

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 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: _____ PHONE: _____

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.

LITURGIES

Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost: Parable of the Sower

الأحد الثالث عشر من زمن العنصرة: مثل الزارع

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

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.

Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Saturday, September 3, 2022

St Theodore the Great

4:00 pm For: In honor and thanksgiving for our Parishioners at St Anthony Church

Sunday, September 4, 2022

St Babylas, Patriarch of Antioch

11:00 am For: In honor and thanksgiving for our Parishioners at St Anthony Church

Monday, August 29

Beheading of St Jean the Baptist

Daily Readings: 1 John: 1-10 / Luke 13:31-35

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

Tuesday, August 30 (En.)

Blessed Brother Estephan Ne'mee

Daily Readings: 1 Cor 9:7-12 / Mt 20:1-16

9AM For: + Larry Kalil By John & Janice Gray & Family

Wednesday, August 31 (Ar.)

St. Zakhia (Nicholas)

Daily Readings: 1Jn 2:12-20 / LK 14:7-11

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

Thursday, September 1 (En.)

St. Simeon the Stylite

9AM For: Private Intentions

Friday, September 2 , St Mammias the Great
NO LITURGY

Sanctuary Lamps

Birthday Remembrance In Memory of Larry Kalil, By John & Janice Gray & Family.



Birthday Remembrance In Memory of Larry Kalil, By his wife, Linda, & Family.

LITURGIES INTENTIONS

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

NEW LITURGIES SCHEDULE

Since Religious Education is moved to Saturdays, Sunday Liturgies will be as Follow:
8AM Arabic - 9AM English
11AM Arabic & English

Knights of Mary 2022-2023

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

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!

www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/

Full Calendar Year

www.stanthonylawrence.org/calendar-classes-and-events/

First Class is Saturday, September 17th

Good afternoon Religious Education Families!!!

We hope you are having a wonderful summer. The religious education registration form is up and running on the St. Anthony website. We are looking forward to the return of your children this fall.

We have some exciting news!!!!. Based on feedback we have received, we are thrilled to announce that we will be returning to Saturdays!!! Classes will begin on Saturday, September 17. The class times are 5:00-6:30. Our full calendar can be found on the website. If you prefer in person registration, we will offer in person registration the weekend of September 10 & 11 after the liturgies.

If you have a child that will be making First Communion this year, please note, children must have grade 1 religious education in order to be eligible in grade 2 to receive. That means, if your child attends parochial school and attended parochial school in grade 1, they can sign into grade 2 this year. If your child attends public school and did NOT attend grade 1 religious education at St. Anthony, they must enroll in grade 1 this year.

I would also like to welcome Mrs. Ginine Flannigan. Mrs. Flannigan is not new to Religious Education. She has taught the First Communion classes over the past several years. She is taking on new responsibilities and will be assisting with the directing of the program this year. I am excited to have this support. We will be working together so you may reach out to either of us with concerns this year.

We do hope you will make the religious education upbringing of your children a priority. Even if your child attends parochial school, they are not studying our Maronite faith.

We are looking forward to a great year. Please reach out with any questions.

Susan and Ginine

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

OUR SYMPATHIES TO:

The family of the late: **Thomas J. Farris**

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

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

BIBLE CAMP 2023

Looking forward to next year's
LOL Bible Camp!!! Save the dates -
July 12 -15, 2023



**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 28:** Mikey Abou-Ezzi, Anthony Antar, Andrea Archambault, Ella Maria Azzi
- Aug. 29:** Charbel Daher, Andria Hawwa, Mark Rahi, Andrew Ramey, David Sader, Anthony Tarabay
- Aug. 30:** Perla Gilman, Michael Benoit, Jeremy Kamari, Richard Naoum, Maya Saab, Reia Tawitian,
- Aug. 31:** George Atallah, John Veilleux
- Sept. 1:** George Chaya, Adel Dreik, Jad El Hayek, Marc Hachem, Jamil Kamari, Rachel Moussa, George Nammour, Janice Solomon
- Sept 2.:** Nassif Ata, Angela Dahbour, Christopher Getchell, Grace Mansor

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Aug 27:** Fred & Bobbi Corey
- Aug 28:** Zeidan & Reine Ata, John & Amanda Belko, Josh & Elizabeth Frias. Joseph & Gina Nassar,
- Aug. 29:** Dean & Christa Levy, Zakerie & Allison Perrault, Abboud & Sonia Safi,
- Aug. 30:** Antoine & Nora Fadel
- Aug. 31:** James & Maureen Demers
- Sept. 1:** Jad & Mariane El Hayek
- Sept 2.:** Joseph & Marlene Abdunour

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

Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost: Parable of the Sower

Book of Genesis 2,8-10.15-17.

And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

First Letter to the Corinthians 3,1-11

I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, 'I belong to Paul', and another, 'I belong to Apollos', are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 8,1-15.

Jesus went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources. When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: 'A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.' As he said this, he called out, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!' Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that "looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand." 'Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 27- 4PM Susan Kalil

Sunday, August 28- 9AM David Brousseau

Sunday, August 28- 11:00AM

Eng: Giselle Dahbour

Ar: Selim Matta

VOLUNTEERS FOR MAHRAJAN WEEKEND

الأحد الثالث عشر من زمن العنصرة: مثل الزارع

سفر التكوين 2: 8-10 - 15 - 17

وَعَرَسَ الرَّبُّ الْإِلَهَ جَنَّةً فِي عَدْنٍ شَرْقًا وَجَعَلَ هُنَاكَ الْإِنْسَانَ الَّذِي جَبَلَهُ. وَأَنْبَتَ الرَّبُّ الْإِلَهَ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ كُلَّ شَجَرَةٍ حَسَنَةً الْمَنْظَرِ وَطَيِّبَةَ الْمَأْكَلِ وَشَجَرَةَ الْحَيَاةِ فِي وَسْطِ الْجَنَّةِ وَشَجَرَةَ مَعْرِفَةِ الْخَيْرِ وَالشَّرِّ. وَكَانَ نَهْرٌ يَخْرُجُ مِنْ عَدْنٍ فَيَسْقِي الْجَنَّةَ وَمِنْ هُنَاكَ يَتَشَعَّبُ فَيَصِيرُ أَرْبَعَةَ فُرُوعٍ. وَأَخَذَ الرَّبُّ الْإِلَهَ الْإِنْسَانَ وَجَعَلَهُ فِي جَنَّةِ عَدْنٍ لِيَفْلِحَهَا وَيَحْرُسَهَا. وَأَمَرَ الرَّبُّ الْإِلَهَ الْإِنْسَانَ قَائِلًا: «مِنْ جَمِيعِ أَشْجَارِ الْجَنَّةِ تَأْكُلُ، وَأَمَّا شَجَرَةُ مَعْرِفَةِ الْخَيْرِ وَالشَّرِّ فَلَا تَأْكُلْ مِنْهَا، فَإِنَّكَ يَوْمَ تَأْكُلُ مِنْهَا تَمُوتُ مَوْتًا.»

رسالة القديس بولس الأولى إلى أهل كورنثس 3: 1-11

يا إِخْوَتِي، أَنَا، لَمْ أَسْتَطِعْ أَنْ أَكَلِّمَكُم كَأَناسٍ رُوحَانِيِّينَ بَلْ كَأَناسٍ جَسَدِيِّينَ، كَأَطْفَالٍ فِي الْمَسِيحِ. قَدْ عَدَوْتُكُمْ بِالْحَلِيبِ لَا بِالطَّعَامِ، لِأَنَّكُمْ لَمْ تَكُونُوا بَعْدَ قَادِرِينَ، وَلَا حَتَّى الْآنَ أَنْتُمْ قَادِرُونَ. فَأَنْتُمْ لَا تَزَالُونَ أَناسًا جَسَدِيِّينَ: فَمَا دَامَ بَيْنَكُمْ حَسَدٌ وَخِصَامٌ، أَفَلَا تَكُونُونَ جَسَدِيِّينَ، وَسُلُوكًا جَسَدِيًّا تَسْلُكُونَ؟ فَإِذَا كَانَ أَحَدُكُمْ يَقُولُ: أَنَا لِابُلُوسِ! وَآخَرُ: أَنَا لِابُلُوسِ! أَفَلَا تَكُونُونَ جَسَدِيِّينَ؟ فَمَا هُوَ ابُلُوسُ؟ وَمَا هُوَ ابُلُوسُ؟ هُمَا خَادِمَانِ أَمَنْتُمْ عَلَى أَيْدِيهِمَا، عَلَى قَدْرِ مَا أُعْطِيَ الرَّبُّ كُلًّا مِنْهُمَا. أَنَا غَرَسْتُ، وَابُلُوسُ سَقَى، وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الَّذِي كَانَ يُنْمِي. فَلَا الْغَارِسُ بِشَيْءٍ وَلَا السَّاقِي، بَلِ اللَّهُ الَّذِي يُنْمِي! لَكِنَّ الْغَارِسَ وَالسَّاقِي وَاحِدٌ، وَكُلُّ مِنْهُمَا يَأْخُذُ أَجْرَهُ عَلَى قَدْرِ تَعَبِهِ. فَحَنُ مَعَاوَنَانِ لِلَّهِ، وَأَنْتُمْ حَقْلُ اللَّهِ وَبِنَاءُ اللَّهِ. وَأَنَا بِنِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ الَّتِي وَهَبْتُ لِي، وَضَعْتُ الْأَسَاسَ كِبْنَاءً حَكِيمًا، لَكِنَّ آخَرَ يَبْنِي عَلَيْهِ: فَلْيَنْظُرْ كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ كَيْفَ يَبْنِي عَلَيْهِ! فَمَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ يُمَكِّنُهُ أَنْ يَضَعَ أَسَاسًا آخَرَ غَيْرَ الْأَسَاسِ الْمَوْضُوعِ، وَهُوَ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ.

نجيل القديس لوقا 15: 8-11

أَخَذَ يَسُوعُ يَطُوفَ الْمُدُنَ وَالْقُرَى، يُبَادِي وَيُبَشِّرُ بِمَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ، وَمَعَهُ الْإِثْنَا عَشَرَ، وَبَعْضُ النِّسَاءِ اللَّوَاتِي شَفَاهُنَّ مِنْ أَرْوَاحِ شَرِّيرَةٍ وَأَمْرَاضٍ، هُنَّ: مَرْيَمُ الْمَدْعُوءَةُ بِالْمَجْدَلِيَّةِ، الَّتِي كَانَ قَدْ خَرَجَ مِنْهَا سَبْعَةُ شَيَاطِينٍ، وَحَنَّةُ امْرَأَةِ خُوزِي وَكَيْلِ هِيرُودُسَ، وَسُوسَنَةُ، وَغَيْرُهُنَّ كَثِيرَاتٌ كُنَّ يَبْدُلْنَ مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِنَّ فِي خِدْمَتِهِمْ. وَلَمَّا أَحْتَشَدَ جَمْعٌ كَثِيرٌ، وَأَقْبَلَ النَّاسُ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ كُلِّ مَدِينَةٍ، خَاطَبَهُمْ بِمَثَلٍ: «خَرَجَ الزَّارِعُ لِيَزْرَعَ زَرْعَهُ. وَفِيمَا هُوَ يَزْرَعُ، وَقَعَ بَعْضُ الْحَبِّ عَلَى جَانِبِ الطَّرِيقِ، فَدَاسَتْهُ الْأَقْدَامُ، وَأَكَلَتْهُ طُيُورُ السَّمَاءِ. وَقَعَ بَعْضُهُ الْآخَرَ عَلَى الصَّخْرَةِ، وَمَا إِنْ نَبَتَ حَتَّى يَبْسَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ رُطُوبَةٌ. وَقَعَ بَعْضُهُ الْآخَرَ فِي وَسْطِ الشُّوكِ، وَنَبَتَ الشُّوكُ مَعَهُ فَحَنَقَهُ. وَقَعَ بَعْضُهُ الْآخَرَ فِي الْأَرْضِ الصَّالِحَةِ، وَنَبَتَ فَأَنْمَرَ مِئَةَ ضِعْفٍ. قَالَ يَسُوعُ هَذَا، وَنَادَى: «مَنْ لَهُ أُذُنَانِ سَامِعَتَانِ فَلْيَسْمَعْ! وَسَأَلَهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ: «مَا تَرَاهُ يَعْنِي هَذَا الْمَثَلُ؟». فَقَالَ: «قَدْ أُعْطِيَ لَكُمْ أَنْتُمْ أَنْ تَعْرِفُوا أَسْرَارَ مَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ. أَمَّا الْبَاقُونَ فَأَكَلِمُهُمْ بِالْأَمْثَالِ، لِكَيْ يَنْظُرُوا فَلَا يُبْصِرُوا، وَيَسْمَعُوا فَلَا يَفْهَمُوا. وَهَذَا هُوَ مَعْنَى الْمَثَلِ: الزَّرْعُ هُوَ كَلِمَةُ اللَّهِ. وَالَّذِينَ عَلَى جَانِبِ الطَّرِيقِ هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ، ثُمَّ يَأْتِي ابْلِيسُ فَيَنْتَرِخُ الْكَلِمَةَ مِنْ قُلُوبِهِمْ، لِئَلَّا يُؤْمِنُوا فَيَخْلُصُوا. وَالَّذِينَ عَلَى الصَّخْرَةِ هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ الْكَلِمَةَ وَيَقْبَلُونَهَا بِفَرَحٍ؛ هُوَ لَا أَصْلَ لَهُمْ، فَهُمْ يُؤْمِنُونَ إِلَى حِينٍ، وَفِي وَقْتِ التَّجْرِبَةِ يَتَرَجَعُونَ. وَالَّذِي وَقَعَ فِي الشُّوكِ هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ وَيَمْضُونَ، فَتَخَنَّقُهُمُ الْهُمُومُ وَالْغِنَى وَمَلَذَاتُ الْحَيَاةِ، فَلَا يَنْضِجُ لَهُمْ ثَمَرٌ. أَمَّا الَّذِي وَقَعَ فِي الْأَرْضِ الْجَيِّدَةِ فَهُمْ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ الْكَلِمَةَ بِقَلْبٍ جَيِّدٍ صَالِحٍ فَيَحْفَظُونَهَا، وَيَتَّبِعُونَ فَيُثْمِرُونَ.»

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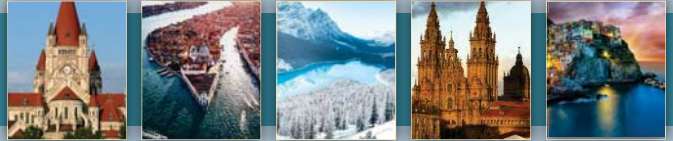


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