمْ!

نجيل القديس متى 15: 21-28

إِنْصَرَفَ يَسُوعُ إِلَى نَوَاحِي صُورَ وَصَيْدَا، وَإِذَا بِامْرَأَةٍ كَنْعَانِيَّةٍ مِنْ تِلْكَ النُّوَاحِي خَرَجَتْ تَصْرُخُ وَتَقُولُ: «إِرْحَمْنِي، يَا رَبِّ، يَا أَبْنَ دَاوُدَ! إِنَّ ابْنَتِي بِهَا شَيْطَانٌ يُعَذِّبُهَا جِدًّا.» فَلَمْ يُجِبْهَا بِكَلِمَةٍ. وَدَنَا تَلَامِيذُهُ فَأَخَذُوا يَتَوَسَّلُونَ إِلَيْهِ قَائِلِينَ: «إِصْرِفْهَا، فَإِنَّهَا تَصْرُخُ فِي إِثْرِنَا!». «فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ: «لَمْ أُرْسَلْ إِلَّا إِلَى الْخَرَافِ الضَّالَّةِ مِنْ بَيْتِ إِسْرَائِيلِ.» «أَمَّا هِيَ فَاتَتْ وَسَجَدَتْ لَهُ وَقَالَتْ: «سَاعِدْنِي، يَا رَبِّ!». «فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ: «لَا يَحْسُنُ أَنْ يُؤَخَذَ خُبْرُ الْبَنِينَ، وَيُلْفَى إِلَى جِرَاءِ الْكِلَابِ!». «فَقَالَتْ: «نَعَمْ، يَا رَبِّ! وَجِرَاءُ الْكِلَابِ أَيْضًا تَأْكُلُ مِنَ الْفُتَاتِ الْمَتَسَاقِطِ عَنِ مَائِدَةِ أَرْبَابِهَا.» «حِينَئِذٍ أَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهَا: «أَيُّهَا الْمَرْأَةُ، عَظِيمٌ إِيْمَانُكَ! فَلْيَكُنْ لَكَ كَمَا تُرِيدِينَ.» «وَمِنْ تِلْكَ السَّاعَةِ شَفِيَتْ ابْنَتُهَا.»

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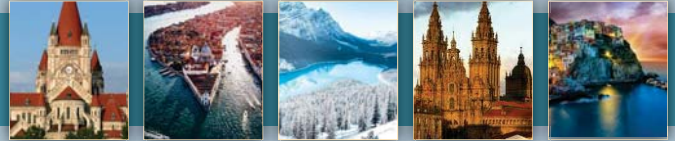


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