

I am the prodigal son
every time I search for
unconditional love where
it cannot be found.

HENRI NOUWEN

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

You are welcomed and loved by St Anthony Community. We are transformed through prayer, acts of love, forgiveness, service and stewardship.

PARISH SECRETARY: 978.685.7233 ... rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

MEET OUR PRIESTS:

*Fr. Elie Mikhael**305-807-9087**.... pastor@stanthonylawrence.org*

*Fr. Manuel Rahmeh ...**978-873-5363**...pv@stanthonylawrence.org*

MEET OUR DEACONS

Deacon Nadim B. Daou /Deacon Michael Charchaflian

Sub-Deacon James T. Demers / Sub-Deacon Antoine Nammour

SACRAMENTS

Baptism & Confirmation: *1 month in advance with the Pastor*

Donations: *Church & Priest: \$200*

Matrimony: *Couples should make arrangements 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.



facebook.com/SaintAnthonyLawrence

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

Hours of Liturgical services changed due to COVID-19

Weekday Liturgies

Mon - Thu: 9:00 AM

Saturday Liturgies:

4:00 PM Vigil (English)

Sunday Liturgies:

9:00 AM (English)

11:00 AM (English & Arabic)

Holy days of obligation:

Vigil Liturgy @ 7:00 PM

OFFICE HOURS

M-TH: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Saturdays: By Appointment

SUNDAYS & WEEKLY LITURGIES

Sunday of the Parable of the Prodigal Son - أحد مثل الإبن الضال

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent - الأحد الرابع من الصوم الكبير

Sat 4:00 PM	Mar. 06 <i>English</i>	For: + Peter Bijjani <i>By his daughter Micheline Bijjani Dabrowski</i>
Sun 9:00 AM	Mar. 07 <i>English</i>	For: 40 Day Anniversary - Philip Gabriel <i>By his family</i>
11:00 AM	<i>Ara/Eng Church</i>	For: 40 Day Anniversary - Zakia Geryes Diab <i>wife of Youssef Geryes Haddad</i> <i>By her Son Moussa Haddad and Family</i> For: Andy & Micheline Dabrowski In Honor of Stephanie Sayegh <i>By her Grandmother</i>
Mon 9:00 AM	Mar. 08	For: + Jamil, Angel and Nadia Abd El-Hay & + Edward Maalouf <i>By Mr. & Mrs. Beshara and Huguette Sfeir</i> <i>For: The intentions and donors of Catholic Extension</i>
Tue 9:00 AM	Mar. 09	For: + Rocco Rossi <i>By Theresa Rossi, Donna & Roy and Lisa & Robert Rossi</i>
Wed 9:00 AM	Mar. 10	For: Souls in Purgatory <i>By Lili Bijjani</i> <i>For: The intentions and donors of Catholic Extension</i>
Thu 9:00 AM	Mar. 11	For: + Larry and Dora M. Pereira and Souls in Purgatory <i>by Dora Pereira</i> <i>For: The intentions and donors of Catholic Extension</i> 9:30 AM-12:00 Noon: ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Fri 7:00 PM	Mar. 12	Stations of the Cross




Sunday : Healing of the Paralytic - أحد شفاء المخلع

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent - الأحد الخامس من الصوم الكبير

Sat 4:00 PM	Mar. 13 <i>English</i>	For: 1st Year Anniversary - Assad Saysouk <i>By his daughter Rima wife of Mr. Beshara Wazen and family</i>
Sun 9:00 AM	Mar. 14 <i>English</i>	For: + Thomas & Dorothy Hajj <i>By their Children</i>
11:00 AM	<i>Ara/Eng Church</i>	For: 40 Day Anniversary - Helena Lalo <i>By her Son Elie Lalo and Family</i>

**TITHES & OFFERINGS
WEEKLY / MONTHLY / ANNUAL
GIVING COMMITMENT**

VENMO REGISTER ONLINE

stanthonylawrence.org/donate-now/

EASTER BAKE SALE

Pay with Venmo, Cash , Check & CC

Maamoul 6pieces: \$9
walnutspistachios.....dates

Kaak 6pieces: \$5

Sablet 6pieces: \$5
(w/apricot jam)

Macaroon.....6pieces: \$5
(with walnuts)

Ghraybeh 6pieces: \$5

Nammoura.....6pieces: \$7

Knafe Box \$40

Pick Up.....weekend of Palm Sunday

Order Now Bassima 603.571.3003
 Rectory 978.685.7233

**PALM SUNDAY - HOLY WEEK—
EASTER**

PALM SUNDAY
SATURDAY MARCH 27 @ 4PM
SUNDAY MARCH 28
 8 AM -ARABIC
 9AM -ENGLISH
 11AM-CHURCH & HALL
(Arabic & English)

HOLY WEEK

MONDAY MARCH 29 @ 7PM
Coming to Harbor

WEDNESDAY MARCH 31 @ 7PM
Rite of Lamp
Blessing & Anointing with Oil

THURSDAY APRIL 1 @ 7PM
Washing of Feet
followed by Adoration (10pm)

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 2
Adoration of the Cross
 5PM (English) 7PM (Arabic & English)

EASTER VIGIL APRIL 3
 4PM -ENGLISH

MIDNIGHT LITURGY -*(Arabic & English)*

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 4
 9AM -ENGLISH
 11AM-CHURCH & HALL
(Arabic & English)

To defray the following expenses:

Building Insurance: \$18,68.00
Diocesan Appeal: \$23,000.00
Bishop Appeal: \$ 7,500.00
Existing Salaries

The drawing will be held Easter weekend and the prizes will be

Prize 1: \$5000
Prize 2: \$2500
Prize 3: \$1000

Tickets Collected:
230 Tickets

Out of 945 tickets mailed



**ST ANTHONY RAFFLE
COVID 19 RELIEF**

CASH PRIZES
 Prize 1: \$5000
 Prize 2: \$2500
 Prize 3: \$1000

CASH, CHECKS, CC & VENMO ACCEPTED

**RAFFLE DRAWING
SUNDAY APRIL 4, 2021 @ NOON**

DCG FOUNDATION - APPLY NOW

Awarded in memory of Dorothy C. Gabriel.
Awarded to members of St Anthony Maronite Church who will be attending Central Catholic High School.

Application Form:

<https://www.dcgfoundation.com/>



Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

السلام عليك يا حامي المخلص، وخطيب العذراء مريم. لقد ائتمناك الله على ابنه؛ وبك وضعت مريم ثقتها؛ ومعك صار يسوع رجلاً. أيها الطوباوي يوسف، كن أباً لنا نحن أيضاً، وأرشدنا في درب الحياة. التمس لنا النعمة والرحمة والشجاعة، واحمنا من كل شر. آمين.

Prayer by Pope Francis. "Year of Saint Joseph" from 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021.)

BIBLE STUDY

Arabic and English Sessions are taking place every Wednesday. For more info send an email to: rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

MYA

Upcoming Activities: **March 14, 2021**

Snowmobiling

Liturgy @ 9AM followed by breakfast

Departure at 10:30AM

MYO

Upcoming Meeting

March 14, 2021 @ 6:00 PM

Adoration & Confessions

Pot luck to follow : **Parish Hall**

Religious Education

We are so excited to consistently see the children in person for Religious Education!!!! Our next class will be held on **Saturday, March 6 @ 5:15 PM.**

We will be sending home Lenten rice bowls as we have done in the past.

Any contributions made are appreciated.

If your child is making First Communion in May, please note the following important dates and times. **We will be having only one liturgy this year.**

Saturday, March 6, 2021 @ 5:15 PM

Reconciliation

Your child should be able to recite The Our Father, The Hail Mary, and the Act of Contrition. These have been provided and are reviewed in class, but your practice with your child is necessary.

Saturday, May 1, 2021 @ 1:300 PM

First Communion liturgy

See your guidelines for further information on communion dress and expectations.

Knights of the Altar

Next meeting : March 6

TREE OF LIFE

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES BY
PUTTING THEIR NAMES ON 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

AVAILABLE ONLINE

www.stanthonylawrence.org

Membership Registration

Under Welcome

Baptism & Confirmation:

Guidelines & Registration

Under Sacraments –Baptism

Sacrament of Marriage:

Guidelines, Foccus & Pre-Cana

Under Sacraments-Marriage

Banquet Hall Guidelines:

Contract Form & Donations

Under Events

PARISH RESOURCES

Religious Education:

cd@stanthonylawrence.org

Knights of Mary:

kom@stanthonylawrence.org

Maronite Youth -MYO:

myo@stanthonylawrence.org

Publishing: Bulletin:

bulletin@stanthonylawrence.org

Choirs (*English, Arabic & Syriac*)

Daughter's of St. Anthony—Family of St.

Sharbel - Kids Choir -Knights of the Altar

Maronite Young Adults -M-WINE

Bereavement Ministry -Cenacle of the Rosary

- Cenacle of Divine Mercy -Sacristan (s) -

Sunshine Committee—Women's Ministry

CEMETERY LOT SALES AND AVAILABILITY

Saint Anthony Cemetery offers affordable payment plans to fit any family's budget. For more information:

By Phone (*During Office Hours*) 978-685-7233

or email rectory@stanthonylawrence.org Or

by visiting: www.stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/

Burial Pre-Arrangements

Making arrangements for a burial in advance should be no more difficult than providing insurance or having a will. It is a sensible thing to do. By pre-arranging your burial, you can avoid the unnecessary confusion plus the financial and emotional stress that death often brings. Funeral pre-arrangements are available and recommended with guarantees of no increase in cemetery charges at the time of interment.

Pre-Arrangement Funds are placed in a separate account and are withdrawn at the time of the interment. An interest free Time-Payment Plan is available for your convenience.

ONLINE BURIAL SEARCH

UPDATE YOUR LOVED ONES RECORD !!

The following steps will help you access the tool:

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.
4. Click on the name.
5. In the middle of the page, look for **“Do you know more about this person or their ancestors”?** **Click here.**
6. You can then complete any or all the fields and click submit.
7. If desired, you may send obituary notice, special documents, letters, receipts etc. to rectory@stanthonylawrence.org and we will attach that to your loved one's record.

Guidelines For Public Liturgies During Pandemic –Capacity %25

Should I come to Liturgy?

Anyone who is ill, symptomatic, or has been exposed to someone else with the coronavirus within 14 days cannot enter the church. This is in accord with national, state, and local health directives. We also ask everyone to check their temperature at home before deciding if you are coming to Liturgy. You can find the current symptoms of the coronavirus at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's website www.cdc.gov

Those who are at risk because of an underlying health issue or who are over 60 are strongly encouraged, for their own health, to avoid the risk of attending public celebrations of the Liturgy.

What should I do if I cannot come to Liturgy?

We will continue to livestream our Liturgies on our [Facebook page](#). Monday through Thursday Liturgy will be at 9:00 am. Saturday Liturgy will be at 4:00 pm and Sunday liturgies will be at 9:00 am & 11:00am .

Parishioners who would like to have Holy Communion brought to their homes should contact the office @ 978.685.7233 during normal business hours. The frequency of our visits for Holy Communion will depend upon the number of requests.

How will we be kept safe when we come to Liturgy?

All pews are wiped down with disinfectant; and all Qurbono Books are removed; and all surfaces used frequently (restroom facilities, door handles, etc.) are sanitized before each service.

Everyone attending Liturgy is obligated to wear a mask or other facial covering. The only exception during Liturgy is when receiving Holy Communion.

You'll be asked to observe social distancing – staying at least six feet from people not in your household. Only certain pews are available for seating. When you arrive, please use your good judgment about where to sit. Be respectful and accommodating towards others as they arrive and look for seating.

You'll find the holy water fonts are empty and that there is hand sanitizer available. You'll notice there will be no offertory procession, no sign of peace, and no passing of the collection basket.

You can drop your donation in a stationary basket, or continue to use the online provided by your parish.

Can we receive Holy Communion?

Yes, but only the Most Precious Body and only by hand. Floor markings shall be placed six feet apart in the aisles in which the congregation approaches the sanctuary for Holy Communion to facilitate proper social distancing.

When approaching the Communion minister, the communicant is to present one hand resting on the palm of the other. Moving in front of one of the side alter the communicant pulls their mask or other facial covering below their chin and reverently places the Eucharist in his or her mouth and immediately replaces their mask or other facial covering and returns to their place.

What do we need to keep in mind as we leave Liturgy?

Please leave Liturgy together as a household, wearing your masks or other facial covering and observing six feet of distance from others. You will not be permitted to congregate in the foyer, and no receptions or social gathering following Liturgy can be held.

**Decorate our Altar with an Easter Flowers
Donation: \$15 - Deadline March 31**

In Memory of:

In Memory of:

In Memory of:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

In Honor of:

In Honor of:

In Honor of:



ALTAR CANDLES WILL BURN

IN HONOR OF DORA PEREIRA

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mar 07: Hanan Abi Samra, Valerie Tarabay

Mar 08: Ghassan Abou Ezzi, Ramon Elbeery, Dalia Fakhry, Samer Geha, Missy Kalil, Therese Jbeily, Jackson Lenotte, Benjamin Nehme, Kristy Parolisi

Mar 09: Joe Lalo, Arthur Mansor, IV, Juliana Saad

Mar 10: Chahine Ramey

Mar 11: Abraham Bashara, Maryann Hatem, Joshua Pelletier

Mar 12: Mark Khalife, Katelyn Maroon, Katherine Veilleux

Mar 13: Jaclyn Becotte, Peter Bou Saada, Sean Khoury

IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR LOVED ONES

Mar 08: Jeanne L. Farrah - Josephine M. Ganem, Marion Beshara

Mar 10: Emily B. Coughlin - Gilda Mansour, Rocco Rossi

Mar 12: Alice M. Abraham

Mar 13: Mary B. El Kareh

**MENTAL HEALTH &
SEVERE AUTISTIC
HOMES
DEIR el SALEEB
HOLY CROSS MENTAL
HEALTH INSTITUTION
FOOD & MEDICINE
DRIVE: ITEMS NEEDED**

**RAISINS
TABLE SALT
SUGAR
LENTILS
RED BEANS
BURGHOL
JELLY
HOMMUS
CANILLA RICE
PASTA
SPAGETTI SAUCE
MACARONI & CHEESE**

**TOOTH BRUSHES
TOOTH PASTE
SHAMPOOS
DISH DETERGENT
ADULT DIAPERS
BAR SOAP
BODY WASH
SPORT SOCKS
TOWELS**

**INSTNAT POTATOES
RICE
CANNED VEGETABLES
CANNED MEAT: CHICK-
EN, BEEF, TUNA,
SARDINES
TEA
FLOUR
HONEY
DRY MILK**

Epistle: Second Letter to the Corinthians 13: 5-13

Brothers and sisters, 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.

Gospel: 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."

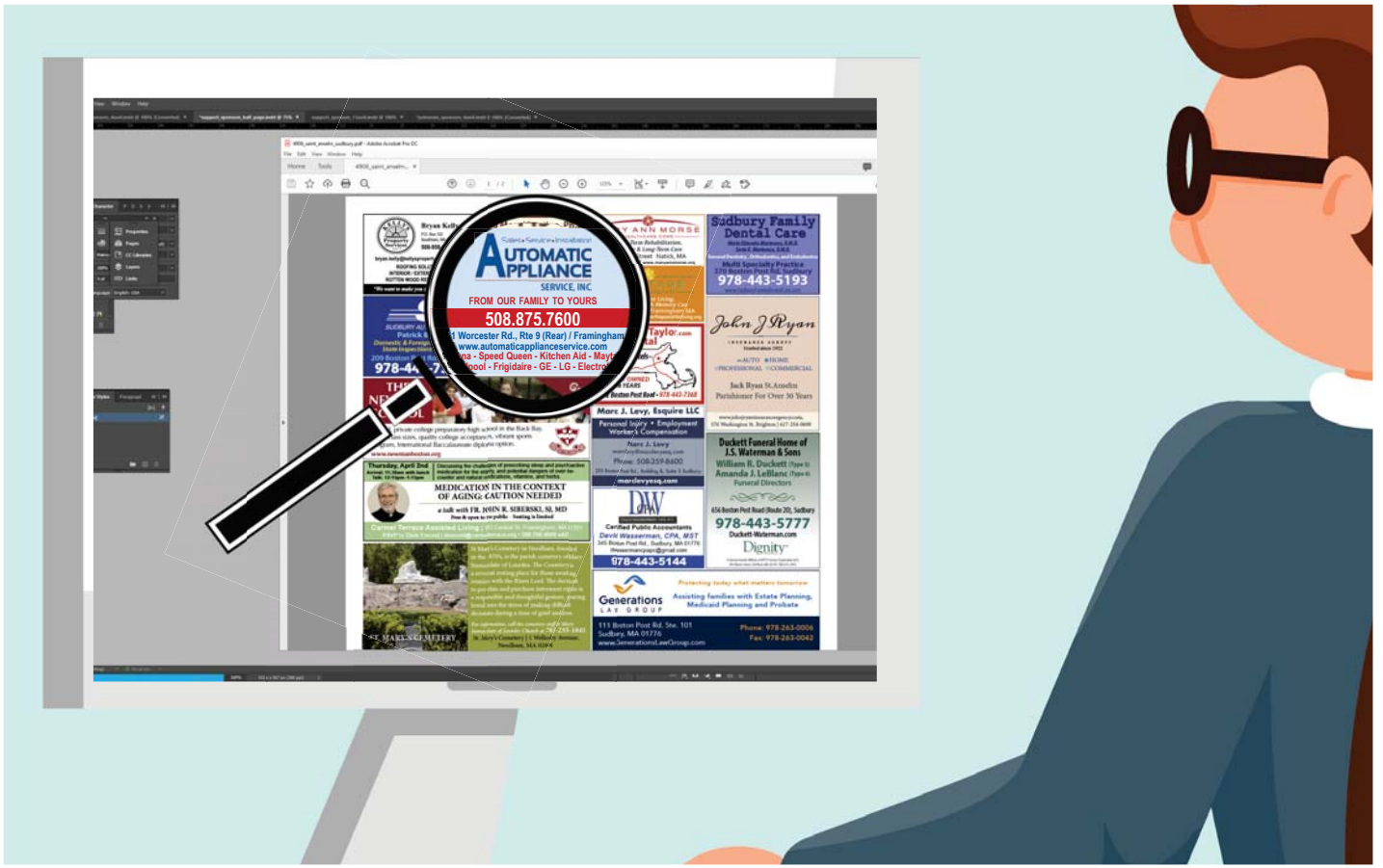


رسالة القديس بولس الثانية إلى أهل كورنتس 13: 5-13

يا إخوتي، اِخْتَبِرُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ، هَلْ أَنْتُمْ رَاسِخُونَ فِي الْإِيمَانِ. اِمْتَحِنُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ. أَلَا تَعْرِفُونَ أَنَّ الْمَسِيحَ يَسُوعَ فِيكُمْ؟ 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، وَنَكُونَ 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 بِقَسَاوَةِ وَأَنَا حَاضِرٌ، بِالسُّلْطَانِ الَّذِي أَعْطَانِي إِيَّاهُ الرَّبُّ، لِئِنِّي أَنْتُمْ لَا لِهَدْمِكُمْ. وَبَعْدُ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةَ، اِفْرَحُوا، وَأَسْعُوا إِلَى الْكَمَالِ، وَتَشَجَّعُوا، وَكُونُوا عَلَى رَأْيٍ وَاحِدٍ، وَعِيشُوا فِي سَلَامٍ، وَإِلَهُ الْمَحَبَّةِ وَالسَّلَامِ يَكُونُ مَعَكُمْ! سَلِّمُوا بَعْضُكُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ بِقَبْلَةِ مُقَدَّسَةِ. جَمِيعُ الْقِدِّيسِينَ يُسَلِّمُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ. نِعْمَةُ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، وَمَحَبَّةُ اللَّهِ، وَشَرِكَةُ الرُّوحِ الْقُدْسِ مَعَكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ!

إنجيل القديس لوقا 15: 11-32

قَالَ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ: "كَانَ لِرَجُلٍ ابْنَانِ. فَقَالَ أَصْغَرُهُمَا لِأَبِيهِ: يَا أَبِي، أَعْطِنِي حِصَّتِي مِنَ الْمِيرَاثِ. فَقَسَمَ لَهُمَا تَرْوَتَهُ. وَبَعْدَ أَيَّامٍ قَلِيلَةٍ، جَمَعَ الْأَبْنُ الْأَصْغَرُ كُلَّ حِصَّتِهِ، وَسَافَرَ إِلَى بَلَدٍ بَعِيدٍ. وَهُنَاكَ بَدَدَ مَالَهُ فِي حَيَاةِ الطَّيْشِ. وَلَمَّا أَنْفَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، حَدَثَتْ فِي ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ مَجَاعَةٌ شَدِيدَةٌ، فَبَدَأَ يُحْسُ بِالْعَوَزِ. فَذَهَبَ وَاجَأً إِلَى وَاحِدٍ مِنْ أَهْلِ ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ، فَأَرْسَلَهُ إِلَى حُقُولِهِ لِيُرْعَى الْخَنَازِيرَ. وَكَانَ يَنْتَهِي أَنْ يَمْلَأَ جَوْفَهُ مِنَ الْخَرْوَبِ الَّذِي كَانَتْ الْخَنَازِيرُ تَأْكُلُهُ، وَلَا يُعْطِيهِ مِنْهُ أَحَدٌ. فَرَجَعَ إِلَى نَفْسِهِ وَقَالَ: كَمْ مِنَ الْأَجْرَاءِ عِنْدَ أَبِي، يُفْضَلُ الْخُبْزَ عَنْهُمْ، وَأَنَا هَهُنَا أَهْلِكُ جُوعًا! أَقُومُ وَأَمْضِي إِلَى أَبِي وَأَقُولُ لَهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدُ أَنْ أُدْعَى لَكَ ابْنًا. فَاجْعَلْنِي كَأَحَدِ أَجْرَائِكَ! فَقَامَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى أَبِيهِ. وَفِيمَا كَانَ لَا يَزَالُ بَعِيدًا، رَأَى أَبُوهُ، فَتَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهِ، وَأَسْرَعَ فَالْقَى بِنَفْسِهِ عَلَى عُنُقِهِ وَقَبَّلَهُ طَوِيلًا. فَقَالَ لَهُ ابْنُهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدُ أَنْ أُدْعَى لَكَ ابْنًا... فَقَالَ الْأَبُ لِعَبِيدِهِ: أَسْرِعُوا وَأَخْرَجُوا الْحُلَّةَ الْفَاحِشَةَ وَاللِّسُوءَ، وَاجْعَلُوا فِي يَدَيْهِ خَاتَمًا، وَفِي رِجْلَيْهِ حِذَاءً، وَأَثُوا بِالْعِجْلِ الْمُسَمَّنِ وَأَذْبَحُوهُ، وَلِنَأْكُلَ وَنَتَنَعَّمَ! لِأَنَّ ابْنِي هَذَا كَانَ مَيْتًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فَوُجِدَ. وَبَدَأُوا يَتَنَعَّمُونَ. وَكَانَ ابْنُهُ الْأَكْبَرُ فِي الْحَقْلِ. فَلَمَّا جَاءَ وَأَقْتَرَبَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ، سَمِعَ غِنَاءً وَرَقْصًا. فَدَعَا وَاحِدًا مِنَ الْعُلَمَانَ وَسَأَلَهُ: مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هَذَا؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ: جَاءَ أَحْوَكٌ، فَذَبَحَ أَبُوكَ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَقِيَهُ سَالِمًا. فَغَضِبَ وَلَمْ يَرِدْ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ. فَخَرَجَ أَبُوهُ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ. فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ لِأَبِيهِ: هَا أَنَا أَخَذْتُكَ كُلَّ هَذِهِ السِّنِينَ، وَلَمْ أُخَالَفْ لَكَ يَوْمًا أَمْرًا، وَلَمْ تُعْطِنِي مَرَّةً جَدِيًّا، لِأَنَّتَ مَعَ أَصْدِقَائِي. وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا جَاءَ ابْنُكَ هَذَا الَّذِي أَكَلَ تَرْوَتَكَ مَعَ الزَّوَانِي، ذَبَحْتَ لَهُ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ! فَقَالَ لَهُ أَبُوهُ: يَا وَلَدِي، أَنْتَ مَعِيَ فِي كُلِّ حِينٍ، وَكُلُّ مَا هُوَ لِي هُوَ لَكَ. وَلَكِنْ كَانَ يَنْبَغِي أَنْ نَتَنَعَّمَ وَنَفْرَحَ، لِأَنَّ أَخَاكَ هَذَا كَانَ مَيْتًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فَوُجِدَ."

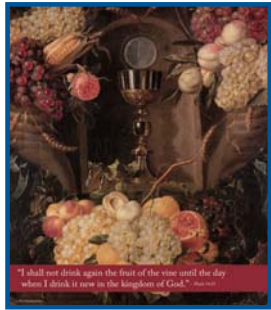


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