

Issue 42 | January 2026

With Warm Wishes



Find us online! Click this image to be directed to our website in English.

The Family of Saint Sharbel USA sends happy greetings! In this edition of our newsletter, we are grateful to share with you about:

The **Charity of Poverty**
A **Talk on the Value of Marriage**
Family-Friendly Lent Ideas
Free resources for Maronite Catechists, a **free audiobook**, and more!

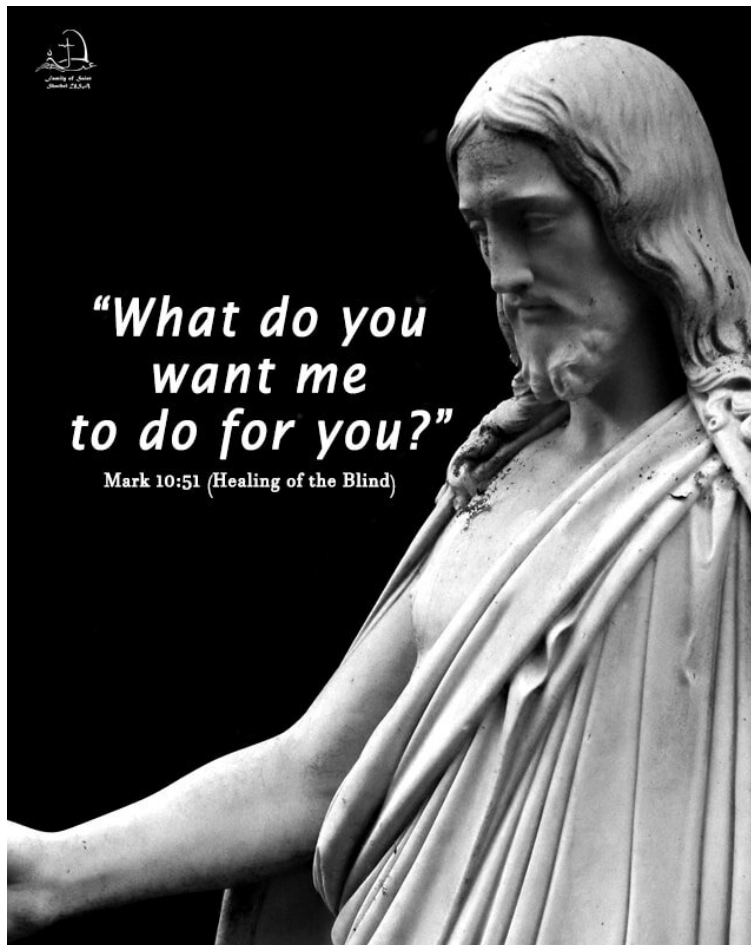
Please share this newsletter and **keep us in your prayers**—we are praying for you daily!

Contemplation Corner

The Ascetic Life and the Path to Christ

Part Two: The Charity of Poverty

by the Family of Saint Sharbel USA Editorial Team



Poverty is normally considered a state of not having enough. It is a condition that we nearly all, reasonably, hope to avoid and work to keep ourselves and others out of. Yet religious “poverty” is considered a virtue, and consecrated religious, such as St. Sharbel, take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience as part of their consecration to Christ. **What kind of poverty does the Church consider a virtue, and what does it have in common with material poverty? Why is this virtuous kind of**

poverty necessary to live the love God asks of us, and how can it be possible for lay people?

[Click here](#) to read the full reflection.

[Click here](#) to view more of our spiritual designs.

“Family” Updates

Save the Dates! FSS Events at the National Shrine Grotto in 2026



Save the Dates! The Family of Saint Sharbel USA plans to gather in prayer at the **National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes** in Emmitsburg, MD on the following Saturdays in 2026:

May 9th, 2026: St. Sharbel Birthday Celebration

July 25th, 2026: St. Sharbel Feast Day Celebration

September 26th, 2026: St. Sharbel's Shrine Anniversary

We hope you can join us!

Saint Sharbel Devotions in the USA

Explore the links below to find an event near you.

Please email or call the parish, mission, or center to verify the dates and times listed below!

Masses followed by St. Sharbel Prayer Services:

Include blessing with and/or veneration of the relic and/or oil of Saint Sharbel

St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church, Phoenix, Arizona

St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Mission of Stockton, California

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church, Washington, D.C.

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church, Miami, Florida

National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, Emmitsburg, Maryland

St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church, Clinton Township, Michigan

St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Our Lady Star of the East Maronite Catholic Church, Pleasantville, New Jersey

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Astoria, New York

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church, Norman, Oklahoma

St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Mission, El Paso, Texas

St. George Maronite Catholic Church, San Antonio, Texas

St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Mission of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Holy Hours in Honor of St. Sharbel:

Shrine Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Brooklyn, New York

Relics of St. Sharbel are scheduled to visit the Saint Sharbel Spiritual Life Center (820 Crane Ave. Pittsburgh, PA) from May 8-10, 2026.

Community News

World's Largest St. Sharbel Sculpture Installed in Sydney, Australia



“More than 20,000 flooded a Sydney street on Thursday night [Jan. 22] as they witnessed the installation of the world’s largest monumental bronze sculpture of St. Charbel’s face atop St. Charbel’s Monastery. The 900-kilogram bronze sculpture, standing more than four metres high, was craned onto the monastery building following the procession, becoming an immediate landmark on the Punchbowl skyline and a focal point of devotion for thousands. The event coincided with the 33rd anniversary of the miracle of Nohad Chami, one of the most widely recognized healings attributed to St. Charbel and formed part of the spiritual lead-up to a major milestone for the Church — the 50th anniversary of St. Charbel’s canonization next year.” (Live Love Beirut - text by Adella Beaini).


[Learn More](#)


Zoom Talk: “The Value of Marriage” (Bishop Gregory Mansour)


DOCTRINAL NOTE

The Value of Marriage

Hosted by Couples Ministry & Sharbel Center



 **February 10** Bishop Gregory Mansour
Eparchy of Saint Maron

 8:00 PM EST
Meeting ID: 853 7619 7295
Passcode: 250823

All couples & young adults welcome

Join Bishop Gregory Mansour on **Tuesday, February 10th** for a **Zoom talk**

discussing the recent doctrinal note, “The Value of Marriage” for couples and young adults! Click the button link to join at **8PM EST** or see the event flyer for additional details.

This talk is being hosted by the Couples Ministry of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn.

[Join on Feb. 10](#)

Zoom Series: Great Lent



GREAT LENT:
ACCORDING TO OUR MARONITE LITURGY, SAINTS & TRADITION

.....

Maronite Faith Formation Sessions at 8pm:

February 19- First Pillar: Prayer
(Bishop Gregory Mansour)

February 26- Second Pillar: Fasting
(Fr. Rabih Aoun)

March 5- Third Pillar: Almsgiving
(Fr. Vincent Farhat)

 To register scan QR Code

.....

Hosted by the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light in conjunction with the St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center.



**LENT**
 PRAYING
 FASTING
 ALMSGIVING

Click to register!

The **Maronite Servants of Christ the Light** and the **Saint Sharbel Spiritual Life Center** have planned a series of Zoom talks on the three pillars of Lent according to the Maronite liturgy, saints, and tradition: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving! Talks will take place on February 19th, February 26th, and March 5th at 8PM EST. See the flyer for details or click below to register!

[Register Here](#)

Why is the Church so Pro-Life?

The **Maronite Youth Organization (MYO)** and the **Eparchial Office for the Family**

& Sanctity of Life of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn recently collaborated to create a **video** and **discussion guide** to engage the Church's teaching on the sanctity of life. At our bishop's encouragement, we want to share those new resources with you below!

[Watch the Video](#)

[Discussion Guide: Engaging Youth on Pro-Life Topics](#)

Lenten Day of Retreat: Pondering with Mother Mary (NSG)



Click to Learn More! (Source: National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes)

The **National Shine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes** in Emmitsburg, MD plans to host a **Lenten Day Retreat with Fr. Dwight Schlaline on Saturday, February 28th!** Fr. Dwight Schlaline is the pastor of the historic Sacred Heart Basilica (“Conewago Chapel”) near Hanover, PA, and he has served as a priest in the Diocese of Harrisburg since June 2010. **Click the button link below to learn more or register to attend!**

[Register Here](#)

Winter Speaker Series (St. Sharbel Center - Pittsburgh, PA)



SAINT SHARBEL SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER

SATURDAY MORNING Speaker Series

2026 WINTER

General Format 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 11:00 AM Talk by Guest Speaker 12:00 PM Light Lunch - No Charge - Donations Accepted

JAN 3



ATTORNEY PAULINE CALABRESE
Contemplating the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: How to Ponder in Your Heart

FEB 7



DR. MICHAEL THERRIEN, STL, STD
Unlocking Jesus' Missionary DNA for the New Evangelization

MAR 7



ATTORNEY PAULINE CALABRESE
Contemplating the Solemnity of Saint Joseph: How to Reflect Christian Virtue in Modern Families

More dates to be announced.

For more information and to register, go to

SaintSharbelCenter.org

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

The **St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center** invites you to join them for their Saturday Morning Speaker Series! Their next talk will be **"Unlocking Jesus' Missionary DNA for the New Evangelization"** by **Dr. Michael Therrien** on **Saturday, February 7th!** See the flyer for details.

DISCERNMENT SERIES

With the
Maronite Servants of Christ the Light

Join the Sisters and single young adult women (ages 18-39) for a four-part discernment series via zoom. See the dates & formation topics below. In conclusion to this series, we invite young women open to religious life to attend a Come & See Retreat, April 10-12 at our Mother of the Light Convent in Dartmouth MA.

January 12, February 9, March 8, April 6, 2026.
8:00PM TO 9:15PM

- Spousal Love & Intimacy with God
- Self knowledge & Community Life
- Spiritual Motherhood & the Apostolate
- Prayer & Asceticism

*"I have called you by name, and you are mine."
- Isaiah 43:1*

CONTACT US ☎ 508-996-1753 🌐 Maroniteservants.org




Women's Discernment Series

Have You Ever Considered Becoming a Sister? The **Maronite Servants of Christ the Light** invite **unmarried women aged 18-39** to join them for a **discernment**

series on Zoom! If you are discerning God's call for you and are open to religious life, this is a great opportunity to learn more. See the series flyer for additional details, and click below to RSVP or learn more about the sisters!

RSVP

Learn More

Community Highlight: Resources for Maronite Catechists!



Sample: Front Cover of the Office of Religious Education's Epiphany Children's Gospel Bulletin (Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn). Click to view the full edition!

If you or someone you know is involved in Maronite religious education, the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn's **Office of Religious Education** has resources for you! Contact maronitereligious@gmail.com to receive **classroom ideas, children's Gospel bulletins, and resources to grow your own knowledge and faith** or learn how you can participate in **Franciscan University's at-home Catechist Training Program** at no cost to you. You can also access additional online resources [here!](#)

Thank you, catechists, for your service to the Church!

Get Connected

Additional Resources

Saint Spotlight

Sts. Koura and Marana, Disciples of St. Maron



Feast Day: February 28th

Sts. Koura (Cyra) and Marana were sisters from a noble family in Aleppo (Beroea), Syria. Known for rejecting worldly attention and ambition, they became devout disciples of **St. Maron** who lived in seclusion and spent their time praying, fasting, and maintaining contemplative silence. Upon visiting these sisters, the historian Theodoret found that they wore rough clothing and weighted chains, and their home was a small, open-air enclosure with no roof. Outside the season of the Resurrection (the 50 days following Easter), neither sister spoke to anyone, but both radiated joy. The sisters both passed from this world during the 5th century AD. May their example of holy simplicity and contentment inspire us!

Sts. Koura and Marana, pray for us!

**Sources: Maronite Synaxarion, translated by Kozhaya Akiki and MHTM Feb. 2020 Article - "Disciples of St. Maron."*

Other Notable Saints Celebrated This Month:

St. Maron - Feb. 9 ([learn more here!](#))

Reading Nook



A woman receives ashes on the USS Green Bay (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Christopher Lape).

40 Ideas for 40 Days

By **Joe Paprocki (Loyola Press)**

“When it comes to practicing our faith, Lent is a time of heightened intensity. With Lent upon us, I’m pleased to offer these 40 Lenten activities.

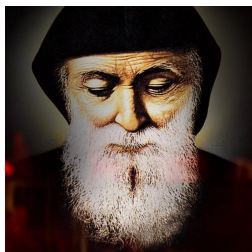
The activities are grounded in the symbols, Scripture readings, devotions, and traditions of the Lenten season. Check this calendar each day to find another Lenten activity that you can adapt for your own setting.

May this Lent be a time of heightened focus on faith formation for you and for those you teach!”

**Please note: dates on this calendar apply to a previous year, but the ideas are still applicable!*

40 Ideas for 40 Days

New Testimonials



Periodically, we receive stories from people around the globe who have experienced the work of God through St. Sharbel's intercession. We would like to share the most recent testimonies we've received with you below! Click on a title to read the full story; all posted testimonies have been shared with permission.

EWTN News: 2 New Miracles Reported Through Intercession of St. Charbel in 2026

Healing Testimony of Rosarita Sharbel Al Hashem

Healing Testimony of Rita Antoine Kirakos

Healing Testimony of Nina Adib Habib

Healing Testimony of Anwar Kamel Suleiman

Healing Testimony of Maryam Abbas Kharoubi

Healing Testimony of Journalist Joseph Samaan

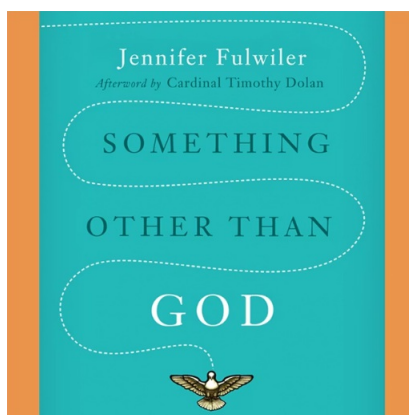
Healing Testimony of Jean George Beshara

Healing Testimony of Hanna Rouhana

You can read more personal testimonials on our Testimonials page [HERE](#).

Disclaimer: All testimonials posted on the Family of Saint Sharbel's website are based solely on person-to-person accounts. Unlike Vatican-approved miracles, the claims within these testimonies have not been subjected to extensive scientific review.

Editor's Pick: FORMED Resource



Click to listen on FORMED!

The Family of Saint Sharbel offers its readers a FREE subscription to FORMED, an online Catholic platform containing thousands of resources for spiritual growth!

This Month's Highlighted FORMED Resource:

Why would someone who never believed in God become a Catholic? How can we know why we're all really here? ***Something Other Than God*** by Jennifer Fulwiler, a former atheist, is the author's own story of pursuing (and, at times, avoiding) life's biggest questions. Spanning from her childhood through marriage, motherhood, a difficult medical diagnosis, and beyond, Jennifer's book is **well-written, reflective, and worth your time**. Click the button link below to listen!

Free Audiobook

To access this resource and many others for free:

Go to: <https://formed.org/signup>

Enter: "Family of Saint Sharbel"

Enter your name and email address.

FORMED is also on social media!

Instagram: [formedcatholic](#)

Facebook: [FORMEDCatholic](#)

YouTube: [Augustine Institute](#)

Find Us Online!

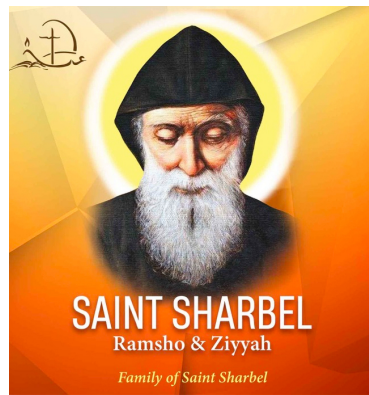


Family of Saint Sharbel on Social Media

The Family of Saint Sharbel USA is on **TikTok**, **Facebook**, and **Instagram**! Click the linked (brown) text to view our profiles. **Please like and share to help our Catholic**

content reach a broader audience!

Family of Saint Sharbel on Apple Music, Spotify, and More!



Last year, the Family of Saint Sharbel published its **first musical production**, a sung Arabic rendition of St. Sharbel Ramsho & Ziyah hymns. This album is now available on **our podcast**, **Apple Music**, and **Spotify**! Click below or search “Family of Saint Sharbel” on your app of preference to listen.

[Listen Online](#)

Family of Saint Sharbel Shops



Click this image to view our Amazon shop!

The Family of Saint Sharbel is on **Amazon** and **Shopify**! On these two platforms, books, novenas, prayer cards, and sacramentals related to St. Sharbel and Catholic spirituality are available for order, including works created by the Family of Saint Sharbel. Click the linked text above to explore!

Family of Saint Sharbel YouTube & Podcasts



Image from the Family of St. Sharbel's Miracles and Healings channel. Click to view!

The Family of Saint Sharbel (FSS) is on YouTube and has published podcasts in English and Arabic! For more content including talks, testimonies, and event recordings, visit any of our three YouTube channels or listen to our podcast below.

[St. Sharbel's Miracles & Healings - YouTube](#)

[Maronite Saints & Blesseds - YouTube](#)

[Family of Saint Sharbel USA - YouTube](#)

[Aylet Mar Charbel YouTube \(Arabic Channel\)](#)

[FSS Podcast](#)

[Zoom Prayer Gathering - Arabic](#)



[Click Here to Learn More!](#)

Other Useful Links

[English Website](#)

[Spanish Website](#)

[Portuguese Website](#)

[Tagalog Website](#)

[St. Sharbel Shrine - Emmitsburg, MD](#)

[Sanctuary of St. Sharbel in Lebanon](#)

Questions or Comments?

Email communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org to let us know!

God Bless,

Family of Saint Sharbel USA



[Web Version](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by
GoDaddy Email Marketing®