

PASSION WEEK

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

cathrectory@verizon.net

In an emergency, call: (202) 829-4779

(910) 988-2421

The Most Reverend Gregory J. Mansour, Eparchial Bishop

The Very Reverend Dominique Hanna, Rector

The Reverend Chuck VanHeusen, Assistant Rector

Deacon Adonis El-Asmar

Subdeacon Norbert Vogl



Passion Week & Resurrection Sunday
April 20th, 2025

PASSION WEEK

Thursday of the Mysteries, Apr. 17	7:30 pm Divine Liturgy of the Rite of the Washing of the Feet Confession & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 12 Midnight Pope St. Agapitus
Great Friday of the Crucifixion, Apr. 18	10 am Liturgy of the Anaphora of the Signing of the Chalice 7:30 pm Liturgy of the Adoration of the Cross St. Thais the Penitent
Great Saturday of the Light, Apr. 19	11 am Prayer of Forgiveness St. Timon the Deacon 12 Midnight Glorious Resurrection Liturgy and the Rite of Peace

Sunday, Apr. 20 **Sunday of the Glorious Resurrection and the Rite of Peace / St. Nathanael the Hermit**
11:30 am for the Intentions of the Parishioners

BRIGHT WEEK
SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION

Mon., April 21	NO LITURGY St. Anselm
Tues., April 22	10 am Divine Liturgy St. Theodore of Sykeon
Wed., April 23	10 am Divine Liturgy St. George
Thurs., April 24	10 am Divine Liturgy St. Saba the Commander
Fri., April 25	10 am Divine Liturgy St. Mark the Evangelist
Sat., April 26	10 am Divine Liturgy Pope St. Anacletus

Sun., April 27 **New Sunday / Divine Mercy Sunday / St. Simon, Brother of the Lord**
9 am for the Intentions of the Parishioners
11: 30 am for Michel Merhej **by the Merhej Family**

Financial Standing February 2025

Ordinary Income

- ♦ Collections on Sundays & Holy Days: **\$12,066.54**
- ♦ Cathedral Stipends from Marriages & Funerals, Hall Rent, Candles, Breakfast, Luncheon, Raffle, Dues, Religious Education, Flowers**\$51,654.04**
- Total Ordinary Income: \$63,720.58**

Ordinary Expenses

- ♦ Payroll, Gas, Electricity, Building Insurance and Medical Insurance, Leasing Equipment, TV, Phone, Internet, Supplies for Church, Hall & Office, Postage, Regular Maintenance, Charity, Eparchial Appeal, Insurance **\$49,123.54**
- Total Ordinary Expenses: \$49,123.54**
- ♦ **Total Ordinary Income vs Expenses: \$14,597.04**

Do you know? A couple of basic monthly expenses:

The Monthly Eparchial Assessment & Bishop's Appeal has increased from \$2,125 to \$2,670 a month starting January 2024.

The Cathedral's Building Insurance increased 14.3% in 2023, 7% in 2024 and 9% in 2025. We are now paying \$53,716 which will amount to \$4,476.33 a month.

**Thank you for your contribution
in helping maintain the Church
and in planning different activities**

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Egg Hunt

Sponsored by the MCF, the children of the Cathedral are invited to participate in the Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday after the 11:30 am Divine Liturgy. Weather permitting, it will take place inside the Cathedral's fence on Remsen St. Do not forget to bring your baskets.

The 2025 Eparchial Lenten Appeal

A second collection for the Eparchial Charities Appeal will be taken up every Sunday during the Season of Great Lent. We are asked to raise \$8,000 to participate in this awesome mission of the Eparchy. We have collected \$6,637 so far.

Knights Easter Raffle

The Knights of St. Maron are selling raffle tickets for a drawing on Sunday, April 20th.

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl

It is time for all those who joined our faith community and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States in a life-changing Lenten journey to bring their CRS Rice Bowl back. Please deposit your family's Rice Bowl in the sacristy or give it to one of the ushers.

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 may 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.

Vocation Team Initiatives

The Vocation Team is starting a new initiative to foster and promote a culture of vocations in our parishes—a vocation form that Bishop Gregory would like everyone to consider completing. Please click on the [link](#) and consider submitting a name of one or two young people, whom the Vocation Team can pray for, and possibly accompany in their vocation journey. The Vocation Team and Bishop Gregory will intentionally pray for those whose names are submitted, and if given permission, we will follow up with them to see how we can support them in their ongoing discernment. Please click [here](#) for our vocation prayer card and icon to aid our young people, families, and parishes to come together as the Body of Christ to pray for vocations.

Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St. John Paul II

Join us on an 11-day/9-night pilgrimage to Eastern Europe *In The Footsteps of St. John Paul II* from October 06–16, 2025, including Prague, Wroclaw, Krakow, Wieliczka Salt Mines, Auschwitz, Wadowice, Brno & Vienna. \$4,298 per person/double occupancy, including airfare from New York. Please call Marleine 1-917-608-2996 or Tony 1-917-206-3995.

Salaam Club Scholarship

The Salaam Club of New York is offering scholarships for high school graduates and college freshmen. Please click [here](#) for the application.

Promoting Vocations

The Eparchy is trying to bring more awareness to the different vocations in life. For this reason, an icon of the Holy Family along with a prayer will be given to a different family each week for prayer every night so God may guide us to discern and promote the various vocations.

See Fr. Chuck for more information. To register, please click [here](#).

Interested in Joining the Choir?

The choir of the Cathedral would like to welcome anyone interested in joining them to see Christiane Merhej after the 11:30 am Divine Liturgy. We are also looking for someone who knows the Maronite music to play the organ.

Finance Council Recommendation

The Finance Council has recommended that parishioners set up their Church donation as an automatic payment. You may also make your contribution online by clicking [here](#). It was determined that a minimum of \$150.00 per household a month will help meet the Church's budget.

Sixth Pastoral Letter of Bishop Gregory Mansour

[*The Man of God Is a Man for Others*](#) is the most recent pastoral letter of Bishop Gregory. The Bishop said, "The words were born in my heart out of love from one man to another. But I hope my words will also be helpful to women as well." Please click [here](#) to read the letter.

Bulletin Advertisements

Business owners, you may advertise your businesses in the Church bulletin that reaches over 600 households via email. For more information click [here](#) or call the rectory at (718) 624-7228.

Easter Flower Donations

Mrs. Marian Ciaccia
Antoine & Nahla Atallah
Joe & Mary Ann Elhilow
Emile & Brenda Ayli
Michael & Thomas Boulos
Mrs. Salma Vahdat
Mr. & Mrs. Chaouki El Adem

Mr. & Mrs. Adib El Howayek
John & Nayda Kahaly
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Jabour
The Merhej Family
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Chawki
Mr. & Mrs. William Safi
Marguerite Karam - Colantoni
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Tannousis
Mr. & Mrs. John Shaia

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Hadchiti

In memory of the Sahadi & Ciaccia families
In memory of Wajiha Kaba
In memory of Abe & Loraine Elhilow & Philip & Ann Phillips
In memory of Elias & Salimeh Ayli & Norma, Lambert & Vera Yueh
In memory of Lynne Boulos
In memory of the Besheer & Azizi families
In memory of Ibrahim, George, Margo & Rymon Allaham & Hanah
El Adem

In honor of their family
In memory of Joseph, Mary, Jeanette, Charles & Joey Kahaly
In memory of Elie Sarkis
In memory of Michel Merhej
In memory of Saideh Baho Chawki
In memory of Joseph & Dalak El-Hawa
In memory of Violet & Theodore Karam
In memory of Michael & Anneta Kari & Maria Antoniou
In memory of Philip & Lorraine Shaia
In memory of Davis, Lilian & Ralph Popkins
In memory of the deceased of the Hadchiti family

Come & See

MARONITE SERVANTS OF CHRIST THE LIGHT

~2025 JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE~

Prayer & Supper

Join the sisters for Maronite Evening Prayer (Ramsho) and Supper at our Mother of the Light Convent, 856 Tucker Rd Dartmouth from 4 to 7pm:

- Sunday February 23
- Sunday May 18

OPEN TO YOUNG ADULT WOMEN WHO ARE SINGLE (AGES 18 TO 39) AND SEEKING TO DISCERN THEIR VOCATION WITH THE MARONITE SERVANTS.



Discernment Retreat Weekend

Join us for a "Come & See" Discernment Retreat Weekend at our Convent:

- June 6-8, 2025
- September 5-7, 2025

The retreats offer an opportunity to listen to the Lord, rest in His Love, and spend time with Sisters on the journey of discernment of a call to religious life.

OPEN TO YOUNG ADULT WOMEN WHO ARE SINGLE (AGES 18 TO 39) AND SEEKING TO DISCERN THEIR VOCATION WITH THE MARONITE SERVANTS.



Monthly Discernment Group

If you are seeking to learn more about prayer and exploring God's call for your life and fellowship with the sisters and other women discerning their call please contact Vocation Director, Sr. Therese Maria Touma.

TO REACH OUT OR RSVP CONTACT:
SISTER THERESA MARIA, MSC
CALL: 508-965-6945
EMAIL: SISTER@MARONITESERVANTS.ORG
WEBSITE: MARONITESERVANTS.ORG



HELP LEBANON!

Caritas Lebanon: Founded in 1972, Caritas Lebanon is the official socio-pastoral arm of the Catholic Church and is under the authority of the Assembly of Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops of Lebanon. Caritas Lebanon assists both individuals and communities through direct assistance to the poor, sick, refugees, victims of sex abuse and trafficking, and others in need. Caritas Lebanon is a member of Caritas International, one of the largest humanitarian networks in the world. Donate [here](#).

Tele-Lumiere / Noursat: Tele-Lumiere / Noursat,

the "Television of Light," is the first Christian Television network in Lebanon and the Middle East. It was founded in 1991 by a group of committed lay people. Tele-Lumiere/Noursat has become the daily bread and hope for the Christian minorities in the Middle East, as well as a source of peace for many viewers from different denominations. Donate [here](#).

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul: Founded in 1833 by a group of young laymen, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization of women and men who put their faith into action. The Society is very close to the people. Most parishes and villages have a Society that is active. From the start, the Society has been under the patronage of Saint Vincent de Paul, a great saint, well-known for his works of charity. Donate [here](#).

OUR LADY OF LEBANON CATHEDRAL

LEBANESE FESTIVAL 2025

JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION OF LEBANESE CULTURE!

| Authentic Lebanese Food | Delicious Desserts | DJ & Dabke
Performances | Bar & Hookah |

Sat, June 14th
12pm-10pm

Fri, June 13th
12pm-10pm

Sun, June 15th
11am-5pm

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
BRING YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY!

113 REMSEN STREET
BROOKLYN NY 11201



Lebanese
Festival
Volunteers



SCAN QR CODE
TO VOLUNTEER

DABKE PERFORMANCE GROUP

SCAN QR CODE
TO SIGN UP AND
VIEW ALL
DETAILS!



For all ages!

- Younger Kids (Ages 6-11)
- MYO (Ages 12-17)
- MYA (Ages 18+)



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

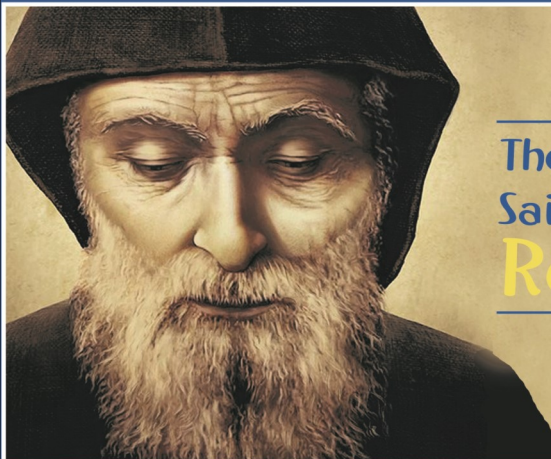
The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik
Up to 12 scholarships for Summer 2025 Semester

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



APPLICATION DEADLINE MAY 31, 2025

SAINT SHARBEL SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER PRESENTS



The Order of Saint Sharbel Retreat

"Jubilee Year: Facing All Challenges with Hope"

a weekend for the members & guests of The Order

**SEPTEMBER
12 - 14, 2025**

**Registration \$165
includes meals and all materials**

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

For those traveling in need of hotel accommodations, contact the Holiday Inn Express & Suites Pittsburgh West-Greentree at 412-922-7070 to reserve one of the rooms blocked off for the retreat.

SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

- Talks by Bishop Gregory Mansour
- Talk by Fr. Boniface Hicks
- Talk by Dr. Anne Borik
- Daily Divine Liturgy
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Confession
- Spiritual Direction
- Time for silent prayer and spiritual reading

For more information about The Order of Saint Sharbel, go to www.orderstsharbel.org.



To register, go to "Programs" on our website.

SaintSharbelCenter.org

820 Crane Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15216
info@SaintSharbelCenter.org

Maronite Enrichment Days 2025

St. Ephrem

The Man and the Myth

April

30

The Stories We Tell
10:00-11:30 am

We do terrible things to the saints. Instead of modeling ourselves on them, we recreate them in our own image. This session opens with an overview of how the Ephrem of history has been systematically erased and replaced by a caricature of someone who never existed. The reasons for this are as troubling as they are destructive.

Ephrem's World
1:30-3:00 pm

Recovering the Ephrem of history begins by letting him speak for himself, from his own time and place. How did the circumstances of Ephrem's life shape him? How did Ephrem become Ephrem?



Joseph P. Amar, PhD

May

01

The Work of Your Helper
10:00-11:30 am

How did Ephrem understand himself? He informs us that he has the anointing of heaven, that he speaks for God, that the power that animates and enlivens scripture flows into him, and through him, into his own time. But there are skeletons in his closet: Ephrem carries a dark secret from his past.

Why Ephrem Matters
1:00-2:30 pm

Ephrem's vision offers a path that is simple but hard. It is not the path of orthodoxy (right doctrine) or orthopraxy (right morality) but of orthopathy (authentic spirituality), which is nothing less than an embrace of ROZO.

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary
7164 Alaska Ave NW
Washington, DC 20012



+1 (202) 723-8831
maroniteseminary.org

SAINT SHARBEL SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER PRESENTS



Flourish

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Friday & Saturday
April 25 & 26, 2025

Saint Sharbel Spiritual Life Center, Pittsburgh, PA

"Who is Mary? Facets of the Feminine Genius"



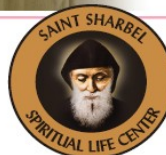
Join us for the First Annual Flourish Women's Retreat hosted by the Saint Sharbel Spiritual Life Center! Our keynote speaker this year, Johnette Benkovic Williams (host of "Women of Grace" on EWTN), will unpack for us our unique role as chosen women, who we are as chosen women of the Most High God, and teach us how to employ the gifts of our femininity in the way Our Blessed Mother Mary modeled for us.

For more information, the detailed retreat schedule and to register, scan the QR code or go to www.SaintSharbelCenter.org under "Programs" and then "Retreats/Workshops".



The cost for the retreat is \$135.

Accommodations are not included. Contact Holiday Inn Express & Suites Pittsburgh West-Greentree at 412-922-7070 to reserve one of the rooms blocked off for the retreat. Deadline to reserve a room is March 26, 2025.



To register and reserve your spot, go to
SaintSharbelCenter.org
820 Crane Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15216
info@SaintSharbelCenter.org



NAM 2025 CONVENTION

FAITH IGNITED - HOPE RENEWED
60 YEARS ROOTED IN MARONITE TRADITION
July 3-6, 2025
Raleigh - NC

Hosted by Saint Sharbel Church
Hilton Hotel, Raleigh North Hills



THE MASSABKI BROTHERS



60TH CONVENTION ANNIVERSARY



Follow Us for More Details   NAMConvention

60th NAM Convention Key Functions and Highlights

Faith Ignited – Hope Renewed 60 Years Rooted in Maronite Tradition

EXCURSIONS & ACTIVITIES

St Sharbel Neighborhood (All Ages)

Enjoy the beautiful Falls of Neuse Dam, tucked between lush forests and the serene waters of Falls Lake. then continue to visit St. Sharbel church.

Guided Umstead Park Walk (All Ages)

For nature lovers, immerse yourself in the beauty of Umstead Park on a guided walk through lush forests and peaceful trails.

Raleigh Highlights (All Ages)

Tour The Cathedral of The Sacred Heart Of Jesus & Explore Raleigh famous Sunflower fields.

The Museum Of Natural Sciences (Youth & Kids)

The largest in the Southeast, with Dinosaurs, fossils, butterfly conservatory, storm simulators, and scientists in action.

After-Party Karaoke: Be the Star of NAM!

Enjoy Lebanese oldies, favorite hits, and on-demand songs every night! Send us your requests, grab the mic, and join the fun for an unforgettable sing-along experience after the party!

Trolley Pub (MYA)

An MYA favorite, the Raleigh Trolley Pub is a fun, pedal-powered bar crawl through the city's best spots! Bring your friends, enjoy drinks, and explore downtown in a unique, lively way. (Fri 3-5 PM)

Theology On TAP (MYA)

Have a drink and dive deep into an exciting discussion about our faith with our incredible Bishop Elias Zaidan and Bishop Gregory Mansour!

Escape Room (MYA & MYO)

Available all convention long—grab friends, book a slot, and test your skills in this thrilling experience.

Dance, Mobility & Wellness (All Ages)

Stay active with dance, fitness, and expert mobility guidance for all ages. There's something for everyone to keep moving and feeling great!

Midnight Bite: Late-Night Cravings, Covered!

Keep the night going with delicious bites available for order after party hours. Whether you're craving a snack or a full meal, enjoy a late-night treat before calling it a night!

Fun, Food & Friendship With Father Boutros (MYA)

Catch up with old friends, make new ones, and enjoy dinner with heartfelt conversations.

Dinner & Icebreakers (All Ages)

By age groups, where we'll get to know each other and our fellow convention-goers. The perfect way to make connections.

MYO Lounge: Connect & Play

A space for MYO to enjoy games, creating friendships that will last beyond the convention.

Kids Zone (age 5 to 12)

Enjoy a mix of indoor and outdoor games, fun activities. A perfect space for kids to play, explore, and create unforgettable memories!

Board Games Lobby

Join friends or participate in a tournament with a wide array of cards, backgammon, and board games available at any time.

Opening Our Hearts: A Night of Adoration & Hymns

Starting our weekend with Adoration and sacred time of prayer, reflection, and confession. Continue the evening with uplifting hymns and prayers, bringing everyone together in song through our beloved sacred chants.



Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope (All Ages)

We're blessed to have our NAM Convention in a Jubilee Year, so let's make the journey leading up to it a pilgrimage of ignited faith and renewal of hope. As we prepare, we'll reflect on the lives of saints like Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, the Massabki Brothers, and Carlo Acutis, showing that holiness is for everyone. We'll collect images and stories to celebrate 60 years of heritage, setting the path for a future of holiness.

Stay tuned to our emails and social media for updates!

WORKSHOPS

AI-Powered Growth

Discover how to start and scale your business using modern tools, especially AI. Explore beginner-friendly AI concepts, interactive projects, and ethical strategies to leverage AI while staying true to your Christian vocation.

Faithful Success

Achieve career and entrepreneurial success while staying true to your faith and values. Learn how to thrive in this world with purpose, integrity, and abundance—keeping your heart set on heaven.

The Sanctity of Life and Marriage

We are created in God's image, and every stage of life, from conception to death, is sacred. This session explores the divine value of life and the importance of marriage in the Church, where vows are not only sacred but reflect our commitment to God's love and plan.

The Commission For Lebanon

A workshop focussing on the Church's stance regarding current events in Lebanon.

Understanding The Maronite Liturgy

We will delve deeper into the meaning and significance of the Maronite Liturgy—exploring what happens during the celebration and why each part is important.

ENTERTAINMENT

DJ Gilbert

Enjoy a great mix of Arabic and American hit songs the whole weekend as we dance the nights away!

Friday Hafli

Charbel Bassil & USA Special

Friday Night Hafli - Dress in your best traditional Lebanese outfit, dance and dabke to the voice of Lebanese Singer Charbel Bassil! We'll honor American Independence Day with a special celebration, featuring vibrant sound and light displays!

Saturday Gala Dinner

Lebanese Star Hisham El Hajj

An unforgettable evening with Star Hisham El Hajj, as he fills the night with his captivating music and lively performances. Enjoy a night of elegance, celebration, and entertainment at this exclusive event!

www.namconvention.org

info@namconvention.org

[@NAMCONVENTION](https://www.instagram.com/NAMCONVENTION)

[#YallaRaleigh](https://www.instagram.com/YallaRaleigh) [#NAMRaleigh](https://www.instagram.com/NAMRaleigh) [#NAMConvention](https://www.instagram.com/NAMConvention) [#NAM2025](https://www.instagram.com/NAM2025) [#NAM25](https://www.instagram.com/NAM25)

Sunday Readings

قراءات الأحد

Great Sunday of the Resurrection

First Letter to the Corinthians 15: 12-26

If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.

We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished.

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The Gospel according to Saint Mark 16: 1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?'

When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

أحد القيامة الكبير

رسالة بولس الأولى إلى أهل قورنتس 12-15:26

يَا إِخْوَتِي، إِنْ كَانَ الْمَسِيحُ يُبْسَرُ بِهِ أَنَّهُ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، فَكَيْفَ يَقُولُ بَعْضُكُمْ أَنْ لَا قِيَامَةَ لِلْأَمْوَاتِ؟ فَإِنْ كَانَ لَا قِيَامَةَ لِلْأَمْوَاتِ، فَالْمَسِيحُ أَيْضًا لَمْ يَقُمْ! وَإِنْ كَانَ الْمَسِيحُ لَمْ يَقُمْ، فَبَاطِلٌ نَبَشِيرُنَا وَبَاطِلٌ إِيمَانُكُمْ، وَنَكُونُ نَحْنُ شُهُودَ زُورٍ عَلَى اللَّهِ، لِأَنَّنَا شَهِدْنَا عَلَى اللَّهِ أَنَّهُ أَقَامَ الْمَسِيحَ، وَهُوَ مَا أَقَامَهُ، إِنْ صَحَّ أَنَّ الْأَمْوَاتِ لَا يَقُومُونَ. فَإِنْ كَانَ الْأَمْوَاتُ لَا يَقُومُونَ، فَالْمَسِيحُ أَيْضًا لَمْ يَقُمْ! وَإِنْ كَانَ الْمَسِيحُ لَمْ يَقُمْ، فَبَاطِلٌ إِيمَانُكُمْ، وَتَكُونُونَ بَعْدَ فِي خَطَايَاكُمْ. إِذَا قَالِذِينَ رَفَعُوا فِي الْمَسِيحِ قَدْ هَلَكُوا. إِنْ كُنَّا نَرْجُو الْمَسِيحَ فِي هَذِهِ الْحَيَاةِ وَحَسَبُ، فَتَحْنُ أَشَقَى النَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ! وَالْحَالُ أَنَّ الْمَسِيحَ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، وَهُوَ بَاكُورَةُ الرَّاقِدِينَ. فَبِمَا أَنَّ الْمَوْتَ كَانَ بِوَاسِطَةِ إِنْسَانٍ، فَبِوَاسِطَةِ إِنْسَانٍ أَيْضًا تَكُونُ قِيَامَةُ الْأَمْوَاتِ. فَكَمَا أَنَّهُ فِي آدَمَ يَمُوتُ الْجَمِيعُ، كَذَلِكَ فِي الْمَسِيحِ سَيَحْيَا الْجَمِيعُ، كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ فِي رُتْبَتِهِ: الْمَسِيحُ أَوَّلًا، لِأَنَّهُ الْبَاكُورَةُ، ثُمَّ الَّذِينَ هُمْ لِلْمَسِيحِ، عِنْدَ مَجِيئِهِ. وَبَعْدَ ذَلِكَ تَكُونُ النَّهَائِيَّةُ، حِينَ يُسَلِّمُ الْمَسِيحُ الْمُلْكَ إِلَى اللَّهِ الْآبِ، بَعْدَ أَنْ يَكُونَ قَدْ أَبْطَلَ كُلَّ رِئَاسَةٍ وَكُلَّ سُلْطَانٍ وَقُوَّةٍ، لِأَنَّهُ لَا بُدَّ لِلْمَسِيحِ أَنْ يَمْلِكَ، إِلَى أَنْ يَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ جَمِيعَ أَعْدَائِهِ تَحْتَ قَدَمَيْهِ. وَآخِرُ عَدُوٍّ يُبْطَلُ هُوَ الْمَوْتُ.

إنجيل القديس مرقس 8-1:16

لَمَّا أَنْقَضَى السَّبْتِ، أَشْتَرَتْ مَرْيَمُ الْمَجْدَلِيَّةُ، وَمَرْيَمُ أُمُّ يَعْقُوبَ، وَسَالُومَةُ، طُبُوبًا لِيَاثَيْنَ وَيُطِيبَتَيْنِ جَسَدَ يَسُوعَ. وَفِي يَوْمِ الْأَحَدِ بَاكِرًا جِدًّا، أَتَيْنَ إِلَى الْقَبْرِ مَعَ طُلُوعِ الشَّمْسِ. وَكُنَّ يَقُلْنَ فِيمَا بَيْنَهُنَّ: «مَنْ يُدْخِرُ لَنَا الْحَجَرَ عَنْ بَابِ الْقَبْرِ؟»

وَتَفَرَّسْنَ فَشَاهَدْنَ الْحَجَرَ قَدْ دُخِرَ، وَكَانَ كَبِيرًا جِدًّا. وَدَخَلْنَ الْقَبْرَ، فَرَأَيْنَ شَابًّا جَالِسًا عَنِ الْيَمِينِ، مُتَوَشِّحًا حُلَّةً بَيَضَاءً، فَأَنْدَهَلْنَ. فَقَالَ لَهُنَّ: «لَا تَنْدَهَلْنَ! أَتُنَّ تَطْلُبْنَ يَسُوعَ النَّاصِرِيَّ الْمَصْلُوبَ. إِنَّهُ قَامَ، وَهُوَ لَيْسَ هُنَا. وَهِيَ هِيَ الْمَكَانُ الَّذِي وَضَعُوهُ فِيهِ. أَلَا أَذْهَبُ وَقُلُّ لِيَتْلَامِيذِهِ وَلِبَطْرُسَ: إِنَّهُ يَسْبِقُكُمْ إِلَى الْجَلِيلِ. وَهُنَاكَ تَرَوْنَهُ، كَمَا قَالَ لَكُمْ.»

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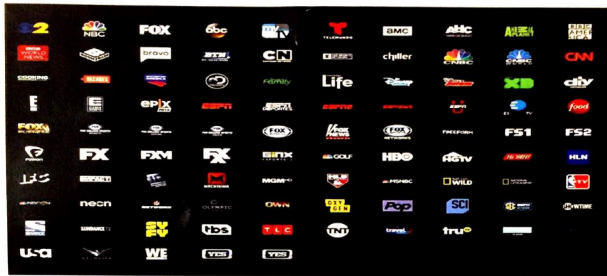
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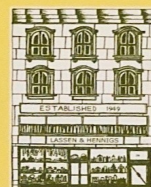
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