

## 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



"GOD IS SO GREAT THAT HE CAN BECOME SMALL"

*Benedict XVI*

### 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



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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

# Christmas Octave أحد \ أسبوع بيرمون الميلاد

## NATIVITY OF THE LORD

**Saturday, December 24**

**4:00pm** Christmas Vigil Liturgy (English)

**Sunday, December 25**

**Midnight** Christmas Liturgy (English & Arabic)

**9:00am** Christmas Day Liturgy (Arabic)

**11:00am** Christmas Day Liturgy

*Liturgies will be offered in honor and blessings of our Parishioners.*

## WEEKDAY LITURGIES

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

*Felicitations to the Virgin Mary  
Eph 1:3-14/Lk 1:45-55*

**7:00pm** Private Intentions

**Tuesday, December 27** (En.) *St. Stephen*

*2 Cor 11:1-9 / Mt 23:29-24:2*

**9:00am** +Larry & Dora M. Pereira,  
By Dora Pereira.

**Wednesday, December 28** (Ar.) *St. Marina*

*Rev 21:9-10, 21-27/ Mt 2:1-12*

*The Adoration of the Magi*

**9:00am** +Private Intentions

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

*Heb 11:23-31/ Mt 2:13-18*

*The Flight into Egypt*

**9:00am** +Larry Kalil & By John and Janice Gray

**Friday, December 30—No Liturgy** *St Anysia*

## New Year's Liturgy

*Sts. Basil & Gregory*

**Saturday, December 31** (English)

**4:00pm** +Faris Sfeir & Marwan Ksaifi By Tanya & Eddy Sfeir.

**Sunday, January 1**

**10:00 am** New Year Liturgy (English & Arabic)

**5:00 pm** New Year Liturgy (Arabic & English)

*Liturgies will be offered in honor and blessings of our Parishioners.*

## Feast of Epiphany

Vigil Liturgy Thursday January 5th - 7pm

Feast Day Liturgy Friday January 6th - 9am

*Water will be blessed and distributed after Divine Liturgies*

## Sanctuary Lamps



*In Loving Memory of*

**John and Ida Thomas** by their family

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/)

## SECOND COLLECTION

**Pastor Charities- December 24 & 25**

## CLERGY DAY OFF

**Fr Elie: Mondays**

**Fr. Neemtallah's : Wednesdays**

LITURGIES INTENTIONS

### PLEASE NOTE:

*Office will be closed on Monday December 26. We will resume our regular schedule on Tuesday December 27.*

### PLEASE NOTE:

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

## Christmas Message from your Priests

Looking back over this year in wonder and amazement, and despite the residue of the pandemic that interrupted our lives, we are grateful for these challenging times who provided us with the opportunity to exercise our faith.

Christmas comes to remind us of something critical to keep in our minds, *“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the City of David a Savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”*

Therefore, I want to remind us that we are a Christmas people and that Jesus is incarnated in every act of love and kindness we extend to one another. So, as we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas, let us inspire this world, that can seem so lost in darkness, with the light of Christ in the light of our joy. Make room in the pews; greet family and friends with a welcoming smile and gracious hospitality those like Mary and Joseph, who are seeking room in the inn. If you are returning to Church today from a long absence, or even a short one, let the joy of this celebration fill you.

As your pastor, along with Fr. Neemtallah, we extend our thanks to all of you who have been faithful parishioners, for all you do even through the tough times. It is with humble joy that we give thanks for the honor of serving as your Pastor and Associate Pastor. Thank you for all your support and prayers.

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

*Fr. Elie Mikhael*

*Fr. Neemtallah (Edgard) Oneissy*



## 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!

## Christmas Poinsettias

### In Memory of

Ibrahim & Sadie Kassas  
 Dalal Kassas  
 Teta Jeannette Lahoud Nasr, Jeddo Antoine Abou-Ezzi  
 Teta Akle Abi Sleiman Mikhael  
 Tanos Sadek  
 Romanos Nammour  
 Evon & Bob Danus  
 Mary Shadeed, Rose & Peter Lucchesi, Fred & Stephanie Schiripo  
 Mr. & Mrs. Edmond & Theresa Solomon, Maurice Hatem  
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred & Mary Faris  
 The deceased members of the Solomon & Hatem Families  
 Thomas J Solomon  
 Albert & Lorraine Hatem, Gary Hatem, William Torla  
 Romanos Nammour, Joseph Bou Sanayeh  
 Samuel & Louise Kattar Bistany & their daughter, Barbara Louise Bistany  
 Fred & Carmela Corey and Dr. Edward & Mary Moore  
 Maroun Mouawad  
 Fr. Abdallah Ramy and his wife 'Khourieh"  
 Jill Ramey, George Aoude Daher  
 Stephanie Ota  
 My Father, Antoun Saab  
 Jeannette Ficher & Helen K  
 Elias Jbeily  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Yameen  
 Raymond Feghali, Gebran & Laure Najem  
 Deceased Members of the Abou-Raad & Azzi Families  
 Robert & Marie Berube, Joe & Bernadette Vieira  
 Deceased Members of the Touma Family  
 Deceased Members of the Hatem & Abraham Families  
 Deceased Loved ones, parents and Siblings  
 Jido Elias, Teta Therese  
 Our Baby Angel, Leo Alexander Maroun  
 Joseph & Kilikia Maroun, Camil Maroun, Raymond Fadel  
 Fadlallah & Alice Fadel, George & Adele Cherabie  
 Mr. & Mrs. George Hamman  
 John Thomas, Sr.  
 John Thomas, Sr.  
 John Thomas, Sr.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Khalil S. Azzi  
 Edmund & Josephine Hatem  
 Rachid, Fadwa, Michel, George, Joseph, & Sonia Haddad  
 Rizkallah, Georgette, & Hiam Akiki  
 Bomar Kramer, Philip Nastasia

### Donated By

Mr. & Mrs. George Kassas & Family  
 Mr. & Mrs. George Kassas & Family  
 Marc, Monica, Mikey & Mia  
 Marc, Monica, Mikey & Mia  
 His granddaughters, Lucia & Cecilia Sadek  
 Nabil & Tamar Bou-Mitri  
 The Rembis Family  
 Beverly & Bob Schiripo  
 The Solomon, Kalil & Getchell Families  
 The Solomon, Kalil & Getchell Families  
 The Solomon, Kalil & Getchell Families  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Janice Solomon  
 Jack & Joan (Hatem) Roy  
 Subdeacon Antoine & Hitaf Nammour  
  
 Louise Bistany  
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred Corey  
 Habouba Mouawad  
 Mounira Daher  
 Mounira Daher  
 Her Parents  
 Rana Abi-Samra & Family  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Maksou  
 Therese Jbeily  
 Victor C. Azzi  
 Amal Feghali  
 Abdo & Jeanine Abou Raad & Family  
 Dennis & Pauline Vieira  
 Wendy R. Hatem  
 Wendy R. Hatem  
 Najla Azzi-Purcell  
 Grace, Maya & Jackie  
 Mr. & Mrs. Danny Maroun & Family  
 Mr. & Mrs. Danny Maroun & Family  
 Mr. & Mrs. Danny Maroun & Family  
 Robert J. Hamman & Doreen Hamman  
 Phyllis Thomas  
 John & Patty Thomas, Jr  
 Christine & Bill Ryan  
 Victor C. Azzi  
 George & Cynthia Kazanjian  
 Antoun & Marie Haddad  
 Antoun & Marie Haddad  
 Mrs. Barbara Kramer

**In Memory of**

Helen & Anthony Rage  
 Raymond J. Faunt, Sr. & Rahhal-Jesser Family  
 Deceased Members of the Hassan Family  
 Joyce Marie (Daher) Belko  
 Mitchell Moses  
 Gayle M. Touma  
 Abraham Sarkis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Beshara & Joseph Beshara, Jr.  
 My brother, Tom Farris  
 Mary Bova  
 Janet Maroun  
 Maurice Hatem  
  
 Maurice Hatem  
 Robert & Corey Brousseau, Mabel, Toufik, Gemal, & Stella Corey  
 Gloria & Dan Sarkis, Abe Sarkis, Linny, Louie & Rita Corey,  
 Joseph Coury & Family  
 Charles Tarness  
 My Parents. George & Elsie Faris  
 Henry Solomon  
 The deceased members of the Shadeed Family  
 Our Mothers, Kronfli & Bernice

**Donated By**

Toni & William McKone  
 Velma M. Faunt  
 John & Leslie Hassan  
 The Belko Family  
 Lisa Prezzano  
 Elaine Daher & Family  
 Therese Sarkis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bergeron  
 Christine Farris  
 Anthony Bova  
 Robert & Joanne Comtois  
 Maryann Hatem  
 His grandchildren: Michael, Nadine, &  
 Kristine Sader  
 Elaine Brousseau  
  
 Elaine Brousseau  
 Pauline & Mike Jesionowski & Family  
 Michael G. Faris  
 Mary & Rodney Pica  
 Duayne Habib  
 Manny & Barbara Boustani

**In Honor of**

Our Sons, Tony & Guy Kassas  
 Our Daughter, Juliette, & her husband, Elie Ata  
 Our sons, Marc & Mikey, Our daughters, Monica & Mia  
 Our grandmother, Sonia Abou-Ezzi, Our grandfather, Joseph Nasr  
 Mr. & Mrs. Antoine AbouJaoude, Children & their Families  
 Marie Jbeily  
 Michelle & Joe Abou Raad  
 Marie-Therese Azzi & Najla Azzi-Purcell, St. Therese Monastery  
 Fr. Elie Mikhael & Fr. Edgar Neemtallah Oneissy  
 Addison & Olivia Leavitt

**Donated By**

Mr. & Mrs. George Kassas  
 Mr. & Mrs. George Kassas  
 Dr. & Mrs. George Abou-Ezzi  
 Marc, Monica, Mikey & Mia  
 Mr. & Mrs. Antoine AbouJaoude  
 Therese Jbeily  
 Abdo & Jeanine Abou Raad & Family  
 Najla Azzi-Purcell  
 A grateful Parishioner  
 Michael G. Faris

**In Thanksgiving for**

Many Blessings & Good Health

**Donated By**

Dennis & Pauline Vieira



Support Saint Anthony's Church while you shop Visit [smile.amazon.com/](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*

Or click the link today:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-2178891>

**BIBLE STUDY**

English Session-January 12

Thursdays 7-8:30 pm With Deacons: Jim Demers & David Leard

Arabic Bible Study- Postponed-Stay tuned !!!

**KNIGHTS OF MARY**

Bi Weekly from 5-7PM-Regular Session, January 7

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

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Upcoming Classes- Bi-Weekly- 5PM-6:30 PM

Saturday January 14- Saturday January 28

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

**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/)

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

MYA Registration is open to new members.

Contact Ramona for more info: 978-350-2965

**MARONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION - MYO**

Sunday, January 8 - 6 - 7:30 pm, Regular Session

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

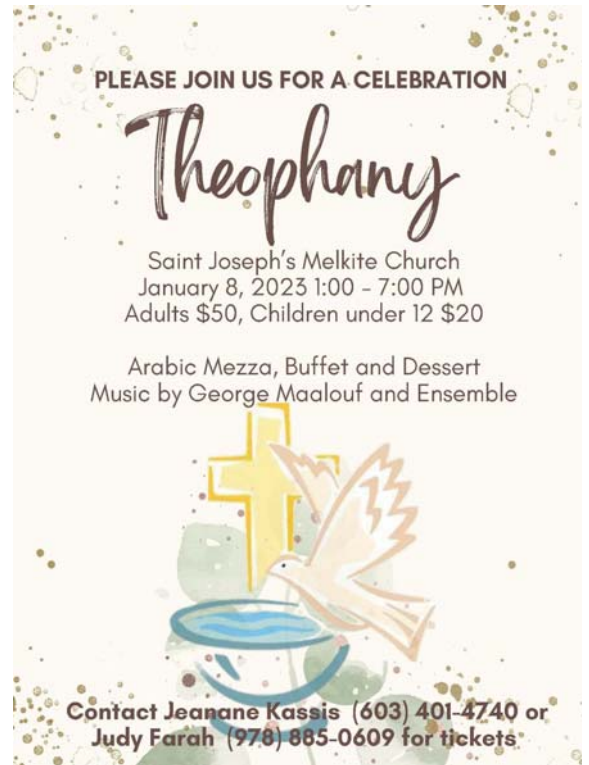


Cost: \$400 (\$380 early bird special if you register before our early bird deadline)

Who: Open to all youth ages 12-18 in the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles and the Eparchy of Saint

Maron of Brooklyn.

Registration will be opening very soon at [www.maroniteyouth.org/](http://www.maroniteyouth.org/)



**MEDICAL DONATION DRIVE FOR LEBANON**

JUST THINK OF THE LIFE YOU CAN SAVE

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- PANTOPRAZOLE - MAALOX - ASPIRIN 81MG - NAPROXEN
- LORATADINE - FLUTICASONE NASAL - NASACORT NASAL
- COUGH SYRUP KIDS AND ADULTS - COBALIN B12 - CALCIUM
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ANY MEDICATION YOU CAN DONATE IS APPRECIATED

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



**LOL BIBLE CAMP 2023**

Save the dates - July 12 -15, 2023

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 24- 4PM -  
Susan Kalil

MIDNIGHT- Eng: Elias Azzi

Sunday, December 25-  
9AM - Huguette Sfeir  
11:00AM Eng: Anthony Merheb  
Ar: Gretta Merheb

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 31 - 4PM -  
Lisa Abdallah

Sunday, January 1-  
10AM - Hitaf Nammour  
5PM Eng: Lena Bouchrouche  
Ar: Marcel Saade

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Dec. 24: John Abraham, John Merheb, Jeanette Vincent,
- Dec. 25: Milad Chamoun, Benjamin George, Joseph Saade,
- Dec. 26: Rana Ata, Gabriela Fiato
- Dec. 27: Katy Abraham, Jessica El-Helou, Thomas Hatem, Jocelyn Kanaan, Charlotte Motta
- Dec. 28: Hannah Abdilmasih, Elie Abdilmasih, Sonya Ameen, Matthew Hutton, Naya Kossaifi, Sandy Ramey, Yvona Safi, Jenna Smith
- Dec. 29: Chris Bourouphael, Craig Crossley, Angelina Faster, Jamal Ramey,
- Dec. 30: Freicy Bourouphael, Lorna Kattar, Stephanie Korbani

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Dec. 26: Nicholas & Alyssa Nazzaro
- Dec. 27: Joseph & Leila Msaddi
- Dec. 28: Wael & Raghida Naamani
- Dec. 30: Fadi & Hanan Chahine

### 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.

### 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)

## Feast of the Glorious Birth of Our Lord

*Book of Isaiah 8,23.9,1-5*

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire

*Letter to the Hebrews 1,1-12.*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.' Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.' But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.' And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

*Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 2,1-20.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



## عيد ميلاد الرب يسوع بحسب الجسد

سفر أشعيا 8: 23، 9: 1-5

فَلَيْسَ لَيْلٌ لِّلَّتِي كَانَتْ فِي الضِّيْقِ. فِي الزَّمَانِ الْأَوَّلِ، أَدَلَّ أَرْضَ زَبُولُونَ وَأَرْضَ نَفْتَالِي وَأَمَّا فِي الزَّمَانِ الْأَخِيرِ فَسَيُجَدُّ طَرِيقَ الْبَحْرِ عَبْرَ الْأُرْدُنِّ، جَلِيلَ الْأُمَمِ. الشَّعْبُ السَّالِكُ فِي الظُّلْمَةِ أَبْصَرَ نُورًا عَظِيمًا وَالْمُقِيمُونَ فِي بُعْدَةِ الظُّلَامِ أَشْرَقَ عَلَيْهِمُ النُّورُ. كَثُرَتْ لَهُ الْأُمَّةُ وَقَرَّتْ لَهَا الْفَرَحُ، يَفْرَحُونَ أَمَامَكَ كَالْفَرَحِ فِي الْحَصَادِ، كَابْتِهَاجِ الَّذِينَ يَتَفَاسِمُونَ الْغَنِيمَةَ. لِأَنَّ نِيرَ ثِقَلِهَا وَعَصَا كَتِفِهَا وَقَضِيبَ مُسَخَّرِهَا قَدْ كَسَرْتَهَا كَمَا فِي يَوْمِ مَدْيَنَ. إِذْ كُلُّ جِذَاءٍ يُحْدِثُ جَلْبَةَ، وَكُلُّ ثَوْبٍ مُتَلَطِّحٍ بِالِدَّمَاءِ يَصِيرَانِ لِلْحَرْقِ وَوَقُودًا لِلنَّارِ.

الرسالة إلى العبرانيين 1: 1-12

يَا إِخْوَتِي، إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَلَّمَ الْأَبَاءَ قَدِيمًا فِي الْأَنْبِيَاءِ، مَرَّاتٍ كَثِيرَةً، وَبَأَنْوَاعٍ شَتَّى، وَفِي آخِرِ هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامِ، كَلَّمَنَا فِي الْإِنِّ، الَّذِي جَعَلَهُ وَارثًا لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ. وَبِهِ أَنْشَأَ الْعَالَمِينَ. وَهُوَ شِعَاعٌ مَجْدِهِ وَصُورَةٌ جَوْهَرِهِ، وَضَابِطُ الْكُلِّ بِكَلِمَةٍ قُدْرَتِهِ. فَبَعْدَمَا أَنْتَمُ تَطْهِيرَ الْخَطَايَا، جَلَسَ عَنِ يَمِينِ الْجَلَالَةِ فِي الْأَعَالِي، فَصَارَ أَعْظَمَ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ، بِمِقْدَارِ مَا الْأَسْمُ الَّذِي وَرِثَهُ أَفْضَلُ مِنْ أَسْمَائِهِمْ. فَلَمَنْ مِنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَوْمًا: «أَنْتَ ابْنِي، أَنَا الْيَوْمَ وَلَدْتُكَ؟» وَقَالَ أَيْضًا: «أَنَا أَكُونُ لَهُ أَبًا، وَهُوَ يَكُونُ لِي ابْنًا؟» أَمَّا عِنْدَمَا يُدْخِلُ ابْنَهُ الْبِكْرَ إِلَى الْعَالَمِ فَيَقُولُ: «فَلتَسْجُدْ لَهُ جَمِيعُ مَلَائِكَةِ اللَّهِ!». «وَعَنِ الْمَلَائِكَةِ يَقُولُ: «الْصَّانِعُ مَلَائِكَتَهُ أَرْوَاحًا، وَخُدَّامَهُ لَهَيْبِ نَارٍ». أَمَّا عَنِ الْإِنِّ فَيَقُولُ: «عَرْشُكَ يَا اللَّهُ، لِدَهْرِ الدَّهْرِ، وَصَوْلَجَانُ الْأُسْتِقَامَةِ صَوْلَجَانُ مُلْكِكَ. أَحْبَبْتَ الْبِرَّ وَأَبْغَضْتَ الْإِثْمَ. لِذَلِكَ مَسَحَكَ إِلَهَكَ، يَا اللَّهُ، بِدُهْنِ الْبَهْجَةِ أَفْضَلَ مِنْ شَرَكَايِكَ». «وَيَقُولُ أَيْضًا: «أَنْتَ، يَا رَبِّ، فِي الْبَدْءِ أَسَسْتَ الْأَرْضَ، وَالسَّمَاوَاتِ صُنْعُ يَدَيْكَ. هِيَ تَزُولُ وَأَنْتَ تَبْقَى، وَكُلُّهَا كَالثَّوْبِ تَبْلَى، وَتَطْوِيهَا كَالرِّدَاءِ، وَكَالثَّوْبِ تَتَبَدَّلُ، وَأَنْتَ أَنْتَ وَسُوءُكَ لَنْ تَفْنَى.»

إنجيل القديس لوقا 2: 1-20

فِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ، صَدَرَ أَمْرٌ مِنْ أَعُوسْطُسَ قَيْصَرَ بِإِحْصَاءِ كُلِّ الْمَعْمُورَةِ. جَرَى هَذَا الْإِحْصَاءُ الْأَوَّلُ، عِنْدَمَا كَانَ كِيرِينْيُوسُ وَالْيَا عَلَى سُورِيَا. وَكَانَ الْجَمِيعُ يَذْهَبُونَ، كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ إِلَى مَدِينَتِهِ، لِيَكْتَتِبُوا فِيهَا. وَصَعِدَ يُوسُفُ أَيْضًا مِنَ الْجَلِيلِ، مِنْ مَدِينَةِ النَّاصِرَةِ، إِلَى الْيَهُودِيَّةِ، إِلَى مَدِينَةِ دَاوُدَ الَّتِي تُدْعَى بَيْتَ لَحْمَ، لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ مِنْ بَيْتِ دَاوُدَ وَعَشِيرَتِهِ، لِيَكْتَتِبَ مَعَ مَرْيَمَ خَطِيبَتِهِ، وَهِيَ حَامِلٌ. وَفِيمَا كَانَا هُنَاكَ، تَمَّتْ أَيَّامُهَا لِتَلِدَ، فَوَلَدَتْ ابْنَهَا الْبِكْرَ، وَقَمَطْنَتْهُ، وَأَضْجَعَتْهُ فِي مَدُودٍ، لِأَنَّهُ لَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُمَا مَوْضِعٌ فِي قَاعَةِ الضِّيُوفِ. وَكَانَ فِي تِلْكَ النَّاحِيَةِ رُعَاةٌ يَقِيمُونَ فِي الْحُقُولِ، وَيَسْهَرُونَ فِي هَجَعَاتِ اللَّيْلِ عَلَى قُطْعَانِهِمْ. فَإِذَا بِمَلَائِكَةِ الرَّبِّ قَدْ وَقَفَ بِهِمْ، وَمَجَّدَ الرَّبَّ أَشْرَقَ حَوْلَهُمْ، فَخَافُوا خَوْفًا عَظِيمًا. فَقَالَ لَهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ: «لَا تَخَافُوا! فَهِيَ أَنَا أَبَشَرُكُمْ بِفَرَحٍ عَظِيمٍ يَكُونُ لِلشَّعْبِ كُلِّهِ، لِأَنَّهُ وُلِدَ لَكُمْ الْيَوْمَ مَخْلُصٌ، هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ الرَّبُّ، فِي مَدِينَةِ دَاوُدَ. وَهَذِهِ عَلَامَةٌ لَكُمْ: تَجِدُونَ طِفْلًا مَقْمَطًا، مُضْجَعًا فِي مَدُودٍ!». وَأَنْضَمَ فَجَاءَةً إِلَى الْمَلَائِكَةِ جُمُهورٌ مِنَ الْجُنْدِ السَّمَاوِيِّ يُسَبِّحُونَ اللَّهَ وَيَقُولُونَ: الْمَجْدُ لِلَّهِ فِي الْعُلَى، وَعَلَى الْأَرْضِ السَّلَامُ، وَالرَّجَاءُ الصَّالِحُ لِابْنِي الْبَشَرِ. وَلَمَّا أَنْصَرَفَ الْمَلَائِكَةُ عَنْهُمْ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ، قَالَ الرَّعَاةُ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ: «هِيََا بِنَا، إِلَى بَيْتِ لَحْمَ، لِنَرَى هَذَا الْأَمْرَ الَّذِي حَدَّثَ، وَقَدْ أَعْلَمْنَا بِهِ الرَّبُّ». «وَجَاءُوا مُسْرِعِينَ، فَوَجَدُوا مَرْيَمَ وَيُوسُفَ، وَالطِّفْلَ مُضْجَعًا فِي الْمَدُودِ. وَلَمَّا رَأَوْهُ أَخْبَرُوا بِالْكَلَامِ الَّذِي قِيلَ لَهُمْ فِي شَأْنِ هَذَا الصَّبِيِّ. وَجَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ سَمِعُوا، تَعَجَّبُوا مِمَّا قَالَهُ لَهُمُ الرَّعَاةُ. أَمَّا مَرْيَمُ فَكَانَتْ تَحْفَظُ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورَ كُلَّهَا، وَتَتَأَمَّلُهَا فِي قَلْبِهَا. ثُمَّ عَادَ الرَّعَاةُ وَهُمْ يُمَجِّدُونَ اللَّهَ وَيُسَبِّحُونَهُ عَلَى كُلِّ مَا سَمِعُوا وَرَأَوْا، حَسَبًا قِيلَ لَهُمْ.



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