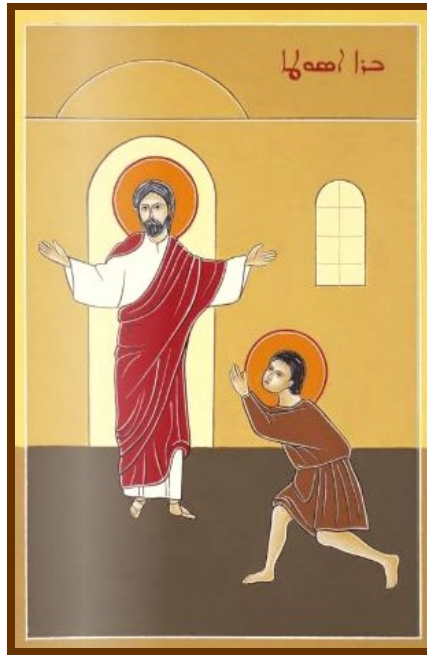


**Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Cathedral**  
113 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201  
(718) 624-7228 | ololc.org | cathrectory@verizon.net

**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.**

# *Sunday of the Parable of the Prodigal Son*

## *March 15, 2020*

<b>Sun. March 15</b>	<b>Sunday of the Parable of the Prodigal Son</b>	
	9:00 am Isabel Wong	Req. Barbara Leon
	11:30 am Intentions of the Parishioners	
Mon. March 16	NO LITURGY	The First Council of Constantinople (381)
Tues. March 17	10 am Divine Liturgy Jorge Leon's 65th Birthday	St. Patrick Req. Barbara Leon
Wed. March 18	10 am Divine Liturgy Thomas Philip Perun	Req. Barbara Leon
Thurs. March 19	10 am Divine Liturgy	St. Joseph the Virgin, the Spouse of Mary
Fri. March 20	10 am Divine Liturgy	
Sat. March 21	10 am Divine Liturgy	
<b>Sun. March 22</b>	<b>Sunday of the Healing of the Paralytic</b>	
	9:00 am Intentions of the Parishioners	
	11:30 am Intentions of the Parishioners	

## Zero Divorce rate!!??

As we live in a culture that promotes separation over reconciliation, selfishness and self centeredness over compromise and sacrifice in married love, the divorce rate is skyrocketing except in the town of Siroki-Brijeg in Herzegovina where **not one single divorce** has been recorded among its 13,000 inhabitants. Check out [our videos section about marriage under resources](#) to find out the secret to this great success.

For more information about our ministry  
Check [here and watch the video.](#)

## Sunday Readings

**Lectors and Ushers (age 16 and up) are needed.**  
**Please [email](#) the church if you are interested**

March 15, 2020	Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Reading: 2 Corinthians 13: 5-13	
Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	
Lectors: 9:00 am	Raymond Gill
11:30 am	Viviane Akl - English
11:30 am	Edward Antonios - Arabic
March 22, 2020	Sun. of the Healing of the Paralytic
Reading: 1 Timothy 5: 24-6:5	
Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	
Lectors: 9:00 am	Raymond Gill
11:30 am	Joseph Kallasy - English
11:30 am	Marleine Safi - Arabic
March 29, 2020	Sun. of the Healing of the Blind Man
Reading: 2 Corinthians 10:1-7	
Gospel: Mark 10:46-52	
Lectors: 9:00 am	Raymond Gill
11:30 am	Roger Shammass - English
11:30 am	Georges Abi Zeid - Arabic
April 5, 2020	Hosanna (Palm) Sunday
Reading: Philippians 1: 1-13	
Gospel: John 12:12-22	
Lectors: 9:00 am	Raymond Gill
11:30 am	Marise Frangie - English
11:30 am	Wadih Saikali - Arabic

## Dear Beloved Parishioners:

More and more, the threat of contracting the coronavirus, unprecedented in the world in this modern age, is becoming a reality. Last week 16 million people in Italy were put on lockdown until further notice. Here, classes in schools, colleges and universities have been moved online and some students are being told to move out. Harvard University and Amherst College are among the latest institutions to ask their students to leave campus and not return after spring break. More dioceses have shut down their services for the coming weeks in response to the pandemic. In the local grocery store, toilet paper aisles and pasta shelves are empty. At least thirteen US states have declared a state of emergency over COVID-19. What was once an overseas worry is now here in counties and cities where we live. Moments of panic, or at least of heightened anxiety characterize this present time. The question to be asked is: "Are we responding adequately to combating the coronavirus?" The answer is funny but I have to say it. When people are told something dangerous is coming, but all they need to do is wash their hands properly, the action doesn't seem proportionate to the threat, but in fact IT IS what is needed according to medical experts and researchers we trust.

This same logic may be applied to our understanding of the sacrament of reconciliation also known as confession. This sacrament when compared to others seems less popular. For example, most Divine Liturgy goes on a given Sunday receive communion, but a very small percentage of them go to confession when it is offered. It is true that most people are intimidated when it comes to talking about their wrongdoings

before a priest, but there are other reasons stopping people from standing in line before the confessional. One of them is that they do not trust that the rite of reconciliation administered

by the priest is adequate to forgive sins. Many feel that their transgressions are huge and go deep, so only special, secret and complicated measures may absolve them and make their burden light. It seems to them that the "solution" instituted by Christ and applied by the Church from the beginning is not proportionate to the offense committed, but in fact IT IS what is needed according to all the saints and Church teachings. The prophet Isaiah wrote, "...though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become white as wool" (Isaiah 1:18).

The Season of Great Lent offers a great opportunity for us to go inward and reaffirm to ourselves the power of the sacrament of reconciliation regardless of our own understanding of what it should be. Sin is a special danger and needs the sacrament of reconciliation as a special precaution against it.

*Abouna Dominique*

## Stations and Benediction of the Cross

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

## 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. We have collected \$1,181 so far. Thanks for your generosity.

## Palm Sunday Candles

Decorated candles will be available for purchase after Sunday Liturgies. Please contact Yolla Howayek for more information. Quantities are limited, so be sure to order yours soon. The MYO will benefit from selling the candles.

## Postponement of the Greece Pilgrimage

Due to the coronavirus, the planned Greece Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St. Paul was postponed to October 11. It will be the same itinerary as before, but we will be joining another group and hopefully by then this situation will be under control.

## 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.](#)

## High & Elementary School Scholarship

Students, currently enrolled or about to start attending high school or graduating from high school to college, are eligible to apply for either the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception, Knights of St. Maron, or the Joulwan Family scholarships. Students may also apply for the SALAM Club Scholarship. All forms will be available in the next few weeks.

## 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: Thursday April 30, Tuesday May 19, 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](mailto:sanctityoflife@live.com)

## Bulletin Advertisement

Business owners who would like to advertise their businesses in the Church bulletin that reaches over 600 households via email. For more information [click here](#) and call the rectory at 718-624-7228.

## Project Roots

Bishop Gregory is asking to redouble the efforts to register American citizens of Lebanese descent who would like to regain their Lebanese citizenship. Parishioners are encouraged to register their births and marriages in Lebanon. Please check Project Root's [new website](#) and contact [Zahia Abi Habib](#) for more information





# 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

# Save the Date

Please join us for  
Saint John Paul II Maronite Catholic Church's  
Annual Gala

honoring Father Jean Younes

Saturday April 25, 2020 || 7:00 PM  
New York Athletic Club – Travers Island  
DETAILS TO FOLLOW

## Order of Saint Sharbel Matching Grant

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](http://www.orderstsharbel.org), or obtained by contacting any of the following people:

- James Abdo, President of the Order ([jabdo@abdobooks.com](mailto:jabdo@abdobooks.com))
- Charlene Hiffa, Vice President, Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn ([mchiffa@bellsouth.net](mailto: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](mailto:saintmaron@yahoo.com) / [maroniteswest@yahoo.com](mailto:maroniteswest@yahoo.com)).

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

*Meet this year's Seminarians for the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn*





## Easter Flower Donations

Mrs. Phyllis Simon

In Memory of Simon & Raphael Family

Dr. Elie Chalhoub

In Memory of Maroun, Tacla, Sofia Chalhoub

Mr. & Mrs. Abdallah Safi

In Memory of Mae Safee

Mr. & Mrs. Michel Merhej

In Honor of Merhej Family

Mr. & Mrs. Chaouki El Adem

In Memory George, Margret, Wadiea Allaham & Haneh Eladem

Mrs. Marion Ciaccia

In Memory- Ronald Ciaccia & Joseph & Helen Sahadi

Subdeacon & Mrs. Norbbert Vogl

In Memory of Mr. Rania Nassar

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick O'Sullivan

In Memory of Annette Najjar



# 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.



## EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN

Office of the Bishop

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[chancerystmaron@verizon.net](mailto:chancerystmaron@verizon.net) [www.stmaron.org](http://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.

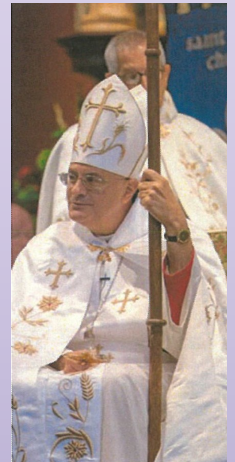
Thank you, and may God bless you for your generosity. I wish you a blessed Lent and Easter.

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

#### Fourth Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of the Prodigal Son

##### 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.

##### The Gospel 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 : مثل الابن الشاطر

##### رسالة بولس الثانية إلى أهل قورنثس 13: 5-13

يا إخوتي، اخْتَبِرُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ، هَلْ أَنْتُمْ رَاسِخُونَ فِي الْإِيمَانِ. امْتَحِنُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ. أَلَا تَعْرِفُونَ أَنَّ الْمَسِيحَ يَسُوعَ فِيكُمْ؟ إِلَّا إِذَا كُنْتُمْ مَرْفُوضِينَ! فَأَرْجُوا أَنْ تَعْرِفُوا أَنَّنَا نَحْنُ لَسْنَا مَرْفُوضِينَ! وَنُصَلِّي إِلَى اللَّهِ كَيْ لَا تَفْعَلُوا أَيَّ شَيْءٍ، لَا لِنُظْهَرَ نَحْنُ مُقْبُولِينَ، بَلْ لِكَيْ تَفْعَلُوا أَنْتُمْ الْخَيْرَ، وَتَكُونَ نَحْنُ كَانْنَا مَرْفُوضُونَ! فَإِنَّا لَا نَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ نَفْعَلَ شَيْئًا ضِدَّ الْحَقِّ، بَلْ لِأَجْلِ الْحَقِّ! أَجَلْ، إِنَّا نَفْرَحُ عِنْدَمَا نَكُونُ نَحْنُ ضَعْفَاءَ، وَتَكُونُونَ أَنْتُمْ أَقْوِيَاءَ. مِنْ أَجْلِ هَذَا أَيْضًا نُصَلِّي لِكَيْ تَكُونُوا كَامِلِينَ. أَكْتُبُ هَذَا وَأَنَا غَائِبٌ، لِئَلَّا أَعْلِمَكُمْ بِقَسَاوَةِ وَأَنَا حَاضِرٌ، بِالسُّلْطَانِ الَّذِي أَعْطَانِي إِيَّاهُ الرَّبُّ، لِنُبَيِّنَ لَكُمْ لَا لِهَيْمِكُمْ. وَبَعْدَ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ، أَفْرَحُوا، وَأَسْمَعُوا إِلَى الْكَمَالِ، وَتَسْجَعُوا، وَكُونُوا عَلَيَّ رَأْيَ وَاحِدٍ، وَعِيشُوا فِي سَلَامٍ، وَالْهُ الْمَحَبَّةِ وَالسَّلَامِ يَكُونُ مَعَكُمْ! سَلِّمُوا بَعْضُكُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ بِقِيَلَةٍ مُقَدَّسَةٍ. جَمِيعُ الْقِدِّيسِينَ يُسَلِّمُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ. نِعْمَةُ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، وَمَحَبَّةُ اللَّهِ، وَشَرَكَةُ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ مَعَكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ!

##### إنجيل القديس لوقا 15: 11-32

قَالَ الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ: «كَانَ لِرَجُلٍ ابْنَانِ. فَقَالَ اصْغُرْهُمَا لِأَبِيهِ: يَا أَبِي، أَعْطِنِي حِصَّتِي مِنَ الْمِيرَاثِ. فَقَسَمَ لهُمَا ثَرْوَتَهُ. وَبَعْدَ أَيَّامٍ قَلِيلَةٍ، جَمَعَ الابْنُ الْأَصْغَرُ كُلَّ حِصَّتِهِ، وَسَافَرَ إِلَى بَلَدٍ بَعِيدٍ. وَهُنَاكَ بَدَأَ مَالَهُ فِي حَيَاةِ الطَّيِّشِ. وَلَمَّا انْقَفَى كُلُّ شَيْءٍ، حَدَّثَتْ فِي ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ مَجَاعَةٌ شَدِيدَةٌ، فَبَدَأَ يُحْسِنُ بِالْعُوزِ. فَذَهَبَ وَلَجًا إِلَى وَاحِدٍ مِنَ أَهْلِ ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ، فَأَرْسَلَهُ إِلَى حَقُولِهِ لِيُرْعَى الْخَنَازِيرَ. وَكَانَ يَشْتَهِي أَنْ يَمْلَأَ جَوْفَهُ مِنَ الْخَرْوَبِ الَّذِي كَانَتْ الْخَنَازِيرُ تَأْكُلُهُ، وَلَا يُعْطِيهِ مِنْهُ أَحَدٌ. فَجَعَّ إِلَى نَفْسِهِ وَقَالَ: كَمْ مِنَ الْأَجْرَاءِ عِنْدَ أَبِي، يُفَضِّلُ الْخَبْزَ عَنْهُمْ، وَأَنَا هَهُنَا أَهْلُكَ جُوعًا! أَقُومُ وَأَمْضِي إِلَى أَبِي وَأَقُولُ لَهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامِكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدَ أَنْ أَدْعِيَ لَكَ ابْنًا. فَاجْعَلْنِي كَأَحَدِ أَجْرَائِكَ! فَقَامَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى أَبِيهِ. وَفِيمَا كَانَ لَا يَزَالُ بَعِيدًا، رَأَاهُ أَبُوهُ، فَتَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهِ، وَاسْرِعَ فَالْقَى نَفْسَهُ عَلَى عُنُقِهِ وَقَبَّلَهُ طَوِيلًا. فَقَالَ لَهُ ابْنُهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامِكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدَ أَنْ أَدْعِيَ لَكَ ابْنًا... فَقَالَ الْآبُ لِعَبِيدِهِ: اسْرِعُوا وَأَخْرِجُوا الْخَلَّةَ الْفَاجِرَةَ وَالْيَسُوءَ، وَاجْعَلُوا فِي يَدَيْهِ خَاتَمًا، وَفِي رِجْلَيْهِ حِذَاءً، وَأَتُوا بِالْعَجَلِ الْمُسَمَّنِ وَأَذْبَحُوهُ، وَلِنَأْكُلَ وَنَتَنَعَّمُ! لِأَنَّ ابْنِي هَذَا كَانَ مَيِّتًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فُوجِدَ. وَبَدَأُوا يَتَنَعَّمُونَ. وَكَانَ ابْنُهُ الْأَكْبَرُ فِي الْحَقْلِ. فَلَمَّا جَاءَ وَأَقْرَبَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ، سَمِعَ غِنَاءً وَرَقْصًا. فَدَعَا وَاحِدًا مِنَ الْعُلَمَاءِ وَسَأَلَهُ: مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هَذَا؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ: جَاءَ أَخُوكَ، فَذَبَحَ أَبُوكَ الْعَجَلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَقِيَهُ سَالِمًا. فَغَضِبَ وَلَمْ يَرِذْ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ. فَخَرَجَ أَبُوهُ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ. فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ لِأَبِيهِ: هَا أَنَا أَهْدُمُكَ كُلَّ هَذِهِ السِّنِينَ، وَلَمْ أَجَافْ لَكَ يَوْمًا أَمْرًا، وَلَمْ تُعْطِنِي مَرَّةً جَدِيًّا، لِأَتَنَعَّمَ مَعَ أَصْدِقَائِي. وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا جَاءَ ابْنُكَ هَذَا الَّذِي أَكَلَ ثَرْوَتَكَ مَعَ الزَّوَانِي، ذَبَحْتَ لَهُ الْعَجَلَ 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 مَيِّتًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فُوجِدَ.»

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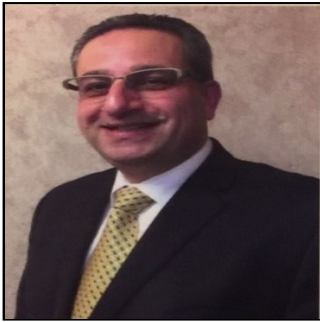
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