

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 Great Lent

Sunday Of The Healing Of The Leper

أحد شفاء الأبرص



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LITURGIES INTENTIONS

Daily Liturgies

Sunday of the Healing of the Leper

Saturday, February 17 *St Agapitus*

4:00 pm + Philip Bistany, deceased members of the Asmar & Bistany Family, By *Barbara Bistany & family*

Sunday, February 18 *Pope St. Leo the Great*

8:00 am + Private Intentions

9:30 am + Sam & May Khoury, By *their children & their families*

11:00 am + Naim El Hachem, Samir El Hachem, and deceased family members, By *Sonia El Hachem & family*

+ Samia El Hachem, *By her family*

Sunday of the Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman

Saturday, February 24 *St. Margaret the Penitent*

4:00 pm + 40 Day Anniversary Claire Maroun, *By her children, Pierre, Elie, & Raymond Maroun, their spouses, & their families*

Sunday, February 25 *Pope St. Felix II*

8:00 am Private Intentions

9:30 am + Private Intentions

11:00 am + Saadallah Azzi, *By his wife Nabih, daughter, Rita, & family*

Monday, February 19 (Eng.) - No Liturgy

The 500 Martyrs of Tyre/ 1 Thes 3:6-13 / Mt 6:22-24

Presidents' Day — OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, February 20 (Eng.)

St. James / Gal 2:11-17 / Mt 7:1-12

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

Wednesday, February 21 (Ar.)

St. Eustathius/ Rom 3:19-27 / Mt 12:38-45

9:00 am + Private Intentions

Thursday, February 22(Eng.)

Establishment of the Chair of St. Peter/ Phil 4:4-10 / Lk 8:4-15

9:00 am + Najib Khoury, *By Dr. & Mrs. George Abou-Ezzi*

9:30 am - 12 pm Adoration

7:00 pm Adoration & Confessions

Friday, February 23 - No Liturgy

St. Polycarp / Rom 1:18-25 / Mt 18:23-35

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH

ANNUAL LENTEN RAFFLE

To Defray: Building insurance \$25,638, Bishop's Appeal \$9500, & Eparchial Assessment \$27,600



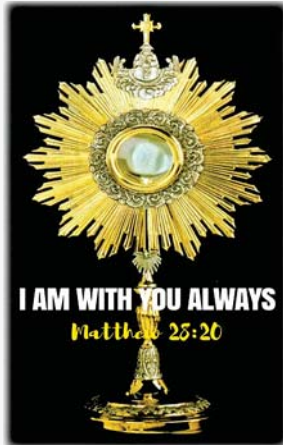
PLEASE NOTE

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

Lenten Eucharistic Adoration

Every Thursday @7pm

Lent is about conversion, turning towards union with God through Jesus Christ. The ashes and the fasting of Lent are meant to lead us to Jesus, but the **Eucharist is Jesus**. Eucharistic Adoration is a beautiful way to spend time with Jesus in this sacrament. Adoration is a blessed and quiet time to reflect, pray, and to love Jesus. During this time of revival, attending Adoration is a way to grow in faith and in holiness.



Lenten Healing Liturgy

Sunday March 3rd @ 5:00pm

During this season of Great Lent, we invite all who seek the Lord for the healing of their souls and bodies to join us as we place our faith in our Savior and ask for His graces in humble faith.

OBSERVANCES

- ◆ **Presidents Day** - Monday, Feb 19, 2024 - Office Closed
- ◆ **Adoration & Confessions:** Every Thursday from 7-9 pm during the season of Great Lent.
- ◆ **Stations of the Cross:** Every Friday @ 7pm

EPARCHIAL APPEAL

Eparchial Charities Appeal: Feb 12 - March 31

The Lenten letter with the Annual Raffle Tickets, which consists of your contribution towards the Bishop's Appeal, has been mailed out. We depend on your support and generosity for this appeal to reach our parish goal.

Please remit your tickets at your earliest convenience.

Thank you!

SANCTUARY LAMPS



In Loving Memory of Stephanie Ota, By her parents & sister



In Loving Memory of Sam & May Khoury, By their children & their families

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:

www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/

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.

ST. ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH
PRESENTS



02
MARCH

TICKETS
100\$



HAFALI

EXQUISITE MAZZA & DINNER INCLUDED - RAFFLE PRIZES

Featuring the Star:

Brigitte Yaghi

Guest of Honor:

THE MAESTRO LEBNEN KHALIL

Music by:

DJ ROY

DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 PM
145 Amesbury St, Lawrence MA 01841

FOR RESERVATION , PLEASE CONTACT:

Mary (El-Achi) Francis +1 (978) 960-7479

Mounira Daher +1 (603) 235-0801

Wissam Merheb +1 (978) 853-5145



venmo

Spiritual Programs For Lent 2024

JOIN US ONLINE For a Weekly Lenten Retreats:

◆ In Arabic with Fr. Raymond Bassil:

- * A doctor in Theology from the Catholic Institute, Lyon, France
- * Professor of Sacramental Theology at the Holy Spirit University, Kaslik, Lebanon
- * Professor of Theology at the Jesuit University of Saint Joseph, USJ, Lebanon



Lenten Spiritual Retreat Subjects:

“...And by his wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53,5) ... (أشعيا 53، 5) "بجرحه شُفينا"

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1- جراح المسيح تدعوننا للفرح | 4- برحه شُفينا من خلال التلمذ والرسالة |
| 2- جراح المسيح تدعوننا للتوبة | 5- بجرحه شُفينا بالدعوة الى التواضع |
| 3- شابهننا في كل شيء ما خلا الخطيئة | 6- بجرحه شُفينا من خلال اللقاء بيسوع المسيح |

◆ In English on FORMED

You can sign up 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.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Next session:

Saturday, February 17, 2024 @ 5-7 pm

- March 2nd: class has been cancelled due to the parish HAFLI.
- March 9th: Reconciliation from 9-11am

MARONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION

MYO Co-Leaders: Geryes Geha & Gabrielle AbdulNour

Next Meeting:

Sunday, February 25, 2024 @ 6 - 7:30 pm

KNIGHTS OF MARY

Co-Chair: Colette Sadek & Gretta Merheb

Next Sessions:

Saturday, February 24, 2024 @ 5-7 pm

Calendar for 2023-2024 Season:

www.stanthonylawrence.org/events-2/

KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Next Meeting:

Saturday, March 2, 2024 @ 11 am- 12:30 pm

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

FAMILY OF SAINT SHARBEL & Our Lady of Lebanon Sodality

**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



FOOD DRIVE

During Lent Season, the *Family of Saint Sharbel* will conduct a food drive for the Monks of Petersham.

Items to be collected:

Honey, Olives, Walnuts, Old-Fashioned Oats, BROWN Rice, Quinoa (Grain), Canned Diced Tomatoes, Canned Sliced Mushrooms, Canned Chicken, Canned Sardines, Canned Tuna (in water), Dried Fruit (Raisins/Prunes/Cranberries etc.), “Healthy” Breakfast Cereals (Raisin Bran, Cheerios, Granola Etc.), Herbal Tea Bags (Decaf).

Thank you for your support and generosity!



Saint Anthony's Maronite Church

EASTER Bake Sale

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: MARCH, 17, 2024

PROCEEDS TO HELP FAMILIES IN NEED IN LEBANON

Order Form: Send your order by e-mail or by calling Bassima @ 603.571.3003 or the office @ 978.685.7233

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip** _____

Pick-Up Date: PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND

Maamoul:

• Dates : 6 for \$10 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

• Walnuts : 6 for \$10 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

• Pistachio: 6 for \$12 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

Kaak:

Bag (6) for \$7 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

Ghraybeh:

6 pieces for \$7 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

Macaroon w/Walnuts:

6 pieces for \$7 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

Sumbusik w/Walnuts:

4 pieces for \$6 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

Baklawa:

6 pieces for \$7 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

Cookies w/Dates:

6 pieces for \$7 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

Kanafe Box: \$50 x Qty: _____ = \$ _____

Total Amount of Order: \$ _____

Method of Donation Payment:

Cash _____ **Check** _____

Credit Card _____ **Venmo** _____

BRUNCH & BUBBLY

WINE

WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE OUR

LEBANESE MOTHER'S DAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 16TH
11:30AM-3:30PM
\$45 PER LADY (ADULTS ONLY)

MERRIMACK VALLEY GOLF CLUB
210 HOWE ST, METHUEN, MA
01844

RSVP BY MARCH 8TH
MARY FRANCIS: 978-960-7479
DELLA KHOURY: 978-257-6252
VENMO OR CHECKS TO ST. ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH

BIRTHDAY WISHES

- Feb 17:** Kathleen Gabriel, Noah Hassan, Pierre Maroun, Leah Rizkallah, Elanor Shea
- Feb 18:** Joy Andoun, Louann Bistany, Lisa Germanos, John Hurton IV
- Feb 19:** Rebecca Azzi, Christopher Azzi, Larry Bejjani, Gabriel Bourouphael, Carlos Daher, Charbel Daher, Tuffic Hatem, George Kazanjian, Mikayla Plouffe, Mariana Sadek
- Feb 20:** George Azzi, Adrian Eid, Krista Maroun
- Feb 21:** Slaiman Antar, Joseph Maroun, Bianca Raad
- Feb 22:** Jennifer Bouraphael, Mounira Daher, Jason Hand, Lutfi Kassarji, Andre Naira, Isabella Nehme, Kimberly Swanson
- Feb 23:** Silvana Awad, Beverly Schiripo

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

- Feb 18:** Shadi & Josiane Asmar, Etienne & Amara Khalife
- Feb 20:** Joshua & Alaina Pelletier
- Feb 22:** Melhem & Nadia Azzi
- Feb 23:** Elie & Jane El Hachem

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 17 - 4 pm - Susan Kalil
Sunday, February 18 -
8:00 am - Hitaf Nammour
9:30 am - Joey Safi
11:00 am -(Eng) Marita Merheb
(Ar) George Merheb

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 24 - 4 pm - Lisa Abdallah
Sunday, February 25-
8:00 am - Huguette Sfeir
9:30 am - Brady Barry
11:00 am -(Eng) Mansour Chaya
(Ar) Amale Chantiri



Save the dates
July 31st — August 2nd
Kindergarten – 8th grade
\$75/child

Registration Will Open Soon



All qualified **High School Seniors and College Undergraduates** students are invited to apply for the **ALAA Scholarships**.

All applicants are encouraged to use the electronic application. Deadline is March 1st, 2024.

Students can access this information at :
americanlebaneseawarenessassociation.org

The DCG Scholarships:

The Dorothy C Gabriel Foundation is offering the **DCG scholarship** to any Saint Anthony parishioner who will be attending Central Catholic High School in fall 2024. For more information or to apply, text the students full name and contact number to **Ken Gabriel at 508-633-0704**.
Deadline to apply is May 15, 2024.

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

Second Sunday of Great Lent: Healing of the Leper

2 Kings 5:1-3, 9-14.

Naaman, the army commander of the king of Aram, was highly esteemed and respected by his master, for through him the LORD had brought victory to Aram. But valiant as he was, the man was a leper. Now the Arameans had captured from the land of Israel in a raid a little girl, who became the servant of Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my master would present himself to the prophet in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." Naaman came with his horses and chariot and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent him the message: "Go and wash seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will heal, and you will be clean." But Naaman went away angry, saying, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand there to call on the name of the LORD his God, and would move his hand over the place, and thus cure the leprous spot. Are not the rivers of Damascus, the Abana and the Pharpar, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be cleansed?"* With this, he turned about in anger and left. But his servants came up and reasoned with him: "My father, if the prophet told you to do something extraordinary, would you not do it? All the more since he told you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So Naaman went down and plunged into the Jordan seven times, according to the word of the man of God. His flesh became again like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

Letter to the Romans 6,12-23.

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Mark 1, 35-45.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons. A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, 'If you choose, you can make me clean.' Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I do choose. Be made clean!' Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, 'See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.' But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

الأحد الثاني من الصوم الكبير : أحد شفاء الأبرص

سفر الملوك الثاني 5:1-14-9.3

كَانَ نُعْمَانُ، رَئِيسُ جَيْشِ مَلِكِ أَرَامَ، رَجُلًا عَظِيمًا عِنْدَ سَيِّدِهِ مُكْرَمًا لَدَيْهِ، لِأَنَّهُ عَنِ يَدِهِ أُعْطِيَ الرَّبُّ خَلَاصًا لِأَرَامَ. وَكَانَ الرَّجُلُ مُحَارِبًا بَاسِلًا، وَكَانَ أَبْرَصَ. وَإِنَّ أَرَامِيِّينَ خَرَجُوا غَازِينَ، فَسَبَّوْا مِنْ أَرْضِ إِسْرَائِيلَ فِتْنَةً صَغِيرَةً، وَأَصْبَحَتْ فِي خِدْمَةِ زَوْجَةِ نُعْمَانَ. فَقَالَتْ لِسَيِّدَتِهَا: «يَا لَيْتَ سَيِّدِي حَضَرَ أَمَامَ النَّبِيِّ الَّذِي فِي السَّامِرَةِ، فَإِنَّهُ كَانَ يَشْفِيهِ مِنْ بَرَصِهِ». «فَأَقْبَلَ نُعْمَانُ بِخَيْلِهِ وَمَرْكَبَاتِهِ وَوَقَفَ عَلَى بَابِ بَيْتِ أَلِيشَاعَ. فَأَرْسَلَ إِلَيْهِ أَلِيشَاعَ رَسُولًا يَقُولُ لَهُ: «إِمْضِ وَأَغْتَسِلْ فِي الْأُرْدُنِّ سَبْعَ مَرَّاتٍ، فَيَعُودَ إِلَيْكَ لَحْمُكَ وَتَطْهَرُ». فَغَضِبَ نُعْمَانُ وَمَضَى وَقَالَ: «كُنْتُ أَحْسَبُ أَنَّهُ يَخْرُجُ وَيَقِفُ وَيَدْعُو بِاسْمِ الرَّبِّ إِلَهُهِ، وَيُحَرِّكُ يَدَهُ فَوْقَ الْمَكَانِ فَيَشْفِي الْبَرَصَ. أَلَيْسَ أَبَانَةٌ وَفَرْقَرٌ، نَهْرًا دِمَشْقَ، خَيْرًا مِنْ جَمِيعِ مِيَاهِ إِسْرَائِيلَ؟ أَفَلَا أُغْتَسِلُ فِيهِمَا وَأَطْهَرُ؟ وَأَنْصَرَفَ رَاجِعًا وَهُوَ مُغْضَبٌ. فَتَقَدَّمَ إِلَيْهِ خُدَامُهُ وَخَاطَبُوهُ وَقَالُوا: «يَا أَبِي، لَوْ أَمَرَكَ النَّبِيُّ بِأَمْرٍ عَظِيمٍ، أَمَا كُنْتَ تَفْعَلُهُ؟ فَكَيْفَ بِالْأُحْرَى وَقَدْ قَالَ لَكَ: اغْتَسِلْ وَأَطْهَرُ؟». فَتَنَزَلَ وَغَطَسَ فِي الْأُرْدُنِّ سَبْعَ مَرَّاتٍ، كَمَا قَالَ رَجُلُ اللَّهِ، فَعَادَ لَحْمُهُ كُلَّهُ صَبِيًّا صَغِيرًا وَطَهَرَ.

رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل رومة 6:12 - 23

يَا إِخْوَتِي، لَا تَمْلِكَنَّ الْخَطِيئَةُ بَعْدَ فِي جَسَدِكُمْ الْمَائِتِ، فَتُطِيعُوا شَهْوَاتِهِ. وَلَا تَجْعَلُوا أَعْضَاءَكُمْ سِلَاحَ ظُلْمٍ لِلْخَطِيئَةِ، بَلْ قَرَّبُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ لِلَّهِ كَأَحْيَاءٍ قَامُوا مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، وَأَجْعَلُوا أَعْضَاءَكُمْ سِلَاحَ بِرِّ اللَّهِ. فَلَا تَتَسَلَّطْ عَلَيْكُمْ الْخَطِيئَةُ، لِأَنَّكُمْ لَسْتُمْ فِي حُكْمِ الشَّرِيعَةِ بَلْ فِي حُكْمِ النِّعْمَةِ. فَمَاذَا إِذَا؟ هَلْ نَخْطَأُ لِأَنَّنا لَسْنَا فِي حُكْمِ الشَّرِيعَةِ، بَلْ فِي حُكْمِ النِّعْمَةِ؟ حَاشَا! أَلَا تَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّكُمْ عِنْدَمَا تَجْعَلُونَ أَنْفُسَكُمْ عِبِيدًا لِأَحَدٍ فَتُطِيعُونَهُ، تَكُونُونَ عِبِيدًا لِلَّذِي تُطِيعُونَهُ: إِمَّا عِبِيدًا لِلْخَطِيئَةِ الَّتِي تُوَلُّوهُ إِلَى الْمَوْتِ، وَإِمَّا لِلطَّاعَةِ الَّتِي تُوَلُّوهُ إِلَى الْبِرِّ. فَشُكِّرَا لِلَّهِ لِأَنَّكُمْ بَعْدَمَا كُنْتُمْ عِبِيدَ الْخَطِيئَةِ، أُطْعِمْتُمْ مِنْ كُلِّ قَلْبِكُمْ مِثَالَ التَّعْلِيمِ الَّذِي سُلِّمْتُمْ إِلَيْهِ. وَبَعْدَ أَنْ حُرِّرْتُمْ مِنَ الْخَطِيئَةِ، صِرْتُمْ عِبِيدًا لِلْبِرِّ. وَأَقُولُ قَوْلًا بَشْرِيًّا مَرَاعَاةً لِضَعْفِكُمْ: فَكَمَا جَعَلْتُمْ أَعْضَاءَكُمْ عِبِيدًا لِلنَّجَاسَةِ وَالْإِثْمِ فِي سَبِيلِ الْإِثْمِ، كَذَلِكَ اجْعَلُوا الْآنَ أَعْضَاءَكُمْ عِبِيدًا لِلْبِرِّ فِي سَبِيلِ الْفِدَاسَةِ. فَلَمَّا كُنْتُمْ عِبِيدَ الْخَطِيئَةِ، كُنْتُمْ أَحْرَارًا مِنَ الْبِرِّ. فَأَيُّ ثَمَرٍ جَنَيْتُمْ حِينَئِذٍ مِنْ تِلْكَ الْأُمُورِ الَّتِي تَسْتَحُونَ مِنْهَا الْآنَ؟ فَإِنَّ عَاقِبَتَهَا الْمَوْتُ. أَمَّا الْآنَ، وَقَدْ صِرْتُمْ أَحْرَارًا مِنَ الْخَطِيئَةِ وَعِبِيدًا لِلَّهِ، فَإِنَّكُمْ تَجْنُونَ ثَمَرًا لِلْفِدَاسَةِ، وَعَاقِبَتُهَا الْحَيَاةُ الْأَبَدِيَّةُ. لِأَنَّ أَجْرَةَ الْخَطِيئَةِ هِيَ الْمَوْتُ. أَمَّا مَوْهَبَةُ اللَّهِ فَهِيَ الْحَيَاةُ الْأَبَدِيَّةُ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ رَبَّنَا.

إنجيل القديس مرقس 1:35 - 45

قَامَ يَسُوعُ قَبْلَ طُلُوعِ الْفَجْرِ، فَخَرَجَ وَذَهَبَ إِلَى مَكَانٍ قَفْرٍ، وَأَخَذَ يُصَلِّي هُنَاكَ. وَلَحِقَ بِهِ سَمْعَانُ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ، وَوَجَدُوهُ فَقَالُوا لَهُ: «الْجَمِيعُ يَطْلُبُونَكَ». «فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «لِنَذْهَبْ إِلَى مَكَانٍ آخَرَ، إِلَى الْفَرَى الْمُجَاوِرَةِ، لِأُبَشِّرَ هُنَاكَ أَيْضًا، فَإِنِّي لِهَذَا خَرَجْتُ». «وَسَارَ فِي كُلِّ الْجَلِيلِ، وَهُوَ يَكْرِرُ فِي مَجَامِعِهِمْ وَيَطْرُدُ الشَّيَاطِينَ. وَأَتَاهُ أَبْرَصٌ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ، فَجَنَّا وَقَالَ لَهُ: «إِنْ شِئْتَ فَأَنْتَ قَادِرٌ أَنْ تُطَهِّرَنِي!». «فَتَحَنَّ يَسُوعُ وَمَدَّ يَدَهُ وَلَمَسَهُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: «قَدْ شِئْتُ، فَاطْهَرُ!». «وَفِي الْحَالِ زَالَ عَنْهُ الْبَرَصُ، فَطَهَرَ. فَأَنْتَهَرَهُ يَسُوعُ وَصَرَفَهُ حَالًا، وَقَالَ لَهُ: «أَنْظُرْ، لَا تُخْبِرْ أَحَدًا بِشَيْءٍ، بَلْ أَذْهَبْ وَارْ نَفْسَكَ لِلْكَاهِنِ، وَقَدِّمْ عَنْ طَهْرِكَ مَا أَمَرَ بِهِ مُوسَى، شَهَادَةً لَهُمْ». «أَمَّا هُوَ فَخَرَجَ وَبَدَأَ يُنَادِي بِأَعْلَى صَوْتِهِ وَيُذِيعُ الْخَبَرَ، حَتَّى إِنَّ يَسُوعَ لَمْ يَعُدْ قَادِرًا أَنْ يَدْخُلَ إِلَى مَدِينَةِ عَلَانِيَةً، بَلْ كَانَ يُقِيمُ فِي الْخَارِجِ، فِي أَمَاكِنَ مُفَوَّرَةٍ، وَكَانَ النَّاسُ يَأْتُونَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ كُلِّ مَكَانٍ.



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