

## 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)

### 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: Nadim B. Daou,

James T. Demers & David Leard

Sub-Deacons: Antoine Nammour



### DAILY LITURGIES 9am

**MON & WED** (Arabic)

**TUE & 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



SaintAnthonyLawrence



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### 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

# Sunday of the Birth of John the Baptist

## أحد مولد يوحنا المعمدان

### BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

**Saturday, December 3** *St. Francis Xavier*

**4:00pm** Private Intentions

**Sunday, December 4** *St. Barbara*

**8:00 am** Private Intentions

**9:00am** 40 Day Anniversary For: +Alfred J. Roderigues, *By his daughter, Mary-Alice "Missy", his grandchildren: Katy, & her husband, Michael, & Jacklyn.*

**11:00 am** 1st Anniversary For: Marie Tayar El Achi, *By her children, Salim El Achi & Bassima Geha, their spouses & Families.*

+Therese Bou-Mitri, *By her husband, Antoine, son, Andre, daughter, Anabelle, wife of Robert Owaida, & granddaughters.*

### WEEKDAY LITURGIES

**Monday, December 5** *(Ar.) St. Saba*

*Rom 9:1-5 / Lk 1:67-80*

**9:00am** +Metanios, Cecilia, Doumit, & George, *By the Hbaiter Family.*

**Tuesday, December 6** *(En.) St. Nicholas*

*Rom 9:6-13 / Mt 11:11-15*

**9:00am** +Therese Bou-Mitri, *By her husband, Antoine, son, Andre, daughter, Anabelle, wife of Robert Owaida, & granddaughters.*

**Wednesday, December 7** *(Ar.) St. Ambrose*

*Heb 7:11-17/ Lk 11:27-32*

**7:00 PM Vigil Liturgy- Feast of the Immaculate Conception.**

**Thursday, December 8** *(En.) Heb 7:11-17/ Lk 11:27-32*

**9:00am Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

**9:30am -12 noon Eucharistic Adoration  
CHAPEL**

**Friday, December 9—No Liturgy**

*St. Francis of Paola*

### REVELATION TO JOSEPH

**Saturday, December 10** *Pope St. Miltiades*

**4:00pm** +Thomas J. Farris, *By Shirley Connelly.*

**Sunday, December 11** *St. James*

**8:00am** Private Intentions

**9:00am** +Barbara Shaheen, *By Father Elie Mikhael.*

**11:00am** +40 Day Anniversary For: +Suzanne Lebbos, *By her children: Camille, Eli, Katia, Salim & Rosie, & their families.*

+Jamileh (Barbar) & Chafic Zaarour, *By their daughters, Georgina Maroun & Joumana Feghali, & their families.*

### Sanctuary Lamps



*In Loving Memory of  
Barbara Bou Khalil, By her  
sister, Lola, wife of Kozhaya  
Abou Khalil, & Family.*

**Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:**  
[www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/)

### CLERGY DAY OFF

*Fr Elie: Mondays*

*Fr. Neemtallah's : Wednesdays*

### PLEASE NOTE:

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

LITURGIES INTENTIONS

**St. Anthony  
Maronite Church**  
*invites you*  
**to our annual  
Christmas Concert**

**EMMANUEL, GOD IS WITH US**

Presented by: Saint Anthony's Choirs  
Orchestrated by: Father Neemtallah Oneissy

... Featuring the violonist: Maestro Lebnen Khalil

*For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship HIM.  
(Matthew 2:2)*



**DECEMBER 17, 2022 | 7 P.M.**

**ST. ANTHONY CHURCH, 145 AMESBURY ST, LAWRENCE, MA**

*Please join us for a light dinner in the church hall following the concert.*

Participate in the Christmas Recital Pot Luck Dinner! For Questions, contact Mrs. Carine Sadek.  
Sign up your dish at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094FAAAD2CA5FBC70-christmas>

## Christmas at Saint Anthony's

### Christmas Poinsettia Donation Form

Poinsettias are \$15.00. Please make check payable to: *St Anthony Church*

Donated By: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Poinsettias: \_\_\_\_\_

*Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary.*

*Reminder: Please return this form to the church office by **Friday December 16th**, so that your dedication is included in the Christmas Bulletin. It is important that you **PRINT** your dedication **CLEARLY** in order to avoid errors. The poinsettias will adorn the sanctuary and may be picked up after New Year's Liturgies.*



## Making Spirits Bright...

Join us for

**Saint Anthony's**

**Children's Christmas Party**

Hosted by  
Knights of Mary and Religious Education Programs

Sponsored by the  
**American Lebanese Awareness Association (ALAA)**

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022,**  
following the 11 O'clock Liturgy till 2:30 PM

Crafts, gingerbread making, face painting, and...  
photos with Santa!!!



*You're Invited to the*

## *Ladies Christmas Party*

St. Anthony's Cedar Hall 145 Amesbury St Lawrence, MA

December 9 at 7:30 PM Tickets: \$50.00

**Please RSVP before December 5**

Join us for a night of dinner, dancing, raffles, games & ornament Yankee Swap

For Tickets and additional information, please contact

Natalie Saad 978.697.9374

Colette Sadek 617.512.9959

Please bring a wrapped Christmas Ornament for the Yankee Swap

### Saint Anthony's Parish

*The Annual Men's Christmas Party*  
*Presented By*

*Parish Council & Knights of Coumbus*

**Tuesday, December 13**

**7:00pm-10:00pm**

**\$50.00**

**Michael Restaurant**

**12 Alpha St, Haverhill, MA 01832**

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/upcoming-events-2/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/upcoming-events-2/)

For tickets to the Men's Party, Contact:

*Fred Corey....978-835-8790*

*Rodney Pica....603-489-8363*

*Wissam Merheb....978-853-5145*

*Danny Azzi....978-807-0369*

### CHRISTMAS NOVENA

**Weekdays: 7PM**

**Weekends:**

**Following the Liturgies**



You are invited to share the Spirit of Christmas by giving new, wrapped Christmas Gifts selected from our Angel Giving Tree to help those in need.

*The tree is set up in our Foyer with many angels to choose from. Kindly, wrap all gifts, place gift cards in a gift bag or box. \*Please make sure to ATTACH THE "ANGEL TAG" TO YOUR WRAPPED GIFT.*

*This will help organize and gather family gifts. We ask you to place your gift donations under the tree no later than:*

**Thursday, December 15th.**

Contact the Rectory for questions or more information.



**Giving Tree**

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Upcoming Class: *December 10 5PM-6:30 PM*

Calendar:

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

We are in need of substitute teachers!!!

If you would like more information please contact us at [lawrencereligious@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencereligious@gmail.com)

### MARONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION - MYO

Sunday, December 18 - Christmas Party

Full Calendar: [stanthonylawrence.org/myo/](http://stanthonylawrence.org/myo/)

### MARONITE YOUNG ADULTS - MYA - Ages 18-35

MYA Registration is open to new members.

Contact Ramona for more info: 978-350-2965

### KNIGHTS OF MARY

Bi Weekly from 5-7PM

**CANCELED** Session, December 3, 2022

Christmas Recital Practice, December 8,

5-6:30PM in the Church

Calendar: [www.stanthonylawrence.org/events-2/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/events-2/)

### BIBLE STUDY

**English Session-December 8**

Thursdays 7-8:30 pm

With Deacons: Jim Demers & David Leard

**Arabic Bible Study- Postponed**

Stay tuned for Calendar updates.

### DAUGHTERS OF SAINT ANTHONY

Meeting on **Thursday December 8 at noon** at **Shadi's Restaurant** for lunch and meeting. The cost of lunch is \$25.00. RSVP is required. Please call one of the following members:

Elaine Ferris: 978-273-9772,

Elaine Daher: 978-807-7509

Chris Hassan: 978-937-9913,

Katy Abraham: 978-682-2571

Thank you. Hope you can all make it.

### THE SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

As we approach the holiday's we ask you to inform us of any loved ones who are sick or shut in. Call or email the Rectory today with their information so we can add them to our visits!

### KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Sign up today to serve on the Altar! Application and full Altar Server Schedule can be found:

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/kinghts-of-the-altar-calendar/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/kinghts-of-the-altar-calendar/)

### LOL BIBLE CAMP 2023

Save the dates - July 12 -15, 2023

**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
**Entered into the**  
**Sacrament of Matrimony:**

**Jorge Burbara Handel & Alexa Ata**

*"Confirm them in faith, hope, love and just deeds. Make their marriage as honorable as the marriages of the righteous and just of old."*

*Rite of the Covenant*

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

**Johnny Luca Bistany**

*Child of: Anthony & Gina Bistany*

**Anabelle May Savastano**

*Child of: Ronald Savastano & Mariel Rivera*

**Joseph Anthony Chedid**

*Child of: Anthony & Christina Chedid*

**Aleya Nicole Ayoub**

*Child of: Jean Baptiste Ayoub & Nicole Marero*

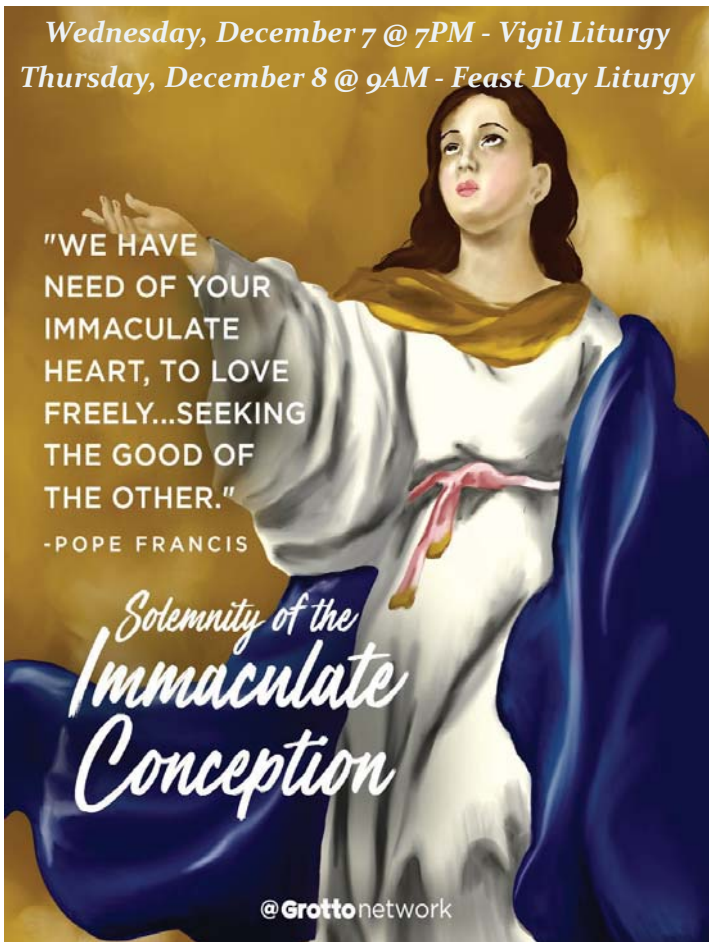
*"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God, through faith, for all you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ"*

*Galatians 3:26-27*

**WEEKLY ENVELOPE SYSTEM-**  
**Preparing for the New Year**

Have you changed your address? Are you a new member or current member interested in being a part of our envelope system? Prefer to donate online and dislike wasting the paper envelopes? We can fix that!

As we approach the end of 2022, please be sure to update your records with the Parish office. Call or e-mail us at your earliest convenience and let us know!



Support Saint Anthony's Church while you shop this Holiday Season!

Visit [smile.amazon.com/change](https://smile.amazon.com/change), or tap "AmazonSmile" within the Settings menu in the Amazon Shopping app on your phone and select "Change your charity". Search and Select:

*Saint Anthony Maronite Catholic Church, Lawrence, MA*  
as your charity today!



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 3: Noah Jefferson, Renee Murphy, Sara Saab, Alex Shepherd  
 Dec. 4: Isabel Ata, Bobbie Corey, Stephen Deschene, Meaghan Twing,  
 Dec. 5: Paolo Abou-Ezzi, Fadi El-Zaklit, Rimonda Hanna, Remonda Maroun, William Shea, Nancy Shepherd,  
 Dec. 6: Aiyman Ata, Paul Tridenti, Anthony Crespo, Caden Haddad, George Maroun, Lisa Prezzano,  
 Dec. 7: Karen Daher, Paige Frias, Abigail Karam, Brittany Getchell, Paul Sadek, August Sfeir,  
 Dec. 8: Jennie Abdallah, Marian Ead, Edith Maroun, Hady Youssef  
 Dec. 9: Anthony Bistany, Richard Habib, TJ Hatem, Amanda Iskandar, Maroun Kanaan, Alessia Karam, David Leard, Micha Tanios

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dec. 5: Jad & Karyn Ramey  
 Dec. 9: Deacon David & Marilyn Leard

## St Anthony's Cemetery

### Grave Purchase & Burial

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:** [stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/](http://stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/)

### Cemetery Guidelines

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/cemetery/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/cemetery/)

### Headstones & Cemetery Markers

Kindly review the information provided regarding acceptable dimensions per grave/lot on our website: [stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/](http://stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/).

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

### 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.

## MEDICAL DONATION DRIVE FOR LEBANON

 JUST THINK OF THE LIFE YOU CAN SAVE

ESOMEPRAZOLE - LANSOPRAZOLE - OMEPRAZOLE  
 PANTOPRAZOLE - MAALOX - ASPIRIN 81MG - NAPROXEN  
 LORATADINE - FLUTICASONE NASAL - NASACORT NASAL  
 COUGH SYRUP KIDS AND ADULTS - COBALIN B12 - CALCIUM  
 VITAMIN D - KIDS VITAMINS GUMMIES- IRON- VITAMIN B  
 COMPLEX - VITAMIN C GLUCOSAMINE MSM - RANTIDINE  
 HOT & COLD PACKS - FIRST AID KITS - ACCU CHECK  
 PERFORMA/GUIDE STRIPS - GLOVES

**ANY MEDICATION YOU CAN DONATE IS APPRECIATED**

**ORGANIZER : GEORGE MATTA**  
 MYA NEW ENGLAND COORDINATOR  
 GSM2296@GMAIL.COM  
 774-365-1934



## 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 displayed for ten years.

**Plant-A-Tree B—For a donation of \$250.00:** memorial plaque displayed for five years.

**Your Donation is Tax-Deductible**

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*

## 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)

## Sunday of the Birth of John the Baptist

*1st book of Samuel 1,9-11.19b-22 .*

After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD, and wept bitterly. She made this vow: 'O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, They rose early in the morning and worshipped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the LORD.' The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.'

*Letter to the Galatians 4,21-31.5,1 .*

Tell me, you who desire to be subject to the law, will you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman. One, the child of the slave, was born according to the flesh; the other, the child of the free woman, was born through the promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One woman, in fact, is Hagar, from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the other woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, 'Rejoice, you childless one, you who bear no children, burst into song and shout, you who endure no birth pangs; for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than the children of the one who is married.' Now you, my friends, are children of the promise, like Isaac. But just as at that time the child who was born according to the flesh persecuted the child who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also. But what does the scripture say? 'Drive out the slave and her child; for the child of the slave will not share the inheritance with the child of the free woman.' So then, friends, we are children, not of the slave but of the free woman. For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

*Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 1,57-66.*

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

**Saturday, December 3 - 4PM -**

**Lisa Abdallah**

**Sunday, December 4- 8AM - Mouna Hbaiter**

**9AM - Michael Faris**

**11:00AM Eng: Raghida Ramey**

**Ar: Selim Matta**

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

**Saturday, December 10- 4PM -**

**Patricia Ferguson**

**Sunday, December 11- 8AM - Hitaf Nammour**

**9AM - Joseph Safi**

**11:00AM Eng: Anthony Merheb**

**Ar: Gretta Merheb**



## أحد مولد يوحنا المعمدان

سفر صموئيل الأول 1: 9-11. 19 - b1 - 22

وَقَامَتْ حَنَّةُ، مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا أَكَلُوا فِي شَيْلُو وَشَرَبُوا، وَكَانَ عَالِي الكَاهِنُ جَالِسًا عَلَى الكُرْسِيِّ إِلَى دِعَامَةِ هَيْكَلِ الرَّبِّ، فَصَلَّتْ إِلَى الرَّبِّ فِي مَرَارَةٍ نَفْسِهَا وَبَكَتْ بُكَاءً وَنَدَرَتْ نَدْرًا وَقَالَتْ: «يَا رَبَّ القُوَاتِ، إِنَّ أَنْتَ نَظَرْتَ إِلَى بُوسِ أُمَّتِكَ، وَذَكَرْتَنِي وَلَمْ تَنْسَ أُمَّتَكَ وَأَعْطَيْتَ أُمَّتَكَ مَوْلودًا ذَكَرًا، أُعْطِيَهِ لِلرَّبِّ لِكُلِّ أَيَّامِ حَيَاتِهِ، وَلَا يَغْلُو رَأْسُهُ مُوسَى. «وَعَرَفَ أَلْفَانَةُ حَنَّةَ زَوْجَتَهُ، وَذَكَرَهَا الرَّبُّ. فَكَانَ فِي أَنْقِضَاءِ الأَيَّامِ أَنَّ حَنَّةَ حَمَلَتْ وَوَلَدَتْ ابْنًا، فَدَعَتْهُ صَمُوئِيلَ، لِأَنَّهَا قَالَتْ: «مِنَ الرَّبِّ التَّمَسُّهُ. «وَصَعِدَ زَوْجُهَا أَلْفَانَةُ وَكَلَّ بَيْتَهُ لِيُقَدِّمَ لِلرَّبِّ الدَّبِيحَةَ السَّنَوِيَّةَ وَيُفِي بِنَدْرَتِهِ. وَأَمَّا حَنَّةُ، فَلَمْ تَصْعَدْ، لِأَنَّهَا قَالَتْ لِزَوْجِهَا: «مَتَى فُطِمَ الصَّبِيُّ، أَذْهَبَ بِهِ لِيُمَثِّلَ أَمَامَ الرَّبِّ وَيُقِيمَ هُنَاكَ إِلَى الأَبَدِ. «»

رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل غلاطية 4: 21 - 31. 5: 1

فَإِنَّهُ مَكْتُوبٌ: كَانَ لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ ابْنَانِ، وَاحِدٌ مِنَ الجَارِيَةِ، وَوَاحِدٌ مِنَ الحُرَّةِ. أَمَّا الَّذِي مِنَ الجَارِيَةِ فَقَدْ وُلِدَ بِحَسَبِ الجَسَدِ، وَأَمَّا الَّذِي مِنَ الحُرَّةِ فَبِقُوَّةِ الوَعْدِ. وَفِي ذَلِكَ رَمَزٌ: فَسَارَةٌ وَهَاجِرٌ تُمَثِّلَانِ عَهْدَيْنِ، عَهْدًا مِنْ جَبَلِ سِينَاءِ يَلِدُ لِلْعُبُودِيَّةِ، وَهُوَ هَاجِرٌ؛ لِأَنَّ هَاجِرَ هِيَ جَبَلُ سِينَاءِ الَّذِي فِي بِلَادِ العَرَبِ، وَتُؤَافِقُ أُورَشَلِيمَ الحَالِيَّةَ، لِأَنَّهَا فِي العُبُودِيَّةِ هِيَ وَأَوْلَادُهَا. أَمَّا أُورَشَلِيمُ العُلْيَا فَهِيَ حُرَّةٌ، وَهِيَ أُمَّنَا؛ لِأَنَّهَا مَكْتُوبٌ: «إِفْرَاجِي، أَيُّهَا العَاقِرُ الَّتِي لَمْ تَلِدْ؛ ائْتِي بِنَدْرَتِي وَاصْرُخِي، أَيُّهَا الَّتِي لَمْ تَتَمَخَّضْ؛ لِأَنَّ أَوْلَادَ المَهْجُورَةِ أَكْثَرُ مِنْ أَوْلَادِ المُنْتَزِجَةِ. «أَمَّا أَنْتُمْ، أَيُّهَا الإِخْوَةُ، فَإِنَّكُمْ أَوْلَادُ الوَعْدِ مِثْلُ إِسْحَاقِ. وَلَكِنْ، كَمَا كَانَ حِينِيذِ المَوْلُودِ بِحَسَبِ الجَسَدِ يَضْطَهُدُ المَوْلُودَ بِحَسَبِ الرُّوحِ، فَكَذَلِكَ الآنَ أَيضًا. وَلَكِنْ مَاذَا يَقُولُ الكِتَابُ؟ «أَطْرُدِ الجَارِيَةَ وَأَبْنَهَا، لِأَنَّ ابْنَ الجَارِيَةِ لَا يَرِثُ مَعَ ابْنِ الحُرَّةِ. «إِذَا، أَيُّهَا الإِخْوَةُ، لَسْنَا أَوْلَادَ جَارِيَةٍ، بَلْ أَوْلَادُ الحُرَّةِ. إِنَّ المَسِيحَ قَدْ حَرَّرَنَا لِئِنْبَقَى أَحْرَارًا. فَانْتَبِهُوا إِذَا وَلَا تَعُودُوا تَخْضَعُونَ لِنِيرِ العُبُودِيَّةِ.

إنجيل القديس لوقا 1: 57 - 66

تَمَّ زَمَانُ الإِصَابَاتِ لِتِلْدِ، فَوَلَدَتْ ابْنًا. وَسَمِعَ جِيرَانُهَا وَأَقَارِبُهَا أَنَّ الرَّبَّ قَدْ عَظَّمَ رَحْمَتَهُ لَهَا، فَفَرَحُوا مَعَهَا. وَفِي اليَوْمِ الثَّامِنِ جَاءُوا لِيُخْتِنُوا الصَّبِيَّ، وَسَمَّوْهُ بِاسْمِ أَبِيهِ زَكَرِيَّا. فَأَجَابَتْ أُمُّهُ وَقَالَتْ: «لَا! بَلْ يُسَمَّى يُوْحَنَّا!». فَقَالُوا لَهَا: «لَا أَحَدَ فِي قَرَابَتِكَ يُدْعَى بِهَذَا الأَسْمِ. «وَأَشَارُوا إِلَى أَبِيهِ مَاذَا يُرِيدُ أَنْ يُسَمِّيَهُ. فَطَلَبَ لُوْحًا وَكَتَبَ: «إِسْمُهُ يُوْحَنَّا!». فَتَعَجَّبُوا جَمِيعُهُمْ. وَأَنْفَتَحَ فُجَاءَةً فَمَ زَكَرِيَّا، وَأَنْطَلَقَ لِسَانَهُ، وَجَعَلَ يَتَكَلَّمُ وَيُبَارِكُ اللهُ، فَاسْتَوْلَى الخَوْفُ عَلَى جَمِيعِ جِيرَانِهِمْ، وَتَحَدَّثَ النَّاسُ بِكُلِّ هَذِهِ الأُمُورِ فِي كُلِّ جَبَلِ اليَهُودِيَّةِ. وَكَانَ كُلُّ مَنْ سَمِعَ بِذَلِكَ يَحْفَظُهُ فِي قَلْبِهِ قَائِلًا: «مَا عَسَى هَذَا الطِّفْلُ أَنْ يَكُونَ؟. «وَكَاثَتْ يَدُ الرَّبِّ حَقًّا مَعَهُ.

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