

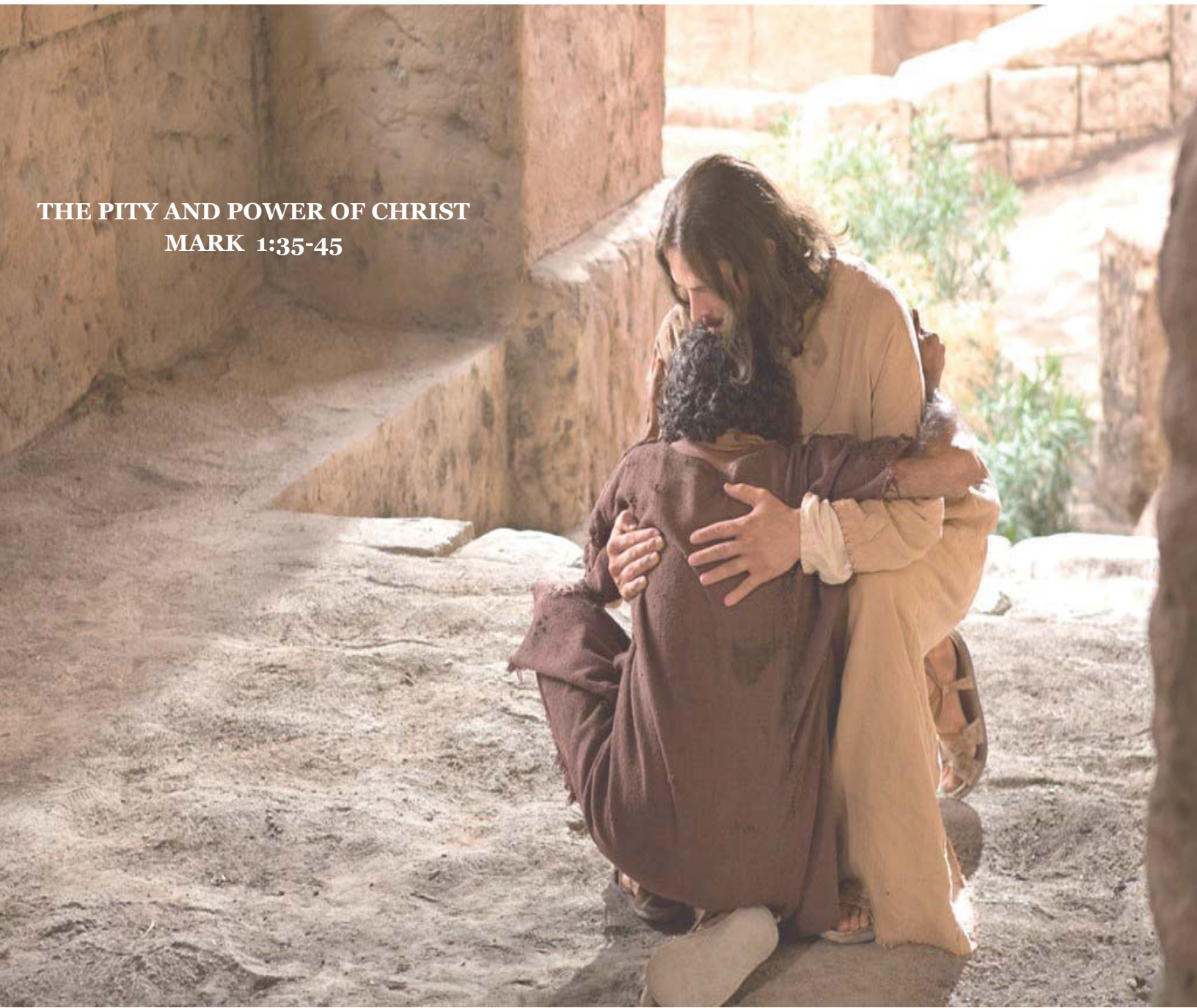


Season Of Great Lent

Sunday Of The Healing Of The Leper

أحد شفاء الأبرص

THE PITY AND POWER OF CHRIST
MARK 1:35-45



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
Office E-mail: rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

LITURGIES INTENTIONS

Sunday of the Healing of the Leper

Daily Liturgies

Saturday, March 8 (Eng) *St. Frances of Rome*

4:00 pm + Private Intentions

Sunday, March 9 *The Forty Martyrs*

8:00 am + Ghassan Raad, By Mr. & Mrs. Elias Bou Habib

9:30 am + Marie Badawy, By her sister, Lili Bijjani

11:00 am + Joseph & Nancy Azzi, By their children, & their families

Sunday of the Hemorrhaging Woman

Saturday, March 15 (Eng) *St. Benedict*

4:00 pm + Rosanna Dargoonian, By her daughters, Linda Kalil & Janice Gray

Sunday, March 16 *The First Council of Constantinople*

8:00 am + Sabah Dagher, Zakieh Moubarak, & the deceased family members, By their family

9:30 am + Private Intention

11:00 am + Private Intention

Monday, March 10 (Ar)

St. Auxentius / 1 Thes 3:6-13 / Mt 6:22-24

9:00 am + Hani Azzi, By Victor Azzi

Tuesday, March 11 (Eng)

St. Sophronius / Gal 2:11-17 / Mt 7:1-12

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

Wednesday, March 12 (Ar)

Pope St. Gregory the Great / Rom 3:19-27 / Mt 12:38-45

9:00 am + Hanna & Farha Daccache, Hanane, & Badih Merheb, By Mr. & Mrs. Wissam Merheb & family

Thursday, March 13 (Eng)

St. Theophanes / Phil 4:4-10 / Lk 8:4-15

9:00 am Private Intention

9:30 am- 7:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration & Exposition

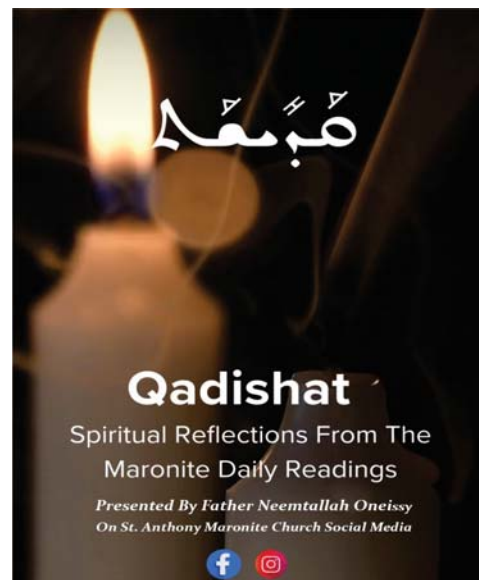
Friday, March 14 - **OFFICE CLOSED**

St. Euphrasia / Rom 1:18-25 / Mt 18:23-35

7:00 pm Station of the Cross followed by Adoration of the Cross

PLEASE NOTE

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





Sin, New Manifestation of Leprosy

Dear Parishioners,

The Gospel of Mark 1:35-43 recounts the powerful story of Jesus healing a leper, a moment that reveals not only His divine authority but also His boundless compassion. In this passage, a man afflicted with leprosy approaches Jesus, kneels before Him, and says, ***“If you wish, you can make me clean.”*** Moved with pity, Jesus touches him and says, ***“I do will it. Be made clean.”*** Immediately, the leprosy leaves him, and he is healed. This miracle offers a profound reflection on the nature of sin and the healing power of Christ.

Leprosy, in biblical times, was not only a physical illness but also a symbol of sin. In our actual times, sin is worse than leprosy and it's a new Manifestation of it. It disfigures the soul, corrupting our relationship with God and others. Just as leprosy isolates the afflicted from society, sin separates us from the community of believers and from God Himself. Sin is a spiritual disease that, if left untreated, spreads and destroys the beauty of our souls. It kills our spiritual life, leaving us in a state of emptiness and despair. As Saint Augustine famously said, ***“Sin is to the soul what a wound is to the body; it weakens, disfigures, and, if not healed, leads to death.”***

Moreover, just as leprosy was contagious and could harm others, sin has a ripple effect, contaminating those around us. Our actions, words, and attitudes influenced by sin can lead others astray, damaging relationships and creating division. The leper in the Gospel was an outcast, forced to live apart from society. Similarly, sin alienates us from others, breeding mistrust, resentment, and loneliness. It disrupts the harmony God intends for His children. Yet, the healing of the leper reminds us that no one is beyond the reach of Christ's mercy. Jesus did not hesitate to touch the leper, even though doing so made Him ritually unclean. This act demonstrates His willingness to enter into our brokenness, to take on our impurities, and to restore us to wholeness. In the same way, Jesus desires to cleanse us from the leprosy of sin. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, He touches our souls, heals our wounds, and restores us to communion with God and others.

The leper's words, ***“If you wish, you can make me clean,”*** are an invitation for us to approach Jesus with the same humility and faith. We must acknowledge our sins, confess them, and trust in His power to heal us. As Saint John Chrysostom teaches, ***“Confession is a medicine for the soul, a remedy for sin, a gift of God's mercy.”*** Let us not allow the leprosy of sin to fester in our hearts. Instead, let us turn to Jesus, the Divine Physician, who longs to make us clean and whole once more.

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

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.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

The loving family of **Joseph Abou-Khalil**, who passed away last week. We extend our deepest sympathies to his children, Catherine and Chantal Abou-Khalil; and his siblings, Jimmy and Lola Abou-Khalil, Hanan and Fadi Chahine, Kamil and Joanne (Consoli) Khalil, and Claudine and Bob Singh.

*May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace
and their memories be eternal*

Family of St Sharbel & Our Lady of Lebanon Ladies Guild



Thursday, March 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://uso2web.zoom.us/j/335616991>

For more information email:
communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org



Monthly Meeting Schedule

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS -St. Anthony Council 16204



*"In Service To One,
In Service To All"*

Next meeting:
Tuesday March 11, 2025
@ 7 pm, Church Hall
Men 18 yrs. and older are encouraged to attend.
For information email: KOFc16204@gmail.com

SANCTUARY LAMPS




**Birthday Remembrance in Loving Memory
Of Daad Ramy Cherabie, *By her children,
their spouses, & her grandchildren***



**In Loving Memory Of Rosanna Dargoonian,
*By her daughters, Linda Kalil & Janice Gray***

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:

www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/



M-WINE

"We Serve Better Together"

Next Meeting:
Monday, March 10, 2025
7pm @ Church hall

KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

Next Meeting:
Saturday, April 5, 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, March 15 & 29, 2025 @ 5 - 7 pm
www.stanthonylawrence.org/events-2/

MARONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION-MYO

Next Meeting:
Sunday, March 16, 2025 @ 6 - 7:30 pm
www.stanthonylawrence.org/myo/

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Next Sessions:
Saturday, March 8, 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/)

A Season of Hope for Pilgrims of Hope

Lenten Season

- ◆ **Ash Monday, March 3rd, @ 9am & 6pm:**
Liturgy & Blessing of Ashes
- ◆ **Every Thursday:**
Liturgy @ 9 am followed by **Adoration**
Exposition of the Eucharist: 9:30am-7pm
- ◆ **Every Friday @ 7:00 pm: Stations of the Cross**
- ◆ **March 29 & 30: "Saints, Witnesses of Hope", a special Relics Exhibition**
- ◆ **Saturday March 29:**
Relics Exhibition from 3 pm - 7 pm
Guest Speaker "Jim Robson" @ 5 pm
- ◆ **Sunday March 30:**
Relics Exhibition from 8 am - 1 pm
Guest Speaker "Jim Robson" @ 12 pm
- ◆ **Saturday April 5, 11 am - 5 pm: Regional MYA Spiritual Retreat**
- ◆ **Friday April 11, "Candlelight of Hope"**
Lenten Recital

EASTER LILY

"PURITY, REBIRTH, NEW BEGINNINGS AND HOPE"

In honor of **Christ Resurrection**, the sanctuary will be decorated with Easter lilies. **Honor or Remember Your Loved Ones** by dedicating one or more Easter Lily Plant .

I would like to dedicate _____

An Easter Flower Donation @ \$15 Each

"In Memory of" or **"In Honor of"**

Given by:

*Please return this completed form, along with your payment (Check, Cash, or Venmo), to the Church office by **12pm, Friday, April 11**. You may also place this form with your Sunday offering basket collection. There will be a tribute page on Easter Weekend, in the Parish Bulletin, to acknowledge your dedications.*



SAINTS, WITNESSES OF HOPE

Relics of Jesus and His Saints Exhibition

Presented by

Saints Be To God & Saint Anthony's Church

Over 100+ Relics Including

Jesus' Passion (15 Relics), an actual piece of the Veil of Mary, St. Pope John Paul II the Great, and many other notable saints

Exhibition times

- ◆ **Saturday, March 29, 2025 (3 pm - 7 pm)** | **St. Anthony Church Hall**
Presentation by Jim Robson @ 5 pm | 145 Amesbury Street,
- ◆ **Sunday, March 30, 2025 (8 am - 1 pm)** | **Lawrence, MA 01841**
Presentation by Jim Robson @ 12 pm | 978-685-7233

Location

SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH

ANNUAL LENTEN RAFFLE

To Defray: Building insurance \$32,000
Bishop's Appeal \$9500, &
Eparchial Assessment \$27,600



**TO BE DRAWN
EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 20, 2025**

1st PRIZE: \$2500

2nd PRIZE: \$1000

3rd PRIZE: \$500

4th PRIZE: \$250

1 TICKET \$10 / 5 FOR \$45

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

03/02/2025

Candles	\$240.00
Donation	\$1,920.00
Sunday Collection	\$4,592.10
Ash Monday Collection	\$1,590.00
Utilities, Fuel, & Electricity	\$1,044.00

Total \$ 9,386.10

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!

The DCG Scholarships

The Dorothy C Gabriel Foundation is offering the *DCG scholarship* to any St Anthony parishioner who will be attending Central Catholic High School in fall 2025. For more information or to apply, text the students full name and contact number to

Ken Gabriel at 508-633-0704.
Deadline to apply is May 15, 2025.



Proudly Announces
2025 Scholarship Program

High School Graduate Scholarships

MYO – John A. Solomon
Two for High School Seniors \$2000

Massakki Brothers
One for High School Seniors \$2000

Naomi & Paul Kassouf
Two for High School Seniors \$2000

Abouna Sharbel
Three for High School Seniors \$1000

Undergraduate Scholarships

Chagoury Family Undergraduate
One for College Student \$2000

Thomas and Jennie Ayoub
One for College Student \$2000

Graduate & Professional Scholarship

Chagoury Family Graduate
One for Graduate Student \$2000

Study Abroad in Lebanon Opportunities

Notre Dame University-Louaize
Up to 10 scholarships for Fall 2025 or Spring 2026

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik
Up to 12 scholarships for Summer 2025 Semester

For more information and application visit namaronites.org or e-mail nam scholarships@gmail.com



APPLICATION DEADLINE MAY 31, 2025

NORTHERN REGIONAL 2025
FINDING STRENGTH IN SURRENDER

APRIL 5 - LAWRENCE, MA

Saturday April 5

- 9:30 AM Check-In
- 10:00 AM Prayer
- 10:15 AM Icebreaker
- 10:45 AM Talk #1
- 11:30 AM Breakout
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:15 PM Talk #2
- 2:00 PM Breakout
- 2:40 PM Adoration and Confession
- 4:00 PM Mass
- 5:00 PM Break
- 8:00 PM Dinner at Beirut

In addition to the above MYA events, the Lawrence Parish will be hosting

Friday April 4

TBD Stations of the Cross

Sunday April 6

11:00 AM Divine Liturgy

*Schedule is subject to change

This is a Church sponsored event. Please be mindful to dress modestly for all liturgical events and activities

NAM 2025 CONVENTION

FAITH IGNITED - HOPE RENEWED
60 YEARS ROOTED IN MARONITE TRADITION

ST. SHARBEL MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
Raleigh - NC

2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE JUBILEE YEAR

60 BOTH CONVENTION ANNIVERSARY

SAVE THE DATE
July 3-6, 2025

Hosted by Saint Sharbel Church
Raleigh - NC
Hilton Hotel, Raleigh North Hills

f NAMConvention

CONGRATULATIONS!

Baptized & Confirmed

Shana Christa Andary

Daughter of Edgard & Enaam Andary

Khalil Elias Hayek

Son of Elie & Joanna Hayek

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

Mahrajan 2025 Dabke Troupe



Dabke Registration is now open! Please scan the attached QR-code to sign-up!
Deadline April 21st, 2025. \$20 donation per member

For more information, contact:

Carla Khoder (Ages 13-20) @ 978-697-1725

Reine Ata (Ages 7-12) @ 978-902-1234

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 8 - 4 pm - Meaghan Twing

Sunday, March 9 -

8:00 am - Hitaf Nammour

9:30 am - Michael Faris

11:00 am - (Eng) Marita Merheb

(Ar) George Merheb

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 15- 4 pm - Lisa Abdallah

Sunday, March 16 -

8:00 am - Huguette Sfeir

9:30 am - Angela Dahbour

11:00 am - (Eng) Mansour Chaya

(Ar) Maribelle Spiridon

BIRTHDAY WISHES

March 8: Abigail Abdulnour, Ghassan Abou-Ezzi, Marie Bouraphael, Dalia Fakhry, Samer Geha, Therese Jbeily, Missy Kalil, Jackson Lenotte, Mateo Maroun, Benjamin Nehme, Mimo Schultz, Rima Wehbe

March 9: Sami Aoun, Joe Lalo, Arthur Mansor IV, Charbel Rizk, Nicole Saad, Juliana Saad

March 11: Maryann Hatem, Tessa Pelletier, Joshua Pelletier

March 12: Hinde Asmar, Jessy Chaaya, Mark Khalife

March 13: Peter Bou Saada, Johnny Escobales, Juliano Joumaa, Sean Houry, Jaclyn Pratt, Aya Rizk

March 14: Marc Abou-Ezzi, Zeidan Ata, Jessica Avedisian, Antoine Bou Habib, Assaad Eid, Roy El-Hayek, Michael Forristall, Kamal Haddad, Christian Mazraani

Second Sunday of Great Lent: Healing of the Leper

2nd book of Kings 5:1-3, 9-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, 'If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.' So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.' But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, 'I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?' He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, 'Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, "Wash, and be clean"?' So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Letter to the Romans 6:12-23

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Mark 1:35-45

In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons. A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, 'If you choose, you can make me clean.' Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I do choose. Be made clean!' Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, 'See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.' But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

الأحد الثاني من الصوم الكبير : أحد شفاء الأبرص

سفر الملوك الثاني 5: 1-3، 9-14

كَانَ نُعْمَانُ، رَئِيسُ جَيْشِ مَلِكِ أَرَامَ، رَجُلًا عَظِيمًا عِنْدَ سَيِّدِهِ مُكْرَمًا لَدَيْهِ، لِأَنَّهُ عَنِ يَدِهِ أَعْطَى الرَّبُّ خَلَاصًا لَأَرَامَ. وَكَانَ الرَّجُلُ مُحَارِبًا بَاسِلًا، وَكَانَ أَبْرَصَ. وَإِنَّ أَرَامِيِّينَ خَرَجُوا غَازِينَ، فَسَبَّوْا مِنْ أَرْضِ إِسْرَائِيلَ فِتْنَةً صَغِيرَةً، وَأَصْبَحَتْ فِي خِدْمَةِ زَوْجَةِ نُعْمَانَ. فَقَالَتْ لِسَيِّدَتَيْهَا: «يَا لَيْتَ سَيِّدِي حَضَرَ أَمَامَ النَّبِيِّ الَّذِي فِي السَّامِرَةِ، فَإِنَّهُ كَانَ يَشْفِيهِ مِنْ بَرَصِهِ.» فَأَقْبَلَ نُعْمَانُ بِخَيْلِهِ وَمَرْكَبَاتِهِ وَوَقَفَ عَلَى بَابِ بَيْتِ الْيَشَاعِ. فَأَرْسَلَ إِلَيْهِ الْيَشَاعَ رَسُولًا يَقُولُ لَهُ: «إِمضِ وَأَغْتَسِلْ فِي الْأُرْدُنِّ سَبْعَ مَرَّاتٍ، فَيَعُودَ إِلَيْكَ لَحْمُكَ وَتَطْهَرُ.» فَغَضِبَ نُعْمَانُ وَمَضَى وَقَالَ: «كُنْتُ أَحْسَبُ أَنَّهُ يَخْرُجُ وَيَقِفُ وَيَدْعُو بِأَسْمِ الرَّبِّ إِلَهِي، وَيُحَرِّكُ يَدَهُ فَوْقَ الْمَكَانِ فَيَشْفِي الْبَرَصَ. أَلَيْسَ أَبَانُهُ وَفَرَفَرُهُ، نَهْرًا دِمَشَقَ، خَيْرًا مِنْ جَمِيعِ مِيَاهِ إِسْرَائِيلَ؟ أَفَلَا أَعْتَسِلُ فِيهِمَا وَأَطْهَرُ؟» وَأَنْصَرَفَ رَاجِعًا وَهُوَ مُغْضَبٌ. فَتَقَدَّمَ إِلَيْهِ خُدَامُهُ وَخَاطَبُوهُ وَقَالُوا: «يَا أَبِي، لَوْ أَمَرَكَ النَّبِيُّ بِأَمْرٍ عَظِيمٍ، أَمَا كُنْتَ تَفْعَلُهُ؟ فَكَيْفَ بِالْأُخْرَى وَقَدْ قَالَ لَكَ: اغْتَسِلْ وَأَطْهَرُ؟.» فَتَنَزَلَ وَغَطَسَ فِي الْأُرْدُنِّ سَبْعَ مَرَّاتٍ، كَمَا قَالَ رَجُلٌ لِلَّهِ، فَعَادَ لَحْمُهُ كَلَحْمِ صَبِيٍّ صَغِيرٍ وَطْهَرَ.

رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل رومة 6: 12-23

يَا إِخْوَتِي، لَا تَمْلِكَنَّ الْخَطِيئَةَ بَعْدُ فِي جَسَدِكُمْ الْمَائِتِ، فَتُطِيعُوا شَهْوَاتِهِ. وَلَا تَجْعَلُوا أَعْضَاءَكُمْ سِلَاحَ ظُلْمٍ لِلْخَطِيئَةِ، بَلْ قَرَّبُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ لِلَّهِ كَأَحْيَاءٍ قَامُوا مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، وَأَجْعَلُوا أَعْضَاءَكُمْ سِلَاحَ بَرٍّ لِلَّهِ. فَلَا تَتَسَلَّطْ عَلَيْكُمْ الْخَطِيئَةُ، لِأَنَّكُمْ لَسْتُمْ فِي حُكْمِ الشَّرِيعَةِ بَلْ فِي حُكْمِ النِّعْمَةِ. فَمَاذَا إِذَا؟ هَلْ نَخْطَأُ لِأَنَّ لَسْنَا فِي حُكْمِ الشَّرِيعَةِ، بَلْ فِي حُكْمِ النِّعْمَةِ؟ حَاشَا! أَلَا تَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّكُمْ عِنْدَمَا تَجْعَلُونَ أَنْفُسَكُمْ عَبِيدًا لِأَحَدٍ فَتُطِيعُونَهُ، تَكُونُونَ عَبِيدًا لِلَّذِي تُطِيعُونَهُ: إِمَّا عَبِيدًا لِلْخَطِيئَةِ الَّتِي تَوُولُ إِلَى الْمَوْتِ، وَإِمَّا لِلطَّاعَةِ الَّتِي تَوُولُ إِلَى الْبِرِّ. فَشُكْرًا لِلَّهِ لِأَنَّكُمْ بَعْدَمَا كُنْتُمْ عَبِيدَ الْخَطِيئَةِ، أَطَعْتُمْ مِنْ كُلِّ قَلْبِكُمْ مِثَالَ التَّعْلِيمِ الَّذِي سَلَّمْتُمْ إِلَيْهِ. وَبَعْدَ أَنْ حَرَّرْتُمْ مِنَ الْخَطِيئَةِ، صِرْتُمْ عَبِيدًا لِلْبِرِّ. وَأَقُولُ قَوْلًا بَشَرِيًّا مُرَاعَاةً لِعُضُوفِكُمْ: فَكَمَا جَعَلْتُمْ أَعْضَاءَكُمْ عَبِيدًا لِلنَّجَاسَةِ وَالْإِثْمِ فِي سَبِيلِ الْإِثْمِ، كَذَلِكَ أَجْعَلُوا الْآنَ أَعْضَاءَكُمْ عَبِيدًا لِلْبِرِّ فِي سَبِيلِ الْقِدَاسَةِ. فَلَمَّا كُنْتُمْ عَبِيدَ الْخَطِيئَةِ، كُنْتُمْ أَحْرَارًا مِنَ الْبِرِّ. فَأَيُّ ثَمَرٍ جَنَيْتُمْ حِينَئِذٍ مِنْ تِلْكَ الْأُمُورِ الَّتِي تَسْتَحُونَ مِنْهَا الْآنَ؟ فَإِنَّ عَاقِبَتَهَا الْمَوْتُ. أَمَّا الْآنَ، وَقَدْ صِرْتُمْ أَحْرَارًا مِنَ الْخَطِيئَةِ وَعَبِيدًا لِلَّهِ، فَإِنَّكُمْ تَجْنُونَ ثَمَرًا لِلْقِدَاسَةِ، وَعَاقِبَتُهَا الْحَيَاةُ الْأَبَدِيَّةُ. لِأَنَّ أَجْرَةَ الْخَطِيئَةِ هِيَ الْمَوْتُ. أَمَّا مَوْهَبَةُ اللَّهِ فَهِيَ الْحَيَاةُ الْأَبَدِيَّةُ فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ رَبِّنَا.

إنجيل القديس مرقس 1: 35-45

قَامَ يَسُوعُ قَبْلَ طُلُوعِ الْفَجْرِ، فَخَرَجَ وَذَهَبَ إِلَى مَكَانٍ قَفْرٍ، وَأَخَذَ يُصَلِّي هُنَاكَ. وَلَحِقَ بِهِ سَمْعَانُ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ، وَوَجَدُوهُ فَقَالُوا لَهُ: «الْجَمِيعُ يَطْلُبُونَكَ.» فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «لِنَذْهَبْ إِلَى مَكَانٍ آخَرَ، إِلَى الْقَرَى الْمُجَاوِرَةِ، لِأُبَشِّرَ هُنَاكَ أَيْضًا، فَإِنِّي لِهَذَا خَرَجْتُ.» وَسَارَ فِي كُلِّ الْجَلِيلِ، وَهُوَ يَكْرُرُ فِي مَجَامِعِهِمْ وَيَطْرُدُ الشَّيَاطِينَ. وَأَتَاهُ أَبْرَصٌ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ، فَجَنَّا وَقَالَ لَهُ: «إِنْ شِئْتَ فَأَنْتَ قَادِرٌ أَنْ تُطَهِّرَنِي!» فَتَحَنَّنَ يَسُوعُ وَمَدَّ يَدَهُ وَلَمَسَهُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: «قَدْ شِئْتُ، فَطْهَرُ!» وَفِي الْحَالِ زَالَ عَنْهُ الْبَرَصُ، فَطْهَرَ. فَأَتَتْهُرَهُ يَسُوعُ وَصَرَفَهُ حَالًا، وَقَالَ لَهُ: «أَنْظُرْ، لَا تُخْبِرْ أَحَدًا بِشَيْءٍ، بَلْ أَذْهَبْ وَأَرِ نَفْسَكَ لِلْكَاهِنِ، وَقَدِّمْ عَنْ طَهْرِكَ مَا أَمَرَ بِهِ مُوسَى، شَهَادَةً لَهُمْ.» أَمَّا هُوَ فَخَرَجَ وَبَدَأَ يُنَادِي بِأَعْلَى صَوْتِهِ وَيُذِيعُ الْخَبَرَ، حَتَّى إِنَّ يَسُوعَ لَمْ يَعُدْ قَادِرًا أَنْ يَدْخُلَ إِلَى مَدِينَةٍ عَلَانِيَةً، بَلْ كَانَ يُقِيمُ فِي الْخَارِجِ، فِي أَمَاكِنَ مُقْفَرَةٍ، وَكَانَ النَّاسُ يَأْتُونَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ كُلِّ مَكَانٍ.

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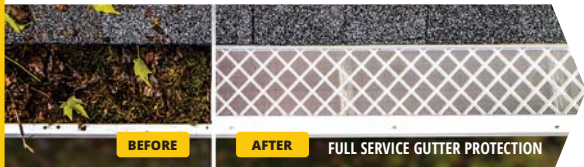
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