

## 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](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)

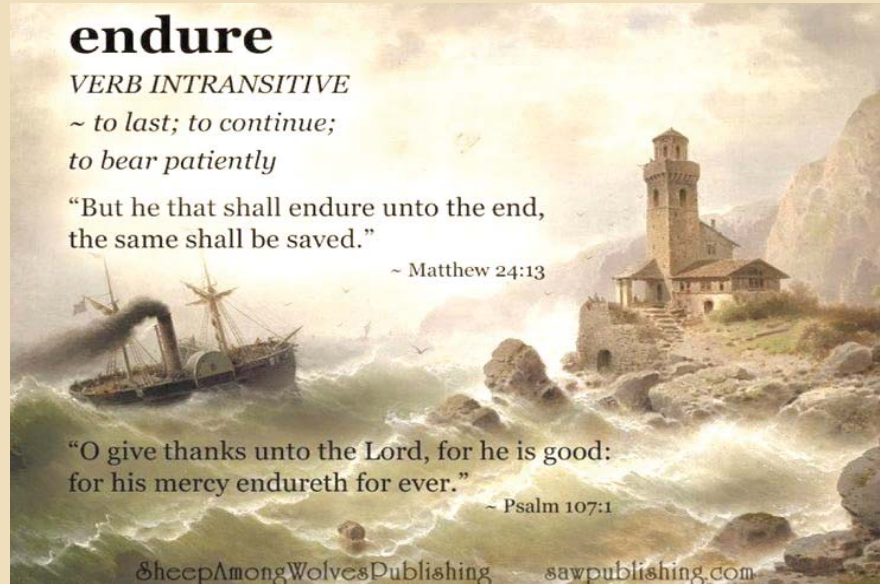


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### DAILY LITURGIES 9am

- MON (Arabic)
- TUE (English)
- WED (Arabic)
- THU (English)

### WEEKEND LITURGIES

- SAT 4:00PM(English)
- SUN
  - 8:00AM (Arabic)
  - 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](mailto:pastor@stanthonylawrence.org)
- Fr. Edgard (Neemtallah) Oneissy  
**857-390-4838...**  
[pv@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:pv@stanthonylawrence.org)

### MEET OUR DEACONS:

- Deacons: David Leard & Nadim B. Daou
- Sub-Deacons: James T. Demers & Antoine Nammour

### 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**

**Second Sunday of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**  
**الأحد الثاني بعد عيد الصليب: تدمير الهيكل ونهاية الأزمنة**

LITURGIES INTENTIONS

**2nd SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS**

**Saturday, September 24, 2022**

*St Thecla, 1st Woman Martyr*

**11:00 am Ordination Liturgy**

**4:00 pm** For: Private Intentions

**Sunday, September 25, 2022**

**8:00 am** For: + John Purcell *By His wife, Najla Azzi-Purcell*

**9:00 am** For: +Christopher Faris, *By Carl & Sylvie Faris & Family*

**11:00 am**

For: Fallen Heroes of the Lebanese Forces *By The Lebanese Forces –Methuen Chapter*

**3rd SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS**  
**Holy Rosary Sunday**

**Saturday, October 1, 2022**

*St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Doctor of the Church, C*

**4:00 pm** 1 Year Anniversary For: +Richard Ferguson, *By his wife, Patricia, son, Matthew, & Family.*

**Sunday, October 2, 2022**

*Sts. Cyprian & Justina, M*

**8:00 am** For: +Sabah Dagher, *By his wife, Leila Hanna, children: Amal, Daad, Charbel, & Noura Dagher, & their families.*

**9:00 am** For: +Christopher Faris, *By Carl & Sylvie Faris & Family.*

**11:00 am**

1 Year Anniversary For: Antoine Fakhoury, *By his wife, Odette (ElHelou), daughter, Suzie, wife of Fidae Azouri, & their Families.*

For: Living & Deceased members of the Bou-Mitri Family, *By Mr. & Mrs. Mounir Bou-Mitri.*

**WEEKDAY LITURGIES**

**Monday, September 26 (Ar.)**

*St. John the Evangelist, Ap  
 Rev. 3:1-6 / Mt 10:16-22*

**9AM** For: +Fr. Abdallah Ramy *By Dr. & Mrs. George Abou-Ezzi.*

**Tuesday, September 27 (En.)**

*St. Vincent de Paul, C  
 Rev. 3:7-13 / Mt 11:20-24*

**9AM** For: +Antoine Karam Asmar *By Nada & Elianne Asmar.*

**Wednesday, September 28 (Ar.)**

*St. Chariton, C  
 Rev. 3:14-22 / Mt 12:29-32*

**9AM** For: +Antoine Karam Asmar, Lena & Karam Asmar, & Tom Bistany, *By Nada & Elianne Asmar.*

**Thursday, September 29 (En.)**

*St. Romanos  
 Rev 4:1-11 / Mt 12:33-37*

**9AM** For: +Deceased Members of the Goulart & Pereira Families *By Dora Pereira.*

**12 NOON -Eucharistic Adoration**

**Friday, September 30 -No Liturgy**

*St. Gregory the Illuminator, M*

**PLEASE NOTE:**

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




*Jesus is longing for your presence.*

Adoration is back to Regular Schedule following Thursday Weekday Liturgy.



**SAVE**  
*...the....*  
**DATE**  
FOR  
Christmas Concert  
**12.03.2022**  
Reception to Follow



**BIBLE** *Coming Soon*  
**STUDY** *In October!*

### **BANNS OF MARRIAGE**

#### **First Banns of Marriage:**

*Rola Najem & Bassem El Fata*

#### **The Sacraments of Baptism & Confirmation were administered to:**

***George Samuel Akiki***

*Child of: Joseph & Alexandria Akiki*

*“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*

### **UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION**

***World Mission Sunday  
October 22 & 23***

### **Sanctuary Lamps**



***In Memory of Richard Ferguson  
By his wife, Patricia,  
& his son, Matthew.***

***In Memory of Richard Ferguson  
By his sister, Patricia Ferguson.***

### **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.

## Maronite Youth Organization - MYO

MYO Registration, High school Ages, will be available following the Weekend Liturgies: September 24 & 25

### SAVE THE DATE

MYO Member/ Parent Info Night!!!  
Please join us in kicking-off this MYO Season:

When: Thursday, September 29th  
Where: St Anthony Church Hall  
Time: 6:30PM- 7:30PM

Light Refreshments will be served.  
Registration will be available.

*MYO Regional Lock-in  
Saint Anthony Church Hall*

**POSTPONED!!**

## Knights of Mary 2022-2023

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-4/](http://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

## Knights of the Altar 2022-2023

<https://www.stanthonylawrence.org/application/>

Sign up to be a Knight &  
serve on the Altar during Liturgies.  
Forms can be auto-filled through  
the above link. Paper forms are available  
in the Church Foyer.

Full Altar Server Schedule can be found:  
<https://www.stanthonylawrence.org/kinghts-of-the-altar-calendar/>

## BIBLE CAMP 2023

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

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2022-2023

SATURDAYS- TWICE A MONTH: 5PM-6:30 PM

Registration is now open! Sign up your kids today!  
[www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/)

Full Calendar Year

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/calendar-classes-and-events/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/calendar-classes-and-events/)

THANK YOU Fr. Elie for our new desks!!!

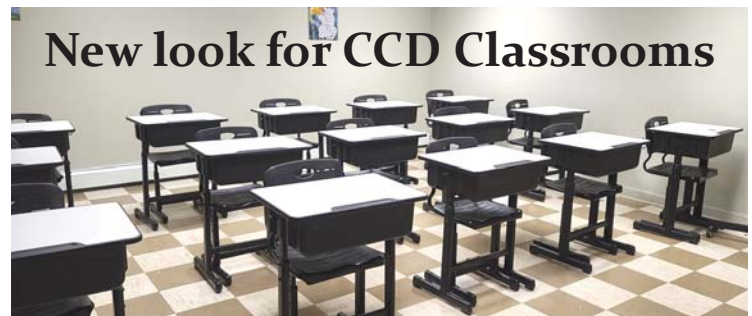
THANK YOU Knights of Columbus for assembling them!!!!

The students were so excited to be in an environment that was set up for learning.

Thank you also to our families who have made the commitment to Religious Education this year. There is nothing more important than our children learning and understanding our Maronite faith. The classes are some of the largest we have seen in a long time. We are so happy to welcome everyone back!!!

Please remember, our **next class will be held on Saturday, October 8. Classes begin at 5:00 p.m.** We invite you and your family to join us anytime at the 4:00 liturgy prior to class.

Wishing you all a wonderful week!  
The Religious Ed Team.



**New look for CCD Classrooms**

Members of Saint Anthony's Knights of Columbus assembled new desks and chairs for our Religious Education Classrooms. Our gratitude to: *Danny Abourjeili, Dylan Abourjeili, Danny Azzi, Elias Azzi, Jason Azzi, and Matt Matta* for their time and efforts in completing and having them ready for our students' return this past weekend.



## Maronite Young Adults - MYA

Greetings from  
Tampa, FL

**MYA TAMPA CONFERENCE**

TAMPA MARRIOTT WATER ST.

SAVE THE DATE  
OCT 28-30, 2022

FAITH. FELLOWSHIP. FUN.

MYA Registration now open to new members,  
Ages 18-35  
Contact Ramona for more info: 978-350-2965



### 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

## COMING SOON ST. ANTHONY'S



## BASKETBALL

**5TH-8TH GRADERS  
GET READY!**

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**Sept 24:** Kyle BouoChaya, Maria Geha, Brian Khoury, Christopher Merheb, Joy Sadek,

**Sept 25:** Jane El-Hachem, Bassam Geha, Chloe Mazraani, Rock Sfeir, Lauren Wlodyka

**Sept 26:** Mayr Ann Abdallah, Michael Bejjani, Desitny Geha, Nicole Motta, Derek Shadeed, Laurence Yameen

**Sept 27:** Katia Assaf, Elie Merheb

**Sept. 28:** Dawn Aboelsaad, Antoine Nader, Matthew Saab, Samuel Safi, Mikaela Strobel,

**Sept 29:** George Atallah, Ramona Bou-Mitri, Pascal Constantine, Laura Dahbour, Aliana Fiato, Tania Mazraani, Charbel Salloum, Manuel Santos, Nina Santos

**Sept 30:** Youssef Acevedo, Therese Chahine, Mason Sawyer

#### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

**Sept 24:** Stephen & Najat Arsenault, Raymond & Lisa Germanos, Elie & Elizabeth Nehme, Pierre & Meara Younes

**Sept 25:** Charbel & Pascal Daher, Michael & Gabriela Fiato, Tony & Joumana Hashem

**Sept 26:** Jonathan & Maria Bonanno, Robert & Beverly Schiripo

**Sept 27:** Fred & Lori Corey

**Sept. 28:** Allen & Karen Pelletier

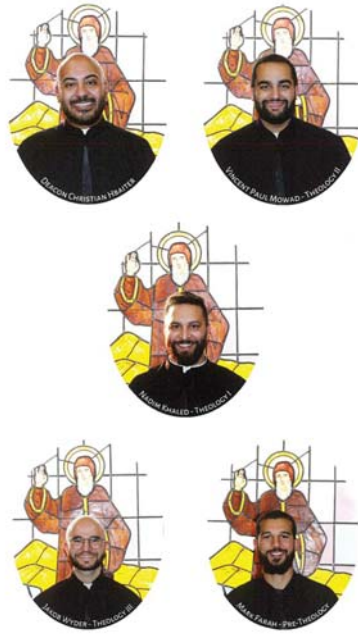
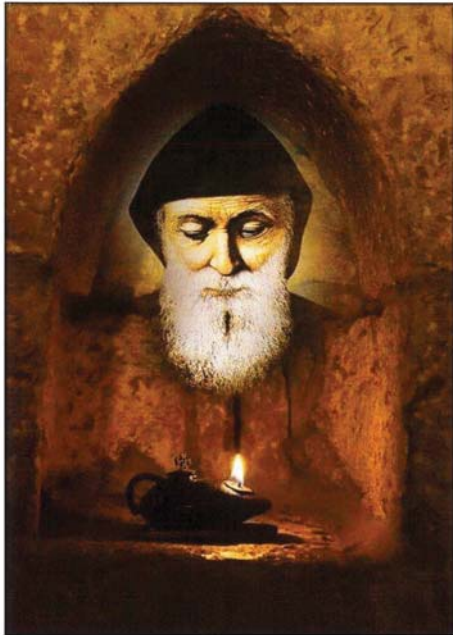
**Sept 29:** Anthony & Christina Chedid, William & Jennifer Kannan

**Sept 30:** Lutfi & Mouna Kassarji

# JOIN THE ORDER OF SAINT SHARBEL

TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF MARONITE SEMINARIANS  
AND HELP BUILD THE FUTURE OF THE MARONITE CHURCH

Meet this year's Seminarians for the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn



## Lebanese Food Festival

**Friday, September 30, 5PM-11PM**  
**Saturday, October 1, 1PM - 12AM**  
**Sunday, October 2, 12PM - 6PM**

Middle Eastern Food,  
Raffles, Baked Good & More.  
Entertainment Friday,  
Saturday & Sunday  
Admission is Free

**Saint Theresa Maronite Church**  
343 North Main Street  
Brockton, MA 02301

## Pray the Rosary

Join in prayer for the Intention of  
peace in our families, cities, nation  
and the whole world.

**Saturday, October 8 @ 11AM**  
Campagnone Common  
Across the street from the  
Lawrence Public Library

## JOIN THE ORDER OF SAINT SHARBEL TODAY

Enroll online at [www.orderstsharbel.org](http://www.orderstsharbel.org) or in your Parish.

For more information about the Order, contact the Order of Saint Sharbel  
Vice President, Charlene Hiffa at [mchiffa@bellsouth.net](mailto:mchiffa@bellsouth.net) or ask your Parish Priest.

If you are interested in becoming a Priest, Religious Sister, or Deacon, contact Vocations Director  
Father Dominique Hanna at (718) 624-7228 or [cathrectory@verizon.net](mailto:cathrectory@verizon.net).

## LECTORS SCHEDULE

**Saturday, September 24 - 4PM**  
Lisa Abdallah

**Sunday, September 25- 8AM -**  
Hitaf Nammour  
9AM Meaghan Twing  
11:00AM Eng: Anthony Merheb  
Ar: Gretta Merheb

**Saturday, October 1 - 4PM**  
Patricia Ferguson

**Sunday, October 2- 8AM -**  
Mouna Hbaiter  
9AM Mike Faris  
11:00AM Eng: Selim Matta  
Ar: Carine Sadek



## October And The Rosary

The Month Of The Holy Rosary

The month of October is  
dedicated to the Holy Rosary  
and this is a reminder of the  
promises for those who pray  
this contemplative prayer with  
Our Lady. It is a sign of  
predestination.

#20201004MB-SSSD

## 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/](http://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](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)

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

1. Go to [www.stanthonylawrence.org](http://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](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)

**or Visit:** [www.stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/](http://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](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)

*Tree to be planted : Kousa Dogwood*

## Second Sunday after the Cross

*Book of Joel 2,1.10-13.15-16.*

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near The earth quakes before them, the heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. The LORD utters his voice at the head of his army; how vast is his host! Numberless are those who obey his command. Truly the day of the LORD is great; terrible indeed who can endure it? Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

*First Letter to the Corinthians 15,19-34.*

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For 'God has put all things in subjection under his feet.' But when it says, 'All things are put in subjection', it is plain that this does not include the one who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who put all things in subjection under him, so that God may be all in all. Otherwise, what will those people do who receive baptism on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? And why are we putting ourselves in danger every hour? I die every day! That is as certain, brothers and sisters, as my boasting of you a boast that I make in Christ Jesus our Lord. If with merely human hopes I fought with wild animals at Ephesus, what would I have gained by it? If the dead are not raised, 'Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.' Do not be deceived: 'Bad company ruins good morals.' Come to a sober and right mind, and sin no more; for some people have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

*Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew 24,1-14.*

As Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. Then he asked them, 'You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.' When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?' Jesus answered them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, "I am the Messiah!" and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs. 'Then they will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. Then many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. But anyone who endures to the end will be saved. And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations; and then the end will come.





## الأحد الثاني بعد عيد الصليب: تدمير الهيكل ونهاية الأزمنة

سفر يونيل 16-13-15:2-10.1

أَنْفُخُوا فِي الْبُوقِ فِي صِهْيُونِ وَأَهْتَفُوا فِي جَبَلِ فُدْسِي وَلِيَرْتَعِدْ جَمِيعُ سُكَّانِ الْأَرْضِ فَإِنَّ يَوْمَ الرَّبِّ آتٍ وَهُوَ قَرِيبٌ مِنْ وَجْهِهِ أَرْتَعِدَتِ الْأَرْضُ وَرَجَفَتِ السَّمَوَاتُ وَأَظْلَمَتِ الشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ وَسَحَبَتِ الْكَوَاكِبُ ضِيَاءَهَا وَجَهَرَ الرَّبُّ بِصَوْتِهِ أَمَامَ جَيْشِهِ لِأَنَّ عَسْكَرَهُ كَثِيرٌ جِدًّا مُقْتَدِرٌ يُنْفِذُ كَلِمَتَهُ لِأَنَّهُ عَظِيمٌ يَوْمَ الرَّبِّ وَهَائِلٌ جِدًّا فَمَنْ الَّذِي يُطِيقُهُ؟ فَالآنَ، يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ: «إِرْجِعُوا إِلَيَّ بِكُلِّ قُلُوبِكُمْ وَبِالصَّوْمِ وَبِالْبُكَاءِ وَبِالْإِنْتِحَابِ». «مَرْقُوا قُلُوبَكُمْ لَا تِيَابَكُمْ وَارْجِعُوا إِلَى الرَّبِّ إِلَهُكُمْ فَإِنَّهُ حَنُونٌ رَحِيمٌ طَوِيلُ الْأَنَاءِ كَثِيرُ الرَّحْمَةِ وَنَادِمٌ عَلَى الشَّرِّ. أَنْفُخُوا فِي الْبُوقِ فِي صِهْيُونِ وَأَوْصُوا بِصَوْمٍ مُقَدَّسٍ وَنَادُوا بِاحْتِفَالٍ. إِجْمَعُوا الشَّعْبَ وَقَدِّسُوا الْجَمَاعَةَ وَاجْمَعُوا الشُّيُوخَ وَاجْمَعُوا الْأَطْفَالَ وَرَاضِعِي الْأَثْدَاءِ وَلِيَخْرُجِ الْعَرِيسُ مِنْ مُخْدَعِهِ وَالْعَرُوسُ مِنْ خَدْرِهَا.

رسالة القديس بولس الأولى إلى أهل كورنتس 34-19:15

يَا إِخْوَتِي، إِنَّ كُنَّا نَرْجُو الْمَسِيحَ فِي هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةِ وَحَسَبُ، فَحَنُ أَشَقَى النَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ! وَالْحَالُ أَنَّ الْمَسِيحَ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، وَهُوَ بَاكُورَةُ الرَّاقِدِينَ. فِيمَا أَنَّ الْمَوْتَ كَانَ بَوَاسِطَةِ إِنْسَانٍ، فَبَوَاسِطَةِ إِنْسَانٍ أَيْضًا تَكُونُ قِيَامَةُ الْأَمْوَاتِ. فَكَمَا أَنَّهُ فِي آدَمَ يَمُوتُ الْجَمِيعُ، كَذَلِكَ فِي الْمَسِيحِ سَيَحْيَا الْجَمِيعُ، كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ فِي رُتْبَتِهِ: الْمَسِيحُ أَوَّلًا، لِأَنَّهُ الْبَاكُورَةُ، ثُمَّ الَّذِينَ هُمْ لِلْمَسِيحِ، عِنْدَ مَجِيئِهِ. وَبَعْدَ ذَلِكَ تَكُونُ النِّهَائِيَّةُ، حِينَ يُسَلِّمُ الْمَسِيحُ الْمُلْكَ إِلَى اللَّهِ الْآبِ، بَعْدَ أَنْ يَكُونَ قَدْ أَبْطَلَ كُلَّ رِئَاسَةٍ وَكُلَّ سُلْطَانٍ وَقُوَّةٍ، لِأَنَّهُ لَا بُدَّ لِلْمَسِيحِ أَنْ يَمْلِكَ، إِلَى أَنْ يَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ جَمِيعَ أَعْدَائِهِ تَحْتَ قَدَمَيْهِ. وَآخِرُ عَدُوٍّ يُبْطَلُ هُوَ الْمَوْتُ. لَقَدْ أَخْضَعَ اللَّهُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ تَحْتَ قَدَمَيْهِ. وَحِينَ يَقُولُ الْكِتَابُ: «أَخْضَعَ لَهُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ»، فَمِنْ الْوَاضِحِ أَنَّهُ يَسْتَنْبِي اللَّهُ الَّذِي أَخْضَعَ لَهُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ. وَمَتَى أَخْضَعَ لِلْآبِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، فَحِينَئِذٍ يَخْضَعُ الْآبُنُ نَفْسَهُ لِلَّذِي أَخْضَعَ لَهُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، حَتَّى يَكُونَ اللَّهُ الْكُلُّ فِي الْكُلِّ. وَإِلَّا فَمَاذَا يَفْعَلُ الَّذِينَ يَتَعَمَّدُونَ مِنْ أَجْلِ الْأَمْوَاتِ؟ إِنْ كَانَ الْأَمْوَاتُ لَا يَقُومُونَ أَبَدًا، فَلِمَاذَا يَتَعَمَّدُونَ مِنْ أَجْلِهِمْ؟ وَنَحْنُ، فَلِمَاذَا نَعْرِضُ أَنْفُسَنَا كُلَّ سَاعَةٍ لِلْخَطَرِ؟ أَقْسِمُ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةَ، بِمَا لِي مِنْ فَخْرٍ بِكُمْ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ رَبِّنَا، أَيُّ أَوَاجِهِ الْمَوْتُ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ. إِنْ كُنْتُ صَارَ عْتُ الْوُحُوشِ فِي أَفْسُسَ، لِغَايَةِ بَشَرِيَّةٍ، فَمَا نَفْعَ لِي؟ وَإِنْ كَانَ الْأَمْوَاتُ لَا يَقُومُونَ، فَلِنَأْكُلْ وَنَشْرَبْ، لِأَنَّنَا عَدَا سَنَمُوتُ! لَا تَضَلُّوا! إِنَّ الْمُعَاشِرَاتِ السَّيِّئَةَ تَفْسِدُ الْأَخْلَاقَ السَّالِمَةَ! أَيَقْظُوا قُلُوبَكُمْ بِالتَّقْوَى، وَلَا تَخْطُأُوا، فَإِنَّ بَعْضًا مِنْكُمْ يَجْهَلُونَ اللَّهَ! أَقُولُ هَذَا لِإِخْوَالِكُمْ!

إنجيل القديس متى 14-1:24

خَرَجَ يَسُوعُ مِنَ الْهَيْكَلِ وَمَضَى. فَدَنَا مِنْهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ يُفْتَشُونَ نَظْرَهُ إِلَى أُنْبِيَةِ الْهَيْكَلِ. فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «أَلَا تَنْظُرُونَ هَذَا كُلَّهُ؟ أَلَحَقَ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: لَنْ يُتْرَكَ هُنَا حَجَرٌ عَلَى حَجَرٍ إِلَّا وَيُنْقَضُ». «وَفِيمَا هُوَ جَالِسٌ عَلَى جَبَلِ الرِّيْثُونَ، دَنَا مِنْهُ التَّلَامِيذُ عَلَى أَنْفِرَادٍ قَائِلِينَ: «قُلْ لَنَا مَتَى يَكُونُ هَذَا، وَمَا هِيَ عَلَامَةُ مَجِيئِكَ وَنِهَائِيَةِ الْعَالَمِ؟». فَأَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «إِحْذَرُوا أَنْ يُضَلِّكُمْ أَحَدًا! فَكثيرون سياتون باسمي قائلين: «أنا هو المسيح! ويضلون الكثيرين. وسوف تسمعون بحروب وبأخبار حروب، أنظروا، لا ترتعبوا! فلا بد أن يحدث هذا. ولكن ليست النِّهَائِيَّةُ بَعْدَ! سَتَقُومُ أُمَّةٌ عَلَى أُمَّةٍ، وَمَمْلَكَةٌ عَلَى مَمْلَكَةٍ، وَتَكُونُ مَجَاعَاتٌ وَزَلَزَلٌ فِي أَمَاكِنَ شَتَّى، وَهَذَا كُلُّهُ أَوَّلُ الْمَخَاضِ. حِينَئِذٍ يُسَلِّمُونَكُمْ إِلَى الصَّيْقِ، وَيَقْتُلُونَكُمْ، وَيُبَغِضُكُمْ جَمِيعُ الْأُمَمِ مِنْ أَجْلِ أَسْمِي. وَحِينَئِذٍ يَرْتَدُّ الْكَثِيرُونَ عَنِ الْإِيمَانِ، وَيُسَلِّمُ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا، وَيُبَغِضُ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا. وَيَقُومُ أَنْبِيَاءُ كَذِبَةٌ كَثِيرُونَ وَيُضِلُّونَ الْكَثِيرِينَ. وَلَكِنَّةَ الْإِنَّمِ تَقُورُ مَحَبَّةُ الْكَثِيرِينَ. وَمَنْ يَصْبِرْ إِلَى النِّهَائِيَّةِ يَخْلُصُ. وَيُكْرَزُ بِإِنْجِيلِ الْمَلَكُوتِ هَذَا فِي الْمَسْكُونَةِ كُلِّهَا شَهَادَةً لِجَمِيعِ الْأُمَمِ، وَحِينَئِذٍ تَأْتِي النِّهَائِيَّةُ.

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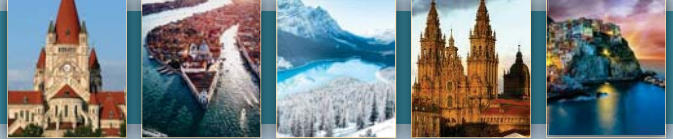


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