



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 Website: stanthonylawrence.org

SCAN ME



VENMO



PAYPAL



WEEKLY
BULLETIN



DAILY
READINGS

لانجيل اليومي



*There are different
kinds of service,
but we serve
THE SAME LORD.*

Pentecost Season - زمن العنصرة

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1 CORINTHIANS 12:5 NLT

LITURGIES INTENTIONS

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 & family*

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

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

9th Sunday of Pentecost

Saturday, July 13 (Eng.) *Joel the Prophet*

4:00 pm + 1st Anniversary - Donald Martineau, his son, John D. Martineau, *By their family*

Sunday, July 14 *St. Bonaventure*

9:30 am + Paul Bijjani, *By Lili Bijjani.*

11:00 am + Boutros Merheb & all the deceased members of the Merheb Family, *By their family.*

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!*

PLEASE NOTE

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

Daily Liturgies

Monday, July 8 (Ar.)

St. Procopius/Acts 15:36-16:1-3,6-10 / Lk 11:1-4

9:00 am Private Intentions

Tuesday, July 9 (Eng.)

St. Pancras/Acts 16:11-23 / Lk 11:5-8

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

Wednesday, July 10 (Ar.)

*The 3 Blessed Massabki Maronite Martyrs
Acts 16:25-34 / Lk 11:9-13*

9:00 am + Michel and Laure Bijjani, *By Lili Bijjani*

Thursday, July 11 (Eng.)

St. Benedict/Acts 17:1-12 / Lk 11:14-23

9:00 am For the good health of Gabriel Hassan, *By his family*

9:30 am – 12pm Adoration

Friday, July 12 - NO LITURGY

Sts. Rufina & Secunda/Acts 17:16-24, 30-34 / Lk 11:24-26

Dear Parishioners,

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to extend my sincerest apologies for my previous decision not to attend your wedding reception. Upon further reflection and after receiving several requests from dear parishioners, I realize that my initial choice was hasty and may have caused disappointment.

Therefore, I wanted to inform you that I am reversing my decision and will be attending the reception after all. I understand if this causes any inconvenience or confusion, and I hope you can accept my apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Looking forward to celebrating this joyous occasion with you and your families

*Warm regards,
Fr. Elie Mikhael*



BECOME A SPONSOR

CHANGING

\$7,500

- LOGO PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED ON ALL DIGITAL LED SCREEN DURING MAHRAJAN WEEKEND AND SHORTLY AFTER
- LOGO LISTED ON ST. ANTHONY'S WEBSITE, PARISH BULLETIN, AND ON MAHRAJAN WEBSITE, PUBLICATIONS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA
- 2 RESERVED PARKING SPACES
- 4 DINNER TICKETS (VALUE OF \$100)
- 4 MAHRAJAN RAFFLE BOOKS
- LOGO ON EVENT PROMOTIONAL T-SHIRTS
- BUSINESS NAME AND SPONSORSHIP CATEGORY RECOGNITION IN DESIGNATED SECTION IN 50TH MAHRAJAN SLIDESHOW

SUSTAINING

\$5,000

- LOGO PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED ON ALL DIGITAL LED SCREEN DURING MAHRAJAN WEEKEND AND SHORTLY AFTER
- LOGO LISTED ON ST. ANTHONY'S WEBSITE, PARISH BULLETIN, AND ON MAHRAJAN WEBSITE, PUBLICATIONS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA
- 1 RESERVED PARKING SPACES
- 4 DINNER TICKETS (VALUE OF \$100)
- 4 MAHRAJAN RAFFLE BOOKS
- LOGO ON EVENT PROMOTIONAL T-SHIRTS

GROWING

\$2,500

- INDIVIDUAL DIGITAL ADVERTISEMENT SLIDE WITH LOGO TO RUN ON SCREENS DURING MAHRAJAN WEEKEND AND SHORTLY AFTER
- LOGO LISTED ON ST. ANTHONY'S WEBSITE, PARISH BULLETIN, AND ON MAHRAJAN WEBSITE, PUBLICATIONS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA
- 2 DINNER TICKETS (VALUE OF \$50)
- 2 MAHRAJAN RAFFLE BOOKS

OUTREACH

\$1,000

- INDIVIDUAL DIGITAL ADVERTISEMENT SLIDE WITH LOGO TO RUN ON TELEVISION DURING THE MAHRAJAN WEEKEND WITH LIMITED SCREEN TIME
- LOGO LISTED ON ST. ANTHONY'S WEBSITE, PARISH BULLETIN, AND ON MAHRAJAN WEBSITE, PUBLICATIONS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA
- 1 DINNER TICKETS (VALUE OF \$25)
- 1 MAHRAJAN RAFFLE BOOKS

FRIENDS

\$250

- SPONSOR'S NAME WILL BE MENTIONED ON THE COMMON "FRIENDS OF THE MAHRAJAN" DIGITAL SLIDE ADVERTISEMENT
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IN PARISH BULLETIN

HELPING

\$500

- SHARED DIGITAL ADVERTISEMENT WITH NAME/LOGO IN THE MAHRAJAN
- COMPANY NAME OR LOGO LISTED ON ST. ANTHONY'S WEBSITE AND PARISH BULLETIN
- 1 RAFFLE BOOK

NAME/BUSINESS: _____
 CONTACT PERSON: _____ PHONE: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 EMAIL: _____
 MAHRAJAN SPONSORSHIP LEVEL: _____
 SPONSORSHIP IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR OF: _____
-CHECKS PAYABLE TO "ST. ANTHONY MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH" (MEMO MAHRAJAN SPONSORSHIP)
 -SPONSOR MUST PROVIDE HIGH RESOLUTION ELECTRIC LOGO AT ITS EXPENSE. SPONSORSHIPS ACCEPTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PASTOR AND THE MAHRAJAN COMMITTEE. ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL.

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.

Mahrajan Raffle: has been sent electronically and paper form will be mailed soon.

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

Mahrajan Sponsors: See form above for this year's sponsorship levels. Letter will be mailed soon!

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

SANCTUARY LAMPS



In Loving Memory of Rose & Peter Lucchesi, and Mary Shadeed,

By *Beverly & Bob*

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:

www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Online Registration is now open for 2024-2025
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/

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



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

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:

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.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Sacrament of Matrimony

Franklin Guzamn & Monica Rizkallah

*"Confirm them in faith, hope, love and just deeds.
Rite of the Covenant"*

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, or email the rectory at rectory@stanthonylawrence.org.

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 6 - 4 pm - Susan Kalil

Sunday, July 7 -

9:30 am - Meaghan Twing

11:00 am - (Eng) Angela Dahbour
(Ar) Giselle Dahbour

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 13 - 4 pm - Patricia Ferguson

Sunday, July 14 -

9:30 am - Catherine Abou Khalil

11:00 am - (Eng) Marita Merheb
(Ar) George Merheb

BIRTHDAY WISHES

July 06: Jeanette El-Helou, Aram Nehme, Linton Ranson

July 07: Alexander Azzi, Danielle Nadira, Mary-Kate Saab

July 08: Elie Hayek

July 09: Lauren Arsenault, Sofie Ata, Amal Azzi, Ellana Geha, Brett George, Evan Haykal, Joseph Najjar, Evelyn Ramey

July 10: Mirna Antar, Christopher Azzi, Rozana Geha, Marie Matta, Roula Nassar, Frances Shibel

July 11: Johnny Bistany, Kylie Daher, Debra Gabriel, Kristin Kazzi, Rose Roux

July 12: Chantal Abou Khalil, Micheline Dabrowski

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

July 06: Ghassan & Grece Abou Ezzi, Charbel & Tatiana Abou Jaoude, Nassif & Sonia Ata

July 07: Marwane & Grace Churfane, Billy & Meg Kannan, Jihad & Emily Moussa, Joseph & Amal Najjar

July 08: Antoine & Bassima Abou Jaoude

July 09: Walid & Pamela Alghoul, William & Elian Dunbar

RELATING TO BOTH JESUS AND CHRIST, *By Fr. Ron Rolheiser*

For too many years, for me, Christ was simply Jesus' last name: Jack Smith, Susan Parker, Jesus Christ. Intellectually, I knew better; but practically, both in my private faith and as a theologian, I functioned as if Christ were simply Jesus' surname. Whether in prayer, writing, or preaching, I almost always used the two names together, Jesus Christ, as if there were a perfect identity between the two. There's not. Jesus is a divine person inside the Trinity, someone who once walked this earth as a flesh and blood individual and who now is with the Father as part of the Godhead. And although he is also the key component inside the reality of Christ, Christ is more than Jesus. Christ is a mystery which also includes us, Jesus' followers on earth, the sacraments, the Word (Scripture), and the church. Scripture is clear: We are the Body of Christ on earth. We don't represent Christ, replace Christ, or are some vague mystical presence of Christ. We are the Body of Christ, as too are the Eucharist and the Word (the Christian scriptures). That distinction has huge implications both for our private faith and for how we live out our faith in the church. To simply identify Jesus and Christ impoverishes our discipleship, irrespective of which name (Jesus or Christ) we most relate to. Let me begin with a mea culpa: In living out my faith, I more easily and existentially relate to Christ than to Jesus. What that means is that I have a belief in and a lifelong commitment to the reality of the resurrection, to Jesus' teaching, to the church, to the sacraments, and to the Christian scriptures. I believe that participation in the Eucharist is the single most important thing I do in life, that the Sermon on the Mount is the greatest moral code ever written, and that the church, despite all its faults, is the Body of Christ on earth. But, unlike many of the faith-filled mystics and saints that I read, and unlike many of my Evangelical friends and colleagues, I struggle to have a real sense that Jesus is an intimate friend and lover. I struggle to be the beloved disciple in John's gospel who has his head reclining on the breast of Jesus and for whom one-to-one intimacy with Jesus relativizes everything else. I know that Jesus is real and wants a deep one-to-one intimacy with each of us; but truth be told, I struggle to actually feel that most days and to make it the central part of my discipleship. Commitment to the Eucharist, Jesus' teaching, and the church are, save for graced affective moments in prayer, the heart of my faith and lived discipleship. Habitually I relate more to Christ than to Jesus. And, let me risk adding this: I believe that is also true for various Christian churches. We have churches that relate more to Christ and churches that relate more to Jesus (not that either excludes the other). For example, my own church, Roman Catholic, is a very Christ-centered church. Ecclesial community, Eucharist, the sacraments, and Jesus' teachings are key. No true Roman Catholic can ever say that all I need is a private relationship to Jesus. That is also true of most Anglicans, Episcopalians, and mainline Protestants. It is less true for churches within the Evangelical family, where the salient mandate in the Gospel of John to have an intimate relationship to Jesus more easily becomes the central tenet within Christian discipleship. It is not that the different churches exclude the other dimension. For example, Roman Catholicism, Anglicanism, and mainline Protestantism emphasize private prayer as a means to relate to the person of Jesus as an intimate friend and lover. To this, Roman Catholicism brings its rich (sometimes over-rich) tradition of devotional prayer. Conversely, Evangelicals, with their strong focus on Jesus, use communal services of the word and preaching as their major way to relate to the wider mystery of Christ. We have something to learn from each other. Churches, just as individuals, must be about both, Jesus and Christ, that is, focused on a personal relationship with Jesus and participation in the historical incarnational mystery of Christ, of which each of us is part. We must be focused on Jesus, but also on the Eucharist, the Word, and the community of believers – each of which is the Body of Christ. Our faith and discipleship must be both deeply private and visibly communal. No Christian can legitimately say, my discipleship consists wholly in a private relationship to Jesus, just as no Christian can legitimately say, I don't need Jesus, I only need church and the sacraments. We are disciples of Jesus Christ, both the person and the mystery. We are committed to a set of teachings, a set of scriptures, the Eucharist, and to a visible community we call the church – as well as to a person named Jesus who is the heart of this great mystery and who wants to be our friend and lover.

SAINT ANTHONY CEMETERY

CHURCH WAKE SERVICE OR CALLING HOURS

After much consideration, regarding the Wake/ Calling hours in Church, we will no longer be scheduling wake one day followed by funeral liturgy the next. Moving forward, Wake/calling hours will be allowed ONLY directly followed by Funeral Liturgy, same day. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

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، السلال، 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. إن 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.

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 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

Eighth Sunday of Pentecost: Jesus the Servant Beloved

Book of Isaiah 42, 1-8.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

Letter to the Romans 8, 1-11.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew 12, 14-21.

But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him. When Jesus became aware of this, he departed. Many crowds followed him, and he cured all of them, and he ordered them not to make him known. This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah: 'Here is my servant, whom I have chosen, my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not wrangle or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the Gentiles will hope.'

الأحد الثامن من زمن العنصرة: يسوع الخادم المحبوب

سفر أشعيا 1:42 - 8

هُوَذَا عَبْدِي الَّذِي أَعْضُدُّهُ مُخْتَارِي الَّذِي رَضِيتَ عَنْهُ نَفْسِي. قَدْ جَعَلْتُ رُوحِي عَلَيْهِ فَهُوَ يُبَدِي لِحَقِّ لِلْأُمَّمِ. لَا يَصِيحُ وَلَا يَرْفَعُ صَوْتَهُ وَلَا يُسْمِعُ صَوْتَهُ فِي الشَّوَارِعِ. الْقَصَبَةُ الْمَرْضُوضَةُ لَنْ يَكْسِرَهَا وَالْفَتِيلَةُ الْمُدْخَنَةُ لَنْ يُطْفِئُهَا. يُبَدِي الْحَقَّ بِأَمَانَةٍ. لَا يَنِي وَلَا يَنْثَنِي إِلَى أَنْ يَحِلَّ الْحَقُّ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَلشَّرِيعَتِهِ تَنْتَظِرُ الْجُزْرَ. هَكَذَا قَالَ اللَّهُ الرَّبُّ خَالِقُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَنَاشِرُهَا بَاسِطُ الْأَرْضِ مَعِ مَا يَنْبُتُ مِنْهَا الَّذِي يُعْطِي الشَّعْبَ عَلَيْهَا نَسَمَةً وَالسَّائِرِينَ فِيهَا رُوحًا: «أَنَا الرَّبُّ دَعَوْتُكَ فِي الْبَرِّ وَأَخَذْتُ بِيَدِكَ وَجَبَلْتُكَ وَجَعَلْتُكَ عَهْدًا لِلشَّعْبِ وَنُورًا لِلْأُمَّمِ لَكِي تَفْتَحَ الْعُيُونُ الْعَمِيَاءَ وَتُخْرِجَ الْأَسِيرَ مِنَ السِّجْنِ وَالْجَالِسِينَ فِي الظُّلْمَةِ مِنْ بَيْتِ الْحَبْسِ. أَنَا الرَّبُّ وَهَذَا أَسْمِي وَلَا أُعْطِي لِآخَرَ مَجْدِي وَلَا لِلْمُنْحَوَاتِ حَمْدِي.»

رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل رومة 1:8 - 11

يا إخوتي، إِذَا فَلَا حُكْمَ بِالْهَلَاكِ بَعْدَ الْآنَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ؛ لِأَنَّ شَرِيعَةَ رُوحِ الْحَيَاةِ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ، قَدْ حَرَّرْتَنِي مِنْ شَرِيعَةِ الْخَطِيئَةِ وَالْمَوْتِ. فَإِنَّ مَا عَجَزَتْ عَنْهُ الشَّرِيعَةُ، وَقَدْ أضعَفَهَا الْجَسَدُ، أَنْجَرَهُ اللَّهُ، حِينَ أَرْسَلَ ابْنَهُ فِي جَسَدٍ يُشَبِّهُ جَسَدَ الْخَطِيئَةِ، تَكْفِيرًا لِلْخَطِيئَةِ، فَقَضَى فِي الْجَسَدِ عَلَى الْخَطِيئَةِ، لِكَيْ يَتِمَّ بِرُ الشَّرِيعَةِ فِينَا، نَحْنُ السَّالِكِينَ لَا بِحَسَبِ الْإِنْسَانِ الْجَسَدِيِّ بَلْ بِحَسَبِ الرُّوحِ؛ لِأَنَّ السَّالِكِينَ بِحَسَبِ الْإِنْسَانِ الْجَسَدِيِّ، يَرْغَبُونَ فِي مَا هُوَ لِلْجَسَدِ، وَالسَّالِكِينَ بِحَسَبِ الرُّوحِ يَرْغَبُونَ فِي مَا هُوَ لِلرُّوحِ. فَرَغْبَةُ الْجَسَدِ مَوْتٌ، أَمَّا رَغْبَةُ الرُّوحِ فَحَيَاةٌ وَسَلَامٌ. لِذَلِكَ فَرَغْبَةُ الْإِنْسَانِ الْجَسَدِيِّ عَدَاوَةٌ لِلَّهِ، لِأَنَّهَا لَا تَخْضَعُ لِشَرِيعَةِ اللَّهِ وَلَا تَسْتَطِيعُ ذَلِكَ. وَإِنَّ السَّالِكِينَ بِحَسَبِ الْإِنْسَانِ الْجَسَدِيِّ، لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ أَنْ يُرْضُوا اللَّهَ. أَمَّا أَنْتُمْ فَلَسْتُمْ أَنْسَاءَ جَسَدِيِّينَ بَلْ رُوحِيِّينَ، إِنْ كَانَ حَقًّا رُوحُ اللَّهِ سَاكِنًا فِيكُمْ. وَلَكِنْ مَنْ لَيْسَ لَهُ رُوحُ الْمَسِيحِ، لَيْسَ هُوَ لِلْمَسِيحِ. أَمَّا إِذَا كَانَ الْمَسِيحُ فِيكُمْ، فَبِرَغْمِ أَنَّ الْجَسَدَ مَيِّتٌ بِسَبَبِ الْخَطِيئَةِ، فَالرُّوحُ حَيَاةٌ لَكُمْ بِفَضْلِ الْبَرِّ. وَإِذَا كَانَ رُوحُ اللَّهِ الَّذِي أَقَامَ يَسُوعَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ سَاكِنًا فِيكُمْ، فَالَّذِي أَقَامَ الْمَسِيحَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ يُحْيِي أَيْضًا أَجْسَادَكُمْ الْمَائِتَةَ بِرُوحِهِ السَّاكِنِ فِيكُمْ.

إنجيل القديس متى 14:12 - 21

خَرَجَ الْفَرِيسِيُّونَ فَتَشَاوَرُوا عَلَى يَسُوعَ لِيُهْلِكُوهُ. وَعَلِمَ يَسُوعُ بِالْأَمْرِ فَأَنْصَرَفَ مِنْ هُنَاكَ. وَتَبِعَهُ كَثِيرُونَ فَشَفَاهُمْ جَمِيعًا، وَحَدَّرَهُمْ مِنْ أَنْ يُشْهَرُوهُ، لِيَتِمَّ مَا قِيلَ بِالنَّبِيِّ اشعيا: «هُوَذَا فَتَايَ الَّذِي أَخْتَرْتُهُ، حَبِيبِي الَّذِي رَضِيتَ بِهِ نَفْسِي. سَأَجْعَلُ رُوحِي عَلَيْهِ فَيُبَشِّرُ الْأُمَّمَ بِالْحَقِّ. لَنْ يُمَاحِكَ وَلَنْ يَصِيحَ، وَلَنْ يَسْمَعَ أَحَدٌ صَوْتَهُ فِي السَّاحَاتِ. قَصَبَةٌ مَرْضُوضَةٌ لَنْ يَكْسِرَ، وَفَتِيلَةٌ مُدْخَنَةٌ لَنْ يُطْفِئَ، إِلَى أَنْ يَصِلَ بِالْحَقِّ إِلَى النَّصْرِ. وَبِاسْمِهِ تَجْعَلُ الْأُمَّمُ رَجَاءَهَا.»

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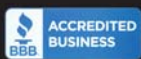
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