

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



Season of the Glorious Epiphany

Sunday Of The Priests - أحد الكهنة



venmo

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LITURGIES INTENTIONS

Sunday of the Priests

Sunday of the Righteous and Just

Saturday, January 20 *St Euthymius the Great*

4:00 pm +40 Day Anniversary -Dale Clawson, *By his daughter, Debbie, and her husband, Rick Brooks, His brother & sister in-laws, Richard & Theresa Habib, grandchildren, nieces, & nephews*

+ John & Ida Thomas, *By their Family*

Sunday, January 21 *St Sebastian*

8:00 am In Honor of Grece Abou Ezzi *By her husband & Children*

9:30 am + Private Intentions

11:00 am + Farid Jean Rizk and Elias Bou Younis, *By Ghassan and Betty Najm*

+ Yvette Saad, *By John and Najah Maksou, & family*

Daily Liturgies

Monday, January 22 *(Eng.)*
St. Timothy / 2 Tim 1:1-11/ Mt 16:24-28

9:00 am + Julia Alvernaz, *By Dora Pereira*

Tuesday, January 23 *(Eng.)*
St. Sergius & St. Marianne / 2 Tim 2:1-13/Mt 18:1-5

9:00 am + JoAnn Magee, *By the Demers family*

Wednesday, January 24 *(Ar.)*
St. Francis De Sales/ 2 Tim 2:14-26/Mt 20:20-28

9:00 am In honor of Julien Wakim, *By his family*

Thursday, January 25 *(Eng.)*
Conversion of St. Paul/ 2 Tim 3: 10-17 / Lk 17:7-10

9:00 am + Diane George, *By Lorry Ganem & family*

9:30 am - 12 pm Adoration

Friday, January 26 - NO LITURGY
St. Agnes / 2 Tim 4:1-8 / Lk 22:24-30

Saturday, January 27 *St. Paula*

4:00 pm + 40 Day Anniversary — Joseph (Joey) P. Getchell, *By his parents, Emily & Timothy, his siblings, Chris, Brittany & family*

+ Chukri, Nadia, & Salma Awil, Elias & Mariam Khoder, *By their family*

Sunday, January 28 *St. Ephrem*

8:00 am Private Intentions

9:30 am + Wiliam A. Stundza, *By his family*

11:00 am + Tanos Ata, *By his family*

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION

United States Catholic Bishops' Worldwide Charities - USCCB January 27 & 28

Please remit your Fuel/Utilities Envelope. Your contribution helps us keep the AC on in the Summer and the Heat on in the Winter!

SANCTUARY LAMPS



In Loving Memory of Angela Daou, By Mr. & Mrs. Samir Daou

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:
www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/

PLEASE NOTE

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

OBSERVANCES

- * **Presentation of Christ in the Temple** - Friday, Feb 2 - Liturgy @ 7pm with Candles Blessings
- * **Feast of St Maron** - Holy Day of Obligation - OFFICE CLOSED Friday, Feb 9 - Liturgy @ 4pm (Eng) & 7pm (Ar & Eng)
- * **Ash Monday** - Feb. 12 - Liturgies & distribution of ashes @ 4pm (Eng) & 7pm (Ar & Eng)
- * **Presidents Day** - OFFICE CLOSED - Monday, Feb 19, 2024

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 (Ar)

TUE & THU (Eng)

WEEKEND LITURGIES

SAT 4 pm (Eng)

SUN 8 am (Ar)- 9:30 am (Eng)

11 am (Eng.& Ar)

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

Fr. Edgard -Neemtallah- Oneissy

(857)390-4838

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.





All qualified **High School Seniors and College Undergraduates** students are invited to apply for the **ALAA Scholarships**. All applicants are encouraged to use electronic applications. Students can access this information at : americanlebaneseawarenessassociation.org Or on ALAA Facebook page. Applications are due by March 1st, 2024.

FAMILY OF SAINT SHARBEL

**Weekly Zoom Prayer
Every Tuesday @ 8pm**



Zoom ID: 335616991

Passcode: 816342

Or you can join by clicking this link:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/335616991>

For more information email:

communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Next session:

Saturday, January 20, 2024 @ 5-7 pm

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

Ginine Flanagan at: lawrencereligioused@gmail.com

KNIGHTS OF MARY

Co-Chair: Colette Sadek & Gretta Merheb

Next Sessions:

Saturday, January 27, 2024 @ 5-7 pm

Calendar for 2023-2024 Season:

www.stanthonylawrence.org/events-2/

MARONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION

MYO Co-Leaders: Geryes Geha & Gabrielle AbdulNour

Next Meeting:

Sunday, January 21, 2024 @ 6 - 7:30 pm

www.stanthonylawrence.org/myo/

KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Next Meeting:

Saturday, February 3, 2024 @ 11 am- 12:30 pm

*Remember to bring your handbooks to the meetings
New applicants are always welcome*

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

-St. Anthony Council 16204

KOC Next Meeting:

Tuesday February 13, 2024 @ 7 pm, church hall
Men 18yrs and older are encouraged to attend.

For information email: KOFc16204@gmail.com

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.

- ◆ January 24, 31
- ◆ February 7, 21, 28
- ◆ March 6, 13, 20
- ◆ April 3, 10, 17, 24 (Makeup Sessions for snow-days)

*More sessions to be posted at a later date.

ARABIC BIBLE STUDY & FORMATION

New sessions coming soon in the New Year



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?

E-BIKE RAFFLE SAINT MARON CHURCH
VELOTRIC DISCOVER 1

2 Winners
1 E-Bike per winner

\$20.00 per Ticket

DRAWING:
SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024 - 2PM
1013 Ellsworth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147
215.389.2000 | office@saintmaron.org

Ride away with your very own E-Bike!
Revolutionize your commute!

SCAN ME

SPONSORS

- Philadelphia Pet Hotel & Villas
www.phillypethotel.com
215-365-4555
- Pauline's Home Care with Daughters and Friends LLC
pauline.homecare@gmail.com
267-582-0107
- Philadelphia Animal Hospital
www.philadelphiaanimalhospital.com
215-724-5550

WINNER NEED NOT TO BE PRESENT TO WIN
NO CASH IN LIEU OF PRIZE
NO SUBSTITUTION OF THE OFFERED PRIZE MAY BE MADE

CROSS

THE ROAD TO THE

2024 REGIONAL EPARCHIAL LENTEN RETREATS

SATURDAY MARCH 2 10 AM - 7 PM NEW ENGLAND SAINT ANTHONY OF THE DESERT - FALL RIVER MA

SATURDAY MARCH 9 10 AM - 7 PM MID-ATLANTIC SAINT SHARBEL CHURCH SOMERSET NEW JERSEY

COST IS \$30 A PERSON LUNCH & DINNER INCLUDED

REGISTRATION IS OPEN
MYOEPARCHYSTMARON.ORG

5 FULL DAYS
JUNE 24-29
MON - SAT

REGISTRATION OPENS EARLY FEB 2024

www.maroniteyouth.org

SAVE DATE

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

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
or Visit: stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/

Cemetery Guidelines

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/.

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
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

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

RISKING GOD'S MERCY *By Ronald Rolheiser*

Shortly after ordination, doing replacement work in a parish, I found myself in a rectory with a saintly old priest. He was over eighty, nearly blind, but widely sought out and respected, especially as a confessor. One night, alone with him, I asked him this question: "If you had your priesthood to live over again, would you do anything differently?" From a man so full of integrity, I fully expected that there would be no regrets. His answer surprised me. Yes, he said, he did have a regret, a major one: "If I had my priesthood to do over again, I would be easier on people the next time. I wouldn't be so stingy with God's mercy, with the sacraments, and with forgiveness. You see what was drilled into me in my formation was the phrase, The truth will set you free, and I believed that it was my responsibility to challenge people to protect that. That's good, but I fear I've been too hard on people. They have pain enough in their lives without me and the church laying further burdens on them. I should have risked more God's mercy!"

I was struck by this because less than a year before, as I took my final exams in the seminary, one of the priests who examined me, gave me this warning: "Be careful," he said, "never let your feelings get in the way of truth and be too soft, that's wrong. Remember, tough as it is, only the truth sets people free!" Sound advice, it would seem, for a young priest beginning his ministry.

However, as every year goes by in my own ministry, I feel more inclined to the old priest's advice. We need to risk more God's mercy. Admittedly, the importance of truth may never be ignored, but we must risk letting the infinite, unbounded, unconditional, undeserved mercy of God flow freely. The mercy of God is as accessible as the nearest water tap and we, like Isaiah, must proclaim a mercy that has no price tag: "Come, come without money and without virtue, come everyone, drink freely of God's mercy!"

What holds us back? Why are we so hesitant in proclaiming God's inexhaustible, prodigal, indiscriminate mercy?

Partly our motives are good, noble even. We have a legitimate concern over some important things: truth, justice, orthodoxy, morality, proper public form, proper sacramental preparation, fear of scandal, and concern for the ecclesial community that needs to absorb and carry the effects of sin. Love needs always to be tempered by truth, even as truth must be moderated by love. However, sometimes our motives are less noble and our hesitancy arises out of timidity, fear, jealousy, and legalism – the self-righteousness of the Pharisees or the hidden jealousy of the older brother of the prodigal son. No cheap grace is to be dispensed on our watch!

Nevertheless, in doing this, we are misguided, less than good shepherds, out of tune with the God that Jesus proclaimed. God's mercy, as Jesus revealed it, embraces indiscriminately, the bad along with the good, the undeserving with the deserving, the uninitiated with the initiated. One of the truly startling insights that Jesus gave us is that the mercy of God cannot not go out to everyone because it is always free, undeserved, unconditional, universal in embrace, reaching beyond all religion, custom, rubric, political correctness, mandatory program, ideology, and even beyond sin itself.

For our part then, especially those of us who are parents, ministers, teachers, catechists, and elders, we must risk proclaiming the prodigal character of God's mercy. We must not spend God's mercy, as if it were ours to spend, dole out God's forgiveness as if it were a limited commodity, put conditions on God's love as if God were a narrow tyrant or a political ideology, or cut off access to God as if we were the keepers of the heavenly gates. We are not! If we link God's mercy to our own assessment of things, we then link it to our own limits, wounds, and biases.

It is interesting to note in the gospels how the apostles, well-meaning of course, often tried to keep certain people away from Jesus, as if they weren't worthy and were somehow an affront to his holiness and purity. Repeatedly, they tried to send away children, prostitutes, tax collectors, known sinners, and the uninitiated of all kinds and always Jesus over-ruled their attempts with words to this effect: "Let them come! I want them to come to me."

Little has changed. Always in the church, we, well-intentioned persons, with the same motives as the apostles, keep trying to keep certain individuals and groups away from God's mercy as it is available in word, sacrament, and community. God doesn't need (nor want) our protection. Jesus wanted every kind of person to come to him then and he wants them to come to him now. God wants everyone, regardless of morality, orthodoxy, lack of preparation, age, or culture, to come to the unlimited waters of divine mercy.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

- Jan 20:** Joseph Chamoun, Rosa Maria Saliba
- Jan 21:** Rachele Abou Ezzi, Luke Avedisian, Maroun Nassar
- Jan 22:** Theresea Bou Sanayeh, Paulette Issa, Aubrey Jefferson, Rebecca Nassar, Jessica Nassar, Michael Saad
- Jan 23:** Joe Al Akoury, Gisele Georges, Janette Nadira
- Jan 24:** Eliane Bouraphael, Andrea Dahbour, Lauren Deschene, James Hajj, Dean Levy
- Jan 25:** Gabrielle Abdelnour, Joseph Aoun, Mariana Ata, Noah Dunbar, Matthew Getchell, Charlotte Samaan, Therese Zaarour
- Jan 26:** Julian Escobales, Roger Feghali, Elizabeth Frias, Ghada Nassar, Logan Reed, George Saab, Derek Samia

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

- Jan 20:** Melhem & Eliana Hachem
- Jan 21:** David & Tammy Mallen
- Jan 22:** George & Celestie Jbeily

BE PART OF OUR MINISTRIES

Religious Education

www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/

Maronite Youth Organization –MYO

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

Knights of Mary –KOM

www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-4/

Knights of the Altars

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**

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

1. Go to 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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Liturgies are offered for many reasons:

- ♦ For the souls in purgatory
- ♦ In remembrance for someone who is deceased
- ♦ In honor of someone’s birthday
- ♦ 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.

Please contact the Parish Office for more inquiries.

OUR LADY OF PURGATORY MARONITE CHURCH

ST. MARON'S
HAFLI

FEB 3, 2024

4254 ACUSHNET AVE.
NEW BEDFORD, MA 02745

CASH BAR & MEZZA
7:30 PM

DINNER SERVED
8:30 PM



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY
THAER MALKO
&
BACHIR EL KHOURY BAND

DANCE FLOOR SEATING: \$100 FOR ALL AGES
GENERAL SEATING: \$75
CHILDREN (12-17): \$40
CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS: NO CHARGE

FOR TICKET SALES CONTACT:
☎ CHURCH OFFICE: (508) 996-8934
☎ SOUSOU: (508) 916-1523

Sunday of the Deceased Bishops and Priests

Malachi 2:15-9

And now, priests, this commandment is for you: If you do not listen, My covenant with him was the life and peace which I gave him, and the fear he had for me, standing in awe of my name. Reliable instruction was in his mouth, no perversity was found upon his lips; He walked with me in integrity and uprightness, and turned many away from evil. For a priest's lips preserve knowledge, and instruction is to be sought from his mouth, because he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. But you have turned aside from the way, and have caused many to stumble by your instruction; You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts. I, therefore, have made you contemptible and base before all the people, For you do not keep my ways, but show partiality in your instruction.

First Letter to Timothy 4,6-16.

If you put these instructions before the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with profane myths and old wives' tales. Train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe. These are the things you must insist on and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 12,42-48.

The Lord said, 'Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. But if that slave says to himself, "My master is delayed in coming", and if he begins to beat the other slaves, men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and put him with the unfaithful. That slave who knew what his master wanted, but did not prepare himself or do what was wanted, will receive a severe beating. But one who did not know and did what deserved a beating will receive a light beating. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 20 - 4 pm - Patricia Ferguson

Sunday, January 21 -

8:00 am - Huguette Sfeir

9:30 am - Michael Faris

11:00 am -(Eng) Mansour Chaya

(Ar) Amale Chantiri

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 27 - 4 pm - Carla Khoder

Sunday, January 28-

8:00 am - Hitaf Nammour

9:30 am - Brady Barry

11:00 am -(Eng) Mary Saab

(Ar) George Saab

أحد الأبحار والكهنة الراقدين

سفر ملاخي 9-1:5:2

وَالآنَ إِلَيْكُمْ هَذِهِ الْوَصِيَّةُ أَيُّهَا الْكَهَنَةُ: كَانَ عَهْدِي مَعَ لَأوِي حَيَاةً وَسَلَامًا، فَوَهَبْتُهَا لَهُ، وَتَقَوَى فَاتَّقَانِي، وَهَابَ اسْمِي. كَانَ فِي فَمِهِ تَعْلِيمٌ حَقٌّ، وَلَمْ يُوجَدِ إِثْمٌ فِي شَفَتَيْهِ. سَارَ مَعِيَ بِالسَّلَامَةِ وَالِاسْتِقَامَةِ، وَرَدَّ كَثِيرِينَ عَنِ الْإِثْمِ. لِأَنَّ شَفَتِي الْكَاهِنِ تَحْفَظَانِ الْمَعْرِفَةَ، وَمَنْ فِيهِ يَطْلُبُونَ التَّعْلِيمَ، إِذْ هُوَ رَسُولُ رَبِّ الْقَوَاتِ. أَمَّا أَنْتُمْ فَحَدِّثُوا عَنِ الطَّرِيقِ وَعَزَّرْتُمْ كَثِيرِينَ بِالتَّعْلِيمِ، وَنَقَضْتُمْ عَهْدَ لَأوِي، قَالَ رَبُّ الْقَوَاتِ. فَأَنَا أَيْضًا جَعَلْتُكُمْ حَقِيرِينَ وَأُدْنِيَاءَ عِنْدَ جَمِيعِ الشَّعْبِ، بِقَدْرِ مَا أَنْكُمْ لَمْ تَحْفَظُوا طُرُقِي وَحَابَيْتُمْ الْوَجُوهَ فِي تَعْلِيمِكُمْ.

رسالة القديس بولس الأولى إلى طيموتائوس 16-4:6

يَا إِخْوَتِي، إِذَا عَرَضْتَ ذَلِكَ لِلِإِخْوَةِ، تَكُونُ خَادِمًا صَالِحًا لِلْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ، مُتَعَدِّيًا بِكَلَامِ الْإِيمَانِ وَالتَّعْلِيمِ الْحَسَنِ الَّذِي تَبِعْتَهُ. أَمَّا الْخُرَافَاتُ النَّافِهَةُ، جَكَايَاتُ الْعَجَائِزِ، فَأَعْرِضْ عَنْهَا. وَرَوِّضْ نَفْسَكَ عَلَى التَّقْوَى. فَإِنَّ الرِّيَاضَةَ الْجَسَدِيَّةَ نَافِعَةٌ بَعْضُ الشَّيْءِ، أَمَّا التَّقْوَى فَهِيَ نَافِعَةٌ لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ، لِأَنَّ لَهَا وَعْدَ الْحَيَاةِ الْحَاضِرَةِ وَالْآتِيَةِ. صَادِقَةٌ هِيَ الْكَلِمَةُ وَجَدِيرَةٌ بِكُلِّ قَبُولٍ: إِنْ كُنَّا نَتَّعَبُ وَنُجَاهِدُ، فَذَلِكَ لِأَنَّنا جَعَلْنَا رَجَاءَنَا فِي اللَّهِ الْحَيِّ، الَّذِي هُوَ مُخْلِصُ النَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَلَا سِيَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنِينَ. فَأَوْصِ بِذَلِكَ وَعَلِّمُهُ. وَلَا تَدْعُ أَحَدًا يَسْتَهِينُ بِحِدَاثَةِ سِنِّكَ، بَلْ كُنْ مِثَالًا لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ، بِالْكَلامِ، وَالسَّيرَةِ، وَالْمَحَبَّةِ، وَالِإِيمَانِ، وَالْعَفَافِ. وَاطْبُ عَلَى إِعْلَانِ الْكَلِمَةِ وَالْوَعْدِ وَالتَّعْلِيمِ، إِلَى أَنْ أَجِيءَ. لَا تُهْمَلِ الْمُوهَبَةَ الَّتِي فِيكَ، وَقَدْ وَهَبْتَ لَكَ بِالنُّبُوَّةِ مَعَ وَضْعِ أَيْدِي الشُّيُوخِ عَلَيْكَ. إِهْتَمَّ بِتِلْكَ الْأُمُورِ، وَكُنْ مُوَاطِبًا عَلَيْهَا، لِيَكُونَ تَقْدُمُكَ وَاضِحًا لِلْجَمِيعِ. إِنْتَبِهْ لِنَفْسِكَ وَتِلْعَامِكَ، وَأَنْبُتْ فِي ذَلِكَ. فَإِذَا فَعَلْتَ خَلَّصْتَ نَفْسَكَ وَالَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَكَ.

إنجيل القديس لوقا 48-12:42

قَالَ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعَ: «مَنْ ثَرَاهُ الْوَكِيلُ الْأَمِينُ الْحَكِيمُ الَّذِي يُقِيمُهُ سَيِّدُهُ عَلَى خَدْمِهِ لِيُعْطِيَهُمْ حِصَّتَهُمْ مِنَ الطَّعَامِ فِي حِينِهَا؟ طُوبَى لِذَلِكَ الْعَبْدِ الَّذِي، مَتَى جَاءَ سَيِّدُهُ، يَجِدُهُ فَاعِلًا هَكَذَا! حَقًّا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: إِنَّهُ يُقِيمُهُ عَلَى جَمِيعِ مُفْتِنَاتِهِ. أَمَّا إِذَا قَالَ ذَلِكَ الْعَبْدُ فِي قَلْبِهِ: سَيَتَأَخَّرُ سَيِّدِي فِي مَجِيئِهِ، وَبَدَأَ يَضْرِبُ الْغُلَّامَانَ وَالْجَوَارِي، يَأْكُلُ وَيَشْرَبُ وَيَسْكُرُ، يَجِيءُ سَيِّدُ ذَلِكَ الْعَبْدِ فِي يَوْمٍ لَا يَنْتَظِرُهُ، وَفِي سَاعَةٍ لَا يَعْرِفُهَا، فَيَفْصِلُهُ، وَيَجْعَلُ نَصِيبَهُ مَعَ الْكَافِرِينَ. فَذَلِكَ الْعَبْدُ الَّذِي عَرَفَ مَشِيئَةَ سَيِّدِهِ، وَمَا أَعَدَّ شَيْئًا، وَلَا عَمِلَ بِمَشِيئَةِ سَيِّدِهِ، يُضْرَبُ ضَرْبًا كَثِيرًا. أَمَّا الْعَبْدُ الَّذِي مَا عَرَفَ مَشِيئَةَ سَيِّدِهِ، وَعَمِلَ مَا يَسْتَوْجِبُ الضَّرْبَ، فَيُضْرَبُ ضَرْبًا قَلِيلًا. وَمَنْ أُعْطِيَ كَثِيرًا يُطَلَبُ مِنْهُ الْكَثِيرُ، وَمَنْ أُتْمِنَ عَلَى الْكَثِيرِ يُطَلَبُ بِأَكْثَرِ.»

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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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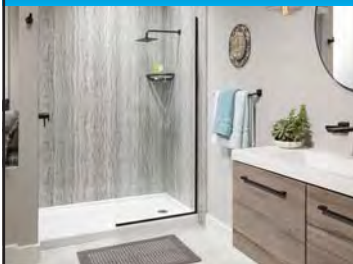
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