

## 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

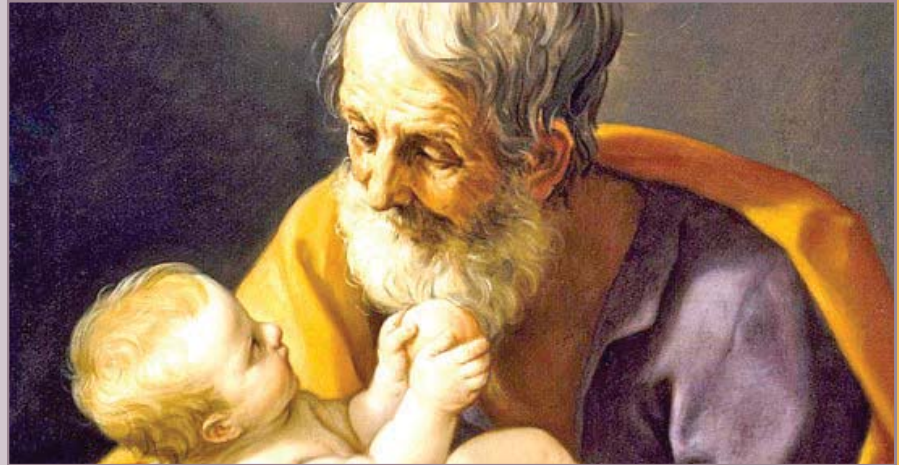
...[pv@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:pv@stanthonylawrence.org)

### MEET OUR DEACONS:

Deacons: Nadim B. Daou,

James T. Demers & David Leard

Sub-Deacons: Antoine Nammour



**FEAR ONLY TWO: GOD, AND THE MAN WHO HAS  
NO FEAR OF GOD**

### 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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#/landing?church\\_id=72](https://members.myeoffering.com/#/landing?church_id=72)

### 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 Revelation to St Joseph

أحد البيان ليوسف

### REVELATION TO JOSEPH

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

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

**Sunday, December 11** *St. Daniel the Stylite.oo.*

**8:00am** +George Haddad, +Youssef, Elie, George Hajj Moussa & Akram Makhoul *By Yolla & Richard Haddad & Family*

**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.*

### WEEKDAY LITURGIES

**Monday, December 12** (Ar.) *Our Lady of Guadalupe*  
*Rom 10:14-21 / Jn 7:1-10*

**9:00am** Private Intentions.

**Tuesday, December 13** (En.) *St. Lucy*  
*Rom 11:1-12 / Jn 7:11-18*

**9:00am** +Souls in Purgatory, *By Dora Pereira.*

**Wednesday, December 14** (Ar.)  
*St. Nemptallah El-Hardini*  
*Rom 11:13-24/ Jn 7:25-30*

**9:00am** +Deceased members of the Korbani, Issa, & Abdallah Families, *By Viviane Korbani & Family.*

**Thursday, December 15**(En.) *St. Eleutherius*  
*Rom 11:25-36/ Jn 7:31-36*

**9:00am** 1st Birthday Remembrance For: +Baby Leo Alexander Maroun.

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

**Friday, December 16—No Liturgy**  
*Haggai the Prophet*

### GENEALOGY SUNDAY

**Saturday, December 17** *St. Ananias, Arzarias, & Misael*

**4:00pm** +Bomar Kramer, *By his wife, Barbara Kramer.*

**Sunday, December 18** *St. Daniel the Prophet*

**8:00 am** +Private Intentions.

**9:00 am** +Private Intentions.

**11:00 am** 1st Anniversary For: +Maurice Hatem, *By his wife, MaryAnn, his daughter, Alyce, wife of Pierre Sader, & grandchildren.*



### Sanctuary Lamps

In Loving Memory of  
**Maurice Hatem,**  
*By his wife, MaryAnn Hatem.*

In Loving Memory of  
**Maurice Hatem,**  
*By his grandchildren, Michael, Nadine, & Kristine Sader*

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

### CLERGY DAY OFF

*Fr Elie: Mondays*

*Fr. Nemptallah's : Wednesdays*

### PLEASE NOTE:

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

**Emmanuel,  
God is with Us**

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
الرسيتال الميلادي السنوي

Saint Anthony Church  
145 Amesbury ST, Lawrence, MA

December 17, 2022

7 P.M.

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 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.*

**Christmas Liturgies**

- **Saturday December 24** 4PM Vigil Liturgy (English)
- **Midnight Liturgy** (English & Arabic)
- **Sunday December 25**
  - 9AM Feast Day Liturgy (Arabic-Only for this Sunday)
  - 11AM Feast Day Liturgy (Arabic & English)

## Christmas at Saint Anthony's

**Saint Anthony's Parish**  
*The Annual Men's Christmas Party*  
 Presented By  
 Parish Council & Knights of Columbus  
**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**



### Giving Tree



*\*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.

### New Year Liturgies

- **Saturday December 31 4PM** Vigil Liturgy
- **Sunday January 1, 2023**
  - 10AM Feast Day Liturgy -English
  - 5PM Feast Day Liturgy (Arabic & English)



## 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!!!



**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

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 you charity today!

### BIBLE STUDY

English Session-December 15

Thursdays 7-8:30 pm

With Deacons: Jim Demers & David Leard

Arabic Bible Study- Postponed

Stay tuned for Calendar updates.

### KNIGHTS OF MARY

Bi Weekly from 5-7PM

Christmas Recital December 17

Regular Session, January 7

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

### 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 [lawrencereligioused@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencereligioused@gmail.com)

### 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/)

### 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!

### LOL BIBLE CAMP 2023

Save the dates - July 12 -15, 2023

### 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

### 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!

### 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



## JOSEPH AND CHRISTMAS BY RONALD ROLHEISER

There are countless persons, basilicas, churches, shrines, seminaries, convents, and even towns and cities named after St. Joseph. My native country, Canada, has him as its patron.

Who exactly is this Joseph? He is that quiet figure prominently named in the Christmas story as the husband of Mary and the stepfather of Jesus, and then basically is never mentioned again. The pious conception of him is that of an older man, a safe protector to Mary, a carpenter by trade, chaste and holy, humble and quiet, the perfect patron for manual laborers and anonymous virtue, humility incarnate.

But what do we really know about him?

In the Gospel of Matthew the annunciation of Jesus' conception is given to Joseph rather than to Mary: Before they came together, Mary was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, being an upright man and unwilling to shame her, had decided to divorce her quietly, when an angel appeared to him in a dream and told him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife, that the child in her had been conceived through the Holy Spirit.

What can we learn from this text?

Partly it is symbolic: The Joseph of the Christmas story is clearly reminiscent of the Joseph of the Exodus story, he too has a dream, he too goes to Egypt, and he too saves the family. Likewise King Herod is clearly the counterpart of the Egyptian Pharaoh; both feel threatened and both kill the Hebrew male children only to have God protect the life of the one who is to save the people.

But, after that, the Joseph of the Christmas story writes his own history: He is presented to us as an "upright" man, a designation that scholars say implies that he has conformed himself to the Law of God, the supreme Jewish standard of holiness. In every way he is blameless, a paradigm of goodness, which he demonstrates in the Christmas story by refusing to expose Mary to shame, even as he decides to divorce her quietly.

What actually happened here?

The background, in so far as we can reconstruct it, to the relationship between Joseph and Mary would have been this: The marriage custom at the time was that a young woman, essentially at the age of puberty, would be given to a man, usually several years her senior, in an arranged marriage by her parents. They would be betrothed, technically married, but would not yet live together or begin sexual relations for several more years. The Jewish law was especially strict as to the couple remaining celibate while in the betrothal period. During this time, the young woman would continue to live with her parents and the young man would go about setting up a house and an occupation so as to be able to support his wife once they began to live together.

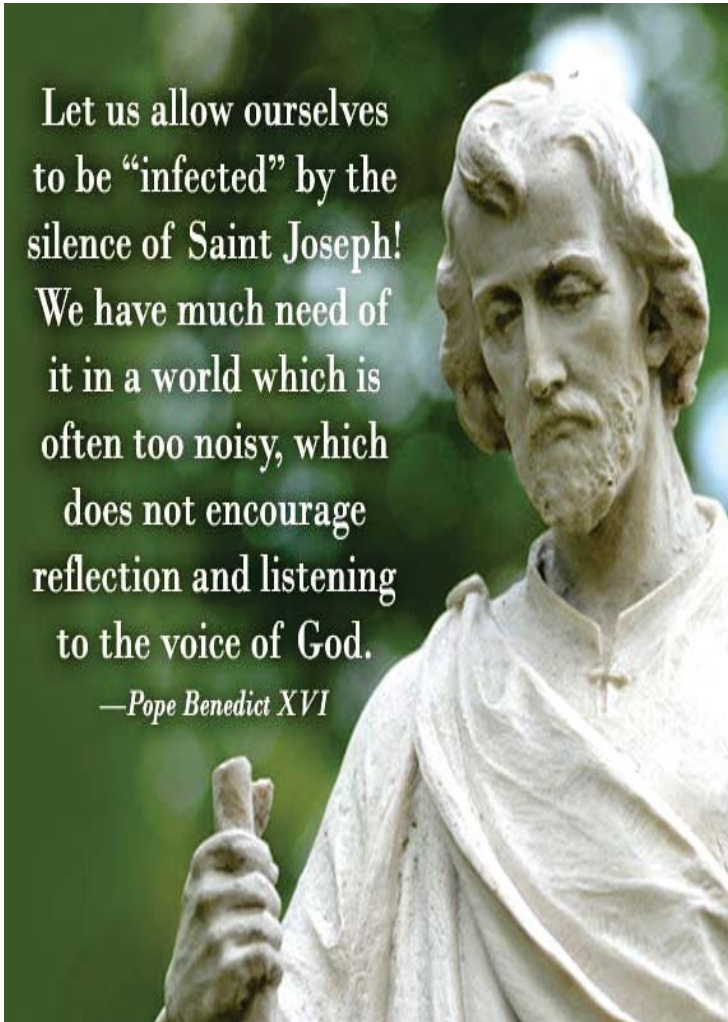
Joseph and Mary were at this stage of their relationship, legally married but not yet living together, when Mary became pregnant. Joseph, knowing that the child was not his, had a dilemma: If he wasn't the father, who was? In order to save his own reputation, he could have demanded a public inquiry and, indeed, had Mary been accused of adultery, it might have meant her death. However, he decided to "divorce her quietly", that is, to avoid a public inquiry which would leave her in an awkward and vulnerable situation.

Then, after receiving revelation in a dream, he agrees to take her home as his wife and to name the child as his own. Partly we understand the significance of that, he spares Mary embarrassment, he names the child as his own, and he provides an accepted physical, social, and religious place for the child to be born and raised. But he does something else that is not so evident: He shows how a person can be a pious believer, deeply faithful to everything within his religious tradition, and yet at the same time be open to a mystery beyond both his human and religious understanding.

And this was exactly the problem for any Christians, including Matthew himself, at the time the Gospels were written: They were pious Jews who didn't know how to integrate Christ into their religious framework. What does one do when God breaks into one's life in new, previously unimaginable ways? How does one deal with an impossible conception? Here's how Raymond Brown puts it: The hero of Matthew's infancy story is Joseph, a very sensitive Jewish observer of the Law. ... In Joseph, the evangelist was portraying what he thought a Jew [a true pious believer] should be and probably what he himself was.

In essence what Joseph teaches us is how to live in loving fidelity to all that we cling to humanly and religiously, even as we are open to a mystery of God that takes us beyond all the categories of our religious practice and imagination.

Isn't that one of the ongoing challenges of Christmas?



Let us allow ourselves to be “infected” by the silence of Saint Joseph! We have much need of it in a world which is often too noisy, which does not encourage reflection and listening to the voice of God.

—Pope Benedict XVI

## 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*

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 10: Monica Abou-Ezzi, Wissam Abou Khalil, Hogan Belko, Fouad Bouraphael, Paulina Eid, Jaret Farhat, Robert Hamman, Diala Khoury, Lucas Levy, Jovani Nader, Melanie Phares, Maureen Tridenti

Dec. 11: Kozhaya Abou Khalil, Rayan Al Ghoul,

Dec. 12: Tanya Abdilmasih, William Gabriel, Fuad Hawwa, Colette Sadek, Roland Parent, Louis Roberts, Bryce Smith,

Dec. 13: Lucas Haydar, Hadi Raad,

Dec. 14: Nicole Jacobs, Viviane Ramy, Linda Shadeed, Willis Thompson

Dec. 15: Angelina El-Khoury, Stella Giantonio, Elie Najem,

Dec. 16: Joseph Abdulla, Ronald Abraham, Joshua Belko, Richard Harb, Douglas Maroun, Mila Motta, Elie Nehme

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dec. 12: Abdullah & Yolla Harb

### 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 Revelation to St Joseph

*Book of Isaiah 7, 10-15*

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

*Letter to the Ephesians 3,1-13.*

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

*Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew 1,18-25.*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

*Saturday, December 10- 4PM -*

**Patricia Ferguson**

*Sunday, December 11- 8AM - Hitaf Nammour*  
*9AM - Joseph Safi*

**11:00AM Eng: Kyle Feghali**

**Ar: Amale Chantiri**

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

*Saturday, December 17 - 4PM -*

**Lisa Abdallah**

*Sunday, December 18- 8AM - Huguette Sfeir*  
*9AM - Meaghan Twing*

**11:00AM Eng: Nadine Sader**

**Ar: Joelle Sader**



## أحد البيان ليوسف

سفر أشعيا 7: 10-15

وَعَادَ الرَّبُّ فَكَلَّمَ أَحَازَ قَائِلًا: «سَلْ لِنَفْسِكَ آيَةً مِنْ عِنْدِ الرَّبِّ إِلَهَكَ، سَلْهَا إِمَّا فِي الْعُمُقِ وَإِمَّا فِي الْعَلَاءِ مِنْ فَوْقِ». «فَقَالَ أَحَازُ: «لَا أَسْأَلُ وَلَا أُجْرِبُ الرَّبَّ». «فَقَالَ أَشْعِيَا: «إِسْمَعُوا يَا بَيْتَ دَاوُدَ. أَقَلِيلٌ عِنْدَكُمْ أَنْ تُسْمِعُوا النَّاسَ حَتَّى تُسْمِعُوا إِلَهِي أَيْضًا؟ فَذَلِكَ يُؤْتِيكُمْ السَّيِّدُ نَفْسُهُ آيَةً: «هَا إِنْ الصَّبِيَّةُ تَحْمِلُ فَتَلِدُ ابْنًا وَتَدْعُو اسْمَهُ عِمَّاوُئِيلَ. يَأْكُلُ لَبَنًا حَلِيبًا وَعَسَلًا إِلَى أَنْ يَعْرِفَ أَنْ يِرْذَلَ الشَّرَّ وَيَخْتَارَ الْخَيْرَ. »

رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل أفسس 3: 1-13

يَا إِخْوَتِي، أَنَا بُولُسُ، أَسِيرَ الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ، أَيُّهَا الْأُمَّمُ... إِنْ كُنْتُمْ قَدْ سَمِعْتُمْ بِتَدْبِيرِ نِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ الَّتِي وَهَبَتْ لِي مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ، وَهُوَ أَنِّي بَوَّحِي أُطْلَعْتُ عَلَى السِّرِّ، كَمَا كَتَبْتُ إِلَيْكُمْ بِإِجْازٍ مِنْ قَبْلِ، حِينِيذٍ يُمَكِّنُكُمْ، إِذَا قَرَأْتُمْ ذَلِكَ، أَنْ تُدْرِكُوا فَهْمِي لِسِرِّ الْمَسِيحِ، هَذَا السِّرِّ الَّذِي لَمْ يَعْرِفَ عِنْدَ بَنِي الْبَشَرِ فِي الْأَجْيَالِ الْغَابِرَةِ، كَمَا أُعْلِنُ الْآنَ بِالرُّوحِ لِرُسُلِهِ الْقَدِيسِينَ وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، وَهُوَ أَنَّ الْأُمَّمَ هُمْ، فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ، شُرَكَاءُ لَنَا فِي الْمِيرَاثِ وَالْجَسَدِ وَالْوَعْدِ، بِوَاسِطَةِ الْإِنْجِيلِ، الَّذِي صِرْتُ خَادِمًا لَهُ، بِحَسَبِ هِبَةِ نِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ الَّتِي وَهَبَتْ لِي بِفِعْلِ قُدْرَتِهِ؛ لِي أَنَا، أَصْغَرَ الْقَدِيسِينَ جَمِيعًا، وَهَبَتْ هَذِهِ النِّعْمَةَ، وَهِيَ أَنْ أُبَشِّرَ الْأُمَّمَ بِغِنَى الْمَسِيحِ الَّذِي لَا يُسْتَقْصَى، وَأَنْ أَوْضِحَ لِلْجَمِيعِ مَا هُوَ تَدْبِيرُ السِّرِّ الْمَكْتُومِ مُنْذُ الدُّهُورِ فِي اللَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، لِكَيْ تُعْرِفَ الْآنَ مِنْ خِلَالِ الْكَنِيسَةِ، لَدَى الرِّئَاسَاتِ وَالسَّلَاطِينِ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ، حِكْمَةَ اللَّهِ الْمُتَنَوِّعَةَ، بِحَسَبِ قَصْدِهِ الْأَرْزَلِيِّ الَّذِي حَقَّقَهُ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ رَبِّنَا، الَّذِي لَنَا فِيهِ، أَيُّ بِالْإِيمَانِ بِهِ، الْوُصُولُ بِجُرْأَةٍ وَثِقَةٍ إِلَى اللَّهِ. لِذَلِكَ أَسْأَلُكُمْ أَنْ لَا تَضَعُفَ عَزِيمَتَكُمْ بِسَبَبِ الضَّيِّقَاتِ الَّتِي أَعَانِيهَا مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ: إِنَّهَا مَجْدٌ لَكُمْ!

إنجيل القديس متى 1: 18-25

أَمَّا مِيلَادُ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ فَكَانَ هَكَذَا: لَمَّا كَانَتْ أُمُّهُ مَرْيَمُ مَخْطُوبَةً لِيُوسُفَ، وَقَبْلَ أَنْ يَسْكُنَا مَعًا، وَجَدَتْ حَامِلًا مِنَ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ. وَلَمَّا كَانَ يُوسُفُ رَجُلًا بَارًّا، وَلَا يُرِيدُ أَنْ يُشْهَرَ بِهَا، قَرَّرَ أَنْ يُطَلِّقَهَا سِرًّا. وَمَا إِنْ فَكَّرَ فِي هَذَا حَتَّى تَرَاى لَهُ مَلَائِكَةُ الرَّبِّ فِي الْحُلْمِ قَائِلًا: «يَا يُوسُفُ بْنُ دَاوُدَ، لَا تَخَفْ أَنْ تَأْخُذَ مَرْيَمَ أَمْرَأَتَكَ، فَالْمَوْلُودُ فِيهَا إِنَّمَا هُوَ مِنَ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ. وَسَوْفَ تَلِدُ ابْنًا، فَسَمِّهِ يَسُوعَ، لِأَنَّهُ هُوَ الَّذِي يُخَلِّصُ شَعْبَهُ مِنْ خَطَايَاهُمْ.» وَوَحَدَتْ هَذَا كُلَّهُ لِيَتِمَّ مَا قَالَهُ الرَّبُّ بِالنَّبِيِّ: «هَا إِنْ الْعَذْرَاءُ تَحْمِلُ وَتَلِدُ ابْنًا، وَيُدْعَى اسْمُهُ عِمَّاوُئِيلَ، أَيُّ اللَّهُ مَعَنَا. وَلَمَّا قَامَ يُوسُفُ مِنَ النَّوْمِ، فَعَلَ كَمَا أَمَرَهُ مَلَائِكَةُ الرَّبِّ وَأَخَذَ أَمْرَأَتَهُ. وَلَمْ يَعْرِفْهَا، فَوَلَدَتْ ابْنًا، وَسَمَّاهُ يَسُوعَ.

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