

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



Feast of the Assumption of Mary

عيد إنتقال العذراء مريم

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LITURGIES INTENTIONS

Daily Liturgies

13th Sunday of Pentecost

Monday, August 12 (Ar.)

St. Shaina/ 1Jn 1:1-10/Lk 13:31-35

Saturday, August 10 (Eng.)

St. Lawrence

9:00 am + Elias and Mariam Khoder, *By Therese Sarkis & family*

For the good health & well being of Mark Bejjani, *By his family*

4:00 pm In Honor of Valerie Solia

Sunday, August 11

St. Clare

Tuesday, August 13(Eng.)

St. Hippolytus of Rome/ 1Jn 2:1-11/ Lk 14:1-6

9:30 am + 1st Anniversary - Paul Khalife, *By his wife, Pamela, children & their families*

9:00 am + Deceased members of the Goulart & Pereira Families, *By Dora Pereira*

+ For the Forgotten Souls, *By Lili Bijjani*

Wednesday, August 14 (Ar.)

*Vigil Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary
Micah the Prophet / 1Jn 2:12-20 / Lk 14:7-11*

11:00 am In Honor of Leonard Imad Nassar, *By his family*

6:30 pm Rosary

7:00 pm In Honor of Fr. Neemtallah Oneissy, Priestly Ordination

14th Sunday of Pentecost

Thursday, August 15 (Eng.) *Holy Day of Obligation
Feast of The Assumption of the Virgin Mary*

/ Rom 12:9-15 / Lk 1:46-55

Saturday, August 17 (Eng.)

St. Myron of Cyzicus

9:00 am + Adele Oneissy, *By her son
Fr. Neemtallah Oneissy,*

4:00 pm In Honor of Chorbishop Elie Mikhael

Friday, August 16 -

NO LITURGY / OFFICE CLOSED

St. Roch / 1Jn 3:1-10 / Lk 14:16-24

Sunday, August 18 *The Letter of King Abgar to Christ*

OBSERVANCES

10:30 am In Honor of Chorbishop Elie Mikhael

Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary ~ **Holy Day of Obligation**

♦ Wednesday, August 14, 2024: Rosary @ 6:30pm, Vigil Feast Liturgy @ 7pm followed by procession.

♦ Thursday, August 15, 2024: Feast Day ~ Liturgy @ 9am.

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 10 - 4 pm - Susan Kalil

Sunday, August 11 -

9:30 am - Meaghan Twing

11:00 am - (Eng) Joey Safi

(Ar) Roula Nassar

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 17 - 4 pm - Lisa Abdallah

Sunday, August 4 -

10:30 am - (Eng) Elias Azzi

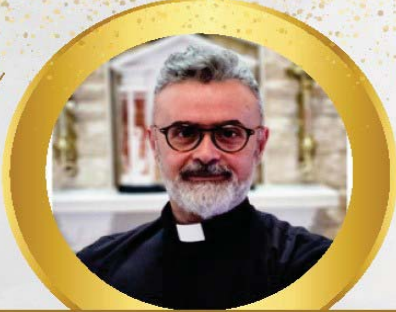
(Ar) Sub-Deacon Antoine Nammour

PLEASE NOTE

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

*Our Prayers Are
With You*

صلاتنا معك هذه الساعة




Chorbishop Elie Mikhael

Please join us for a Liturgy of thanksgiving and a reception to honor our Pastor on his new mission in Mexico and elevation to Chorbishop.

Join us to see him off with our love, prayers, and support!

SATURDAY : DIVINE LITURGY
AUG 17 : 4:00 PM

SUNDAY : DIVINE LITURGY
AUG 18 : 10:30AM
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



OFFICE HOURS:

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

FRI OFFICE CLOSED

SAT By Appointment

DAILY LITURGIES @ 9 am

MON & WED (Ar)

TUE & THU (Eng)

WEEKEND LITURGIES

SAT 4 pm (Eng)

SUN 9:30 am (Eng) 11 am (Eng.& Ar)

Holy days of obligation:

Vigil Liturgy @ 7:00 pm

MEET OUR PRIESTS:

Chorbishop Elie Mikhael

(305) 807-9087

Fr. Edgard -Neemtallah- Oneissy

(857)390-4838

pastor@stanthonylawrence.org

MEET OUR DEACONS:

Nadim Daou, James T. Demers,

& David Leard

Sub-Deacon: Antoine Nammour

CLERGY DAY OFF

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.



EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
109 Remsen Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201-4212
Tel: (718) 237-9913 Fax: (718) 243-0444
chancery@stmaron.org www.stmaron.org

11 July 2024

Prot. No. 269/1/24
Cir.24.66

Dear Brother Priests, Deacons and Subdeacons, Consecrated Men and Women, Lay Faithful

His Beatitude and Eminence, Patriarch Beshara Peter Rahi, has decided to grant the rank of Chorbishop to Father Elie Mikhael.

This follows the appointment by His Holiness Pope Francis of Father Elie as Apostolic Administrator of the vacant See of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon in Mexico.

His ordination to Chorbishop will take place on Friday, August 9, 2024, at 6 PM at the Monastery of Saint John Maroun - the Episcopal See in Kfarhay - by Bishop Mounir Khairallah, as requested by the Patriarch.

Let us pray together for the new Chorbishop for his service in Mexico.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Gregory

+Gregory John Mansour

GJM/ac



MAHRAJAN UPDATES

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.

RAFFLE TICKETS: Mahrajan Raffle Tickets have been sent out! Each family is encouraged to purchase at least one book of 10 tickets for \$45. You can also buy more and help sell them to friends or at work. Thank you to those who have already contributed. Your continuous support is very much appreciated towards our major fundraiser. Please submit your contribution today!



**Buy your tickets Now
Scan the QR Code**

RAFFLE BASKETS: Join the Fun and Donate to Our Basket Raffles!

Unleash your creativity by picking a theme & putting together a fantastic basket for this year's Basket Raffles! Don't have the time or not sure where to start? We've got you covered! We have a variety of ready-made baskets available that suit every budget. Whether you're looking for something simple or extravagant, there's a perfect option waiting for your donation.

Interested? Contact Dianne Dewan for a list of themes and prices:

Email: Didewang@gmail.com or Phone: (978) 273-0693.

Donations can be dropped off at the Rectory during office hours.

MAHRAJAN SPONSORS: The sponsorship letter and form were sent electronically! To become a sponsor, please see the form on the next page for various sponsorship levels. Deadline to submit your sponsorship logo is Friday, August 23, 2024.

Thank you for your generous support and participation!

MAHRAJAN VOLUNTEERS: We rely on your help, beloved parishioners, to volunteer your time and make this year's festival a grand success!

- ◆ Join Our Team: Help spread joy and goodwill at this year's festival!
- ◆ Fun and Meaningful Roles: From welcoming guests to assisting with activities, there's a role for everyone.
- ◆ Flexible Hours: Volunteer for shifts that fit your schedule and enjoy the festival in your free time.
- ◆ Community Spirit: Be part of a team that makes a positive impact and fosters community spirit.
- ◆ Training Provided: We will ensure your readiness to contribute and engage.
- ◆ Sign Up Today: Interested? Contact Ramona Yammine @ (978) 350-2965 and/or Grece Abou Ezzi @ (978) 382-2980 or scan the QR Code now to start getting involved and be part of this wonderful festivities.



**Sign-up Now
Scan the QR Code**

Thank you for being a vital part of our community and contributing to the success of our 52nd Lebanese Mahrajan!



52ND ANNUAL FESTIVAL
LEBANESE MAHRAJAN
LABOR DAY WEEKEND



Saint Anthony Maronite Church
presents

Friday
08/30
5 PM - 1AM

Saturday
08/31
5 PM - 2AM

Sunday
09/01
12 PM - 12AM

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 52ND 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.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

The family of the beloved **Gladys M. George**, who passed away peacefully last week. We express our sympathies to her daughters, Alison and her husband Vincent Puglisi, Donna Kostandin, her sons, Christopher C. George and his fiancé Janet Wright, Stephen A George and his wife Kathy, all her grandchildren, their spouses and, her two little great-grandchildren.

May her soul rest in peace & her memories be eternal.

SANCTUARY LAMPS

In Loving Memory of Fred & Stephanie Schiripo, 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>



For more information email:
communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS -St. Anthony Council 16204

KOC Next Meeting:
Tuesday August 13, 2024
@ 7pm, Church Hall

Men 18 yrs. and older are encouraged to attend. For information email: KOFc16204@gmail.com

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

Pope at Angelus on feast of the Assumption: Mary is the “Gate of Heaven”, August 15, 2019

In St Luke’s Gospel on this Solemnity of the Assumption, the Evangelist records the words of Our Lady as she prays: “My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour”. Before reciting the Angelus, Pope Francis reflected on the two verbs in that prayer: to rejoice and to magnify.

To rejoice

“We rejoice when something so beautiful happens that it is not enough to rejoice inside, in the soul, but we want to express happiness with the whole body”, said the Pope. “Mary rejoices because of God... she teaches us to rejoice in God, because He does “great things”.

To magnify

“To magnify means to exalt a reality for its greatness, for its beauty”, continued Pope Francis. “Mary proclaims the greatness of the Lord... she shows us that if we want our life to be happy, God must be placed first, because He alone is great”. The Pope warned of getting lost in the pettiness of life, chasing after things of little importance: “prejudices, grudges, rivalries, envy, and superfluous material goods”. Mary, on the other hand, invites us to “look upward at the ‘great things’ the Lord has accomplished in her”.

The Gate to Heaven

“Mary, who is a human creature, one of us, reaches eternity in body and soul”, said Pope Francis. This is why we invoke her as the “Gate of Heaven”. “There she awaits us, just as a mother waits for her children to come home”. The Pope said we are like pilgrims on our way home to Heaven. Seeing that “in paradise, together with Christ, the New Adam, there is also her, Mary, the new Eve, gives us comfort and hope in our pilgrimage down here”.

The sky is open

For those who are afflicted with doubts and sadness, “and live with their eyes turned downwards”, the Feast of the Assumption is a call to “look upwards” and see “the sky is open”, continued Pope Francis. It is no longer distant, and we need no longer be afraid: “because on the threshold of Heaven there is a Mother waiting for us”. Mary constantly reminds us that we are precious in the eyes of God, and that we are made for the great joys of Heaven. “Every time we take the Rosary in our hands and pray to her”, he said, “we take a step forward towards our life’s great goal”.

The greatness of Heaven

“Let us be attracted by true beauty”, said the Pope, “let us not be drawn in by the petty things in life, but let us choose the greatness of Heaven”. Pope Francis concluded by praying that the Blessed Virgin Mary, Gate of Heaven, may help us daily to fix our gaze with confidence and joy “on the place where our true home lies”.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

- August 10:** Brady Abraham, Sophie Azzi, Grace Cherfane, Remie Escobales, Chloe Khoury, Valerie Solia, Marcus George Thompson
- August 11:** Teresa Kamari, Victoria Ann Nassar
- August 12:** James Abdallah, Adriana Faris, Ryan Jermany
- August 13:** Romy Abouhamad, Maria Bou Saada, Roy El Hachem, Jonathan Harvey, Jonathan Merheb, David Merlino
- August 14:** Matthew Abou Khalil, Guita BouHabib, Diane Hanagan, Christine Hassan, Angela Khoury, Rani Sadek
- August 15:** Alex Abou Ezzi, Elizabeth Demers, Carl Faris, Tony Nammour
- August 16:** Aria Azzi, Michael Bou-Harb, Norah Frias, Julie Haddad, Elia Hbaiter, Etienne Khalife Marcel Saade

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

- August 10:** Gaby & Raghida Ramey Steve & Mimo Schultz
- August 11:** Albert & Jean Khoury
- August 12:** Carl & Sylvie Faris
- August 13:** Liam & Leah Russell
- August 14:** Winston & Maureen Ann Thompson
- August 15:** Joel & Elise McMinn, George & Layla Merheb, Simon & Marie Mouawad
- August 16:** Patrick & Maria Becotte

"A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration helps to bring everlasting peace to earth." - St. Teresa of Calcutta

Begins August 15 at 6:00pm with Holy Day Mass

Concludes August 17 at 9:00am with Saturday Morning Mass

METHUEN CATHOLIC
THE PARISHES OF ST. LUCY & ST. MONICA

40 HOUR DEVOTION
Thursday, August 15 - Saturday, August 17
Gethsemane Chapel at St. Monica Church
212 Lawrence St. | Methuen, MA

Please contact Maureen 978-683-0589 or email at twigs5mcs@gmail.com
Sign up as a family or Partner with a friend

Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost: Parable of the Sower

Book of Genesis 2:8-10.15-17

And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

First Letter to the Corinthians 3: 1-11

I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, 'I belong to Paul', and another, 'I belong to Apollos', are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 8: 1-15

Jesus went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources. When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: 'A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.' As he said this, he called out, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!' Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that "looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand." 'Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.

الأحد الثالث عشر من زمن العنصرة: مثل الزارع

سفر التكوين 2: 8-10-15-17

وَعَرَسَ الرَّبُّ الْإِلَهَ جَنَّةً فِي عَدْنٍ شَرْقًا وَجَعَلَ هُنَاكَ الْإِنْسَانَ الَّذِي جَبَلَهُ. وَأَنْبَتَ الرَّبُّ الْإِلَهَ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ كُلَّ شَجَرَةٍ حَسَنَةٍ الْمَنْظَرِ وَطَيِّبَةِ الْمَأْكَلِ وَشَجَرَةَ الْحَيَاةِ فِي وَسْطِ الْجَنَّةِ وَشَجَرَةَ مَعْرِفَةِ الْخَيْرِ وَالشَّرِّ. وَكَانَ نَهْرٌ يَخْرُجُ مِنْ عَدْنٍ فَيَسْقِي الْجَنَّةَ وَمِنْ هُنَاكَ يَنْشَعِبُ فَيَصِيرُ أَرْبَعَةَ فُرُوعٍ. وَأَخَذَ الرَّبُّ الْإِلَهَ الْإِنْسَانَ وَجَعَلَهُ فِي جَنَّةِ عَدْنٍ لِيَفْلَحَهَا وَيَحْرُسَهَا. وَأَمَرَ الرَّبُّ الْإِلَهَ الْإِنْسَانَ قَائِلًا: «مِنْ جَمِيعِ أَشْجَارِ الْجَنَّةِ تَأْكُلُ، وَأَمَّا شَجَرَةُ مَعْرِفَةِ الْخَيْرِ وَالشَّرِّ فَلَا تَأْكُلْ مِنْهَا، فَإِنَّكَ يَوْمَ تَأْكُلُ مِنْهَا تَمُوتُ مَوْتًا.»

رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل كورنتس 3: 1-11

يَا إِخْوَتِي، أَنَا، لَمْ أَسْتَطِعْ أَنْ أَكَلِمَكُمْ كَأَناسٍ رُوحَانِيِّينَ بَلْ كَأَناسٍ جَسَدِيِّينَ، كَأَطْفَالٍ فِي الْمَسِيحِ. قَدْ غَدَوْتُكُمْ بِالْحَالِبِ لَا بِالطَّعَامِ، لِأَنَّكُمْ لَمْ تَكُونُوا بَعْدُ قَادِرِينَ، وَلَا حَتَّى الْآنَ أَنْتُمْ قَادِرُونَ. فَأَنْتُمْ لَا تَرَالُونَ أَناسًا جَسَدِيِّينَ: فَمَا دَامَ بَيْنَكُمْ حَسَدٌ وَخِصَامٌ، أَفَلَا تَكُونُونَ جَسَدِيِّينَ، وَسَلُوكًا جَسَدِيًّا تَسْلُكُونَ؟ فَإِذَا كَانَ أَحَدُكُمْ يَقُولُ: أَنَا لِبُولُسٍ! وَآخَرُ: أَنَا لِبُولُسٍ! أَفَلَا تَكُونُونَ جَسَدِيِّينَ؟ فَمَا هُوَ أَبُولُسُ؟ وَمَا هُوَ بُولُسُ؟ هُمَا خَادِمَانِ أَمَنْتُمْ عَلَى أَيْدِيهِمَا، عَلَى قَدْرِ مَا أَعْطَى الرَّبُّ كُلًّا مِنْهُمَا. أَنَا غَرَسْتُ، وَأَبُولُسُ سَقَى، وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الَّذِي كَانَ يُنْمِي. فَلَا الْغَارِسُ بِشَيْءٍ وَلَا السَّاقِي، بَلْ اللَّهُ الَّذِي يُنْمِي! لَكِنَّ الْغَارِسَ وَالسَّاقِي وَاحِدٌ، وَكُلُّ مِنْهُمَا يَأْخُذُ أَجْرَهُ عَلَى قَدْرِ تَعْبِهِ. فَتَحْنُ مُعَاوَنَاتِ اللَّهِ، وَأَنْتُمْ حَقْلُ اللَّهِ وَبِنَاءُ اللَّهِ. وَأَنَا بِنِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ الَّتِي وَهَبْتُ لِي، وَضَعْتُ الْأَسَاسَ كِبْنَاءِ حَكِيمٍ، لَكِنَّ آخَرَ يَبْنِي عَلَيْهِ: فَلْيَنْظُرْ كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ كَيْفَ يَبْنِي عَلَيْهِ! فَمَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ يُمَكِّنُهُ أَنْ يَضَعَ آسَاسًا آخَرَ غَيْرَ الْأَسَاسِ الْمَوْضُوعِ، وَهُوَ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ.

إنجيل القديس لوقا 8: 1-15

أَخَذَ يَسُوعُ يَطُوفُ الْمُدُنَ وَالْقُرَى، يُنَادِي وَيُبَشِّرُ بِمَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ، وَمَعَهُ الْاِثْنَا عَشَرَ، وَبَعْضُ النِّسَاءِ اللَّوَاتِي شَفَاهُنَّ مِنْ أَرْوَاحِ شَرِيرَةٍ وَأَمْرَاضٍ، هُنَّ: مَرْيَمُ الْمَدْعُورَةُ بِالْمَجْدَلِيَّةِ، الَّتِي كَانَ قَدْ حَرَجَ مِنْهَا سَبْعَةُ شَيْطَانِينَ، وَحَنَّةُ امْرَأَةُ خُوزَى وَكَيْلِ هِيرُودُسَ، وَسُوسَنَةُ، وَغَيْرُهُنَّ كَثِيرَاتٌ كُنَّ يَبْذُلْنَ مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِنَّ فِي خِدْمَتِهِمْ. وَلَمَّا أَحْتَشَدَ جَمْعٌ كَثِيرٌ، وَأَقْبَلَ النَّاسُ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ كُلِّ مَدِينَةٍ، خَاطَبَهُمْ بِمَثَلٍ: «خَرَجَ الزَّارِعُ لِيَزْرَعَ زَرْعَهُ. وَفِيمَا هُوَ يَزْرَعُ، وَقَعَ بَعْضُ الْحَبِّ عَلَى جَانِبِ الطَّرِيقِ، فَدَاسَتْهُ الْأَقْدَامُ، وَأَكَلَتْهُ طُيُورُ السَّمَاءِ. وَقَعَ بَعْضُهُ الْآخَرَ عَلَى الصَّخْرَةِ، وَمَا إِنْ نَبَتَ حَتَّى يَبْسَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ رُطُوبَةٌ. وَقَعَ بَعْضُهُ الْآخَرَ فِي وَسْطِ الشُّوكِ، وَنَبَتَ الشُّوكُ مَعَهُ فَخَنَقَهُ. وَقَعَ بَعْضُهُ الْآخَرَ فِي الْأَرْضِ الصَّالِحَةِ، وَنَبَتَ فَأَثْمَرَ مِئَةَ ضِعْفٍ. قَالَ يَسُوعُ هَذَا، وَنَادَى: «مَنْ لَهُ أُذُنَانِ سَامِعَتَانِ فَلْيَسْمَعْ!» «وَسَأَلَهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ: «مَا تُرَاهُ يَعْنِي هَذَا الْمَثَلُ؟» فَقَالَ: «قَدْ أُعْطِيَ لَكُمْ أَنْتُمْ أَنْ تَعْرِفُوا أَسْرَارَ مَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ. أَمَّا الْبَاقُونَ فَأَكَلِمُهُمْ بِالْأَمْثَالِ، لِكَيْ يَنْظُرُوا فَلَا يُبْصِرُوا، وَيَسْمَعُوا فَلَا يَفْهَمُوا. وَهَذَا هُوَ مَعْنَى الْمَثَلِ: الزَّرْعُ هُوَ كَلِمَةُ اللَّهِ. وَالَّذِينَ عَلَى جَانِبِ الطَّرِيقِ هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ، ثُمَّ يَأْتِي إبْلِيسُ فَيَنْتَزِعُ الْكَلِمَةَ مِنْ قُلُوبِهِمْ، لِئَلَّا يُؤْمِنُوا فَيَخْلُصُوا. وَالَّذِينَ عَلَى الصَّخْرَةِ هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ الْكَلِمَةَ وَيَقْبَلُونَهَا بِفَرَحٍ؛ هُوَ لِأَنَّهَا لَا أَصْلَ لَهُمْ، فَهَمُ يُؤْمِنُونَ إِلَى حِينٍ، وَفِي وَقْتِ التَّجْرِبَةِ يَتَرَاجِعُونَ. وَالَّذِي وَقَعَ فِي الشُّوكِ هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ وَيَمْضُونَ، فَتَخْتَفُهُمُ الْهُمُومُ وَالْغِنَى وَمَلْدَأْتُ الْحَيَاةِ، فَلَا يَنْضِجُ لَهُمْ ثَمَرٌ. أَمَّا الَّذِي وَقَعَ فِي الْأَرْضِ الْجَيِّدَةِ فَهُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ الْكَلِمَةَ بِقَلْبٍ جَيِّدٍ صَالِحٍ فَيَحْفَظُونَهَا، وَيَبْتَنُونَ فَيُثْمِرُونَ.»



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