



They devoted themselves to the teaching
of the apostles and to the communal life,
to the breaking of the bread
and to the prayers.

ACTS 2:42

Issue 27 | October 2024

Peace of Christ



*Family of Saint
Sharbel USA*

May God Bless You!

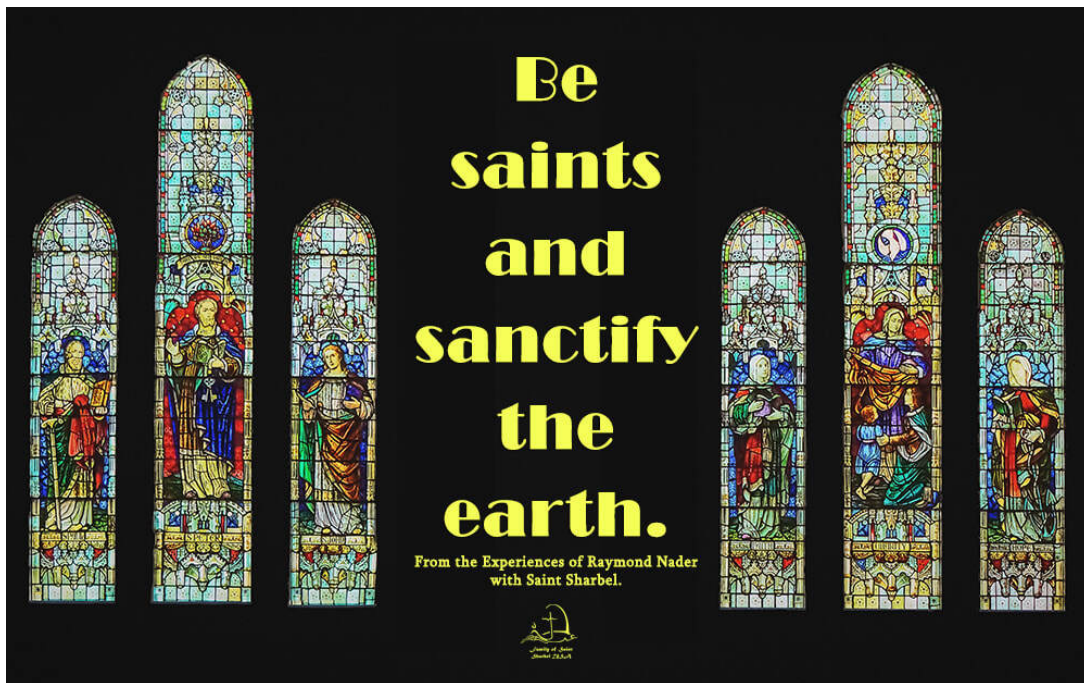
The Family of Saint Sharbel USA
gladly presents its 27th Newsletter.
We are thankful to be walking with
you, and we ask for your prayers as
our community of faith continues to
grow! **Please spread the word; we
would love to have you all join us.**

Contemplation Corner

We Journey on the Ascending Ladder of Faith!

A Reflection on the Liturgical Year of the Maronite Church

By Fr. Peter E. Raad, Ph.D., Dallas, TX, Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles



Have you ever wondered why we have a cyclical liturgical calendar? The seasons and the readings repeat, year after year, and if we are not paying attention, we may begin to think that our Church has run out of ideas, or we may even start to get bored of the “same old, same old” repetition! The truth, however, is that you and I may live a thousand years and not even begin to exhaust the depth and breadth and beauty of our Church and what she has to relay to us and teach us, for the simple reason that our Church speaks of nothing, offers nothing, leads to nothing except Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior, Who is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very Being (Heb 1:3). After all, our Lord Jesus “is before all things, and in Him all things hold together” (Col 1:17). For “all things came to be through Him, and

without Him nothing came to be. What came to be through Him was Life, and this life was the Light of the human race; the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (Jn 1:3-5). How could anyone then think that they can ever exhaust God's revelation or gifts? Could we live without His Life? Could we walk without His Light? Would we even want to?

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

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

Saint Sharbel Events 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 times listed below!

Masses in Honor of St. Sharbel:

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

NEW! Our Lady of Lebanon, Miami, Florida

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

St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church, Clinton Township, Michigan

NEW! St. Maron Maronite Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Astoria, New York

NEW! Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Church, Norman, Oklahoma

St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

St. Sharbel Mission, El Paso, Texas

NEW! St. George Maronite Church, San Antonio, Texas

St. Sharbel Mission of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Holy Hours in Honor of St. Sharbel:

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

Recent News

NEW: Family of Saint Sharbel Tagalog Website



Devotion to Saint Sharbel has continued to spread throughout the globe, including to the Philippines! In response to this growth, generous volunteers recently translated the Family of Saint Sharbel's website into Tagalog, a native language of the Philippines. Click the button link below to access the new page!

[Tagalog Website](#)

Canonization of the Massabki Martyrs



Click this image to view a documentary about the Massabki martyrs on YouTube!

On Sunday, October 20th, 2024, Pope Francis canonized 14 saints, including three Maronite martyrs: Francis, Abdul-Mooti, and Rafael Massabki. These three martyrs were blood brothers and laymen who lived in Damascus during a time of Ottoman occupation and persecution of Christians. Known for their holiness of life, when given the choice to convert to Islam or perish, they chose to die for the God for whom they lived. Their feast day is celebrated on July 10th each year! Click the links below or the image to the right to learn more about Massabki martyrs and their canonization.

[About the Massabki Martyrs](#)

[More on the Canonization](#)

[Pope Francis' Canonization Homily](#)

St. Sharbel Illustrated Book - Available in Arabic and English!



Order Online Now!

Click this image to view a promotional video about the book!

St. Sharbel of Lebanon: Saint of Wonders is one of the Family of Saint Sharbel's latest projects! Available in **English and Arabic**, this illustrated book recounts the life of Saint Sharbel in context, beginning with a brief history of the Maronite Church and the Lebanese Maronite Order and ending with the legacy left behind by Christ's work in this Saint, including the formation of the Family of Saint Sharbel. Click the links below to learn more or purchase this book in your preferred language!

[Order Online - Arabic](#)

[Order Online - English](#)

Saint Spotlight

Habib the Deacon - Martyr

Feast Day: November 15

Habib the Deacon, also known as Abibus of Edessa and St. Habibis the Martyr, was a Christian from Telzeha. According to the Syriac Christian text, *Martyrdom of Habib the Deacon*, Habib was witnessed discouraging people from worshipping the false gods that were promoted under the reign of Roman

emperor Licinius. These actions earned him Licinius' attention. In response, Licinius ordered the deacon's search and execution unless he stopped preaching against worship of the empire's gods. Habib refused to deny his faith by ceasing his actions and was killed in Edessa. The Church remembers his faithful witness on November 15th each year!

Reading Nook

All Saints Day - The Righteous and the Just

by the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn, NY



Image sourced from the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn's blog.

November 1st is All Saints' Day, but what place does this celebration have in the Maronite tradition? See the article below for insight into the Maronite perspective on this holy day!

"As Maronites, we join the Latin church in celebrating All Saints Day on the first of November. Our traditional Maronite feast to honor all the saints is the Sunday of the Righteous and the Just. (The second Sunday before Cana Sunday, the

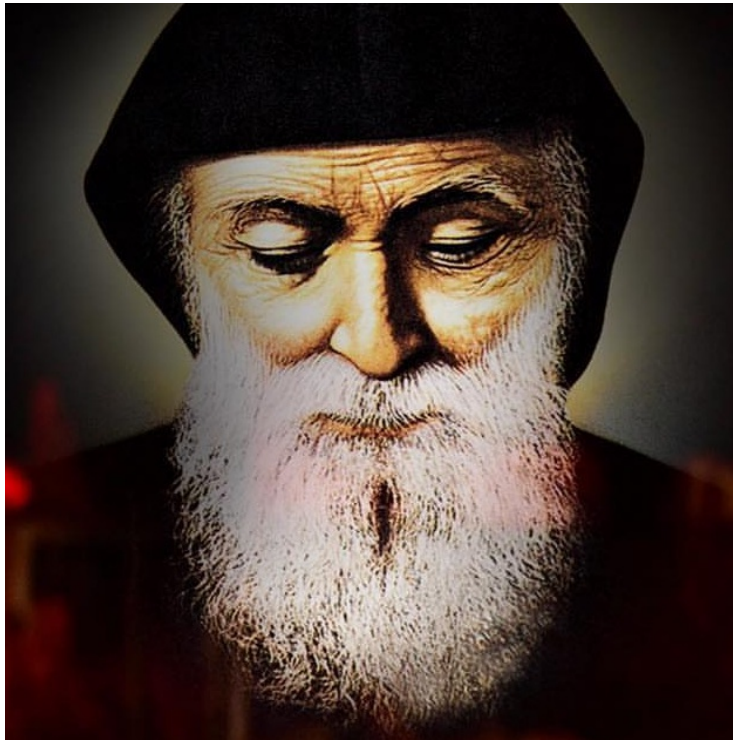
entrance into great lent).

On this day we call to mind all the men and women, children of the Church, who have followed the path of righteousness. We remember the prophets, apostles and martyrs, the hermits, ascetics, men and women religious, as well as all Christians who have led holy lives.”

[Read More Here](#)

Articles and More

New Testimonials



<https://www.familyofsaintsharbel.org/testimonials.html>

Periodically, we receive stories from people around the globe who have experienced the work of God through the intercession of St. Sharbel. 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 the author's permission.

Healing Testimony of Bashir Nabih Haddad

Healing Testimony of Grace Youssef Al-Aadam

Healing Testimony of Nicolas Saoud Nicolas

Healing Testimony of Mireille Issam Farhat

Healing Testimony of Hanna Philip Khoury

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 the image above (copied from the FORMED online streaming platform) to be directed to "What is God Inviting You to? Tips for Vocational Discernment"!

The Family of Saint Sharbel offers you a FREE subscription to FORMED, an online Catholic platform that contains thousands of resources for spiritual growth!

This Month's Highlighted FORMED Resource:

God made you for a reason, and He is inviting you to follow Him in a unique way! In the US, this reality is especially highlighted during **National Vocations Awareness Week**, which takes place from November 3-9 this year. This occasion in mind, we would like to highlight Fr. John Ignatius' talk, **"What is God Inviting You To? Tips for Vocational Discernment"** this month. Click the button link below to listen!

*If you are discerning a vocation to the priesthood specifically, **this series** may

also be useful to you!

[Listen Here](#)

To view this resource and many others, sign up for FORMED **FOR FREE** by following these simple steps:

- (1) **Go to:** <https://formed.org/signup>
- (2) **Enter:** Family of Saint Sharbel
- (3) **Enter** your name and email address and you're in!

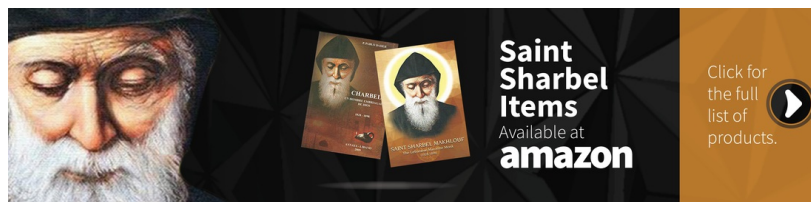
Below are the links to FORMED on social media:

Instagram: [formedcatholic](#)

Facebook: [FORMEDCatholic](#)

YouTube: [Augustine Institute](#)

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 buttons below to explore!

[Amazon](#)

[Shopify](#)

Catch us on YouTube!



Image from the Family of Saint Sharbel's Miracles & Healings channel.

The Family of Saint Sharbel USA is on YouTube! For more content including talks, testimonies, and event recordings, visit any of our three channels below.

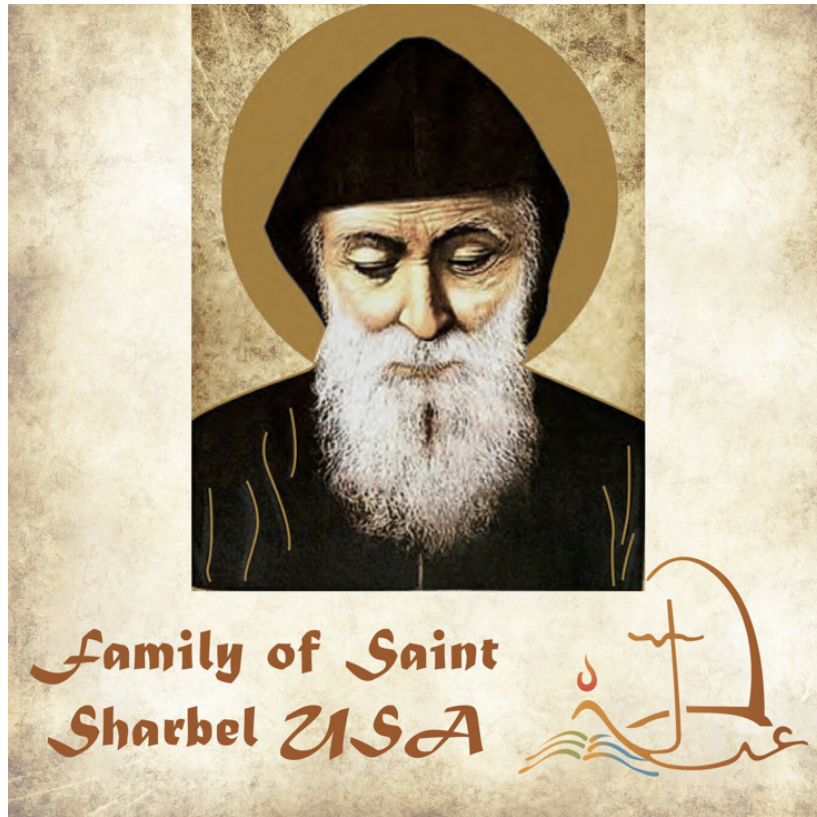
May God bless you!

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

[Maronite Saints & Blesseds](#)

[Family of Saint Sharbel USA](#)

Family of Saint Sharbel Podcast



<https://www.familyofsaintsharbel.org/podcast>

The Family of Saint Sharbel (FSS) Podcast is now available in English and Arabic! Episodes currently include talks on the Maronite Divine Liturgy, Syriac Spirituality, the Silence of God, and more. Listen at the link below or through your podcast app of preference, and please feel free to share!

[Listen Now](#)

Zoom Prayer Gathering - Arabic



[Click Here to Learn More!](#)

Questions or Comments?

Email communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org to let us know!

Where to Find Us

- [Website](#)
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- [Facebook](#)
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**God Bless,
The Family of Saint Sharbel USA**



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