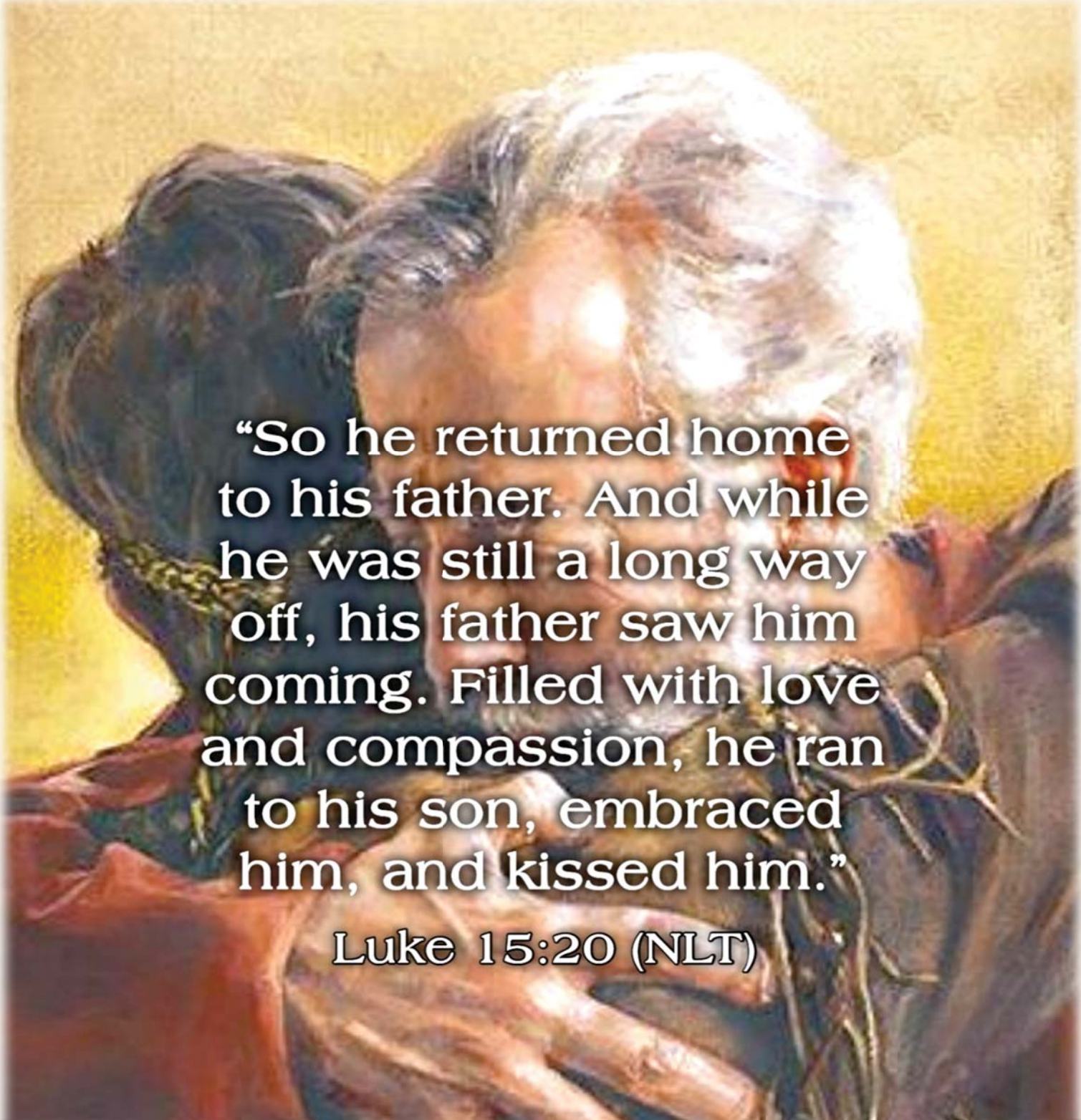




Season of Great Lent

أحد مثل الابن الشاطر - Sunday Of The Prodigal Son



“So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.”

Luke 15:20 (NLT)

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 Mailing Address: 145 Amesbury Street, Lawrence, MA 01841

LITURGIES INTENTIONS

Sunday of the Parable of the Prodigal Son

Saturday, March 22 (Eng) *St. Sergius Paulus*

4:00 pm + CJ (Cosmo) Capobianco, *By his friend, Elie Daou.*

Sunday, March 23 *St Rafka*

8:00 am + Wadih, Tony & Jennifer Abourjeili, *by Jean Abourjeili, Najwa Nehme & their Families.*

9:30 am For Noah, *By his grandmother.*

11:00 am + **40 Day Anniversary** - Badih Merheb, *By his sons, Wissam & Sassine Merheb & Family.*

+ Naim El-Hachem, *By his wife, Sonia, & Family.*

Sunday of the Healing of the Paralytic

Saturday, March 29 (Eng) *St. Cyril*

4:00 pm + Thomas Solomon, *By his Family.*

Sunday, March 30 *St. John Climacus*

8:00 am +Private Intention

9:30 am +Geryes & Mariam Abou Khalil & 40 Day Anniversary - Joseph Abou Khalil, *by his daughters Catherine and Chantale, his siblings: Kozhaya, Kamil, Hanane, Claudine and their families*

+Deceased Members of the Rahhal & Jesser Families, Raymond Faunt, Sr., & John D'Angelo, Sr., *By their loving families.*

11:00 am Private Intentions

Please Note:

There will be NO Daily liturgies or Eucharistic Exposition this week, March 24-27, 2025 due to the Annual Clergy Conference.

Friday, March 28 - **OFFICE CLOSED**

*St. Philetus, St Lydia & their Children
2 Tim 4:-19 / Mk 3:1-12*

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.



Pope Francis on the Prodigal Son: God's Mercy is Always Greater

Dear Parishioners,

On the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, I would like to share with you, some extracts from Pope Francis' homily, delivered on September 15, 2013, during his Sunday Angelus address.

“ In the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), Jesus reveals the heart of God: a Father who loves us unconditionally and is always ready to forgive. This story speaks to every one of us, reminding us that no matter how far we stray, God is waiting to welcome us home.

The younger son represents humanity's tendency to turn away from God. He takes his inheritance, leaves home, and squanders everything in sin. But when he hits rock bottom, he realizes his mistake and decides to return. He prepares a speech: “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son” (Luke 15:18-19). Yet, before he can finish, his father runs to him, embraces him, and restores him as a son. This is the heart of the Gospel: God's mercy is always greater than our sins.

The father's joy shows us how God responds when we repent. He doesn't wait for perfect apologies or promises. Instead, He celebrates our return, just as the Church rejoices when a sinner comes home through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As Pope Francis says, “God never tires of forgiving us; it is we who tire of asking for mercy.”

The older son, however, represents a different challenge: self-righteousness. He refuses to join the celebration, angry that his brother is welcomed back. He tells his father, “I have served you faithfully, yet you never gave me even a goat to celebrate with my friends” (Luke 15:29). The father responds with tenderness: “You are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we must celebrate, for your brother was lost and is found” (Luke 15:31-32). This reminds us not to judge others but to rejoice in their conversion.”

Brothers and sisters, this parable teaches us two vital lessons:

No one is beyond God's mercy. No matter how far we fall, God is ready to forgive and restore us.

We must avoid self-righteousness. Instead of judging others, we are called to welcome and forgive as God does.

Let us open our hearts to God's mercy and share it with others. May we, like the father, be instruments of His love and forgiveness in the world.

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.

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



No Liturgy in April due to Holy Thursday.

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.

Mahrajan 2025 Dabke Troupe

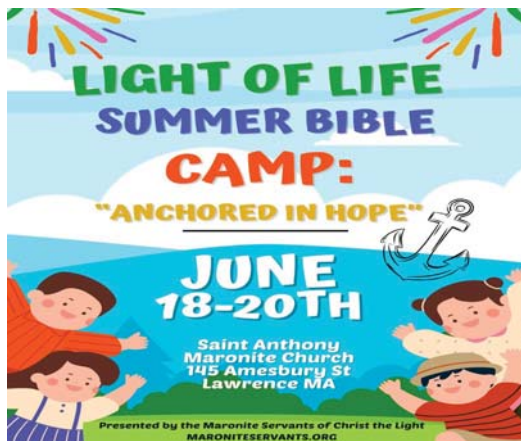


Dabke Registration is now open! Please scan the attached QR-code to sign-up!

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



DAUGHTERS OF SAINT ANTHONY

"The Oldest Organization of St. Anthony's Church"

Next Meeting:

Monday, April 7, 2025 @ 12 pm, church hall

Lunch will be served.

We will play a little Bingo so bring your luck!



M-WINE

"We Serve Better Together"

Next Meeting:

**Monday, April 7, 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 29 & April 26th, 2025 @ 5-7 pm
www.stanthonylawrence.org/events-2/

MARONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION-MYO

Next Meeting:

Sunday, April 6, 2025 @ 6 - 7:30 pm
www.stanthonylawrence.org/myo/

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Next Session:

Saturday, March 22, 2025 @ 5 - 7 pm
Please visit our website for the yearly calendar
www.stanthonylawrence.org/calendar-classes-and-events/
Lawrencereligious@gmail.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
-St. Anthony Council 16204



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

Next meeting:
Tuesday April 8, 2025 @ 7 pm, Church Hall
Men 18 yrs. and older are encouraged to attend.
For information email: KOFc16204@gmail.com

**ST ANTHONY PARISH VETERANS
& FAMILIES OF VETERANS**

The Knights of Columbus Men's Group is compiling a record of all St. Anthony Parish Veterans, past and present. If you are a veteran or a family member, relative or friend of a parishioner who served in any branch of the US military, past or present, please submit your/ their name along with their rank, military branch and campaign if known to:

kofcstanthonyveteran@aol.com
or rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

It is our intent to memorialize the names of our veterans with a permanent display honoring their sacrifice. Thank you for your assistance in helping us remember them and their service to our parish and nation.



**St. Anthony
Lenten Food Drive**

Sponsored by
The Knights of Columbus

**Help us reach our goal of providing food the
Maronite Monks at Petersham**

Please consider donating a grocery bag with:

- Canned vegetables
- Brown rice & quinoa
- Canned diced tomato's
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Canned olives
- Dried fruit
- Canned tuna & chicken
- Walnuts
- Stuffing mix
- Soup & broth
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Boxed mac and cheese
- Baking ingredients
- Healthy breakfast cereal
- Old fashioned oats
- Herbal tea-decaf

Please drop off food items in the church lobby by
April 13th

Thank you for your generosity & continued blessings

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)
Presentation by Jim Robson @ 5 pm
- ♦ Sunday, March 30, 2025 (8 am - 1 pm)
Presentation by Jim Robson @ 12 pm

Location

St. Anthony Church Hall
145 Amesbury Street,
Lawrence, MA 01841
978-685-7233

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

03/09/2025

Candles	\$164.95
Donation	\$158.00
Sunday Collection	\$3,559.10
Utilities, Fuel, & Electricity	\$215.00

Total \$ 4,097.05

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!

**SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH
ANNUAL LENTEN RAFFLE**



**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

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

ST ANTHONY ANNUAL CHARITABLE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Weather Permitting, St. Anthony's Golf Tournament has been scheduled for:

Monday, June 30, 2025 at the Atkinson Country Club.

***Individuals who are interested must register by April 15, 2025, which is the drop dead date.**

- There are 36 opportunities to sponsor a hole. The sponsorship is \$1,500 per hole.
- The sponsoring foursome, or company, will have two signs displayed at the tournament. One sign at the sponsored hole and one sign at the club where the dinner event will be held.
- Sponsoring company logo or text must be sent by June 1st.
- Provide Polo Shirt Sizes (S, M, L, XL, XXL)
- A hole can be sponsored by up to two entities.

The Tournament fee is projected to be \$175.00+ per player. The fee will include golf, cart, lunch, and dinner meals, and prizes. The format will be a friendly scramble. We are looking for a minimum participation of 90 players.

For more information, to Register for, or to Sponsor this event, reach out to George Kassas at georgekassas@comcast.net, or email the rectory@stanthonylawrence.org.



Proudly Announces
2025 Scholarship Program

High School Graduate Scholarships

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

Massabki 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 namscholarships@gmail.com



APPLICATION DEADLINE MAY 31, 2025

SANCTUARY LAMPS



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



In Memory of Rosanna Dargoonian, *By her daughters, Linda Kalil & Janice Gray.*

Book your Sanctuary lamp Online:

www.stanthonylawrence.org/sanctuary-lamp/

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.**

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 22 - 4 pm - Patricia Ferguson

Sunday, March 23 -

8:00 am - Mouna Hbaiter

9:30 am - Brady Barry

11:00 am - (Eng) Anthony Merheb

(Ar) Gretta Merheb

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 29- 4 pm - Susan Kalil

Sunday, March 30 -

8:00 am - Hitaf Nammour

9:30 am - Catherine Abou-Khalil

11:00 am - (Eng) Mounira Daher

(Ar) Amale Chantiri

BIRTHDAY WISHES

March 22: Martin Akiki, Samantha Asmar, Emma Azzi, Marisa Thompson

March 23: Sonia Ata, Christophe Phares, Maximus Ranson

March 24: Ali Hajj

March 25: Elias P. Azzi, Taly Bou Jabbour, Andre Boumitri, Ella Daher, Ryan George

March 26: Ryan Collins, Joumana Feghali, Aiyah Saysouk, Temmer Zouein,

March 27: Jayden Georges, Alex Maroon, Patrick Tabet

March 28: George Daher, Maryann C. Hatem,

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

March 23: Marco & Alexandra (Samia) Solia

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent: Parable of the Prodigal Son

Book of Zechariah 3:1-7

Then he showed me the high priest Joshua standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this man a brand plucked from the fire?" Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." And to him he said, "See, I have taken your guilt away from you, and I will clothe you in festal apparel." And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him in the apparel; and the angel of the LORD was standing by. Then the angel of the LORD assured Joshua, saying "Thus says the LORD of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my requirements, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here.

Second Letter to the Corinthians 13:5-13

Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? unless, indeed, you fail to pass the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed. But we pray to God that you may not do anything wrong not that we may appear to have passed the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. This is what we pray for, that you may become perfect. So I write these things while I am away from you, so that when I come, I may not have to be severe in using the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down. Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 15:11-32

The Lord Jesus says: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe the best one and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.

الأحد الرابع من الصوم الكبير : أحد مثل الابن الشاطر

سفر زكريا 3: 1-7

أَرَانِي الرَّبُّ يَشُوعَ الْكَاهِنَ الْعَظِيمِ وَاقِفًا أَمَامَ مَلَكَ الرَّبِّ، وَالشَّيْطَانَ وَاقِفًا عَنِ يَمِينِهِ لِيَتَهَمَهُ. فَقَالَ الرَّبُّ لِلشَّيْطَانِ: «زَجَرَكَ: الرَّبُّ، يَا شَيْطَانُ، زَجَرَكَ الرَّبُّ الَّذِي اخْتَارَ أَوْرُسَلِيمَ! أَلَيْسَ هَذَا شِعْلَةً مُنْتَسَلَةً مِنَ النَّارِ؟» وَكَانَ يَشُوعُ لَابِسًا ثِيَابًا قَدْرَةً وَهُوَ وَاقِفٌ أَمَامَ الْمَلَكَ. فَأَجَابَ وَكَلَّمَ الْوَاقِفِينَ أَمَامَهُ قَائِلًا: «انزِعُوا عَنْهُ الثِّيَابَ الْقَدْرَةَ». «وَقَالَ لَهُ: «أَنْظُرْ. إِنِّي قَدْ أَجَزْتُ إِثْمَكَ عَنْكَ. فَلْتَلْبَسْ ثِيَابًا فَاخِرَةً». «وَقُلْتُ: «لِيُجْعَلَ تاجٌ طَاهِرٌ عَلَى رَأْسِهِ. «فَجَعَلُوا التَّاجَ الطَّاهِرَ عَلَى رَأْسِهِ، وَالْبَسُوهُ الثِّيَابَ. فَحَدَّرَ مَلَكَ الرَّبِّ يَشُوعَ قَائِلًا: «هَكَذَا قَالَ رَبُّ الثَّقَوَاتِ: إِنَّ سِرَّتِي فِي طُرُقِي وَحَفِظْتُ أَحْكَامِي، فَأَنْتَ أَيْضًا تَحْكُمُ عَلَى بَيْتِي، وَتَحَافِظُ عَلَى دِيَارِي، فَأَعْطَيْكَ سَبِيلًا إِلَى وَسْطِ أَوْلِيكَ الْوَاقِفِينَ هُنَا»

رسالة القديس بولس الثانية إلى أهل كورنثس 13: 5-13

يَا إِخْوَتِي، اخْتَبِرُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ، هَلْ أَنْتُمْ رَاسِخُونَ فِي الْإِيمَانِ. إِمْتَحِنُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ. أَلَا تَعْرِفُونَ أَنَّ الْمَسِيحَ يَسُوعَ فِيكُمْ؟ إِلَّا إِذَا كُنْتُمْ مَرْفُوضِينَ! فَارْجُوا أَنْ تَعْرِفُوا أَنَّنَا نَحْنُ لَسْنَا مَرْفُوضِينَ! وَنُصَلِّي إِلَى اللَّهِ كَيْ لَا تَفْعَلُوا أَيَّ شَرٍّ، لَا لِنُظْهَرَ نَحْنُ مَقْبُولِينَ، بَلْ لِكَيْ تَفْعَلُوا أَنْتُمْ الْخَيْرَ، وَتَكُونَ نَحْنُ كَأَنَّنا مَرْفُوضُونَ! فَإِنَّا لَا نَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ نَفْعَلَ شَيْئًا ضِدَّ الْحَقِّ، بَلْ لِأَجْلِ الْحَقِّ! أَجَلٌ، إِنَّا نَفْرَحُ عِنْدَمَا نَكُونُ نَحْنُ ضِعْفَاءَ، وَتَكُونُونَ أَنْتُمْ أَقْوِيَاءَ. مِنْ أَجْلِ هَذَا أَيْضًا نُصَلِّي لِكَيْ تَكُونُوا كَامِلِينَ. أَكْتُبُ هَذَا وَأَنَا غَائِبٌ، لِئَلَّا أَعَامِلَكُمْ بِقَسَاوَةٍ وَأَنَا حَاضِرٌ، بِالسُّلْطَانِ الَّذِي أَعْطَانِي إِيَّاهُ الرَّبُّ، لِنُبَيِّنَكُمْ لَا لِهَدْمِكُمْ. وَبَعْدُ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ، إِفْرَحُوا، وَاسْعُوا إِلَى الْكَمَالِ، وَتَشَجَّعُوا، وَكُونُوا عَلَى رَأْيِي وَاحِدٍ، وَعِيشُوا فِي سَلَامٍ، وَإِلَهُ الْمَحَبَّةِ وَالسَّلَامِ يَكُونُ مَعَكُمْ! سَلِّمُوا بَعْضُكُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ بِقُبْلَةٍ مُقَدَّسَةٍ. جَمِيعُ الْقِدِّيسِينَ يُسَلِّمُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ. نِعْمَةُ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، وَمَحَبَّةُ اللَّهِ، وَشَرَكَةُ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُّوسِ مَعَكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ!

إنجيل القديس لوقا 15: 11-32

«كَانَ لِرَجُلٍ ابْنَانِ. فَقَالَ أَصْغَرُهُمَا لِأَبِيهِ: يَا أَبِي، أَعْطِنِي حِصَّتِي مِنَ الْمِيرَاثِ. فَقَسَمَ لَهُمَا ثَرَوَتَهُ. وَبَعْدَ أَيَّامٍ قَلِيلَةٍ، جَمَعَ الْابْنُ الْأَصْغَرُ كُلَّ حِصَّتِهِ، وَسَافَرَ إِلَى بَلَدٍ بَعِيدٍ. وَهُنَاكَ بَدَّدَ مَالَهُ فِي حَيَاةِ الطَّيْشِ. وَلَمَّا أَنْفَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، حَدَّثَتْ فِي ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ مَجَاعَةٌ شَدِيدَةٌ، فَبَدَأَ يُحْسُ بِالْعَوَزِ. فَذَهَبَ وَلَجَأَ إِلَى وَاحِدٍ مِنَ أَهْلِ ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ، فَارْتَدَّ إِلَى حُفُولِهِ لِيَزْعَى الْخَنَازِيرَ. وَكَانَ يَشْتَهِي أَنْ يَمْلَأَ جَوْفَهُ مِنَ الْخُرُوبِ الَّذِي كَانَتْ الْخَنَازِيرُ تَأْكُلُهُ، وَلَا يُعْطِيهِ مِنْهُ أَحَدٌ. فَارْتَدَّ إِلَى نَفْسِهِ وَقَالَ: كَمْ مِنَ الْأَجْرَاءِ عِنْدَ أَبِي، يُفْضَلُ الْخُبْزُ عَنْهُمْ، وَأَنَا هَهُنَا أَهْلُكَ جُوعًا! أَقُومُ وَأَمْضِي إِلَى أَبِي وَأَقُولُ لَهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطَبْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدُ أَنْ أَدْعَى لَكَ ابْنًا. فَأَجْعَلْنِي كَأَحَدِ أَعْرَانِكَ! فَجَاءَ إِلَى أَبِيهِ. وَفِيمَا كَانَ لَا يَزَالُ بَعِيدًا، رَأَهُ أَبُوهُ، فَتَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهِ، وَأَسْرَعَ فَالْقَى بِنَفْسِهِ عَلَى عُنُقِهِ وَقَبَّلَهُ طَوِيلًا. فَقَالَ لَهُ ابْنُهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطَبْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدُ أَنْ أَدْعَى لَكَ ابْنًا... فَقَالَ الْأَبُ لِعَبِيدِهِ: أَسْرِعُوا وَأَخْرِجُوا الْحُلَّةَ الْفَاخِرَةَ وَالْبَسُوهُ، وَاجْعَلُوا فِي يَدِهِ خَاتَمًا، وَفِي رِجْلَيْهِ حِذَاءً، وَأَثُوا بِالْعِجْلِ الْمُسَمَّنِ وَأُدْبِحُوهُ، وَنَأْكُلْ وَنَتَنَعَّمُ! لِأَنَّ ابْنِي هَذَا كَانَ مِثْلًا فَعَاشٍ، وَضَائِعًا فُوجِدَ. وَبَدَأُوا يَتَنَعَّمُونَ. وَكَانَ ابْنُهُ الْأَكْبَرُ فِي الْحَقْلِ. فَلَمَّا جَاءَ وَأَقْتَرَبَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ، سَمِعَ غِنَاءً وَرَفُصًا. فَدَعَا وَاحِدًا مِنَ الْغُلَّامَانِ وَسَأَلَهُ: مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هَذَا؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ: جَاءَ أَخُوكَ، فَذَبَحَ أَبُوكَ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَقِيَهُ سَالِمًا. فَغَضِبَ وَلَمْ يَرِدْ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ. فَخَرَجَ أَبُوهُ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ. فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ لِأَبِيهِ: هَا أَنَا أَهْدَمْتُ كُلَّ هَذِهِ السِّنِينَ، وَلَمْ أَخَالِفْ لَكَ يَوْمًا أَمْرًا، وَلَمْ تُعْطِنِي مَرَّةً جَدِيًّا، لِأَنَّكَ مَعَ أَصْدِقَائِي. وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا جَاءَ ابْنُكَ هَذَا الَّذِي أَكَلَ ثَرَوَتَكَ مَعَ الزَّوَانِي، ذَبَحْتَ لَهُ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ! فَقَالَ لَهُ أَبُوهُ: يَا وَلَدِي، أَنْتَ مَعِي فِي كُلِّ حِينٍ، وَكُلُّ مَا هُوَ لِي هُوَ لَكَ. وَلَكِنْ كَانَ يَنْبَغِي أَنْ نَتَنَعَّمَ وَنَفْرَحَ، لِأَنَّ أَخَاكَ هَذَا كَانَ مِثْلًا فَعَاشٍ، وَضَائِعًا فُوجِدَ.»

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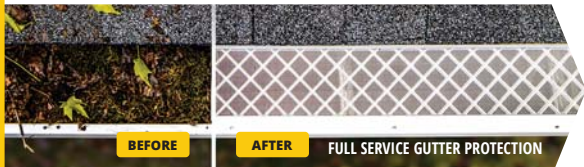
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