

## 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

Office E-mail: [rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org) Website: [stanthonylawrence.org](http://stanthonylawrence.org)



SCAN ME



VENMO



PAYPAL



WEEKLY BULLETIN



DAILY READINGS

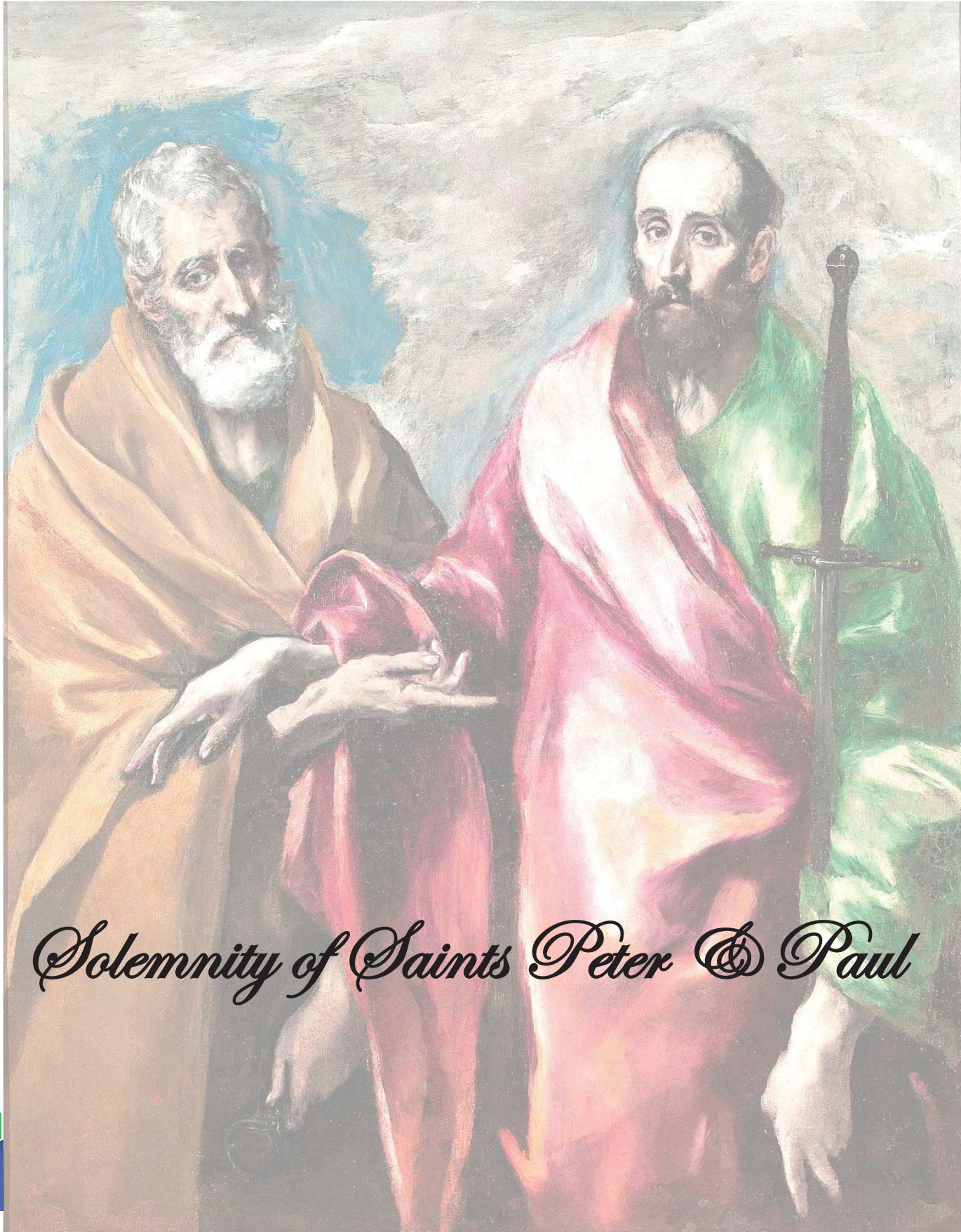
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*Solemnity of Saints Peter & Paul*

## LITURGIES INTENTIONS

### 7th Sunday of Pentecost Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul

Saturday, June 29 (Eng.) *Sts. Peter & Paul*

4:00 pm + 1st Anniversary - Antoine Bou Mitri,  
By his son, Andre, his daughter,  
Anabelle, wife of Robert Owaida, &  
granddaughters.

Sunday, June 30 *The Twelve Apostles*

8:00 am In Honor of Abouna Elie & Abouna  
Neemtallah, By Lola & Kozhaya Abou  
Khalil, & family.

9:30 am + Victor Maroun, By Lili Bijjani.

11:00 am + Ghandour (Dan) Sarkis, By his wife,  
Olga Sarkis, & family.

### 8th Sunday of Pentecost

Saturday, July 6 (Eng.) *St. Maria Goretti*

4:00 pm + Deceased members of the Shadeed and  
Fitzpatrick, By Mr. & Mrs. Frank  
Shadeed

Sunday, July 7 *St. Thomas the Hermit*

9:30 am + Rita Pastore, By her daughter Teresa  
Kamari and family

11:00 am 40 Day Anniversary - Marguerite Ata  
Najim, By her siblings & their families.

+ Elias & Wadad Feghali, By their  
children and their families.

#### PLEASE NOTE

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

### Daily Liturgies

**Please note:** There will be NO DAILY  
LITURGIES this week, July 1-5, due to the  
Clergy Conference at the NAM Convention.

### OBSERVANCES

- ◆ NAM- Clergy Conference: July 1-5, 2024  
Fr. Elie & Fr. Neemtallah will be attending  
the Annual Clergy Conference. **There will  
be NO daily Liturgies celebrated July 1st  
through July 5th**
- ◆ Independence Day - 4th of July - The  
office will be CLOSED on Thursday and  
Friday.
- ◆ Summer Liturgies Schedule: The  
following liturgy schedule will be effective  
as of Sunday, July 7, 2024:

Saturdays: 4pm (Eng)

Sundays : 9:30 am (Eng)

& 11 am (Eng & Ar)

**There will be no 8 am Liturgy.**

### UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION

PETER'S PENCE-June 30, 2024

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

### WEEKLY COLLECTION

Take St Anthony's Church with you on your  
vacation! Please keep your online donations  
active while you're away to help our doors  
remain open, awaiting your return.  
Thank You & Have Safe travel!

## MAHRAJAN 2024

### RAFFLE TICKETS

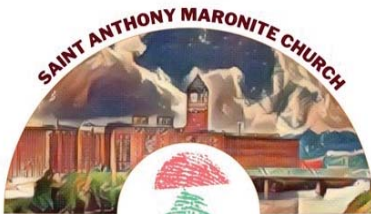
Mahrajan Raffle Tickets have been sent out electronically to parishioners who are registered via email! Your continuous support is very much appreciated towards our major fundraiser!

Scan the QR Code Now to Buy your Tickets:



### RAFFLE BASKETS

We appeal to your creativity! Pick a theme, put it together, and donate towards this year's Basket Raffles! Want to donate and not sure what to do, simply don't have the time? We can help! Tell us your budget and we will put together a basket in your name! All donations can be dropped off at the Rectory during office Hours.



**LEBANESE MAHRAJAN**  
LAWRENCE, MA

The Mahrajan committee is soliciting interest and commitments from our parishioners and friends for our **52nd Annual Lebanese Mahrajan**. Your support and generosity are always crucial to the success of this fundraiser. More Information to come!

**Mahrajan Raffle** will be out soon by Mail!

**Mahrajan Baskets:** Relying on your creativity, but we are also here to help. Drop your donations and we can take over assembly!

**Mahrajan Sponsors:** Letter and forms will be forthcoming!

**Mahrajan Volunteers:** More help is needed! Sign up sheet will be available and published soon!



**LABOR DAY WEEKEND**  
Friday 8/30 from 6PM TO 1AM  
Saturday 8/31 from 5PM to 2AM  
Sunday 9/1 from 12PM to 12AM

for more info:  
978-685-7233  
[www.stanthonylawrence.org](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org)  
Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/stalebanesemahrajan>

**FREE entry**

### 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](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

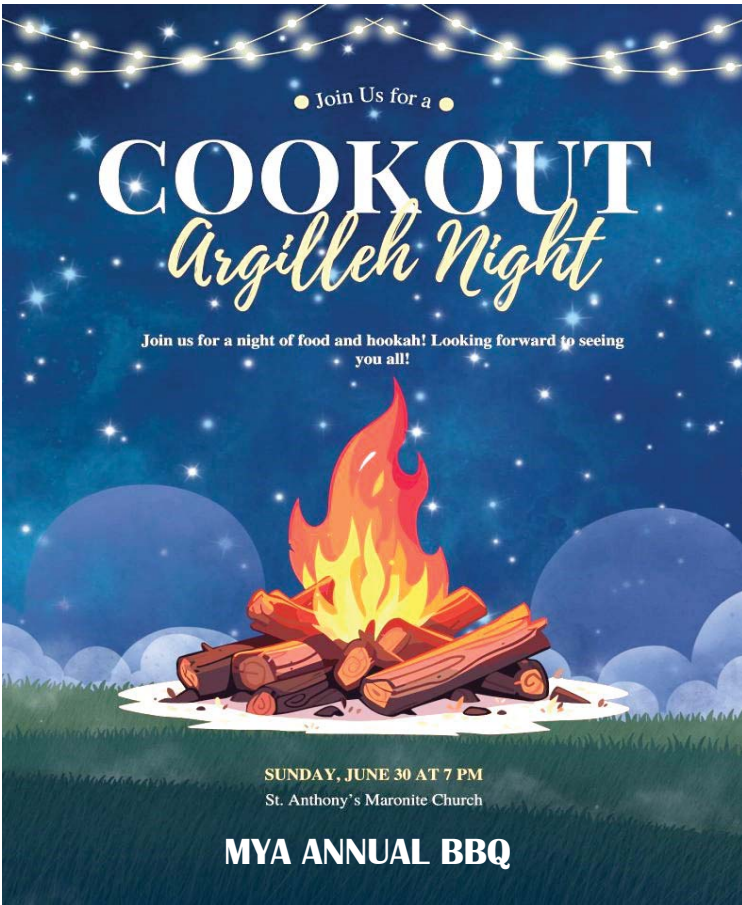
**Donations:** Church \$500

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.



### OUR SYMPATHIES TO

The family of **Elham Azzi** who passed away peacefully last week at her home surrounded by all her loving family. We express our sympathies to her husband Pierre, her son Elias (Lilo) & his wife Mimi (Khoder), her Daughter Elian (Aluna) & her husband, William Dunbar Jr., her grandchildren: Anthony, Rebecca, and Noah, her siblings, her in-laws, nieces, nephews, and their families.

*May her soul rest in peace and  
her memories be eternal.*

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Online Registration is now open for 2024-2025  
[www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/)

### KNIGHTS OF MARY

Co-Chair: Colette Sadek & Gretta Merheb

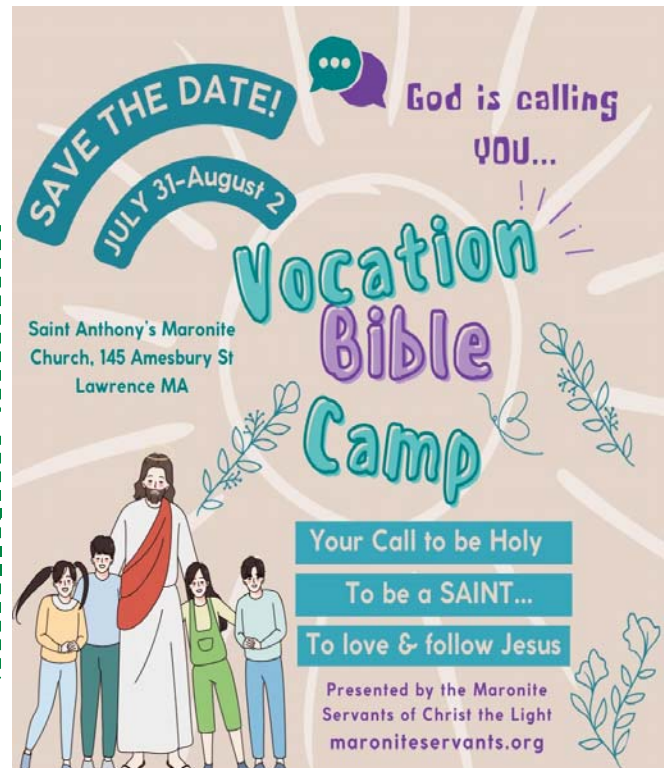
Now accepting Online registration for 2024-2025  
[www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-4/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-4/)

### Family of St Sharbel & Our Lady of Lebanon Ladies Guild

Every Tuesday—Zoom Prayer @ 8pm  
Zoom ID: 335616991—Passcode: 816342  
Or you can join by clicking this link:  
<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/335616991>

Thursday, July 18, 2024: Rosary @ 6:30pm  
followed by The liturgy & procession

For more information email:  
[communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org](mailto:communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org)



### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS -St. Anthony Council 16204



KOC Next Meeting:  
**Tuesday July 9, 2024**  
**@ 7pm, Church Hall**

Men 18 yrs. and older are encouraged to attend. For information email:  
[KOFc16204@gmail.com](mailto:KOFc16204@gmail.com)

## SANCTUARY LAMPS



In Loving Memory of the deceased members of the Goulart & Pereira Families



In Honor of the living members of the Goulart & Pereira Families

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:

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

## CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

This notice is a reminder that NONE of the following are permitted: *Pots, any/all wreaths, baskets, solar lights, artificial flowers (potted or planted), stands, and other in-ground decorations that are NOT within our cemetery guidelines.*

Our Cemetery is not a dumping ground. Please do not leave your trash loose on, or by, the gravesite.

Full guidelines for planting, displays, general rules and regulations are clearly stated on our website. These regulations are in place to ensure that our Cemetery Ground remains peaceful and respectful. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the office during office hours or send us an email.

هذا الإشعار هو تذكير بأنه لا يُسمح بأيّ من ما يلي: الأحواض، جميع الأكاليل، السلّال، والزهور الاصطناعية (المزروعة في الأرض أو في الأحواض)، الأضواء الشمسية، والزينة الأخرى في الأرض التي لا تتوافق مع إرشادات مقبرتنا.

مقبرتنا ليست مكبًا للنفايات. يرجى عدم ترك النفايات بدون أكياس بجوار المدافن.

ان الإرشادات الكاملة للزراعة أو للعرض متوفرة على موقعنا الإلكتروني. تم وضع هذه اللوائح لضمان بقاء أرض مقبرتنا سالمة ومحترمة. نقدر تعاونكم بشدة. إذا كان لديكم أي أسئلة أو استفسارات، يرجى الاتصال بمكتب الرعاية خلال ساعات العمل أو إرسال بريد إلكتروني.

## 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 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)

**MOVING BEYOND MISTAKES AND WEAKNESSES, *By Fr. Ron Rolheiser***

The excusable doesn't need to be excused and the inexcusable cannot be excused. Michael Buckley wrote those words and they contain an important challenge. We're forever trying to make excuses for things we need not make excuses for and are forever trying to excuse the inexcusable. Neither is necessary. Or helpful. We can learn a lesson from how Jesus dealt with those who betrayed him. A prime example is the apostle Peter, specially chosen and named the very rock of the apostolic community. Peter was an honest man with a childlike sincerity, a deep faith, and he, more than most others, grasped the deeper meaning of who Jesus was and what his teaching meant. Indeed, it was he who in response to Jesus' question (Who do you say I am?) replied, "You are the Christ, the son of the Living God." Yet minutes after that confession Jesus had to correct Peter's false conception of what that meant and then rebuke him for trying to deflect him from his very mission. More seriously, it was Peter who, within hours of an arrogant boast that though all others would betray Jesus, he alone would remain faithful, betrayed Jesus three times, and this in Jesus' most needy hour. Later we are privy to the conversation Jesus has with Peter vis-à-vis those betrayals. What's significant is that he doesn't ask Peter to explain himself, doesn't excuse Peter, and doesn't say things like: "You weren't really yourself! I can understand how anyone might be very frightened in that situation! I can empathize, I know what fear can do to you!" None of that. The excusable doesn't need to be excused and the inexcusable cannot be excused. In Peter's betrayal, as in our own betrayals, there's invariably some of both, the excusable and the inexcusable. So what does Jesus do with Peter? He doesn't ask for an explanation, doesn't ask for an apology, doesn't tell Peter that it is okay, doesn't offer excuses for Peter, and doesn't even tell Peter that he loves him. Instead he asks Peter: "Do you love me?" Peter answers yes – and everything moves forward from there. Everything moves forward from there. Everything can move forward following a confession of love, not least an honest confession of love in the wake of a betrayal. Apologies are necessary (because that's taking ownership of the fault and the weakness so as to lift it completely off the soul of the one who was betrayed) but excuses are not helpful. If the action was not a betrayal, no excuse is necessary; if it was, no excuse absolves it. An excuse or an attempt at one serves two purposes, neither of them good. First, it serves to rationalize and justify, none of which is helpful to the betrayed or the betrayer. Second, it weakens the apology and makes it less than clean and full, thus not lifting the betrayal completely off the soul of the one who has been betrayed; and, because of that, is not as helpful an expression of love as is a clear, honest acknowledgement of our betrayal and an apology which attempts no excuse for its weakness and betrayal. What love asks of us when we are weak is an honest, non-rationalized, admission of our weakness along with a statement from the heart: "I love you!" Things can move forward from there. The past and our betrayal are not expunged, nor excused; but, in love, we can live beyond them. To expunge, excuse, or rationalize is to not live in the truth; it is unfair to the one betrayed since he or she bears the consequences and scars. Only love can move us beyond weakness and betrayal and this is an important principle not just for those instances in life when we betray and hurt a loved one, but for our understanding of life in general. We're human, not divine, and as such are beset, congenitally, body and mind, with weaknesses and inadequacies of every sort. None of us, as St. Paul graphically says in his Epistle to the Romans, ever quite measure up. The good we want to do, we end up not doing, and the evil we want to avoid, we habitually end up doing. Some of this, of course, is understandable, excusable, just as some of it is inexcusable, save for the fact that we're humans and partially a mystery to ourselves. Either way, at the end of the day, no justification or excuses are asked for (or helpful). We don't move forward in relationship by telling either God or someone we have hurt: "You have to understand! In that situation, what else was I to do too? I didn't mean to hurt you, I was just too weak to resist!" That's neither helpful, nor called for. Things move forward when we, without excuses, admit weakness, and apologize for betrayal. Like Peter when asked three times by Jesus: "Do you love me?" from our hearts we need to say: "You know everything, you know that I love you."

**LECTORS SCHEDULE**

*Saturday, June 29 - 4 pm - Anthony Ata*

*Sunday, June 30 - 8 am - Mouna Hbaiter*

9:30 am - David Brousseau

11:00 am - (Eng) Mary Saab

(Ar) George Saab

**LECTORS SCHEDULE**

*Saturday, July 6 - 4 pm - Susan Kalil*

*Sunday, July 7 -*

9:30 am - Meaghan Twing

11:00 am - (Eng) Angela Dahbour

(Ar) Gisele Dahbour

## ST. ANTHONY ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

~SAVE THE DATE~

Weather Permitting, St. Anthony's Golf Tournament has been scheduled for:

**Monday, September 23, 2024**  
**at the Merrimack Valley Golf Club.**

For more information, or to Sponsor this event, reach out to George Kassas at [georgekassas@comcast.net](mailto:georgekassas@comcast.net), or email the rectory at [rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org).



## CONGRATULATIONS! Baptized & Confirmed

**Callahan Tuffic Bergin**

**Son of Christopher & Nicole (Mason) Bergin**

*"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." ~Mark 16:16*

### ANNIVERSARY WISHES

- July 01:** Rami & Cayla Daher, Raymond & Lilliane Maroun, Milad & Hanane Salame
- July 02:** Elie & Juliette Ata, Nathan & Ashley Daher, Kamal & Julie Haddad, Stephen & Bethany Pellerin
- July 04:** George & Mirna Abou-Ezzi
- July 05:** Abdou & Jeanine Abou Raad, John & Marybeth Veilleux

### BIRTHDAY WISHES

- June 28:** Lillian Callahan, Mark Clement, Alexander Najjar
- June 29:** Anthony Ata, Brady Barry, Brooke Gill, George Hand, Joelle Karam, Julie Martino, Lina Merheb, Richard Sadek, Jasmine Tannoury, Tiah Tarabay
- June 30:** Beverly Harvey, Brittany Kanaan, Sandra Naddif, Peter Ramy, Hilda Rizkallah, Phyllis Thomas
- July 01:** Marie Therese Azzi, Nina Dow, Eliane Dunbar, Tania Farhat, Naya Nassar, Linton Ranson, Donna Rossi
- July 02:** Carmen Abdulla, David Abou Ezzi, Eli Kalil, Maria Nammour, Mourad Phares, Simeon Ramey
- July 03:** Veronica Cherabie, Geryes Geha, Elie Nammour, Jacob Saab, Jennifer Saouma
- July 04:** Kenneth Yameen, Charbel Zaarour
- July 05:** Zelda Belko, Juliet Bistany

## Seventh Sunday of Pentecost: Feast of Saints Peter & Paul

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*Book of Numbers 11,16-17. 24-29.*

So the LORD said to Moses, 'Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you. I will come down and talk with you there; and I will take some of the spirit that is on you and put it on them; and they shall bear the burden of the people along with you so that you will not bear it all by yourself. So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, 'My lord Moses, stop them!' But Moses said to him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!'

*Second Letter to the Corinthians 11,21-30.*

To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that! But whatever anyone dares to boast of I am speaking as a fool I also dare to boast of that. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ? I am talking like a madman I am a better one: with far greater labours, far more imprisonments, with countless floggings, and often near death. Five times I have received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked; for a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from bandits, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers and sisters; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, hungry and thirsty, often without food, cold and naked. And, besides other things, I am under daily pressure because of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I am not indignant? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

*Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew 16,13-20.*

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.



## الأحد السابع من زمن العنصرة: عيد القديسين بطرس وبولس الرسولين

سفر العدد 11:16-17. 24-29

هَفَقَالَ الرَّبُّ لِمُوسَى: «اجْمَعْ لِي سَبْعِينَ رَجُلًا مِنْ شِيُوخِ إِسْرَائِيلَ الَّذِينَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّهُمْ شِيُوخُ الشَّعْبِ وَكَتَبْتَهُمْ، وَخُذْهُمْ إِلَى خَيْمَةِ الْمَوْعِدِ، فَيَقِفُوا هُنَاكَ مَعَكَ. فَأَنْزَلَ أَنَا وَأَتَكَلَّمْتُ مَعَكَ هُنَاكَ وَأَخَذْتُ مِنَ الرُّوحِ الَّذِي عَلَيْكَ وَأَجَلُّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ، فَيَحْمِلُونَ مَعَكَ عِبَاءَ الشَّعْبِ وَلَا تَحْمِلُهُ أَنْتَ وَحْدَكَ. فَخَرَجَ مُوسَى وَأَخْبَرَ الشَّعْبَ بِكَلَامِ الرَّبِّ، وَجَمَعَ سَبْعِينَ رَجُلًا مِنْ شِيُوخِ الشَّعْبِ وَأَقَامَهُمْ حَوْلَ خَيْمَةِ الرَّبِّ فِي الْغَمَامِ وَخَاطَبَ مُوسَى، وَأَخَذَ مِنَ الرُّوحِ الَّذِي عَلَيْهِ وَأَحَلَّهُ عَلَى الرِّجَالِ السَّبْعِينَ، أَيِ الشِّيُوخِ. فَلَمَّا اسْتَقَرَّ الرُّوحُ عَلَيْهِمْ، تَنَبَّأُوا، إِلَّا أَنَّهُمْ لَمْ يَسْتَمْتَرُوا. وَبَقِيَ رَجُلَانِ فِي الْمُخَيْمِ، اسْمُ أَحَدَهُمَا أَلْدَادُ وَاسْمُ الثَّانِي مِيدَادُ. فَاسْتَقَرَّ الرُّوحُ عَلَيْهِمَا لِأَنَّهُمَا كَانَا مِنَ الْمَسْجَلِينَ فِي اللَّائِحَةِ، وَلَكِنَّهُمَا لَمْ يَخْرُجَا إِلَى الْخَيْمَةِ، فَتَنَبَّأَا فِي الْمُخَيْمِ. فَاسْرَعَ فَتَى وَأَخْبَرَ مُوسَى وَقَالَ: «إِنَّ أَلْدَادَ وَمِيدَادَ يَتَنَبَّأَانِ فِي الْمُخَيْمِ». فَأَجَابَ يَشُوعُ بْنُ نُونٍ، وَهُوَ مُسَاعِدُ مُوسَى مُنْذُ حَدَاتِيهِ: «يَا سَيِّدِي، يَا مُوسَى، امْنَعُهُمَا». «قَالَ لَهُ مُوسَى: «أَلَعَلَّكَ تَعَارُ أَنْتَ لِي؟ لَيْتَ كُلَّ شَعْبِ الرَّبِّ أَنْبِيَاءَ بِإِحْلَالِ الرَّبِّ رُوحَهُ عَلَيْهِمْ.»

رسالة القديس بولس الثانية إلى أهل كورنتس 11:21-30

يا إخوتي، أقولُ وأخجلُ، كما لو كُنَّا ضِعْفَاءَ! وأقولُ كجَاهِلٍ: إِنَّ كُلَّ مَا يَجْرُؤُ عَلَيْهِ هُوَ لَاءِ، أَجْرُؤُ عَلَيْهِ أَنَا أَيْضًا: أَهْمُ عِبْرَانِيُونَ؟ أَنَا أَيْضًا عِبْرَانِيٌّ! أَهْمُ إِسْرَائِيلِيُّونَ؟ أَنَا أَيْضًا إِسْرَائِيلِيٌّ! أَهْمُ نَسْلُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ؟ أَنَا أَيْضًا نَسْلُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ! أَهْمُ خُدَّامٌ لِلْمَسِيحِ؟ أَقُولُ كَمَنْ فَقَدَ صَوَابَهُ: أَنَا أَكْثَرُ! فِي الْأَتْعَابِ أَكْثَرُ! فِي السُّجُونِ أَكْثَرُ! فِي الضَّرَبَاتِ أَكْثَرُ جَدًّا! فِي أخطارِ المَوْتِ أَكْثَرُ بِمَرَّاتٍ كَثِيرَةٍ! تَلَقَّيْتُ الْجَلْدَ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ خَمْسَ مَرَّاتٍ، كُلَّ مَرَّةٍ أَرْبَعِينَ جَلْدَةً إِلَّا وَاحِدَةً! ضَرَبْتُ بِالْعِصِيِّ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ! رُجِمْتُ مَرَّةً وَاحِدَةً! انْكَسَرَتْ بِي السَّفِينَةُ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ! قَضَيْتُ فِي عُرْضِ الْبَحْرِ لَيْلَةً وَنَهَارًا! قُمْتُ بِاسْفَارٍ كَثِيرَةٍ، كُنْتُ فِي أخطارٍ مِنَ الْأَنْهَارِ، أخطارٍ مِنَ اللَّصُوصِ، أخطارٍ مِنَ أُمَّتِي، أخطارٍ مِنَ الْأُمَمِ، أخطارٍ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ، أخطارٍ فِي الصَّخْرَاءِ، أخطارٍ فِي الْبَحْرِ، أخطارٍ بَيْنَ الْإِخْوَةِ الْكَذِبَةِ! عَانَيْتُ النَّعَبَ، وَالْكَدَّ، وَالسَّهْرَ مَرَّاتٍ كَثِيرَةٍ، وَالْجُوعَ، وَالْعَطَشَ، وَالصَّوْمَ مَرَّاتٍ كَثِيرَةٍ، وَالْبُرْدَ، وَالْعُزْيَ! أَضِفْ إِلَى ذَلِكَ، مَا عَلَيَّ مِنَ الْأَعْبَاءِ كُلِّ يَوْمٍ، وَالْأَهْتِمَامَ بِجَمِيعِ الْكَنَائِسِ! مَنْ يَضْعُفُ وَلَا أضعفُ أَنَا؟ وَمَنْ يَقَعُ فِي الْخَطِيئَةِ وَلَا أخطرقُ أَنَا؟ وَإِنْ كَانَ لَا بُدَّ مِنَ الْأَفْنِخَارِ، فَأَنَا أَفْنِخِرُ بِأَوْهَانِي!

إنجيل القديس متى 13:20-21

جَاءَ يَسُوعُ إِلَى نَوَاحِي قَيْصَرِيَّةِ فَيْلُبُسَ فَسَأَلَ تَلَامِيذَهُ قَائِلًا: «مَنْ يَقُولُ النَّاسُ إِنِّي أَنَا ابْنُ الْإِنْسَانِ؟» فَقَالُوا: «بَعْضُهُمْ يَقُولُونَ: يُوحَنَّا الْمَعْمَدَانُ؛ وَآخَرُونَ: إِيْلِيَّا؛ وَغَيْرُهُمْ: إِرْمِيَا أَوْ أَحَدُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ». «قَالَ لَهُمْ: «وَأَنْتُمْ مَنْ تَقُولُونَ إِنِّي أَنَا؟». فَأَجَابَ سَمْعَانُ بَطْرُسُ وَقَالَ: أَنْتَ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ اللَّهِ الْحَيِّ!». «فَأَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: «طُوبَى لَكَ يَا سَمْعَانُ بَنَ يُونَا! لِأَنَّكَ لَا لَحْمَ وَلَا دَمَ أَظْهَرَ لَكَ ذَلِكَ، بَلْ أَبِي الَّذِي فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ. وَأَنَا أَيْضًا أَقُولُ لَكَ: أَنْتَ هُوَ بَطْرُسُ، أَيِ الصَّخْرَةِ، وَعَلَى هَذِهِ الصَّخْرَةِ سَأَبْنِي بَيْعَتِي، وَأَبْوَابُ الْجَحِيمِ لَنْ تَقْوَى عَلَيْهَا. سَأَعْطِيكَ مَفَاتِيحَ مَلَكُوتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ، فَكُلُّ مَا تَرْتَبُطُهُ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ يَكُونُ مَرْبُوطًا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ، وَمَا تَحُلُّهُ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ يَكُونُ مَحْلُولًا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ.» «حِينَئِذٍ أَوْصَى تَلَامِيذَهُ أَلَّا يَقُولُوا لِأَحَدٍ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ.



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