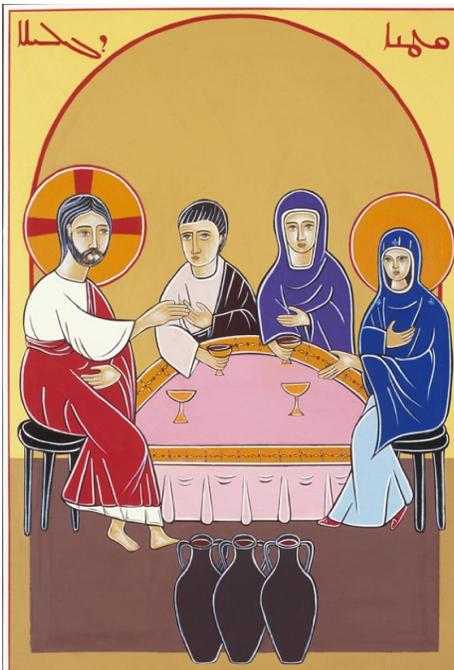


Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Cathedral
113 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201
(718) 624-7228 | ololc.org | cathrectory@verizon.net

The Most Reverend Gregory J. Mansour, Eparchial Bishop
The Very Reverend Dominique Hanna, Rector
Deacon Peter Frangie
Subdeacon Norbert Vogl
Subdeacon Adonis El-Asmar



Divine Liturgy Schedule

Tuesday through Saturday at 10:00 am
Sunday at 9:00 am and 11:30 am
Holy Day at 10 am & 7:30 pm
St. Sharbel the 22nd of each month
at 7:30 pm except on Saturday or Sunday

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday of the month at 10:40 until noon

Reconciliation

10:15 am to 10:45 am Sunday
11:00 am to 11:45 am First Friday
and upon request.

Initiation Rites (Baptism—Chrismation)

Parents and Godparents must meet
with the Rector for instruction and
then a time will be set for the Baptism
and Chrismation.

Mystery of Crowning (Marriage)

The Rector must be notified at least six
months in advance to set up instruction.

Hospital and Sick Calls

Notify the Rector as soon as possible.

New Parishioners

All are welcome at Our Lady of
Lebanon Cathedral. Please notify the Office
of the Rector to become a member.

Dear Beloved Parishioners:

The Prayer of the Faithful of the Maronite Church summarizes the beginning of Lent for us in a wonderful way. It reads:

Great Lent is a time for change, for transformation. The Maronite Church begins Great Lent with Cana Sunday, a commemoration of the transformation of water into wine at the wedding feast of Cana at Galilee. This anticipates Christ changing wine into his blood and bread into his body at the Last Supper.

Cana of Galilee was the town where Nathaniel lived and it is to this town that Jesus will return to heal the son of the royal official. The actual circumstances of the wedding are unknown. Perhaps Nathaniel had invited Jesus and his followers to the wedding feast in his village. According to Jewish law, the wedding of a virgin was to take place on a Wednesday. The wedding was to be followed with eight days of celebration and an abundance of food and drink was essential. At this the wedding when the wine began to diminish, Mary had only to mention to Jesus that something was going wrong: "They have no wine." Jesus understood that his Mother was not simply making an observation, but was seeking his powerful intervention. At first, Jesus responded with an apparent refusal, "Woman (a term of respect which he would also use on the cross), how does this concern of yours involve me?" The reason for his response was that his hour had not yet come, namely the hour of his death and resurrection, after which he would answer all the prayers of his Mother.

Jesus came into the world for a definite purpose and task, as we all do. He did not see his life in terms of the immediate needs of any particular moment, but only in terms of his purpose and the eternal plan of the Father. Mary knew that her prayer would not be refused; she told the servants to do whatever he told them. Mary trusted in her Son and her request was fulfilled. She told them as she tells all of us: "Do whatever my Son tells you." Jesus instructed the servants to fill the six water jars. The number six might be significant because in the mentality of the time, six was an imperfect number (seven was considered as perfection). The six jars can represent the imperfection of the old law, which Jesus is to fill with the wine of the Gospel and of his grace. The imperfection of law was transformed into the perfection of grace. These jars held 180 gallons of water, which would be transformed into excellent wine. What was originally lacking is now to be found in superabundance. Jesus knew that the lack of wine would be a source of embarrassment to the groom and misfortune for the guests. He did not rejoice in the misfortune of others, but used his great power to save a simple man of Cana from humiliation. Let us imitate his example and be concerned with the simple needs of those around us and how we can fulfill them."

Have a happy Lent



Ash Monday

The Liturgy of the Blessing and Imposition of Ashes on the foreheads will be held on Monday, February 24th at 7:30 pm.

Stations and Benediction of the Cross

Every Friday of Lent beginning Friday, February 28th at 7:30pm, we will pray the Stations and Benediction of the Cross. The service will be followed by a Lenten Supper.

Traditional Fasting & Abstinence Observance

Those who wish to observe the traditional Maronite practice of fasting and abstinence are invited to follow this practice. According to the Synod of Mount Lebanon of 1736, every weekday of Lent (Monday through Friday) is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat and dairy products (eggs, butter, milk etc.) Fasting involves eating and drinking nothing at all (except water and medicine) from midnight until noon. The rest of the day normal meals can be taken but without meat or dairy products. Saturdays and Sundays are exempt from fasting and abstaining as are the following feast days: St Maron on Feb, 9th if it falls during Lent, the 40 Martyrs on March 9th, and St. Joseph on March 19th.

The 2020 Eparchial Annual Lenten Appeal

A second collection for the Eparchial Charities Appeal will be taken every Sunday during the Season of Great Lent starting on Sunday March 10th. We are asked to raise \$5,500 to participate in this awesome mission of the Eparchy. Please read the Bishop's letter inside.

Catholic Relief Services Lenten RICE BOWL

Join our faith community—and more than 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl at the end of the Divine Liturgy. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on the challenge of global hunger and how it affects our human family. [Read more here.](#)

Letter for Annual Donations

Parishioners who for tax purposes would like a letter stating their annual contribution. Please email cathrectory@verizon.net or call the rectory at 718-624-7228

Palm Sunday Children's Participation

Parents who would like their children to participate in this year's Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy, please contact Leila Vogl.

Vocations Awareness Poster-Essay

Students grades K to 12 are encouraged to participate in the [Vocations Awareness Poster-Essay](#) Multimedia Contest through NAM. [Click here for guidelines](#) and information. Also you can see Adonis El-Asmar or Marian Ciaccia for more information. This year let us have more students take part in the contest.

Free Online NFP Session

In order to make sure that couples gain proper understanding of Natural Family Planning, per the Statutes of the Eparchy (No. 71), a free online session is offered to learn an overview of NFP methods and the introductory session to the Creighton Model FertilityCare System presenting the theology and the scientific aspect of NFP. The following are the dates and times:

Saturday February 8, 2020 at 9:30 am

Tuesday March 10 at 7:30pm

Thursday April 30 at 7:30pm

Tuesday May 19 at 7:30pm

Monday June 8 at 7:30pm

To sign up for one of the sessions please contact Marise Frangie at 914-393-8907 or sanctityoflife@live.com

Lenten Retreat at Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral

(113 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201)

Facilitated by: Deacon George Pitula

Want to Take another step
closer to Christ this Lent?

Saturday, March 7th, 2020

9 AM — 5 PM

- Explore the spiritual aspects of Lent -

Take time from your busy schedule to return to our loving God!

- Divine Liturgy
- Talks
- Q & A
- Lunch
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Confessions



How to Grow
Closer to Jesus

Donation \$30

All are Welcome!

RSVP: No later than Sunday March 1, 2020

Subdeacon Adonis El-Asmar at (917) 855-3075 (call / text); email: adoniselasmar@gmail.com

Annual St. Joseph Day



Breakfast

Sponsored by the
Knights of St. Maron
of Our Lady of Lebanon
Cathedral



Held in the Parish Hall
of the Cathedral

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Immediately following the Divine Liturgy

Donation of \$15/adult
&

\$10/child under the age of 12

RSVP: by Sunday, March 8, 2020

Samer Hadchiti, Edgard Abi Daher, George Elhaj & Roger Shammass

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دعوة

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7-11pm

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Save the Date

Thursday, October 1, 2020

Join us for the

Eleventh Annual Benefit Dinner for The Eparchy of Saint Maron

At The Water Club, New York

Details to follow

Order of Saint Sharbel Matching Grant

CATHOLIC EXTENSION SOCIETY ISSUES GRANT CHALLENGE TO MARONITE EPARCHIES IN 2020!

Good news: Catholic Extension Society recently announced that it will make a \$25,000 grant to our Eparchy in 2020 for our Seminarian Endowments – if certain conditions are met!

Each Eparchy can earn the \$25,000 grant if they enroll at least 15 new Perpetual Members in the Order of Saint Sharbel by December 31. Membership dues and donations must be received by December 31, 2020 to qualify.

This is not the first time that the Eparchies have received matching grants from Catholic Extension. Similar grants were made in 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016 after the Order of Saint Sharbel met similar challenges. The Eparchies were selected after a competitive application process each time.

Order of Saint Sharbel President Jim Abdo of Minneapolis immediately put out a call to Members of the Order to invite their friends, family members and fellow parishioners to join or to recruit new Members or to make a gift of Membership, saying, “We do not want to waste this great opportunity!”

Perpetual Membership in the Order requires a donation of \$5,000. The payment can be made in one lump sum, or in four quarterly installments over the course of a year. Information on enrolling in the Order can be found on the Order of St. Sharbel’s website, www.orderstsharbel.org, or obtained by contacting any of the following people:

- James Abdo, President of the Order (jabdo@abdobooks.com)
- Charlene Hiffa, Vice President, Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn (mchiffa@bellsouth.net)
- John Kurey, Stewardship Director, Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn and the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon (718-237-9913 / 314-231-1021; or saintmaron@yahoo.com / maroniteswest@yahoo.com).

JOIN THE ORDER OF SAINT SHARBEL

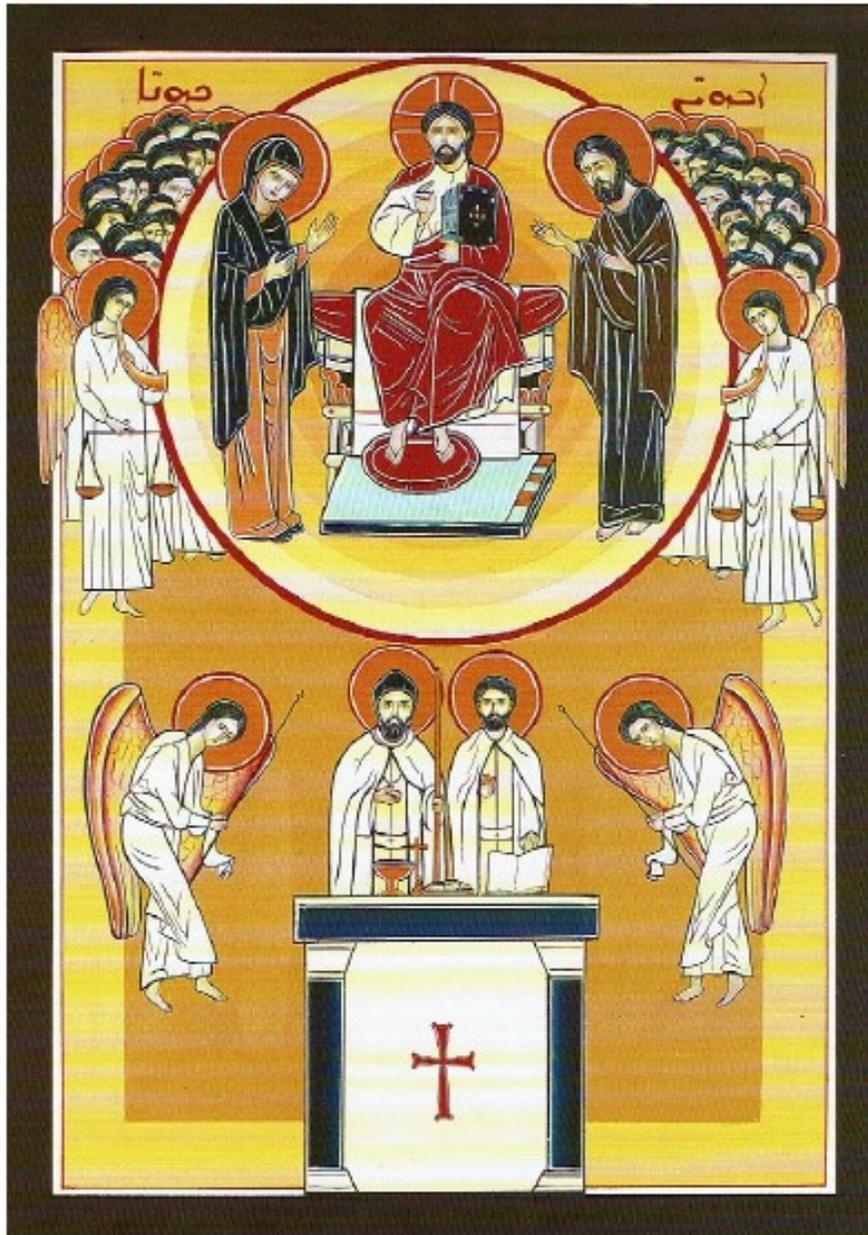
TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF MARONITE SEMINARIANS
AND HELP BUILD THE FUTURE OF THE MARONITE CHURCH

Meet this year’s Seminarists for the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn



**“Come, follow me, and I will make you
fishers of men.” (Mat. 4:19)**

Men’s Discernment Weekend—March 27th—29th



For more information please contact us:

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

(202) 723-8831

Maroniteseminary@comcast.net - www.maroniteseminary.org

The 2020 Eparchial Annual Lenten Appeal

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Office of the Bishop
109 Remsen Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201-4212
Tel: (718)-237-9913 Fax: (718)-243-0444
chancerystmaron@verizon.net www.stmaron.org

Lent 2020

Prot. No. 012 S / 20

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter into the season of preparation through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, I ask you to recall all the ways in which God has blessed you. As you reflect on that, I also ask you to consider supporting the Eparchy of Saint Maron with a donation to our 2020 Lenten Appeal, to further the Eparchy's mission of service to God's faithful people.

Your generosity towards this year's Annual Eparchial Appeal will support:

- **Seminarians:** We currently have five men preparing for the priesthood. Our seminarians are our future priests, and we want them to get the best education and formation possible. We need your help to invest in their education and formation. Each seminarian costs about \$45,000 per year, in the form of tuition, books, room, board, health insurance and other costs. **40% of your contribution to this year's Annual Appeal will go for Seminarians.**
- **Ministries:** Our ministries to young people, the elderly, families, and in defense of life from conception to natural death, help people at the most critical times in their lives. Please help ensure that the Eparchy can help those in need when they need help the most. **20% of your contribution will go to support Ministries.**
- **Retired Priests:** Collectively, the 15 retired priests of the Eparchy served the faithful for over 500 years. Now, we help them with a modest pension of \$2,000 per month. **20% of your contribution will go to support Retired Priests.**
- **Helping in Lebanon and the Middle East:** The Eparchy assists Lebanon and the Middle East in multiple ways, for example: by applying for grants to American foundations and donors, advocating for the persecuted Christians of the Middle East with the U.S. government, and channeling and providing direct financial assistance. **10% of your contribution will go to support Christians in Lebanon and the Middle East.**
- **Endowment:** The Eparchy's Endowment Fund provides a source of income each year for the needs of the Eparchy and ensures that the Eparchy will have resources in the future. It also provides a "rainy day fund" if needed in the future. **10% of your contribution will be deposited into the Eparchy's Endowment.**

I pray that you will open your heart once again and consider giving a gift. Your participation in this Annual Appeal makes a positive difference in the lives of so many people, both inside the Eparchy, and outside of it in the Middle East. Any gift you make will help.

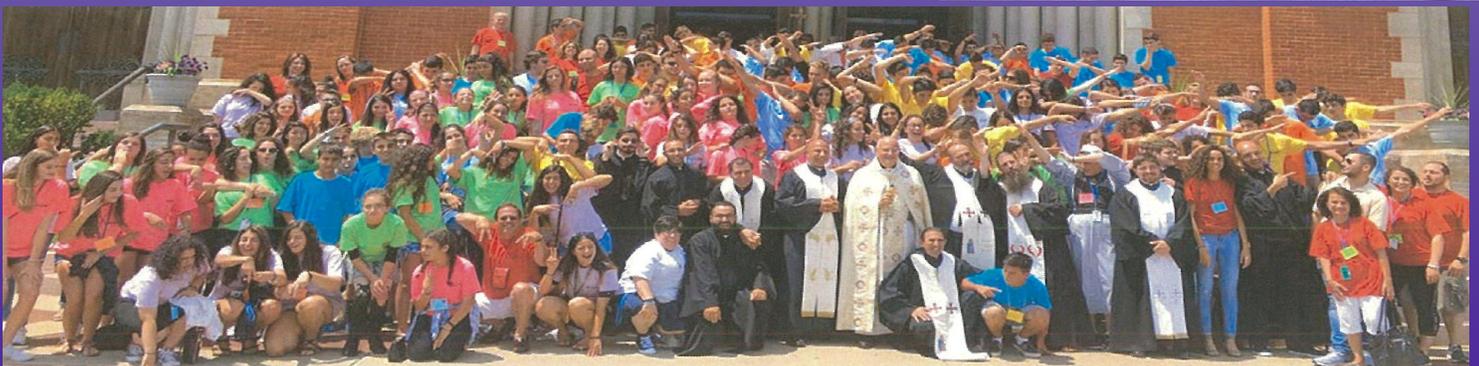
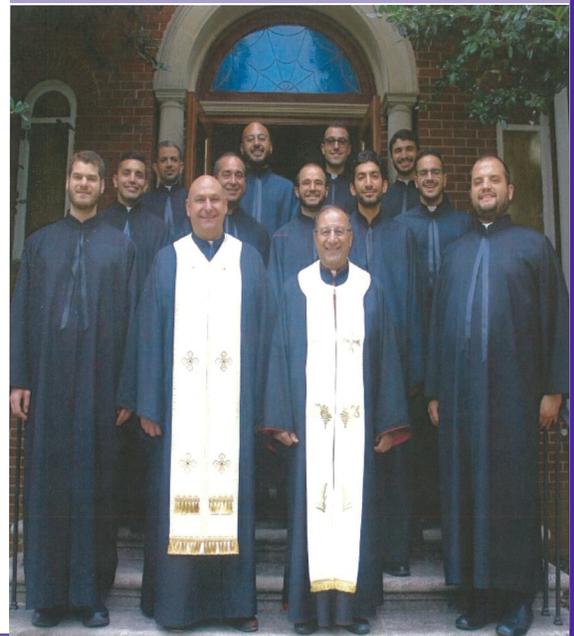
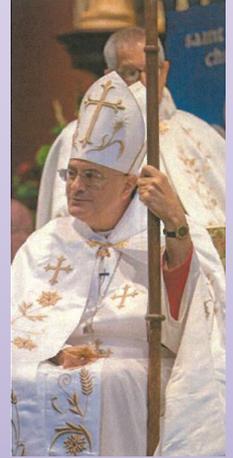
Thank you, and may God bless you for your generosity. I wish you a blessed Lent and Easter.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ Gregory

+ Gregory J. Mansour

PS: Please also consider remembering the Eparchy and your parish in your estate plan, or as the beneficiary of an insurance policy, retirement plan or charitable gift annuity. Thank you.



Sunday Readings

قراءات الأحد

First Sunday of Great Lent: Cana Sunday

The Letter to the Romans 14: 14-23.

I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. If your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died. So do not let your good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The one who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and has human approval. Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual edification.

Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for you to make others fall by what you eat; it is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that makes your brother or sister stumble. The faith that you have, have as your own conviction before God. Blessed are those who have no reason to condemn themselves because of what they approve. But those who have doubts are condemned if they eat, because they do not act from faith; for whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

The Gospel according to Saint John 2: 1-11.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

احد مدخل الصوم الكبير : أحد آية عرس قانا

رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل رومة 14: 14-23
يا إخوتي، إني عالمٌ وواثقٌ، في الرب يسوع، أن لا شيء نجس في ذاته، إلا لمن يحسبه نجسًا، فله يكون نجسًا. فإن كنت من أجل الطعام تحزن أخاك، فلا تكون سالكا في المحبة. فلا تهلك بطعامك ذلك الذي مات المسيح من أجله! إذا فلا تسمحوا بأن يصير الخير فيكم سببًا للتجديف. فليس ملكوت الله أكلًا وشربًا، بل برٌ وسلامٌ وفرحٌ في الروح القدس.

فمن يخدم المسيح هكذا فهو مرضي لدى الله، ومقبول لدى الناس. فلنسع إذا إلى ما هو للسلم، وما هو لبنيان بعضنا بعضًا. فلا تنفض عمل الله من أجل الطعام؛ لأن كل شيء طاهر، ولكنه ينقلب شرًا على الإنسان الذي يأكل ويكون سبب عثرة لأخيه. فخير لك أن لا تأكل لحمًا، ولا تشرب خمرا، ولا تتناول شيئًا يكون سبب عثرة لأخيك. وأحتفظ برأيك لنفسك أمام الله. وطوبى لمن لا يدين نفسه في ما يقرره! أما المراتب في قراره، فإن أكل يدان، لأن عمله غير صادر عن يقين وإيمان. وكل عمل لا يصدر عن يقين وإيمان فهو خطيئة.

إنجيل القديس يوحنا 2: 1-11

في اليوم الثالث، كان عرسٌ في قانا الجليل، وكانت أم يسوع هناك.

ودعي أيضًا يسوع وتلاميذه إلى العرس. ونفذ الخمر، فقالت ليسوع أمه: «ليس لديهم خمر.» فقال لها يسوع: «ما لي ولك، يا امرأة؟ لم تأت ساعتِي بعد.»

فقالت أمه للخدم: «مهما يقل لكم فافعلوه.» وكان هناك ستة أجران من حجر، معدة لتطهير اليهود، يسع كل منها من ثمانين إلى مئة وعشرين ليترًا، فقال يسوع للخدم: «املأوا الأجران ماء.» فملأوها إلى فوق. قال لهم: «إستقوا الآن، وقدموا لربئيس الوليمة.» فقدموا. وذاق الربئيس الماء، الذي صار خمرا - وكان لا يعلم من أين هو، والخدم الذين استقوا يعلمون - فدعا إليه العريس وقال له: «كل إنسان يقدم الخمر الجيد أولًا، حتى إذا سكر المدعوون، قدم الأقل جودة، أما أنت فقد أبقيت الخمر الجيد إلى الآن.»

تلك كانت أولى آيات يسوع، صنعها في قانا الجليل، فأظهر مجده، وأمن به تلاميذه.

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