

Issue 40 | November 2025

With Joyful Anticipation



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

Wishing You Peace and Hope!

Happy December! As we continue celebrating the Season of Announcements, the Family of Saint Sharbel USA is excited to share with you about:

Catholic Devotional Gifts and A New Office Space

The Maronite Christmas Novena

A Maronite Music Initiative

The Pope's Travels and more!

Please share this newsletter and **keep us in**

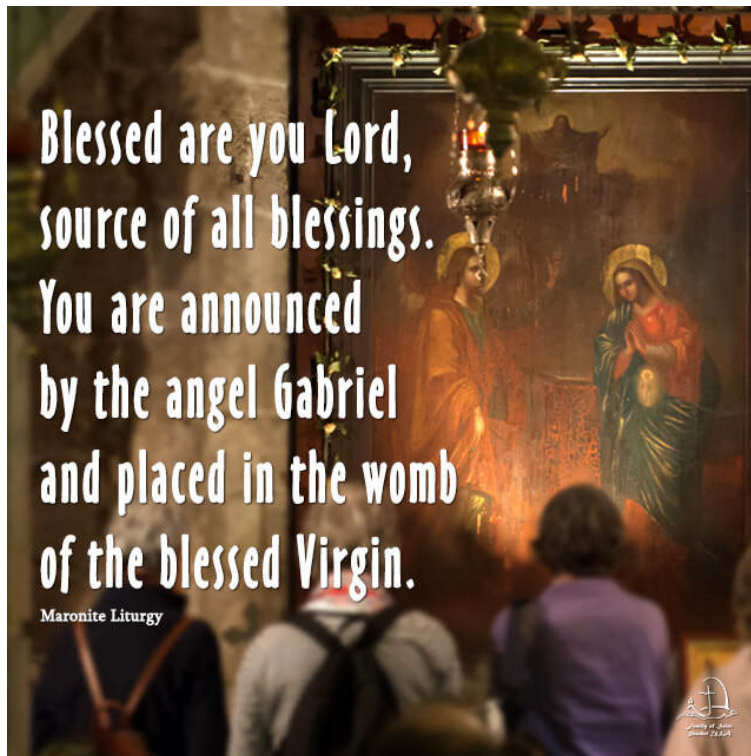
your prayers—we are praying for you daily!

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

Contemplation Corner

The Glorious Birth of the Lord

by Fr. George El-Andari



“Christmas is a major holiday in the Maronite Church, and it is the second feast of our Lord after Easter, the feast of feasts or the great feast. Traditionally in the eastern Churches they called Christmas the winter Easter because it is a major feast which was preceded by a period of forty days of fasting and abstinence, a period of a nine-day novena that ended with a Church celebration of the Glorious Birth of our Lord, Christmas. Unlike Easter (the Resurrection) and Epiphany (the Baptism) that are the beginning of a season, Christmas is the end of a season in the liturgy. All the Sundays that precede Christmas in the Maronite Church are preparation for Christmas...”

Click here to read the full reflection.

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

“Family” Updates

Catholic Devotional Gifts for Sale!



In addition to hosting prayer groups, creating content for online evangelization, and organizing charitable works, the Family of Saint Sharbel USA produces and distributes print media and other devotional items to share the gift of our faith year-round! **See our online shops below and enter code CHRISTMAS12 at checkout to receive a 12% discount on all purchases made from December 3 - 31! Use code DEC25 on purchases of 10+ items to receive a 25% discount** in honor of Christmas. **We will include free prayer cards with all orders of over \$10!**



*Novena to St. Sharbel
(available in English,
Spanish, Arabic, and
French)*



*St. Sharbel Illustrated Book
(available in English, Arabic, and
French)*

French)



St. Sharbel Prayer Cards (5-Packs available in English, Spanish, Arabic, and French)

[FSS on Amazon](#)

[FSS on Shopify](#)

The Family's First "Home"

Through the generosity of a friend, the Family of Saint Sharbel USA is grateful to share that we have procured our first official office and gathering space! Updates related to the use of this space (events to be hosted here, for example) will be forthcoming. We thank God and our friend for this wonderful opportunity!

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

Pray the Maronite Christmas Novena!



One of many beautiful traditions of the Maronite Season of Announcements is the Maronite Christmas Novena! In most Maronite churches, the faithful participate in this novena by gathering for nine days leading up to Christmas Eve (Dec. 15 - 23) to pray

the prayers below, sing hymns, and sometimes receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation or participate in Eucharistic Adoration. We encourage you to join in praying with a Maronite community near you or to pray with us from home! **Click the button links below to view the prayers as a PDF or to pray along on YouTube.**

[Novena Prayers PDF](#)

[YouTube Novena](#)

Zoom Talk: Maronite Catholic Family Christmas Traditions



Click this image to join! (On Dec. 9, 8:00PM EST)

Join the **Eparchial Couples Ministry** of the **Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn** and guest speaker James Salamy on **Tuesday, December 9th at 8:00PM** for a talk on Maronite Catholic Family Christmas Traditions!

To Join:

Zoom Meeting ID: 860 4381 6155 OR click the image of their flyer in this letter!

Passcode: 865674

We hope you can make it!

National Catholic Register: Devotion to St. Sharbel Grows in the US

Knowledge of and devotion to St. Sharbel have been spreading throughout the United States, and the change is noticeable! Click the button link below to read the National Catholic Register's recent coverage of this growth.

[Read Here](#)

Community Highlight: Maronite Music Initiative



The Inter-Eparchial Music Commission was initiated by the bishops of the 4 English-speaking Maronite eparchies in 2008, and they work to make Maronite hymns accessible to the public! This has included **providing sheet music in English, creating recordings you can listen to at your leisure** and more.

Click the button links below to see their work!

[Maronite Music YouTube Channel](#)

[Maronite Music Website](#)

St. Maximilian Kolbe Film Available for Rent



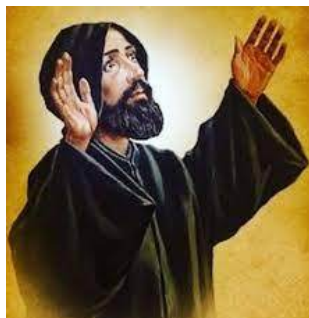
Triumph of the Heart, a film about the life of **St. Maximilian Kolbe**, is now available for rent on FORMED! Click the button link below to access the film or click the brown text above for more information on this Saint.

[Rent Here](#)

Need help accessing FORMED? See the "Editor's Pick" section below!

Saint Spotlight

St. Nimatullah Kassab Al-Hardini



Feast Day: Dec. 14

St. Nimatullah Kassab Al-Hardini was born Youssef Kassab in Hardine, Lebanon in 1808. He was a holy and intelligent man who became a monk and priest of the Lebanese Maronite Order (OLM), taking the religious name "Nimatullah" upon his entrance into the novitiate in 1828. In 1833, he was tasked with educating the seminarians of the Lebanese Maronite Order, which, eventually, would include St. Sharbel. He is known for saying, "wise is the one who saves his own soul" and for

living the example he preached. After a brief illness, he passed away on December 14, 1858. He was canonized by Saint Pope John Paul II on May 16th, 2004.

Click the button link below to watch a film about his life **or [click here](#) to access a short St. Nimatullah biography and prayers!**

[St. Nimatullah Movie](#)

Reading Nook

Live Updates: Pope Leo in Lebanon and Turkey

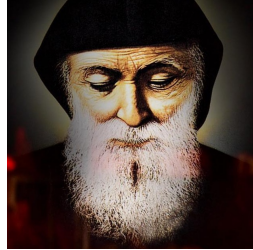
By **Catholic News Agency**



Pope Leo XIV prays at St. Sharbel's tomb in Annaya, Lebanon (Source: Family of Saint Sharbel Lebanon)

Since Thanksgiving (Nov. 27), Pope Leo has been traveling through Turkey (Nov. 27 - 30) and Lebanon (Nov. 30 - Dec. 2) on his first papal apostolic journey! Thus far, Pope Leo has visited Istanbul, Ankara, Iznik (modern day Nicaea), St. Sharbel's tomb in Annaya, and more. Click below to read about his continuing travels - we will send a full report later this week!

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 Alvaro Enrique Sigrada Castro](#)

[Healing Testimony of Chantal Elias Ghatass](#)

[Healing Testimony of Ghada Samir Habib](#)

[Healing Testimony Nohad Maarouf Andraos](#)

[Healing Testimony of Amal Sayed Mouawad](#)

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](#)



Mysteries of the Rosary | Paradisus Dei (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:

As we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, we wanted to share *Mysteries of the Rosary | Paradisus Dei: The Joyful Mysteries*, a moving and reflective video series on the Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, Presentation, and Finding in the Temple (and more!), with you. Watch one or watch them all to dive deeper into the events we are remembering over these next two months! **Click the button link below to watch.**

[Watch 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](#)

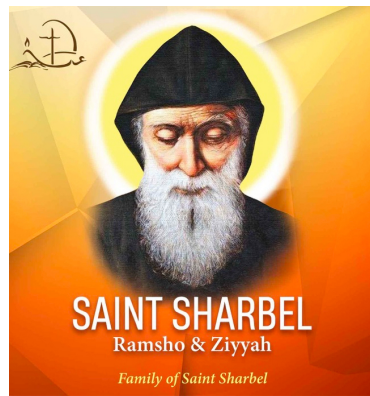
Find Us Online!



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!**

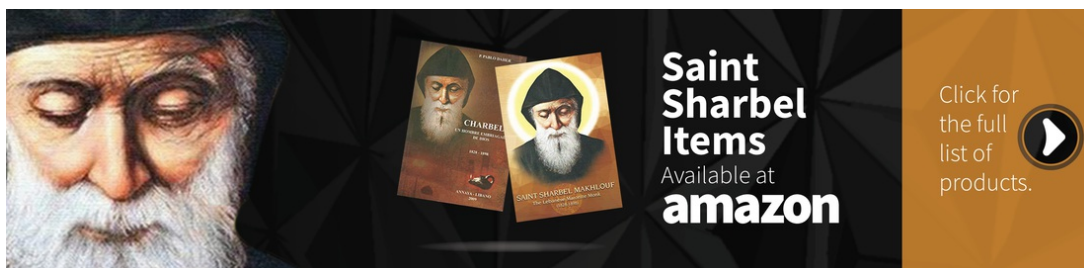
Family of Saint Sharbel on Apple Music, Spotify, and More!



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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