



# *Season of the Glorious Epiphany*

A photograph of a person's lower legs and feet. They are wearing a white, flowing dress and high-heeled sandals. They are walking on a sandy beach, with their feet sinking into the sand. The text 'Come and See' and 'JOHN 1:35-42' is overlaid on the image.

# **Come and See**

**JOHN 1:35-42**

## **PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

*You are welcomed & loved by St Anthony's Maronite Church Community  
We are transformed through prayer, acts of love, forgiveness, service & stewardship*

PARISH OFFICE: 978-685-7233    FAX: 978-688-4475    Website: [stanthonylawrence.org](http://stanthonylawrence.org)  
Office E-mail: [rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)

## LITURGIES INTENTIONS

### 2nd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

**Saturday, January 18** (Eng) *St. Athanasius & St. Cyril*

**4:00 pm** + Chukri, Nadia, & Salma Awil, Elias & Mariam Khoder, *By Mr. & Mrs. Youssef Khoder & family*

**Sunday, January 19** *St. Macarius of Egypt*

**8:00 am** Private Intention

**9:30 am** For the Good Health & well being of Gabriel Hassan, *By his family.*

**11:00 am** In Honor of the New President of the United States of America

### 3rd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

**Saturday, January 25** (Eng) *Conversion of St. Paul*

**4:00 pm** + Private Intentions

**Sunday, January 26** *St. Agnes*

**8:00 am** Private Intentions

**9:30 am** + **1st Anniversary** - Halim Rizkallah, *By his son Charles Clement, & family*

**11:00 am** + Tannous Ata, *By his wife, Leila, & family*

### Daily Liturgies

**Monday, January 20** (Ar) - **OFFICE CLOSED**  
*St. Euthymius the Great / 2 Cor 1:1-11 / Jn 1:43-51*

**9:00 am** + Elton McGray, *By Mr. & Mrs. John Maksou, & family*

**Tuesday, January 21** (Eng)  
*St. Sebastian / 2 Cor 1:12-24 / Lk 5:1-11*

**9:00 am** + Private Intentions

**Wednesday, January 22** (Ar)  
*St. Timothy / 2 Cor 2:1-11 / Mt 4:18-25*

\*No Morning Liturgy due to a Funeral.

**Thursday, January 23** (Eng)  
*Pope St. Sergius / 2 Cor 2:12-17 / Mt 9:9-13*

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

**9:30 am** Eucharistic Adoration

**Friday, January 24** - **OFFICE CLOSED**  
*St. Francis de Sales / 2 Cor 12:17 - 13:4 / Mt 9:35-38*

### OBSERVANCES

**Monday, January 20, 2025** -  
**Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Office Closed**

### UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION

**United States Catholic Bishops' Worldwide Charities - USCCB: January 25 & 26, 2025**

### PLEASE NOTE

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



## Does God Punish? A Reflection on the California Fires

Dear Parishioners,

In moments of tragedy, such as the devastating fires in Los Angeles, California, some voices hasten to label these events as a punishment from God, projecting a harsh image of a deity who strikes down in wrath as a reaction to a comment saying that "LA is a Godless city". However, such views contradict the heart of the Bible, the Church's teaching, and the very nature of God, who is revealed as a God of love, mercy, and compassion. Does God punish?

The God we believe in does not desire destruction but salvation for all His children. Scripture reminds us, "God our Savior... desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:3-4). Our faith proclaims a God who "is rich in mercy" (Ephesians 2:4) and who continually calls us to Himself with patience and love. How can, this same merciful God, hurt, and torture his children? God respects the gift of free will He has given us, allowing each person to choose to believe in Him or not. This freedom underscores His desire for authentic love, which cannot be coerced or forced. Even when humanity rejects Him, God does not retaliate with punishment but waits patiently, offering grace and forgiveness to all who turn to Him. The parable of the prodigal son beautifully illustrates this truth: God waits with open arms for the return of His wayward children, not to condemn them, but to welcome them back with joy. How can this same God who waits for his children to come to him, hurt, and tortures and causes so much pain?

When natural disasters occur, rather than seeing them as divine retribution, we are called to respond as people who truly know God. If we understand God's heart, our response must be one of mercy, empathy, and solidarity. Moments of suffering are not opportunities to impose judgment but to extend the compassion of Christ. As St. Paul writes, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15). Using disasters to declare divine punishment often reveals more about human pride and misunderstanding than it does about God. It shifts the focus away from the Gospel message of love and healing to a distorted portrayal of a vengeful deity. Instead, as followers of Christ, we are called to build bridges, comfort the afflicted, and be instruments of God's mercy.

Brothers and sisters, let us not be like the Pharisees, judgmental and arrogant, instead, let us know that God is for everyone, he came to give us the fullness of life, not death. Let us pray for those affected by the fires. In doing so, we reflect the God who is "slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (Psalm 103:8). Our mission is not to declare punishment but to embody the love of God, inviting others into the hope and healing that only He can provide.

In Christ's love,

**Fr. 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** 8am(Ar) 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](mailto:pastor@stanthonylawrence.org)

### MEET OUR DEACONS:

*Nadim Daou, James T. Demers,  
& David Leard*

**Sub-Deacon:** Antoine Nammour

### CLERGY DAY OFF

Fr. Neemtallah: **Fridays**

### 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.

### M-WINE

**“We Serve Better Together”**



#### Day Retreat:

**Saturday, February 1st, 2025**

**11 am - 4 pm @ Church Hall**

*(Followed by 4pm Liturgy)*

This special retreat will feature the **Maronite Servants of Christ the Light** and include a delicious brunch.

**More details coming soon!**

We hope to see you there!

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**-St. Anthony Council 16204**



**“In Service To One,**

**In Service To All”**

Next meeting:

**Tuesday February 11, 2025**

**@ 7 pm, Church Hall**

Men 18 yrs. and older are encouraged to attend.

For information email: [KofC16204@gmail.com](mailto:KofC16204@gmail.com)

### Family of St Sharbel &

### Our Lady of Lebanon Ladies Guild



Thursday, February 20, 2025:

Rosary @ 6:30pm

Followed by Liturgy & Procession

Every Tuesday—Zoom Prayer @ 8pm

Zoom ID: 335616991

Passcode: 816342

**Or you can join by clicking this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/335616991>

For more information email:

[communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org](mailto:communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org)

### KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Next Meeting:

**Saturday, February 1, 2025,  
11 am– 12:30 pm @ Church hall**

*Remember to bring your handbooks to the meetings.*

*New applicants are always welcome!*

### KNIGHTS OF MARY

Next Session:

**Saturday, January 18, 2025 @ 5 - 7 pm**

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/events-2/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/events-2/)

### MARONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION-MYO

Next Meeting:

**Sunday, January 19, 2025 @ 6 - 7:30 pm**

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/myo/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/myo/)

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Next Sessions:

**Saturday, January 25, 2025 @ 5 - 7 pm**

*Please visit our website for the yearly calendar*

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/calendar-classes-and-events/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/calendar-classes-and-events/)



## THE MEN OF ST. JOSEPH

#### Purpose:

*Form a Men of Saint Joseph (MSJ) group at Saint Anthony’s church taking the earthly father of Jesus as a guide and intercessor, and create the opportunity to pray, share our experience and grow in faith together on our journey to eternal life promised to us by Jesus the crucified.*

#### Monthly Meeting Schedule

*Third Saturday of every month @ 8 am at Saint Anthony Maronite Church Hall.*

### SANCTUARY LAMPS



**In Memory of Chukri, Nadia, & Salma Awil, *By their family***



**In Memory of Elias & Mariam Khoder, *By their family***

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:

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



#### Sign up for FREE with our parish account

1. Go to [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup)
2. Search for your parish by Zip Code/Postal Code  
Click on your parish.
3. Register with your name and email address
4. Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED.

### 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.

### BE PART OF OUR MINISTRIES

#### Religious Education

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form/)

#### Maronite Youth Organization -MYO

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-2/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-2/)

#### Maronite Young Adults -MYA

*Please email the Parish to add your name to the MYA Group: [rectory@stanthonylawrence.org](mailto:rectory@stanthonylawrence.org)*

#### Knights of Mary -KOM

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-4/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/registration-form-4/)

#### Knights of the Altars

[www.stanthonylawrence.org/application/](http://www.stanthonylawrence.org/application/)

*In addition our Parish takes pride and invites you to be part of the other ministries such as:*

- *Daughters of St Anthony*
- *Our Lady of Lebanon Sodality*
- *Sunshine Committee*
- *M-Wine*
- *Bereavement Ministry*
- *Ushers*
- *Men's Ministry*

### 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 to be planted: Kousa Dogwood*

### 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)

<p><b>BAKED KIBBEE DINNER</b></p> <p><b>SAT, JAN. 18, 2025</b> 4:30PM TO 7:30PM</p> <p><b>SANDWICHES</b> · AVAILABLE BOTH DAYS</p> <p>BAKED KIBBEE SANDWICH \$10 KIBBEE, SALAD, DRESSING</p> <p><b>DINNERS</b> : 1 PIECE AVAILABLE BOTH DAYS</p> <p>BAKED KIBBEE DINNER \$15</p> <p>DINNER COMES WITH HUMMUS, TABOULI, AND RICE</p> <p>SIDE ORDER/EXTRA KIBBEE \$8</p> <p><b>SIDES</b> · AVAILABLE BOTH DAYS</p> <p>HUMMUS \$5 TABOULI \$5 RICE \$5 TZATZIKI YOGURT \$5 SODA/WATER \$2</p>	<p><b>SAINT ANTHONY K of C SPONSORS</b></p>  <p>IN HONOR OF THE FEAST OF ST ANTHONY THE GREAT</p> <p><b>PRE-ORDER AVAILABLE</b></p> <p>CONTACT:</p> <p>WISSAM MERHEB 978.853.5145 ROBERT OWAIDA 978.423.9407</p> <p>145 AMESBURY ST LAWRENCE, MA</p> <p>CASH OR CHECK</p>	<p><b>FALAFEL AND KIBBEE LUNCH</b></p> <p><b>SUN, JAN. 19, 2025</b> 10:30AM TO 1:30PM</p> <p><b>SANDWICHES</b></p> <p>FALAFEL SANDWICH \$10 PARSLEY, TOMATO, PICKLE, TAHINI SAUCE</p> <p><b>PLATTERS</b></p> <p>FALAFEL PLATE 6PC \$15 6PC FALAFEL, PARSLEY, TOMATO, PICKLE, TAHINI SAUCE, BREAD</p> <p>FALAFEL DOZEN \$25 12PC FALAFEL, PARSLEY, TOMATO, PICKLE, TAHINI SAUCE, BREAD</p> <p><b>KIBBEE OPTIONS</b> SAME FOR BOTH DAYS</p> <p>YOUR SUPPORT ALLOWS US TO HELP THOSE IN NEED AND PARISH MINISTRIES THANK YOU</p>
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**Annual Haftli**

*Save the Date*

Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> @ The Church Hall

**MARONITE HISTORY**

**SAVE THE DATES!**

Online Workshops at 8pm:

- Feb. 6 – St. Maron & the Maronite Liturgy (Fr. Dominique Hanna)
- Feb. 13– Maronite Music & Melodies (Fr. Neemtallah Oneissy)
- Feb. 20 – Maronites & the Holy See (Chorbishop John Faris)

VIA ZOOM

Hosted by the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light in conjunction with the St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center.

To register and/or to learn more visit:  
maroniteservants.org  
saintsharbelcenter.org




**WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS**  
01/12/2025

Candles	\$103.00
Donation	\$620.00
Epiphany	\$195.00
Maronite Calendar	\$38.00
New Year's Day	\$110.00
Sunday Collection	\$2,213.90
Utilities, Fuel, & Electricity	\$400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,679.90</b>

*Thank you for your generous support to our parish. 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!*

**ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL**  
*Forming Saints and Scholars Since 1914*



**OPEN HOUSE**  
ENROLLING NURSERY - GRADE 8

Wednesday, January 22nd  
9:30 - 11AM | 5:30 - 7PM

Discover how we bring our mission of forming the next generation of saints and scholars to life. Come meet our faculty and administrators, explore our classrooms, tour the campus, chat with current parents and more!

We can't wait to welcome you!

26 Central Street, Andover MA



[www.staugustineandover.org](http://www.staugustineandover.org)

**2025 EPARCHIAL MYO RETREAT**



**MIRROR**  
REFLECT YOUR LIGHT  
FEBRUARY 15 - 17

**SOUTH & FAR SOUTH REGIONS**

\$249 PER PERSON

ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 7-12 ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

CAMP KULAQUA  
HIGH SPRINGS, FLORIDA

[myoeparchystmaron.org](http://myoeparchystmaron.org)  
REGISTRATION OPEN UNTIL JAN 20

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### Baptized & Confirmed

**Aubrie Brault**

***Congratulations for receiving, Baptism,  
Confirmation, & First Communion***

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

### BIRTHDAY WISHES

**January 18 :** Elias Abou Zeid, Joseph Aboukhalil,  
Adam Khalil, Nader Nader,  
Louie Ramy, Mike Solomon

**January 19 :** Adam Bejjani, Assaad El Hayek,  
George Kassas, Sienna Levy,  
Jack Pelletier

**January 20:** Joseph Chamoun, Rosa Maria Saliba

**January 21 :** Rachelle Abou-Ezzi, Luke Avedisian,  
Maroun Nassar

**January 22:** Theresea Bou Sanayeh,  
Wren Dazelle, Paulette Issa,  
Aubrey Jefferson, Rebecca Nassar,  
Jessica Nassar, Michael Saad

**January 23:** Joe Al Akoury, Gisele Georges,  
Janette Nadira

**January 24:** Eliane Bouraphael, Andrea Dahbour,  
Lauren Deschene, James Hajj,  
Dean Levy

### ANNIVERSARY WISHES

**January 18:** Sami & Amale Aoun  
Tanios & Isabel Ata

**January 20:** Melhem & Eliana Hachem

**January 21:** David & Tammy Mallen

**January 22:** George & Celestie Jbeily

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

*Saturday, January 18 - 4 pm - Carla Khoder*

*Sunday, January 19 -*

8:00 am - Mouna Hbaiter

9:30 am - Catherine Abou Khalil

11:00 am - *(Eng)* Mary Saab

*(Ar)* George Saab

### LECTORS SCHEDULE

*Saturday, January 25- 4 pm - Meghan Twing*

*Sunday, January 26 -*

8:00 am - Hitaf Nammour

9:30 am - Michael Faris

11:00 am - *(Eng)* Anthony Ata

*(Ar)* Amale Chantiri

### MASS INTENTIONS

Liturgies are offered for many reasons:

- ◆ For the souls in purgatory
- ◆ In remembrance of our loved ones who are deceased
- ◆ In honor of someone's birthday
- ◆ Special anniversary, and more.

Liturgy stipend or offering given, signifies the sacrificial nature of giving something of yourself to associate more intimately with Christ who offers himself in the Eucharist.

Please contact the Parish Office to book your mass intentions or for more inquiries.

## Second Sunday after Epiphany: Revelation of Christ's Mystery to the Apostles

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*Book of Jeremiah 1: 4-10*

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.' Then I said, 'Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' But the LORD said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.' Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, 'Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.'

*Second Letter to the Corinthians 4: 5-15*

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture 'I believed, and so I spoke' we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

*Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint John 1: 35 - 42*

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).



## الأحد الثاني بعد الدنح: إعتلان سرّ المسيح للرسل

سفر إرميا 1: 4-10

كَانَتْ كَلِمَةُ الرَّبِّ إِلَيَّ قَائِلًا: «قَبْلَ أَنْ أَصَوِّرَكَ فِي الْبَطْنِ عَرَفْتُكَ وَقَبْلَ أَنْ تَخْرُجَ مِنَ الرَّحِمِ قَدَسْتُكَ وَجَعَلْتُكَ نَبِيًّا لِلْأُمَّمِ. «فَقُلْتُ: «أَهْ أَيُّهَا السَّيِّدُ الرَّبُّ هَاءِنْدَا لَا أَعْرِفُ أَنْ أَتَكَلَّمَ لِأَيِّ وَادٍ. «فَقَالَ لِي الرَّبُّ: «لَا تَقُلْ إِنِّي وَادٌ فَأَنْتَ لِكُلِّ مَنْ أَرْسَلْتُكَ لَهُ تَذَهَبُ وَكُلُّ مَا أَمُرُكَ بِهِ تَقُولُ. لَا تَخَفْ مِنْ وُجُوهِمْ فَإِنِّي أَنَا مَعَكَ لِأَنْقِذَكَ»، يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ. ثُمَّ مَدَّ الرَّبُّ يَدَهُ وَلَمَسَ فَمِي وَقَالَ لِي الرَّبُّ: «هَاءِنْدَا قَدْ جَعَلْتُ كَلَامِي فِي فَمِكَ. أَنْظُرْ، إِنِّي أَقْمُنُكَ الْيَوْمَ عَلَى الْأُمَّمِ وَعَلَى الْمَمَالِكِ لِتَقْلَعَ وَتَهْدِمَ وَتَهْلِكَ وَتَنْقُضَ وَتَبْنِي وَتَعْرَسَ.»

رسالة القديس بولس الثانية إلى أهل قورنثس 4: 5-15

يَا إِخْوَتِي، نَحْنُ لَا نُبَشِّرُ بِأَنْفُسِنَا، بَلْ نُبَشِّرُ بِيَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ رَبًّا، وَبِأَنْفُسِنَا عِبِيدًا لَكُمْ مِنْ أَجْلِ يَسُوعِ؛ لِأَنَّ اللَّهَ الَّذِي قَالَ: «لِيُشْرِقَ مِنَ الظُّلْمَةِ نُورٌ!»، هُوَ الَّذِي أَشْرَقَ فِي قُلُوبِنَا، لِئَسْتَنِيرَ فَنَعْرِفَ مَجْدَ اللَّهِ الْمُتَجَلِّي فِي وَجْهِ الْمَسِيحِ. وَلَكِنَّا نَحْمِلُ هَذَا الْكَنْزَ فِي أَنْيَّةٍ مِنْ خَزَفٍ، لِيُظْهَرَ أَنَّ تِلْكَ الْقُدْرَةَ الْفَائِقَةَ هِيَ مِنَ اللَّهِ لَا مِنَّا. يُضَيِّقُ عَلَيْنَا مِنْ كُلِّ جِهَةٍ وَلَكِنَّا لَا نُسْحَقُ، نَخْتَارُ فِي أَمْرِنَا وَلَكِنَّا لَا نِيَأْسُ، نُضْطَهَدُ وَلَكِنَّا لَا نُهْمَلُ، نُنبَذُ وَلَكِنَّا لَا نَهْلِكُ، وَنَحْمِلُ فِي جَسَدِنَا كُلَّ حِينٍ مَوْتَ يَسُوعِ، لِكَيْ تَظْهَرَ حَيَاةُ يَسُوعِ أَيْضًا فِي جَسَدِنَا؛ فَإِنَّا نَحْنُ الْأَحْيَاءُ نُسَلِّمُ دَوْمًا إِلَى الْمَوْتِ، مِنْ أَجْلِ يَسُوعِ، لِكَيْ تَظْهَرَ حَيَاةُ يَسُوعِ أَيْضًا فِي جَسَدِنَا الْمَائِتِ. فَالْمَوْتُ يَعْمَلُ فِيْنَا، وَالْحَيَاةُ تَعْمَلُ فِيكُمْ. وَلَكِنْ بِمَا أَنَّ لَنَا رُوحَ الْإِيمَانِ عَيْنُهُ، كَمَا هُوَ مَكْتُوبُ: «آمَنْتُ، وَلِذَلِكَ تَكَلَّمْتُ»، فَحْنُ أَيْضًا نُؤْمِنُ، وَلِذَلِكَ نَتَكَلَّمُ. وَنَحْنُ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّ ذَلِكَ الَّذِي أَقَامَ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعِ، سَيُقِيمُنَا نَحْنُ أَيْضًا مَعَ يَسُوعِ، وَيَجْعَلُنَا وَإِيَّاكُمْ فِي حَضْرَتِهِ. فَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ هُوَ مِنْ أَجْلِكُمْ، لِكَيْ تَكْتُنِرَ الْبِعْمَةَ، فَيَفِيضَ الشُّكْرُ فِي قُلُوبِ الْكَثِيرِينَ لِمَجْدِ اللَّهِ.

إنجيل القديس يوحنا 1: 35-42

فِي الْعَدِّ أَيْضًا كَانَ يُوحَنَّا وَاقِفًا هُوَ وَأَنْثَانِ مِنْ تَلَامِيذِهِ. وَرَأَى يَسُوعَ مَرًّا فَحَدَّقَ إِلَيْهِ وَقَالَ: «هَا هُوَ حَمَلُ اللَّهِ.» وَسَمِعَ التِّلْمِيذَانِ كَلَامَهُ، فَتَبِعَا يَسُوعَ. وَالتَفَتَ يَسُوعُ، فَرَأَهُمَا يَتَّبِعَانِهِ، فَقَالَ لَهُمَا: «مَآذَا تَطْلُبَانِ؟» فَقَالَا لَهُ: «رَبِّنَا، أَيَّ يَا مُعَلِّمَ، أَيْنَ تُقِيمُ؟» «قَالَ لَهُمَا: «تَعَالِيَا وَأَنْظُرَا.» فَذَهَبَا وَنَظَرَا أَيْنَ يُقِيمُ. وَأَقَامَا عِنْدَهُ ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمَ، وَكَانَتِ السَّاعَةُ نَحْوَ الرَّابِعَةِ بَعْدَ الظُّهْرِ. وَكَانَ أَنْدَرَاؤُسُ أَخُو سِمْعَانَ بُطْرُسَ أَحَدَ التِّلْمِيذَيْنِ، الَّذِينَ سَمِعَا كَلَامَ يُوحَنَّا وَتَبِعَا يَسُوعَ. وَلَقِيَ أَوْلَا أَخَاهُ سِمْعَانَ، فَقَالَ لَهُ: «وَجَدْنَا مَشِيحًا، أَيَّ الْمَسِيحِ.» وَجَاءَ بِهِ إِلَى يَسُوعِ، فَحَدَّقَ يَسُوعُ إِلَيْهِ وَقَالَ: «أَنْتَ هُوَ سِمْعَانُ بْنُ يُونَا، أَنْتَ سَتُدْعَى كَيْفَا، أَيَّ بُطْرُسَ الصَّخْرَةَ.»

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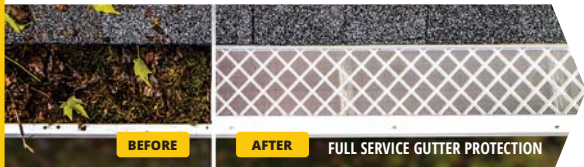


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