

Issue 39 | October 2025

With Great Thanksgiving!



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

Peace of Christ

Happy (almost!) liturgical new year! This month, we are looking forward to sharing with you about:

- **English Prayer Groups** on the horizon
- **National Vocations Awareness**

Week

- **Upcoming Ordinations**
in
the
Maronite
Church
(USA)
**and
more!**

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

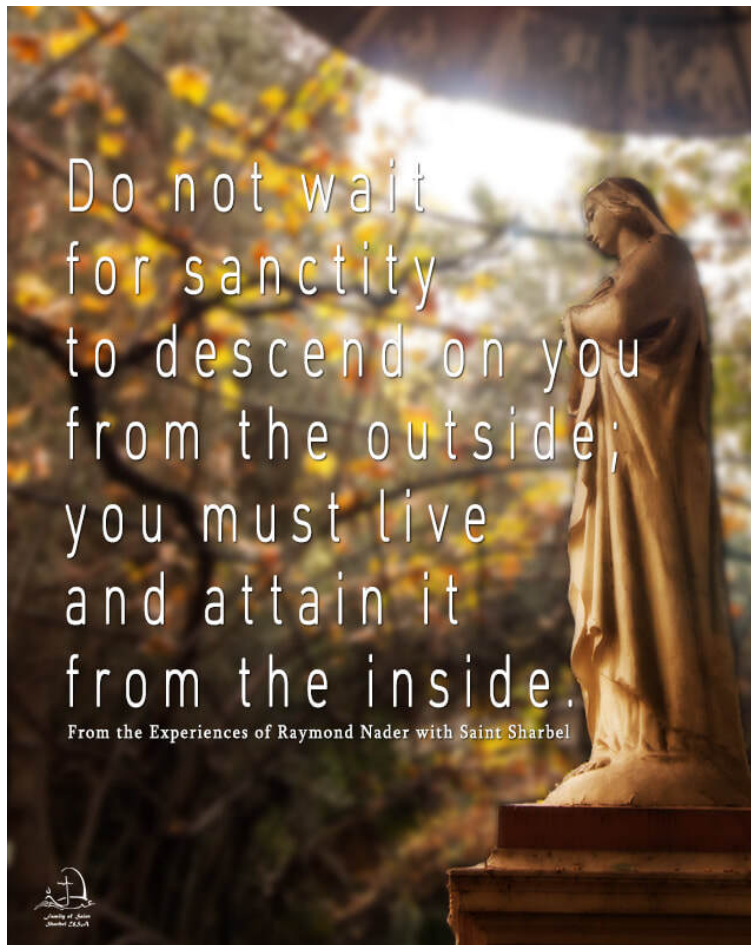
NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

NEWLY REVISED: Contemplation Corner

The Ascetic Life and the Path to Christ

Part One: Mortifications

by the Family of Saint Sharbel USA Editorial Team



To those of us who live outside the monastery, and even to some of us who live within one, the bodily mortifications St. Sharbel chose to undergo may seem both mysterious and extreme. As a monk and later hermit, St. Sharbel fasted every day, eating just one meal in the afternoon that never included meat, sweets, or even fruit, despite performing hard labor in the fields. He wore a notoriously uncomfortable hair shirt beneath his habit; he slept very little each night and used a log for a pillow; if he saw a woman walking by, he cast his eyes downward or even changed his path; after being outside in cold weather, he would return to the monastery immediately, not pausing even to warm himself at the fire outside. **If doing just what St. Sharbel did is not required of everyone for salvation, what purpose did this Saint's discomfort serve?**

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

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

“Family” Updates

English Prayer Groups Soon to Form!



The Family of Saint Sharbel USA has been preparing prayer materials for English-speaking prayer groups, and we are almost ready to begin! **If you would be interested in leading or participating in an English-speaking prayer group, please email communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org** to be included among our initial contacts!

[I'm Interested](#)

Prayers of Thanksgiving



In the United States, Thanksgiving falls on the fourth Thursday of November (this year: Nov. 27th)! If you would like us to pray a prayer of thanksgiving for a specific intention this month (or any intention at any time!), please click the button link below to submit your request.

[Submit a Prayer Request](#)

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 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

Community News

Pope Leo to Visit Turkey and Lebanon



Bekaa Kafra, Lebanon (Source Linked).

Pope Leo XIV intends to make his first apostolic journey abroad this November! God willing, he will be in **Turkey from Nov. 27th - Nov. 30th** and **Lebanon from Nov. 30th - Dec. 2nd**. The Vatican released the full program for the Pope's upcoming travels this past Monday, October 27th, and **his journey will notably include time for prayer at St. Sharbel's tomb**. In Lebanon, the Pope's visit has been highly anticipated as he continues to call for peace in the Middle East. The Pope also hopes to highlight Christian unity and interreligious dialogue during his time in both countries. Click the button link below to learn more!

[Learn More](#)

[Additional EWTN Vatican Article](#)

Syriac Language Online Faith Formation Series

The **Maronite Servants of Christ the Light** and the **St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center** are hosting an online Maronite Faith Formation series on the **Syriac Language**, the language of the Maronite liturgy! Sessions will be held on **Thursdays October 30th and November 6th and 13th at 8PM EST**. See the flyer below for details!



THE SYRIAC LANGUAGE

SAVE THE DATES!

Online Workshops at 8pm:

October 30– History of the Syriac Language (Subdeacon Vincent Michael)

November 6– Syriac Prayers to Learn (Fr. George Antaby)

November 13– Syriac Hymns & Melodies (Fr. Neemtallah Oneissy)

VIA ZOOM

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

To register and/or to learn more visit:
maroniteservants.org
saintsharbelcenter.org



[Register to Attend](#)

National Vocations Awareness Week (Nov. 2 - 8)

National Vocations Awareness Week is **November 2-8, 2025!** Every year, National Vocations Awareness Week is an opportunity to encourage young people to listen for and respond to God's call in their life by spreading awareness of and education about the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life. **Click the button link below for access to various resources from the USCCB!**



Seminarians at the Saint-Martin Community at prayer (Image Source: Linked to Image)



*Blessing after the first mass of
Fr. Pauljo von Loë (Image
Source: Linked to Image)*



*Sisters of Life (Image Source:
Council of Major Superiors of
Women Religious)*

[USCCB Webpage](#)

Upcoming Ordinations



*St. Anthony of the Desert Maronite
Church, Site of the Upcoming
Ordinations! (Image Source: St.
Anthony Parish Website)*

On **November 16th, 2025**, Subdeacon Jakob Wyder will be ordained a deacon and Seminarian Mark Farah will be ordained a subdeacon! Their ordination will take place at **St. Anthony of the Desert Maronite Church** in **Fall River, MA** at the 10:00am Divine Liturgy. Please pray for Jakob and Mark and consider attending their ordination Mass if you are able!

Highlight: Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary



*Maronite Seminarians at Prayer
(Image Source: OLOL Maronite
Seminary Website)*

Origins: The Maronite Seminary of Our Lady of Lebanon in Washington, D.C. is the first Maronite seminary to be opened outside of Lebanon. In the 1950s, various clergy and laity began to work for the establishment of a Maronite seminary in the United States. The seminary opened its doors for the first time on September 24, 1961, and its first class included five seminarians!

Impact: Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary forms men for the priesthood from both Maronite eparchies in the United States! Apart from helping men discern their vocation and preparing and ordaining many clergy through the decades, the Seminary's rector, alumni, and students have also "played a prominent role in the Eparchies in producing texts on Maronite liturgy, catechetics, theology, spirituality, and history" ([Seminary History](#) webpage), sharing their knowledge and wisdom with the community at large.

Click here to view the seminary's Facebook page, **click here** to help fund the seminary's current renovations, or **click below** to view their website!

[Seminary Website](#)

Saint Spotlight

St. Moura



*Monastery of St. Moura in Ehden,
Lebanon (Source Linked to Image)*

Feast Day: November 10th

St. Moura was the wife of a Christian deacon named Timothy living in Upper Egypt in the 3rd century AD. During the Diocletian persecution of that time, she and her husband were invited to embrace paganism. Declining to comply, St. Moura and her husband were tortured and eventually crucified for remaining faithful to Christ. Today, she is celebrated on multiple days, including November 10th on the Maronite calendar, and several churches in northern Lebanon and a **monastery in Ehden** are dedicated to her.

St. Moura, Pray for Us!

St. John Chrysostom



*Mosaic Portrait of St. John
Chrysostom from the
Cathedral of Hagia Sophia in
Constantinople (Public
Domain Image)*

Feast Day: November 13th

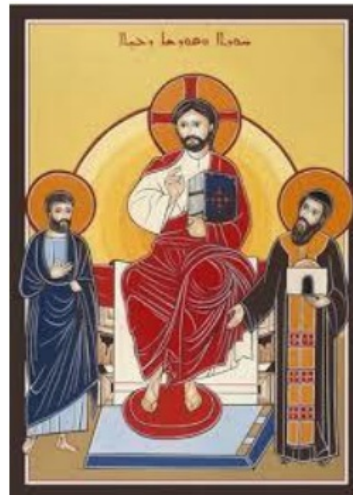
St. John Chrysostom was born in Antioch, Syria around 347AD and grew to be one of the most famous and exemplary preachers of all time. After becoming a Christian at age 23, he embraced religious life as a monk and later, when his health faltered, became a priest in Antioch. As a priest, John grew famous for his preaching, earning the nickname "Chrysostom," meaning "golden-mouthed," for his exceptional giftedness with words. He was called to serve as Archbishop of Constantinople in 398, and he gained a great following. Nonetheless, his preaching on the misuse of riches was unpopular of some of the wealthy and powerful in the area, who, ironically, misused their influence to conspire against him. Their efforts resulted in John's exile in 403. Though he died during his exile, St. John Chrysostom is counted among the early Church Fathers and doctors of the Church and is known around the globe.

St. John Chrysostom, Pray for Us!

Reading Nook

The Consecration and Renewal of the Church

By Fr. Yuhanna Azize

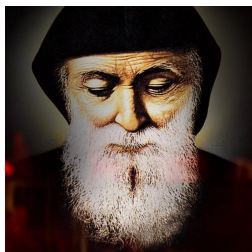


Icon for the Consecration and Renewal of the Church by Fr. Abdo Badwi (Source: Linked Article)

"The Maronite liturgical year is inaugurated by the Feast of the Consecration and the Renewal of the Church. If there are two Sundays available before Zechariah Sunday, then it is observed as two feasts. On one Sunday, the Consecration, and on the next, the Renewal of the Church. By opening the liturgical year, this feast is in effect the New Years Day of the Church. It shows us, also, that church is our spiritual home..."

[Read More Here](#)

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.

[Healing Testimony of Boutros Youssef Semaan](#)

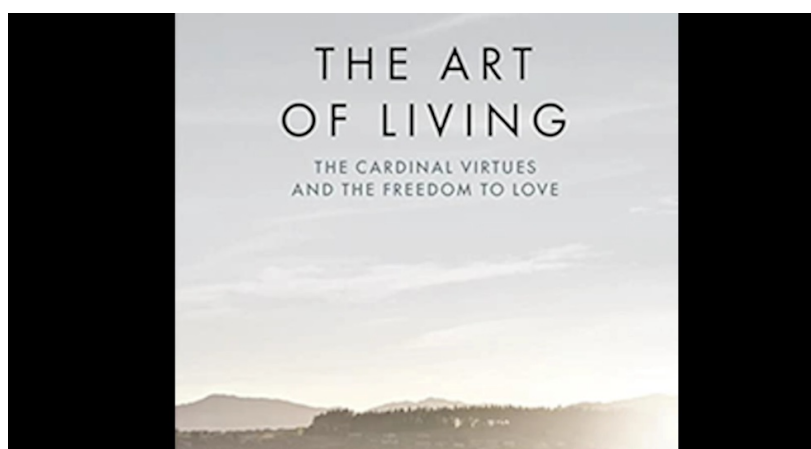
[Healing Testimony of George Sharbel Younes](#)

[Healing Testimony of Hanna Mansour Romanos](#)

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



The Art of Living by Edward Sri, Book Cover (Image Sourced from FORMED's Online Streaming Platform)

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:

At the end of October and beginning of November, Catholics in the United States remember the dead by celebrating Halloween (Oct. 31), All Saints' Day (Nov. 1), and All Souls' Day (Nov. 2). Yet we remember the dead because of the lives they lived! This month's FORMED resource, an audio reading of *The Art of Living* by Dr. Edward Sri, is a thought-provoking book meant to guide its audience to a life lived well. **Click the button link below to listen!**

Listen Here

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](#)

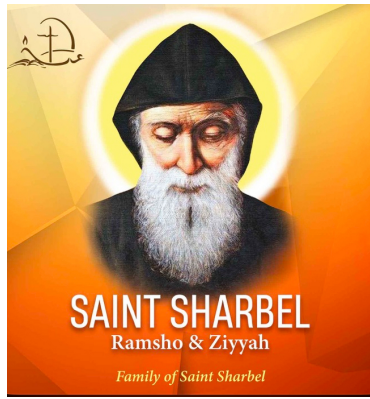
Find Us Online!



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!**

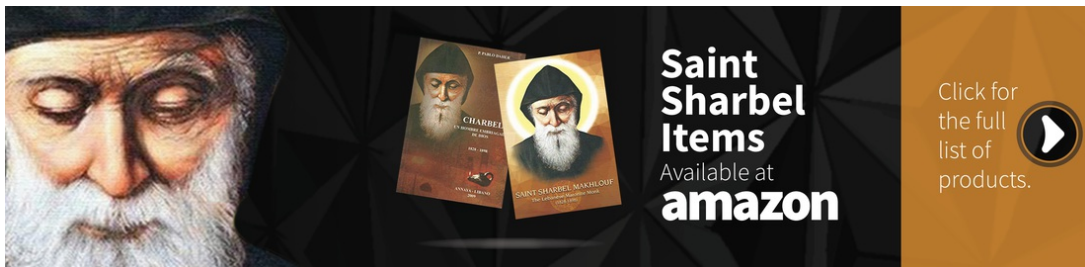
Family of Saint Sharbel on Apple Music, Spotify, and More!



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



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