

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



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But the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations and then the end will come.

LITURGIES INTENTIONS

Daily Liturgies

2nd Sunday- SEASON OF THE HOLY CROSS

Monday, September 23 (Ar.)

Jonah the Prophet / Rev 3:1-6 / Mt 10:16-22

9:00 am + Antoine Karam Asmar, *By his wife, Nada, & daughter, Eliane*

Tuesday, September 24 (Eng.)

St. Thecia/ Rev 3:7-13/ Mt 11:20-24

9:00 am + Layal & Charle Beshara, *By Nada Asmar*

Wednesday, September 25 (Ar.)

St. Paphnutius/ Rev 3:14-22 / Mt 12:29-32

9:00 am + Antoine Karam Asmar, *By his wife, Nada, & daughter, Eliane*

Thursday, September 26 (Eng.)

St. John the Evangelist/ Rev 4:1-11 / Mt 12:33-37

9:00 am + Larry & Dora M. Pereira, *By Dora Pereira*

Friday, September 27-

NO LITURGY / OFFICE CLOSED

St. Vincent de Paul/ Rev 5:1-10 / Mt 12:38-42

Saturday, September 21 (Eng.)

St. Quadratus

4:00 pm For the good health of Walid Bijjani, *By his aunt, Lili Bijjani & Family*

Sunday, September 22

St Phocas & his Companions

9:30 am + **40 Day Anniversary** - Gladys George, *By her children and their families*

+Richard Maroon, *By his wife, Louise, & Family*

11:00 am + **40 Day Anniversary** - Mona Freiha Hayek, *By her son Jad Hayek, her in-laws, Khairallah and Khalil Hayek, Hala Hayek Namek, and their families*

3rd Sunday- SEASON OF THE HOLY CROSS

Saturday, September 28 (Eng.)

St. Chariton

4:00 pm + Richard Ferguson, *By his wife, Patricia, & son, Matthew*

Sunday, September 29

St. Romanos

9:30 am + John Purcell, *By his wife, Najla Azzi-Purcell*

11:00 am + **40 Day Anniversary** - Fr. Joseph Abi-Saad, *By Mr. Camille and Mr. Gaby Abdelnour, & Family*

PLEASE NOTE

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

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION

**World Mission Sunday –
October 19 & 20, 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!



Reflection on the Holy Gospel (*Matthew 24:1-14*)

Dear Parishioners,

In this passage from Matthew's Gospel, we encounter Jesus speaking to His disciples about the end of the age and the destruction of the Temple. His message seems alarming at first—speaking of wars, famines, and disasters—but Jesus offers us a deeper insight into the meaning of such events. He cautions us not to be deceived or overwhelmed by the tragedies of the world, but rather to see them as the beginning of something new: the birth pangs of a just and peaceful world.

Today, we witness persecution, division, and unrest around the globe. Christians, in particular, are facing great trials for their faith. But, as followers of Christ, we are called to stand in solidarity with those suffering, not with fear, but with hope. These events, painful as they may be, are not signs of God's absence but a reminder of our call to action.

Jesus uses the destruction of the Temple as a symbol of the crumbling systems and institutions that oppress and exclude. The end of the Temple is not the end of hope, but the beginning of transformation. Likewise, when we see injustice, inequality, and oppression in our world today, our response should not be to speculate about the end of time but to roll up our sleeves and work for peace, justice, and freedom.

As a parish, we must ask ourselves: How can we promote peace in our community? How can we challenge the injustices that surround us? And how can we ensure that every person experiences the freedom and dignity they deserve? In these questions, we find our mission. God calls us to be agents of change, reflecting His character by standing up for justice and working towards a world where peace reigns.

Let us pray and work together to build this world, beginning here in our parish, so that we may reflect God's love, peace, and justice in everything we do.

In Christ's love,

Father Neemtallah (Edgard) Oneissy

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.

MARONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION-MYO

MYO Co-Leaders: Geryes Geha & Gabrielle AbdulNour

Next Meeting:

Sunday, September 22, 2024 @ 5 - 7:00 pm

www.stanthonylawrence.org/myo/

KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Meeting:

**Saturday, October 5, 2024,
11 am- 12:30 pm @ Church hall**

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

KNIGHTS OF MARY

Co-Chair: Colette Sadek & Gretta Merheb

Kick Off Meeting:

Saturday, September 21, 2024 @ 4 - 6:30 pm

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Next Session:

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024 @ 5 - 7 pm

www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/

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



Thursday, October 17, 2024: Rosary @ 6:30pm
followed by The liturgy & procession

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

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

The family of **Elton G. McGray** who passed away peacefully last week surrounded by his loving family. We express our deepest sympathies to his wife Ibtissam (Samo Tarabay) McGray, his children, grandchildren, and their spouses, his nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.

May his soul rest in peace and

his memories be eternal.



The Maronite Seminary presents
A WEEKEND OF
Discernment

Wondering if the Lord is calling you to the priesthood in the Maronite Church?
Men aged 18-40 are invited for a weekend of fellowship, prayer, discussion and discernment.

Come and See on
NOVEMBER 1-3, 2024

at Our Lady of Lebanon
Maronite Seminary
7164 Alaska Avenue, NW,
Washington, DC 20012

Overnight accommodations provided.
Please RSVP(202)723-8831 or
maroniteseminary@comcast.net



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
-St. Anthony Council 16204

KOC Next Meeting:

Tuesday October 15, 2024

@ 7pm, Church Hall

Men 18 yrs. and older are encouraged to attend.

For information email: KOFc16204@gmail.com

OBSERVANCES

Beginning on October 1st, 2024, we will resume back to our normal schedule for Liturgies and Eucharistic Adoration:

- ◆ **Sunday Liturgies:** 8 am (Ar) 9:30 am (Eng), & 11 am (Ar & Eng)
- ◆ **Youth Liturgy:** Every first Sunday of the month @ 5 pm
- ◆ **Sacred Heart of Jesus Liturgy:** Every First Friday of the month @ 7 pm
- ◆ **Eucharistic Adoration:** Every Thursday following the daily 9 am liturgy

MAHRAJAN VOLUNTEERS' EVENT

All our devoted and dedicated Mahrajan volunteers who consistently ensure our success as a Parish Family, are invited to an

Appreciation Dinner
Saturday, October 19th, @ 7PM
 @ the Church Hall.

SANCTUARY LAMPS



**In Loving Memory of Fred & Mary Faris,
 By the Solomon Family**

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

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 21 - 4 pm - Anthony Ata
 Sunday, September 22 -
 9:30 am - David Brousseau
 11:00 am - (Eng) Max Khoury
 (Ar) Maribelle Spiridon

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 28 - 4 pm - Patricia Ferguson
 Sunday, September 29 -
 9:30 am - Angela Dahbour
 11:00 am - (Eng) Anthony Merheb
 (Ar) Gretta Merheb

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

BIRTHDAY WISHES

- September 21:** Rami Karam, Rachel Ramey, Kristine Sader
- September 22:** Helena Abou-Ezzi, Ibrahim Ata, Kelsie Collins, Andrew Cunha, Alexis Ead, Vatina Hassan, Mireille Joumaa, Christina Khoury, Michae Ota
- September 23:** Edgar Andary, Mariane El Hayek, Dave Flanagan, Saria Geha, Christopher Joseph, Adam Maroun, Anthony Panto, Grace Pappalardo,
- September 24:** Elias Bou-Chaaya, Maria Geha, Brian Khoury, Christopher Merheb, Joy Sadek,
- September 25:** Jane El Hachem, Bassam Geha, Chloe Mazraani, Lauren Santos, Rock Sfeir, Charlotte Solomon
- September 26:** Mary Ann Abdallah, Michael Bejjani, Destiny Geha, Nicole Motta, Derek Shadeed, Laurence Yameen,
- September 27:** Katia Assaf, Adelynn Harvey, Elie Merheb, Rita Rizk

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

- September 21:** Tony & Shannon Khoury
- September 22:** Fadi & Nada El Zaklit
- September 23:** Ronald & Alexis Ead
- September 24:** Raymond & Lisa Germanos
Elie & Elizabeth Nehme,
Pierre & Meara Younes
- September 25:** Charbel & Pascal Daher
Tony & Joumana Hashem
- September 26:** Robert & Beverly Schiripo
- September 27:** Fred & Lori Corey

2024 ANNUAL LEBANESE FESTIVAL
Featuring
Mitchell Kaltsunas
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Jad Rahme
Saturday

DJ Ray
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

SAINT THERESA MARONITE CHURCH
343 N Main Street
Brockton, MA

Friday, September 20
from 5:00 P.M. till 1:00 A.M.

Saturday, September 21
from 4:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M.

Sunday, September 22
from 12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Extra Parking available at the Angele School at 472 N Main Street and at the old AMR Ambulance Center adjacent to our Parking Lot

FREE ADMISSION

No outside Food, Drinks or Hookah allowed

Baskets Auction

BAR

RAFFLE!

Designed by: Adeeb

ST. SHARBEL PARISH CTR
300 N. EASTERN AVE
FALL RIVER, MA

JOIN US FOR OUR

ANNUAL PARISH HAFLI

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 5, 2024

7:30PM - 12:30AM

\$80/PERSON
VIP - \$100/PERSON

FEATURING LEBANESE SUPERSTAR
CHRIS HAWAT
WITH BACHIR KHOURY & BAND

CASH BAR

FULL DINNER BUFFET

FOR RESERVATIONS: PARISH OFFICE 608-672-7653 TONY AKOURI 401-241-1976 FADI HENEINE 774-526-9994

AUGUST MONTHLY COLLECTION

**Saint Anthony Maronite Church
Account Totals By Week
For 08/01/2024 - 08/31/2024**

Week of 08/04/2024

Assumption	40.00	Candles	68.00
Sunday Collection	3,300.10	Utilities, Fuel & Electricity	703.00
			Total \$4,111.10

Week of 08/11/2024

Assumption	65.00	Candles	94.00
Sunday Collection	1,810.00	Utilities, Fuel & Electricity	110.00
			Total \$2,079.00

Week of 08/18/2024

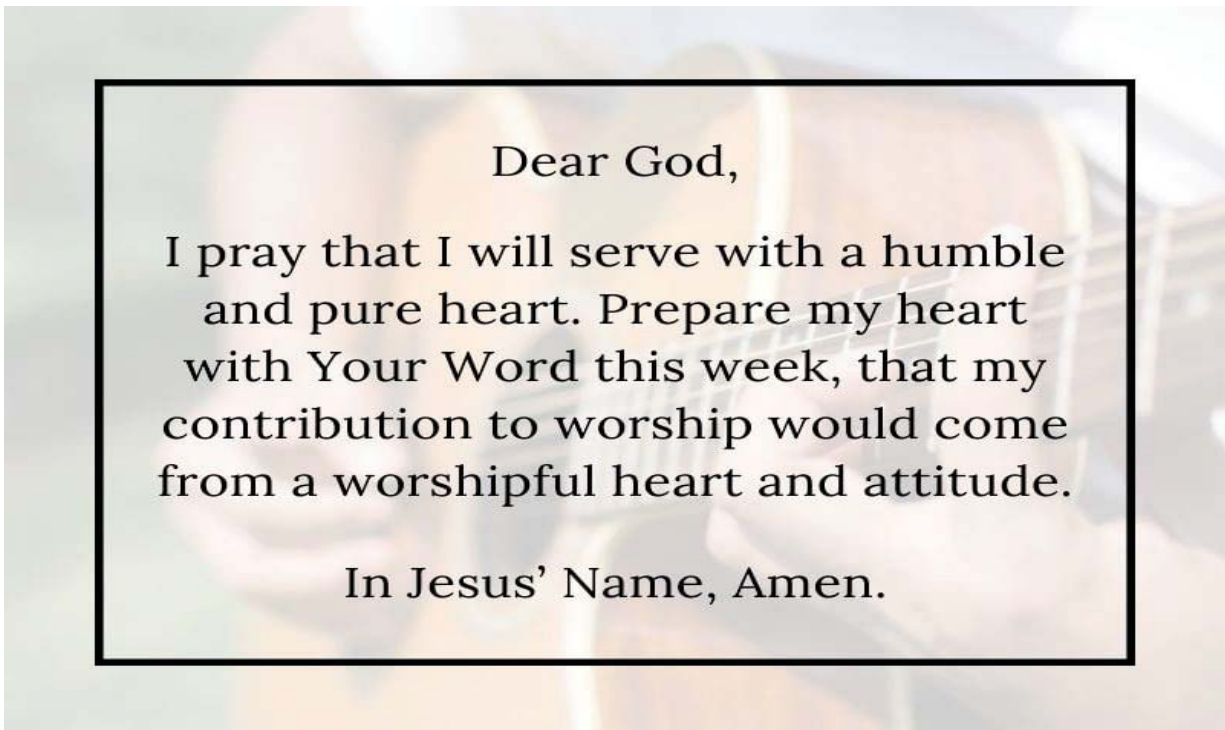
Assumption	222.00	Candles	189.00
Sunday Collection	3,251.00	Utilities, Fuel & Electricity	285.00
			Total \$3,947.00

Week of 08/25/2024

Assumption	10.00	Candles	83.00
Sunday Collection	2,320.10	Utilities, Fuel & Electricity	15.00
			Total \$2,428.10

Total \$12,565.20

****Please note that the Mahrajan financial report will be published upon the completion of all accounts payable and receivable.*



Second Sunday after Holy Cross

Book of Joel 2:1. 10-13, 15-16a

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near. The earth quakes before them, the heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. The LORD utters his voice at the head of his army; how vast is his host! Numberless are those who obey his command. Truly the day of the LORD is great; terrible indeed who can endure it? Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the LORD, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

First Letter to the Corinthians 15: 19-34

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For 'God has put all things in subjection under his feet.' But when it says, 'All things are put in subjection', it is plain that this does not include the one who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who put all things in subjection under him, so that God may be all in all. Otherwise, what will those people do who receive baptism on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? And why are we putting ourselves in danger every hour? I die every day! That is as certain, brothers and sisters, as my boasting of you a boast that I make in Christ Jesus our Lord. If with merely human hopes I fought with wild animals at Ephesus, what would I have gained by it? If the dead are not raised, 'Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.' Do not be deceived: 'Bad company ruins good morals.' Come to a sober and right mind, and sin no more; for some people have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew 24: 1-14

As Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. Then he asked them, 'You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.' When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?' Jesus answered them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, "I am the Messiah!" and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs. 'Then they will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. Then many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. But anyone who endures to the end will be saved. And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations; and then the end will come.

الأحد الثاني بعد عيد الصليب: تدمير الهيكل ونهاية الأزمنة

سفر يونس 2: 10. 13 - 15. 16

أَنْفَخُوا فِي الْبُوقِ فِي صِهْيُونَ، وَاهْتَفُوا فِي جَبَلِ قُدْسِي وَلِيَرْتَعِدْ جَمِيعُ سُكَّانِ الْأَرْضِ فَإِنَّ يَوْمَ الرَّبِّ آتٍ وَهُوَ قَرِيبٌ. مِنْ وَجْهِهِ أَرْتَعَدَتِ الْأَرْضُ وَرَجَفَتِ السَّمَاوَاتُ وَأَظْلَمَتِ الشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ وَسَحَبَتِ الْكَوَاكِبُ ضِيَاءَهَا وَجَهَرَ الرَّبُّ بِصَوْتِهِ أَمَامَ جَيْشِهِ لِإِنَّ عَسْكَرَهُ كَثِيرٌ جِدًّا مُقْتَدِرٌ يَنْفِذُ كَلِمَتَهُ لِأَنَّهُ عَظِيمٌ يَوْمَ الرَّبِّ وَهَائِلٌ جِدًّا. فَمَنْ الَّذِي يُطِيقُهُ؟ فَالآنَ، يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ: «ارْجِعُوا إِلَيَّ بِكُلِّ قَلْبِكُمْ وَبِالصَّوْمِ وَالْبُكَاءِ وَالْإِنْتِحَابِ. مَزَقُوا قُلُوبَكُمْ لَا تِيَابِكُمْ وَارْجِعُوا إِلَى الرَّبِّ إِلَهُكُمْ فَإِنَّهُ حَنُونٌ رَحِيمٌ طَوِيلُ الْأَنَاءِ كَثِيرُ الرَّحْمَةِ وَنَادِمٌ عَلَى الشَّرِّ. أَنْفَخُوا فِي الْبُوقِ فِي صِهْيُونَ وَأَوْصُوا بِصَوْمٍ مُقَدَّسٍ وَنَادُوا بِأَحْتِفَالٍ. اجْمَعُوا الشَّعْبَ وَقَدِّسُوا الْجَمَاعَةَ وَاجْمَعُوا الشُّيُوخَ وَاجْمَعُوا الْأَطْفَالَ وَارْاضِعِي الْأَتْدَاءَ وَلِيَخْرُجِ الْعَرِيسُ مِنْ مُخْدَعِهِ وَالْعَرُوسُ مِنْ خَدْرِهَا.»

رسالة القديس بولس الأولى إلى أهل كورنتس 15: 19-34

يا إخوتي، إِنْ كُنَّا نَرْجُو الْمَسِيحَ فِي هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةِ وَحَسَبُ، فَكُنْ أَشَقَى النَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ! وَالْحَالُ أَنَّ الْمَسِيحَ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، وَهُوَ بَاكُورَةُ الرَّاقِدِينَ. فِيمَا أَنَّ الْمَوْتَ كَانَ بِوَاسِطَةِ إِنْسَانٍ، فَبِوَاسِطَةِ إِنْسَانٍ أَيْضًا تَكُونُ قِيَامَةُ الْأَمْوَاتِ. فَكَمَا أَنَّهُ فِي آدَمَ يَمُوتُ الْجَمِيعُ، كَذَلِكَ فِي الْمَسِيحِ سَيَحْيَا الْجَمِيعُ، كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ فِي رُتْبَتِهِ: الْمَسِيحُ أَوَّلًا، لِأَنَّهُ الْبَاكُورَةُ، ثُمَّ الَّذِينَ هُمْ لِلْمَسِيحِ، عِنْدَ مَجِيئِهِ. وَبَعْدَ ذَلِكَ تَكُونُ النَّهَايَةُ، حِينَ يُسَلِّمُ الْمَسِيحُ الْمُلْكَ إِلَى اللَّهِ الْآبِ، بَعْدَ أَنْ يَكُونَ قَدْ أَبْطَلَ كُلَّ رِئَاسَةٍ وَكُلَّ سُلْطَانٍ وَقُوَّةٍ، لِأَنَّهُ لَا بُدَّ لِلْمَسِيحِ أَنْ يَمْلِكَ، إِلَى أَنْ يَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ جَمِيعَ أَعْدَائِهِ تَحْتَ قَدَمَيْهِ. وَآخِرُ عَدُوٍّ يُبْطَلُ هُوَ الْمَوْتُ. لَقَدْ أَخْضَعَ اللَّهُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ تَحْتَ قَدَمَيْهِ. وَحِينَ يَقُولُ الْكِتَابُ: «أَخْضَعَ لَهُ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ»، فَمِنْ الْوَاضِحِ أَنَّهُ يَسْتَنْبِي اللَّهُ الَّذِي أَخْضَعَ لَهُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ. وَمَتَى أَخْضَعَ لِلْآبِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، فَحِينَئِذٍ يَخْضَعُ الْآبُنُ نَفْسَهُ لِلَّذِي أَخْضَعَ لَهُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، حَتَّى يَكُونَ اللَّهُ الْكُلُّ فِي الْكُلِّ. وَإِلَّا فَمَاذَا يَفْعَلُ الَّذِينَ يَتَعَمَّدُونَ مِنْ أَجْلِ الْأَمْوَاتِ؟ إِنْ كَانَ الْأَمْوَاتُ لَا يَقُومُونَ أَبَدًا، فَلِمَاذَا يَتَعَمَّدُونَ مِنْ أَجْلِهِمْ؟ وَنَحْنُ، فَلِمَاذَا نَعْرِضُ أَنْفُسَنَا كُلَّ سَاعَةٍ لِلْخَطَرِ؟ أَقْسِمُ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةَ، بِمَا لِي مِنْ فَخْرٍ بِكُمْ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ رَبِّنَا، أَيُّ أَوَاجِهِ الْمَوْتَ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ. إِنْ كُنْتُ صَارَعْتُ الْوُحُوشَ فِي أَفْسُسَ، لِغَايَةِ بَشْرِيَّةٍ، فَأَيُّ نَفْعٍ لِي؟ وَإِنْ كَانَ الْأَمْوَاتُ لَا يَقُومُونَ، فَلِنَأْكُلْ وَنَشْرَبْ، لِأَنَّنا عَدَا سَنَمُوتُ! لَا تَضَلُّوا! إِنَّ الْمَعَاشِرَاتِ السَّيِّئَةَ تُفْسِدُ الْأَخْلَاقَ السَّالِمَةَ! أَيَقْظُوا قُلُوبَكُمْ بِالنَّفْوَى، وَلَا تَخْطُأُوا، فَإِنَّ بَعْضًا مِنْكُمْ يَجْهَلُونَ اللَّهَ! أَقُولُ هَذَا لِإِحْبَابِكُمْ!

إنجيل القديس متى 1: 24-14

خَرَجَ يَسُوعُ مِنَ الْهَيْكَلِ وَمَضَى. فَدَنَا مِنْهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ يُلْفِتُونَ نَظْرَهُ إِلَى أُنْبِيَةِ الْهَيْكَلِ. فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «أَلَا تَنْظُرُونَ هَذَا كُلَّهُ؟ أَلَحَقَّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: لَنْ يُبْرَكَ هُنَا حَجْرٌ عَلَى حَجَرٍ إِلَّا وَيُنْقَضُ.» وَفِيمَا هُوَ جَالِسٌ عَلَى جَبَلِ الزَيْتُونِ، دَنَا مِنْهُ التَّلَامِيذُ عَلَى أَنْفِرَادٍ قَائِلِينَ: «قُلْ لَنَا مَتَى يَكُونُ هَذَا، وَمَا هِيَ عَلَامَةُ مَجِيئِكَ وَنَهَايَةِ الْعَالَمِ؟.» فَأَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «إِحْذَرُوا أَنْ يُضِلَّكُمْ أَحَدٌ! فَكثيرونَ سيأتونَ بِأَسْمِي قَائِلِينَ: «أَنَا هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ! وَيُضِلُّونَ الْكثيَريَينَ. وَسَوْفَ تَسْمَعُونَ بِحُرُوبٍ وَبِأَخْبَارِ حُرُوبٍ، أَنْظَرُوا، لَا تَرْتَعِبُوا! فَلَإِنَّ بَدْءَ أَنْ يَحْدُثَ هَذَا. وَلَكِنْ لَيْسَتْ النَّهَايَةُ بَعْدَ! سَتَقُومُ أُمَّةٌ عَلَى أُمَّةٍ، وَمَمْلَكَةٌ عَلَى مَمْلَكَةٍ، وَتَكُونُ مَجَاعَاتٌ وَزَلَزَلٌ فِي أَمَاكِنَ شَتَّى، وَهَذَا كُلُّهُ أَوَّلُ الْمَخَاضِ. حِينَئِذٍ يُسَلِّمُونَكُمْ إِلَى الضِّيقِ، وَيَقْتُلُونَكُمْ، وَيُبَغِضُوكُمْ جَمِيعُ الْأُمَمِ مِنْ أَجْلِ أَسْمِي. وَحِينَئِذٍ يَرْتَدُّ الْكثيَرونَ عَنِ الْإِيمَانِ، وَيُسَلِّمُ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا، وَيُبَغِضُ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا. وَيَقُومُ أُنْبِيَاءُ كَذِبَةٌ كَثِيرُونَ وَيُضِلُّونَ الْكثيَريَينَ. وَلِكثَرَةِ الْإِثْمِ تَفْتَرُ مَحَبَّةُ الْكثيَريَينَ. وَمَنْ يَصْبِرُ إِلَى النَّهَايَةِ يَخْلُصُ. وَيُكْرَزُ بِإِنْجِيلِ الْمَلَكُوتِ هَذَا فِي الْمَسْكُونَةِ كُلِّهَا شَهَادَةً لِجَمِيعِ الْأُمَمِ، وَحِينَئِذٍ تَأْتِي النَّهَايَةُ.»

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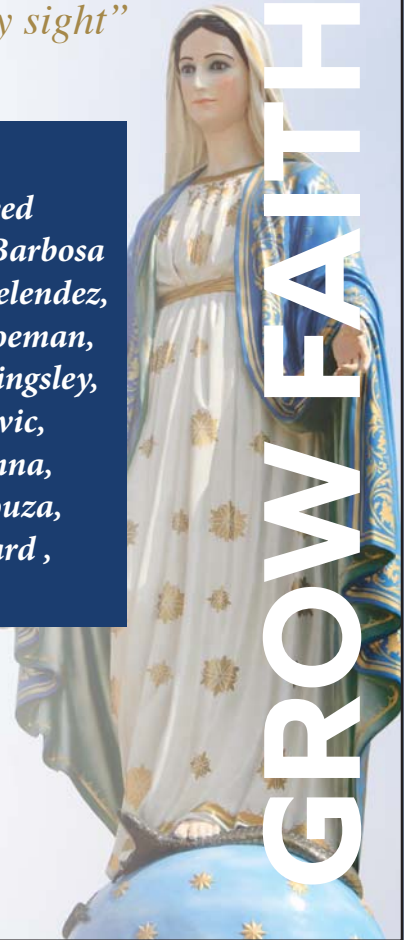
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