

## 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)

*God hears*  
THE SILENT  
PRAYER OF  
*Season of the Glorious Birth of Our Lord*  
*Announcement to Zechariah - أحد بشارة زكريّا*  
HEART.



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**SaintAnthonyLawrence**

## LITURGIES INTENTIONS

### Season of the Glorious Birth of Our Lord Announcement to Zechariah

**Saturday, November 18**

*St. Romanos*

**4:00 pm** Good health and blessings of all our Religious Education team, members and their families

**Sunday, November 19**

*Pope St. Pontian*

**8:00 am** In Honor of Gilbert Fenianos & Diane Habchi

**9:30 am** + Jennie & Toufi Ferris, *By their Family*

**11:00 am** + Jean El Helou, *By his son, Tony, his daughter, Lola, their spouses & their families*

### Announcement to the Virgin Mary

**Saturday, November 25**

*Pope St. Clement*

**4:00 pm** +40 Day Anniversary - Emilia Boufaisal, *by her sister Marie Nammour, nieces, nephews, and their families*

**Sunday, November 26**

*St. Peter*

**8:00 am** In Honor of Abouna Maroon Abou-Khalil *By Lola & Kozhaya Aboukhalil and Family*

**9:30 am** In honor of the benefactors of the Fantastically Fantastic , St. Jude Walk

**11:00 am** + Said and Chafica Azzi, *By Mr. & Mrs. Pierre Azzi and family*

### Daily Liturgies

**Monday, November 20** (Ar.)

*St. Gregory of the Decapolis*

*Rom 4: 1-12/ Jn 8: 31-37*

**9:00 am** No Liturgy

**Tuesday, November 21** (Eng.)

*Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Temple*

*Rom 2: 1-8 / Jn 8: 38-40*

**9:00 am** + Christine Kattar, *By Phyllis Thomas*

**Wednesday, November 22** (Ar.)

*Sts. Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Virgin Mary*

*Rom: 2: 9-16 / Jn 8: 41-45*

**9:00 am** +Deceased members of the Hbaiter family, *By Kamil & Mouna Hbaiter*

**Thursday, November 23** - No Liturgy

*St. Sassine*

### Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving

**Friday, November 24** - No Liturgy

*St. Catherine of Alexandria*

### SANCTUARY LAMPS

In Gratitude to  
Saint Anthony's Parishioners & Friends

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:

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

### Observances:

Office will be Closed on Thanksgiving Day  
Thursday November 23 & Friday November 24, 2023.

May you all have a Happy, Blessed, & Safe Thanksgiving weekend.

### PLEASE NOTE:

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

ST. ANTHONY'S PRESENTS  
**KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY**

DROP OFF YOUR KIDS FOR A JOLLY GOOD TIME!  
**DECEMBER 9TH - 5:00-7:00**  
 KINDERGARTEN - 8TH GRADE

Individual pictures with Santa Claus  
 Live Music & Caroling - Delicious Food & Drinks  
 Exciting Games & Prizes  
 Don't forget to Wear your Christmas outfit!

**HO-HO-HOPE TO SEE ALL OUR PARISH KIDS!**

Google form  
 To Register your Children  
**PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM BY NOVEMBER 25TH**

SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH LAWRENCE PRESENTS

**MENS CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
 MUSIC - GAMES - FUN - CASH BAR

**\$50**

NO TICKETS AT DOOR

**12TH DEC**

**PHOENICIAN RESTAURANT  
 MICHAEL'S FUNCTION HALL  
 12 ALPHA STREET  
 HAVERHILL, MA**

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM  
 DINNER SERVED AT 7:45PM

MENU INCLUDES:  
 APPS: HUMMUS, TABOULI, BABA, RAW KIBBEE, VEGETABLE PLATTER, FRIES  
 MAIN: CHICKEN KABOB OVER RICE PILAF, TENDERLOIN WITH PEPPERS & ONIONS

FOR INFO OR TICKETS CONTACT:  
 FRED COREY | ROD PICA | WISSAM MERHEB | ELIAS AZZI | DANNY AZZI

DECEMBER 16

**Christmas Concert**

**SAINT ANTHONY K OF C SPONSORS**

<p><b>"MASHAWI" SHISH KABOB DINNER</b></p> <p>SAT, NOV. 18, 2023              4:30PM TO 7:30PM</p> <p><b>SANWICHES</b>              BEEF KABOB SANDWICH \$10              SIRLOIN, HUMMUS, PICKLE, TOMATO              CHICKEN KABOB SANDWICH \$10              CHICKEN, GARLIC, PICKLE, FF</p> <p><b>DINNERS - 1 SKEWER</b>              BEEF KABOB DINNER \$15              CHICKEN KABOB DINNER \$15              ALL DINNERS COME WITH HUMMUS, TABOULI, AND CHOICE OF RICE OR FRIES              EXTRA SKEWER \$7</p> <p><b>SIDES - AVAILABLE BOTH DAYS</b>              HUMMUS \$5              TABOULI \$5              RICE \$5              FRENCH FRIES \$5              SODA/WATER \$2</p>	<p><b>SAINT ANTHONY K OF C SPONSORS</b></p> <p><b>PRE-ORDER AVAILABLE</b></p> <p>CONTACT:              WISSAM MERHEB 978.853.5145              ROBERT OWAIDA 978.423.9407</p> <p>145 AMESBURY ST              LAWRENCE, MA</p> <p>CASH OR CHECK</p>	<p><b>SHAWARMA LUNCH</b></p> <p>SUN, NOV. 19, 2023              10:30AM TO 1:30PM</p> <p><b>SANWICHES</b>              BEEF SHAWARMA \$10              PARSLEY, ONION, TOMATO, PICKLE, TAHINI SAUCE              CHICKEN SHAWARMA \$10              CHICKEN, GARLIC, PICKLE, FF              COMBO \$15              INCLUDES FRIES AND SODA</p> <p><b>FAMILY PLATTER SERVES 4</b>              SHAWARMA TRAY \$45              INCLUDES CHOICE OF MEAT AND THE ACCESSORIES</p> <p>YOUR SUPPORT ALLOWS US TO HELP THOSE IN NEED              THANK YOU</p>
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## MASS INTENTIONS

Liturgies are offered for many reasons: for the souls in purgatory, in remembrance for someone who is deceased, or in honor of someone's 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 offer a Liturgy for someone, please contact the Parish Office by phone or email for more inquiries.

## BIBLE STUDY - ENGLISH SESSIONS

*Bishop Robert Barron's Catholicism Series*

**Regular Schedule: Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 pm**

Location will be in conference room and simulcast on Zoom.

- ◆ November 29 (no session 22<sup>nd</sup> Thanksgiving)
- ◆ December 6, 13, 20 (no session 27<sup>th</sup> - Christmas)

*\*More sessions to be posted at a later date.*

## ARABIC BIBLE STUDY & FORMATION

**New sessions coming soon**

### OUR SYMPATHIES TO :

Donna, Thomas & Deborah Kattar, the family of the late Frances Cocozza and the Faris family for the death of their beloved **Christine Kattar**

Christine was a lifelong parishioner of St. Anthony, a President of the Sodality and a member of The Daughters of St. Anthony Ministry.

*May her soul rest in peace and her loved ones be comforted*

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 18 - 4 pm - Meaghan Twing

Sunday, November 19 -

8:00 am - Hitaf Nammour

9:30 am - Elaine Ferris

11:00 am - (Eng) John El Helou

(Ar) Amale Chantiri

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 25 - 4 pm - Ramona Yammine

Sunday, November 26 -

8:00 am - Mouna Hbaiter

9:30 am - Joey Safii

11:00 am - (Eng) Elias Azzi

(Ar) Sub-Deacon Antoine Nammour

## OFFICE HOURS:

**M-TH** 10:00 am-3:00 pm

**FRI** 10:00 am-2:00 pm

**SAT** By Appointment

**DAILY LITURGIES @ 9 am**

**MON & WED** (Ara)

**TUE & THU** (Eng)

## WEEKEND LITURGIES

**SAT** 4 pm (Eng)

**SUN** 8 am (Ara)- 9:30 am (Eng)

11 am (Eng.& Ara)

## 1st Friday of the Month:

6 pm - Confession / 7 pm - Liturgy

## 1st Sunday of the Month:

Youth Liturgy @ 5:00 pm

## Holy days of obligation:

Vigil Liturgy @ 7:00 pm

## 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:

*Nadim Daou, James T. Demers &*

*David Leard*

**Sub-Deacon:** Antoine Nammour

## CLERGY DAY OFF

*Fr Elie: Mondays*

*Fr. Neemtallah: Wednesdays*

## 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.*

## CHOIR MINISTRY

***“The church choir is the heart of the church, singing praises to the Lord.”***

### **Love to Sing? Join our Choir Ministry!**

We would love to have you join our music ministry if you enjoy to sing or praising the Lord through songs.

Not sure if this ministry is for you? You are welcome to try it out with no obligation!

For further information, please contact Fr. Neemtallah or Patrick Tabet.

## New Ministries Appointment

**Ministries Formation Leader & Advisor:**

**Anthony Abi Awad**

**MYA Leaders:**

**George Hashem, Robert Ayoub, Leila Geha & Marita Merheb**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Next session:

**November 18 @ 5-7 pm**

We are in need of Substitute Teachers! If you are interested, please contact

**Ginine Flanagan at: [lawrencereligious@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencereligious@gmail.com)**

## KNIGHTS OF MARY

**Co-Chair: Colette Sadek & Gretta Merheb**

Next Sessions:

**Saturday, November 25 @ 5-7 pm**

Calendar for 2023-2024 Season:

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

## MARONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION

**MYO Co-Leaders: Geryes Geha & Gabrielle AbdulNour**

Next Meeting:

**Sunday, November 19 @ 6 - 7:30 pm**

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

## KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Next Meeting:

**Saturday, December 2 @ 11 am- 12:30 pm**

*New applicants are always welcome*

## DAUGHTERS OF SAINT ANTHONY

Save the Date:

**Monday, December 4 @ 12 Noon**

**Christmas party in the church hall**

**Catered Arabic food @ a cost of \$35 per person**



**STARTING NOVEMBER 18 @ 9:00 am**

### **Purpose:**

*Form a Men of Saint Joseph (MSJ) group at Saint Anthony’s church taking the earthly father of Jesus as a guide and intercessor, and create the opportunity to pray, share our experience and grow in faith together on our journey to eternal life promised to us by Jesus the crucified.*

### **Monthly Meeting Schedule**

*One Saturday every month (except 2nd Saturday) at Saint Anthony Maronite Church and Hall*

### **WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?**

#### **FIND SUPPORT TO GROW YOUR FAITH**

Finding support for your newly found or even lifelong pursuit of Catholicism can be a challenge. Need help being affirmed in your daily walk, in gaining new wisdom or in becoming a better man?

#### **STRENGTHEN YOUR MARRIAGE**

Want valuable wisdom on how to strengthen your relationship with your wife? Or need to know what the Catholic Church teaches? Or how to live a life that is Christ centered?

#### **FOSTER FAMILY VALUES**

Need encouragement to discover new ways to engage yourself, your wife or your children to live and understand your faith every day?

#### **ENGAGE YOUR COMMUNITY**

Looking for ways to become an active participant in your Catholic community or to aid others by showing them how to live the Catholic faith and how it can help them live happier and holier lives?

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### Baptized & Confirmed:

**Luca James Hutton**  
*Son of Matthew & Meghan Hutton*

*“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”*

~Mark 16:16



**FORMED** features many insightful programs for the whole family!

Enhance your faith—take advantage of this **FREE TO YOU** program!

### How do parishioners sign up for FORMED with a parish account?

1. Go to [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup)
2. Search for your parish by Zip Code/ Postal Code. Click on your parish.
3. Register with your name and email address
4. Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED.

## BIRTHDAY WISHES

- Nov 18:** Chaouki Bouchrouche, Amale Chantiri, Andrew Dabrowski, Fadi Francis
- Nov 19:** Rana Abi-Rached, Ana Bradley, Ayla Jean, Nadine Sader, Pierre Sahyouni, Wayne Swanson
- Nov 20:** Pierre Abdilmasih, Marie Akiki, Fredy Corey, Cecelia Hatem, Roy Rached, Sharbel Saab, Michelle Sfeir
- Nov 21:** Louis Assaf, Rita Azzi, Gabriel Farhat, Michael Karam, George Saad, Erin Sadek, Bernice Spencer
- Nov 22:** Colleen Abraham, Helen Bouchrouche, Yvonne Phares, Meara Younes
- Nov 23:** Olga Sarkis, Elena Zaarour, Danielle Zaza
- Nov 24:** Joe Bou Saada, Cristina Chedid, Mark El Zaklit, Julianne Jefferson, Zakhia Kosseifi, Maya Najjar, Christian St. Jean

## ANNIVERSARY WISHES

- Nov 19:** Mounir & Antoinette Jermany
- Nov 20:** James & Lisa Abdallah, Maria & Joseph Azzi  
Kenneth & Maureen Daher
- Nov 24:** Mounir & Ramona Bou-Mitri,  
Jason & Julie Martino

## BE PART OF OUR MINISTRIES

### Religious Education

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/](https://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/)

### Maronite Youth Organization -MYO

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-2/](https://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-2/)

### Maronite Young Adults -MYA

*Please email the Parish to add your name to the MYA Group: [rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)*

### Knights of Mary -KOM

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

### Knights of the Altars

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/application/](https://www.stanthonylawrence.org/application/)

*In addition our Parish takes pride and invites you to be part of the other ministries such as:*


- *Daughters of St Anthony*
- *Our Lady of Lebanon Sodality*
- *Sunshine Committee*
- *M-Wine*
- *Bereavement Ministry*
- *Ushers*
- *Men's Ministry*

**5 FULL DAYS**  
**JUNE 24-29**  
MON - SAT



REGISTRATION OPENS EARLY  
**FEB 2024**

[www.maroniteyouth.org](https://www.maroniteyouth.org)



**THE 2024 NATIONAL MYO CONFERENCE**  
LA ROCHE UNIVERSITY • PITTSBURGH, PA

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

-St. Anthony Council 16204

### KOC Next Meeting:

Tuesday, December 12 @ 7 pm, church hall  
Men 18yrs and older are encouraged to attend.  
For information email: [KOFc16204@gmail.com](mailto:KOFc16204@gmail.com)

### Thanksgiving Food Drive

Please remember to bring your non-perishable food items to the collection bins in the church foyer, to support parish families in need and the Maronite monks monastery in Petersham, MA.

*Non perishable food items such as, canned vegetables, fruits and soups, oatmeal, coffee, sugar, spices, pasta, beans, rice, oil, snacks, powdered milk, peanut butter etc. Gift cards to food market are also encouraged.*

Thank you!

## SAINT ANTHONY 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" X 8" = \$250

Please submit your request either by

**Phone: 978.685.7233** or by E-mail:

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

*Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish Presents*

## CANDLELIGHT ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 9th  
Doors Open at 6:30pm

### ST. THERESA CHURCH

22 Plymouth Street  
Methuen MA

Celebrate the Christmas Season in peace with beautiful music by the OLCG Choir and Friends, featuring Special Guest Singers  
*Female Trio: Lori Charette McLaughlin, Melanie Noonan & Kasia Sokalla*  
*Male Trio: The Queliz Brothers of St. Mary's Parish of Lawrence, MA*

This is a Freewill Offering Event. Thank you for your support!  
For additional information and LIVESTREAMING, please visit [www.olgcparrish.com](http://www.olgcparrish.com)

## ANNUAL HAFLI

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024

## Sunday of the Announcement to Zechariah

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*Book of Genesis 17, 15-22*

God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.' Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, 'Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?' And Abraham said to God, 'O that Ishmael might live in your sight!' God said, 'No, but your wife Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. As for Ishmael, I have heard you; I will bless him and make him fruitful and exceedingly numerous; he shall be the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this season next year.' And when he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.

*Letter to the Romans 4, 13-25.*

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

*Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 1, 1-25*

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed. In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.' Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'



## أحد بشارة زكريا

سفر التكوين 17: 15-22

وَقَالَ اللَّهُ لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ: «سَاراي امرأتك لا تسميها ساراي، بل سمها سارة. وأنا أباركها وأزركها منها ابناً وأباركها فتصير أمماً، وملوك شعوب منها يخرجون». فسقط إبراهيم على وجهه وصحك، وقال في قلبه: «الابن مئة سنة يولد ولد، أم سارة وهي ابنة تسعين سنة، تلد؟» فقال إبراهيم لله: «لو أن إسماعيل يخيا أمام وجهك!». فقال الله: «بل سارة امرأتك ستلد لك ابناً وسمه إسحاق، وأقيم عهدي معه، عهداً أبدياً، لأكون له إلهاً لنسله من بعده. وأمّا إسماعيل فقد سمعت قولك فيه. وهاءنذا أباركها وأتميه وأكثره جداً جداً، ويولد اثني عشر رئيساً، وأجعله أمة عظيمة. غير أن عهدي أقيم مع إسحاق الذي تلده لك سارة في مثل هذا الوقت من السنة المقبلة». ولما أنتهى الله من مخاطبة إبراهيم، ارتفع عنه.

رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل رومة 4: 13 - 25

يا إخوتي، أمّا المسيح فقد ظهر عظيم أخبار الخيرات الآتية، وأجتاز المسكين الأعظم والأكمل، غير المصنوع بالأيدي، أي ليس من هذه الخليقة، فدخل إلى فؤس الأقداس مرة واحدة، لا بدم الثيوس والعجول، بل بدمه هو، فحقق لنا فداءً أبدياً. فإذا كان رش دم الثيوس والثيران وزماد العجلة على المنجسين، يقدس أجسادهم فيطهرهم، فكم بالأحرى دم المسيح، الذي قرب نفسه لله بالروح الأزلي قرباناً لا عيب فيه، يطهر ضميرنا من الأعمال الميئة، لنعبد الله الحي! ولذلك فهو الوسيط لعهد جديد، وقد صار موته فداءً لتعديت العهد الأول، حتى ينال به المدعوون وعد الميراث الأبدي.

إنجيل القديس لوقا 1: 1 - 25

حان بما أن كثيرين أخذوا يرتبون رواية للأحداث التي تمت عندنا، كما سلمها إلينا من كانوا منذ البدء شهود عيان للكلمة، ثم صاروا خداماً لها، رأيت أنا أيضاً، أيها الشريف ثيوفيل، أن أكتبها لك بحسب ترتيبها، بعدما تتبعها كلها، منذ بدايتها، تتبعاً دقيقاً، لكي تتيقن صحة الكلام الذي وعظت به. كان في أيام هيرودس، ملك اليهودية، كاهن اسمه زكريا، من فرقة أبيا، له امرأة من بنات هارون اسمها إيصابات. وكانا كلاهما بارين أمام الله، سالكين في جميع وصايا الرب وأحكامه بلا لوم. وما كان لهما ولد، لأن إيصابات كانت عاقراً، وكانا كلاهما قد طعنا في أيامهما. وفيما كان زكريا يقوم بالخدمة الكهنوتية أمام الله، في أثناء نوبة فرقة، أصابته الفرعة، بحسب عادة الكهوت، ليدخل مقدس هيكل الرب ويحرق البخور. وكان كل جمهور الشعب يصلي في الخارج، في أثناء إحراق البخور. وتراءى ملاك الرب لزكريا واقفاً من عن يمين مذبح البخور، فأضطرب زكريا حين رآه، واستولى عليه الخوف. فقال له الملاك: «لا تخف، يا زكريا، فقد استجيبت طلبتك، وأمرأتك إيصابات ستلد لك ابناً، فسمه يوحنا. ويكون لك فرح وأبتهاج، ويفرح بمولده كثيرون، لأنه سيكون عظيماً في نظر الرب، لا يشرب خمراً ولا مسكراً، ويمتلئ من الروح القدس وهو بعد في حشا أمه. ويرد كثيرين من بني إسرائيل إلى الرب الإلههم. ويسير أمام الرب بروح إيليا وقوته، ليرد قلوب الآباء إلى الأبناء، والعصاة إلى حكمة الأبرار، فيهيئ للرب شعباً معداداً خيراً إعداد». فقال زكريا للملاك: «بماذا أعرف هذا؟ فإني أنا شيخ، وأمرأتي قد طعنت في أيامها!». فأجاب الملاك وقال له: «أنا هو جبرائيل الواقف في حضرة الله، وقد أرسلت لكلمتك وأبشرك بهذا. وما أنت تكون صامتاً، لا تقدر أن تتكلم، حتى اليوم الذي يحدث فيه ذلك، لأنك لم تؤمن بكلامي الذي سيقم في أوانه». وكان الشعب ينتظر زكريا، ويتعجب من إبطائه في مقدس الهيكل. ولما خرج زكريا، لم يكن قادراً أن يكلمهم، فادركوا أنه رأى رؤيا في المقدس، وكان يشير إليهم بالإشارة، وبقي أبكم. ولما تمت أيام خدمته، مضى إلى بيته. وبعد تلك الأيام، حملت امرأته إيصابات، وكتمت أمرها خمسة أشهر، وهي تقول: هكذا صنع الرب إلي، في الأيام التي نظر إلي فيها، ليزيل العار عني من بين الناس!.



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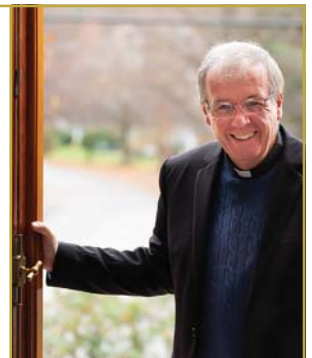
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Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr. Nestor is known for fostering a sense of community wherever he goes.

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