



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 29 | December 2024

Happy New Year!



**Family of Saint
Sharbel USA**

Peace of Christ

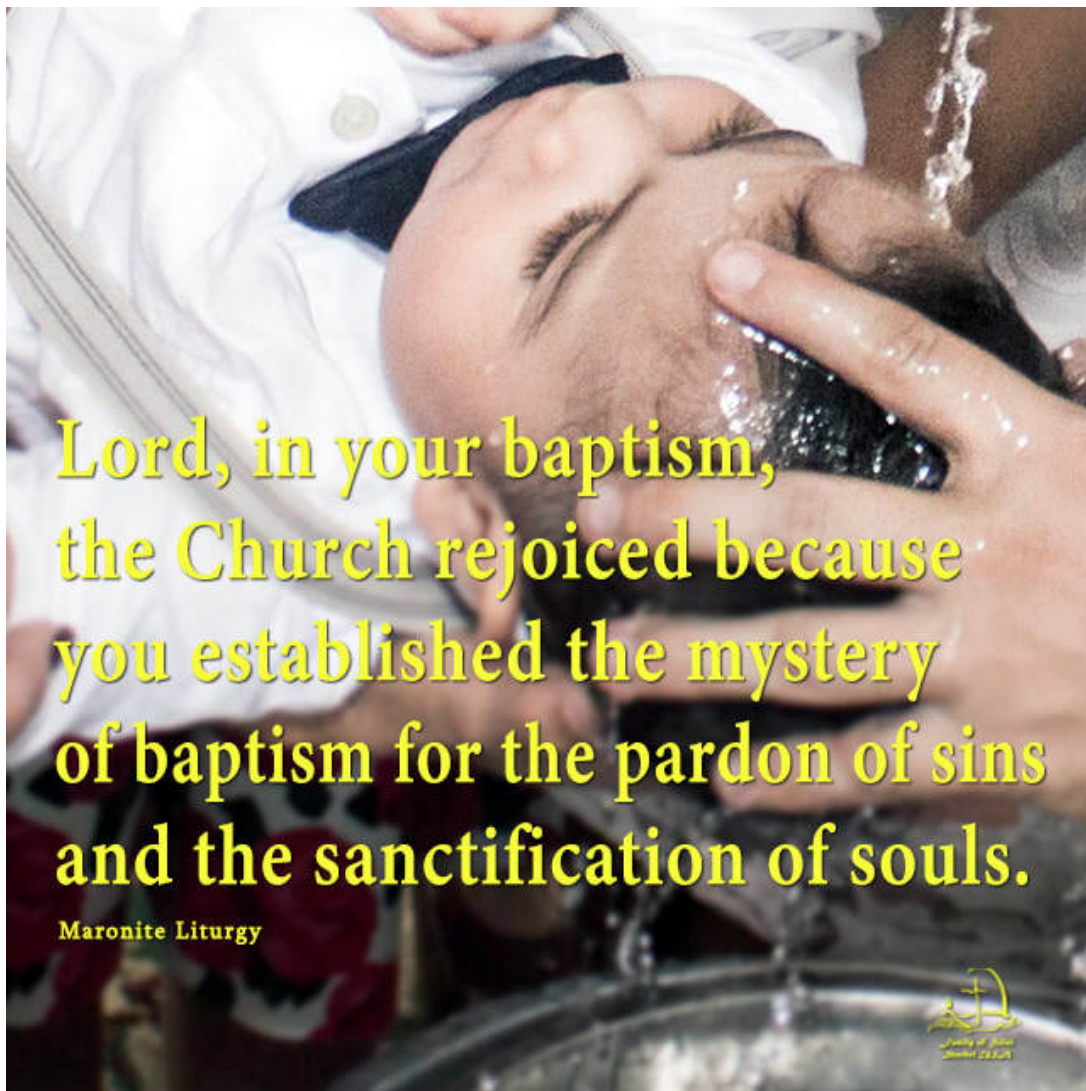
As we begin 2025, the Family of Saint Sharbel USA is grateful to share its **29th newsletter** with you. May you and your loved ones receive every grace God longs to give you this year. **Please share this newsletter and keep us in your prayers**—we are praying for you daily!

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

Contemplation Corner

“Epiphany of Christ (DenHo)”

By Fr. Kamil Al-Chouefati



<https://www.familyofsaintsharbel.org/spiritual-designs/in-your-baptism-you-established-the-mystery-of-baptism>

The Feast of Epiphany takes place on **January 6th**! As we prepare for this feast of God's self-revelation, Fr. Kamil reflects:

“The word “DenHo” is derived from a Syriac root meaning “appearance, illumination and revelation.” It is clearly the theological and spiritual dimension of the feast of the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist or the Epiphany (i.e. the descent of Jesus into the waters of the Jordan) in which Jesus was baptized with the rest of humanity and for all humanity as the Lamb of God who bears the sins of the world. Thus, his secret was revealed to everyone, and his mission began publicly in the world and for the world....”

[Click here](#) to read the full article!

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

Upcoming Events

Jubilee Year: 2025



Every 25 years, the Catholic Church holds a “jubilee year,” and 2025 is one such year! Partially modeled after a **biblical Jewish tradition**, the **Catholic jubilee year** is a special time for revitalization in which the faithful are encouraged to do works of mercy, share renewed zeal, and receive God’s mercy in the form of a **plenary indulgence**. This year’s theme is “**Pilgrims of Hope**,” and the jubilee indulgence may be obtained in a variety of ways depending on your episcopate. Click the links below to learn more about this special year and the devotions that come with it!

[Official Vatican Website](#)

USCCB | Jubilee Page

Jubilee Year for Maronites - Eparchy of St. Maron

March for Life - Washington, DC



The National March for Life in Washington, DC is scheduled to take place on **Friday, January 24, 2025!** All are welcome and encouraged to join in support for all human life from conception to natural death. Click the button link below for full information!

National March for Life USA

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 followed by Prayer Services 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

Our Lady of Lebanon, Miami, Florida

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

St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church, Clinton Township, Michigan

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

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Church, Norman, Oklahoma

St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

St. Sharbel Mission, El Paso, Texas

St. George Maronite Church, San Antonio, Texas

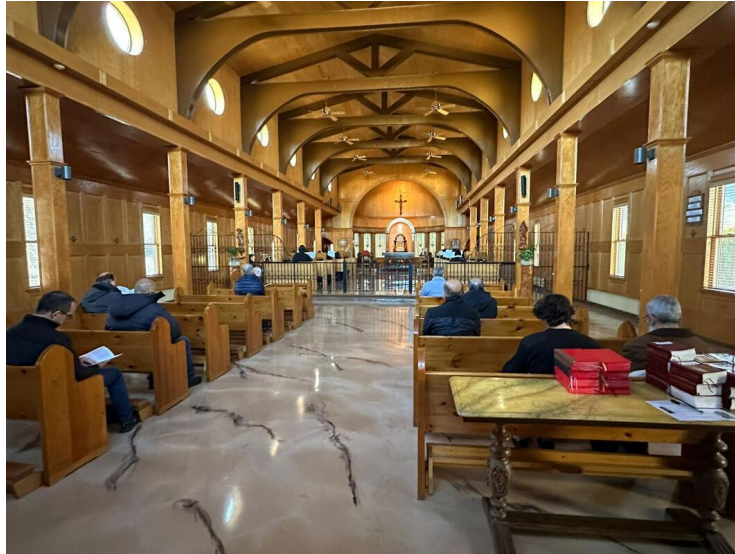
St. Sharbel Mission of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Holy Hours in Honor of St. Sharbel:

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

Recent News

FSS Christmas 2024 Retreat



From December 12-15, 2024, members of the Family of Saint Sharbel, USA, gathered at the **Most Holy Trinity Monastery** in Petersham, Massachusetts for a Christmas retreat. Highlights included inspiring talks on “The Mystery of the Incarnation” and “Role Models of the Nativity” by Fr. Maron, daily liturgies, silent adoration, and Q&A with Abbot Patrick. The retreat was a time of deep prayer, reflection, and preparation for the glorious birth of our Lord. Click the button link below to learn more!

[Learn More](#)

Volunteer Opportunities!

The Family of Saint Sharbel is currently seeking volunteers to help in three areas: researching and documenting media (articles, books, audio, videos - anything!) and locations related to St. Sharbel around the globe; researching and documenting Maronite/Syriac spirituality and liturgy over time; and transcribing various video and audio files. If you have the time or interest for any of these tasks, please fill out the corresponding form linked below! Information in all languages is welcome, but we especially need help with **English, Spanish, and Arabic** transcriptions.

[Research - St. Sharbel Around the Globe](#)

Research - Maronite/Syriac Spirituality

Transcription Volunteer

Christmas Special: St. Sharbel Illustrated Book

Order now - Jan. 14th with code **CHRISTMAS24** to receive a free novena!



Order Online Now!

St. Sharbel of Lebanon: Saint of Wonders is available for purchase in **English** and **Arabic**! Order a copy today through **January 14th, 2025** with code **CHRISTMAS24** at checkout to receive a free St. Sharbel novena booklet (\$7 value) with your book.

[Learn More | Order](#)

Saint Spotlight

St. Anthony the Great



"The Temptation of Saint Anthony"

Feast Day: January 17th

St. Anthony the Great, also called St. Anthony of the Desert or Antony of Egypt, was born into a wealthy Egyptian family around 251AD. When Anthony was about 20 years old, his parents passed away, leaving him a sizable inheritance. Upon receiving his parents' possessions, Jesus' call to a rich young man to "go, sell everything you have, and give to the poor, then come follow me" compelled him. Seeing the rich young man of the Gospels in himself, Anthony ensured his one living sister was provided for and sold whatever else he had, gave to the poor, and retreated to pursue God. First, he journeyed to the outskirts of his town to learn from various ascetics, but, eventually, he applied the wisdom he gleaned to an eremitic life in the desert.

Known for practicing an austere, ascetic lifestyle, for battling demons (pictured) in prayer, and for instructing a group of monks before returning to solitude, Anthony is widely considered the **father of monasticism** (or at the minimum, the father of desert monasticism) in light of both his example and teachings. St. Athanasius' *Life of Antony* recounts his story in greater detail, but he was said to have lived to age 105 and was buried as he wished: in obscurity. Click the button link below to learn more!

St. Anthony the Great, pray for us!

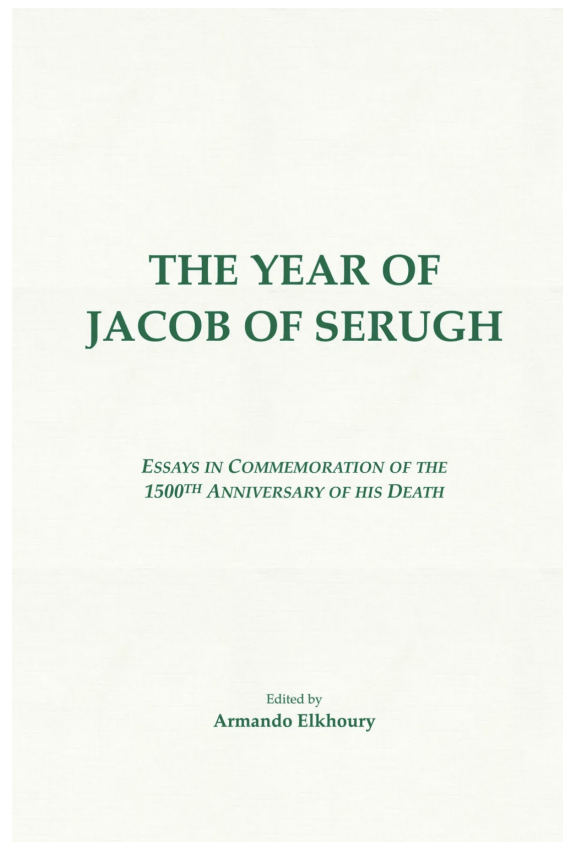
[Learn More](#)

Reading Nook

The Year of Jacob of Serugh

Essays in Commemoration of the 1500th Anniversary of his Death

Edited by Armando Elkhoury

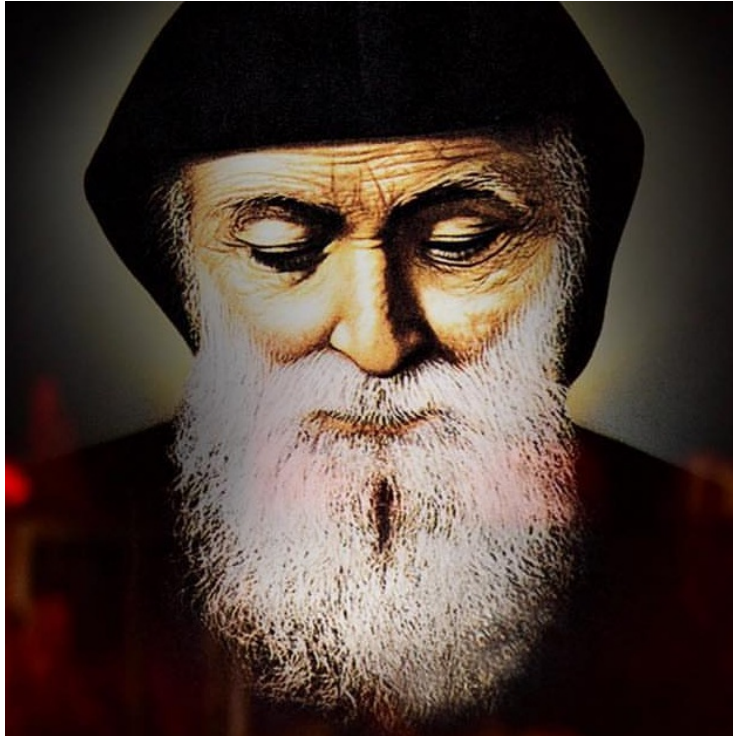


Jacob of Serugh, Bishop of Batnan, was a renowned Syriac writer (poet, hymnist) once described as “the flute of the Holy Spirit and the harp of the believing church.” Available through the Hidden Pearl Press, *The Year of Jacob of Serugh* is a 226 page selection of articles intended to commemorate the 1500th anniversary of Jacob’s passing. These articles were the fruit of a conference called “The Year of Jacob of Serugh: An Online Series of Lectures on the Writings and Theology of the Bishop of Batnan to Celebrate the 1500th Anniversary of His Death,” and are the work of various contributors! Click the button link below to learn more or buy a copy online.

[Buy Online](#)

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 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 the author's permission.

Healing Testimony of Wissam Bashir Al-Khoury

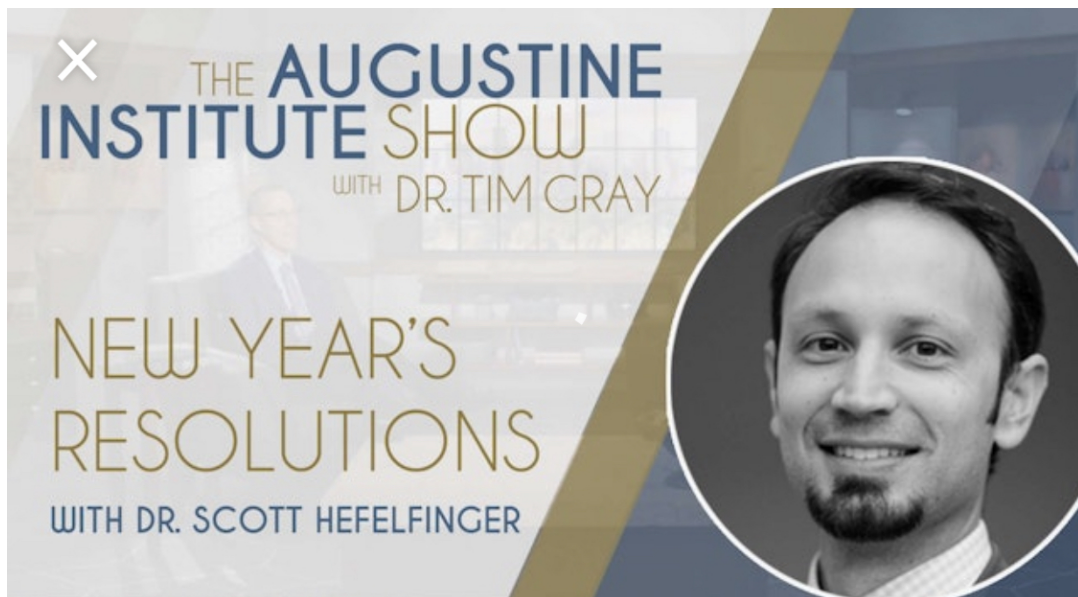
Healing Testimony of Veronique Michel Fghali

Healing Testimony for the twins Sharbel and Chris

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 Drs. Tim Gray and Scott Hefelfinger's discussion on New Year's Resolutions!

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:

New Year's Resolutions with Dr. Scott Hefelfinger - New Year's Resolutions: sometimes, we make them, break them, and just forget about them. Other times, they can be catalysts for great change! Nonetheless, forming and committing to thoughtful New Year's resolutions can be yet another useful opportunity to deepen your relationship with God. Click below to view a video reflection on Catholic New Year's resolutions to start 2025 with intention!

Watch Now

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!

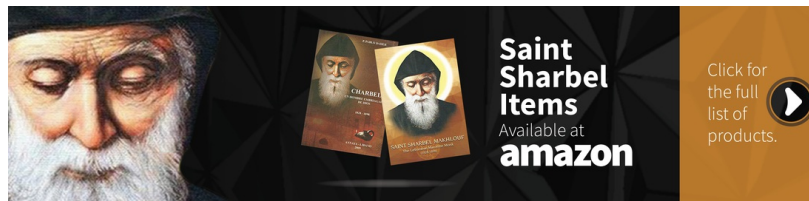
Below are the links to FORMED on social media:

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. Click to view!

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.

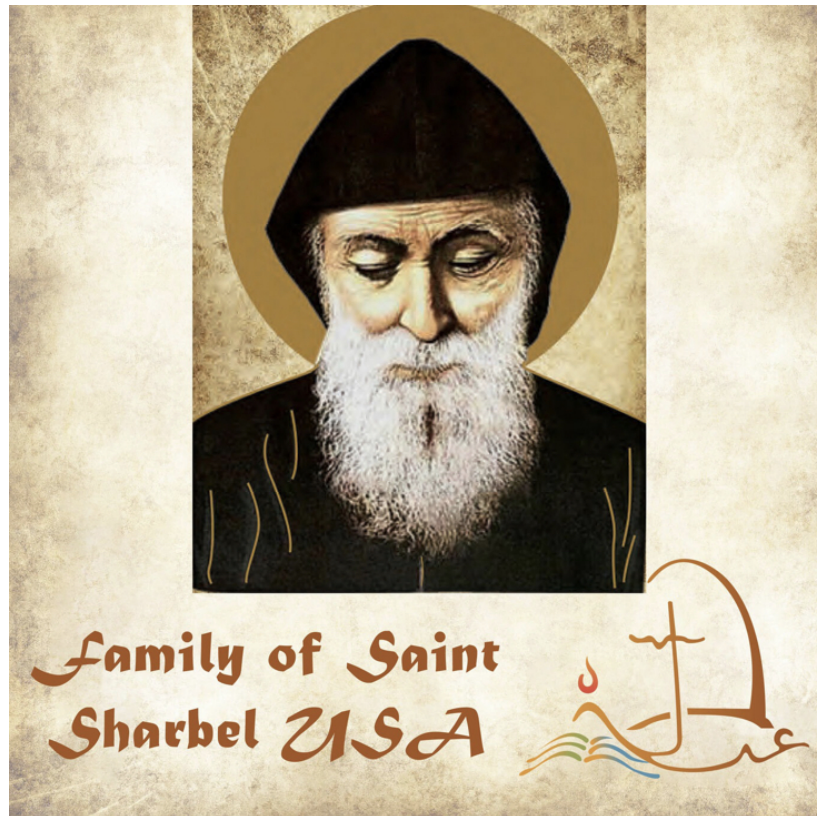
May God bless you!

[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](#)
- [Shrine](#)
- [YouTube.Healings](#)
- [YouTube.Family.Channel](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Online.Shop](#)
- [Amazon.Store](#)
- [Spanish.Website](#)
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- [Sanctuary.of.Saint.Charbel.in.Lebanon](#)

**God Bless,
The Family of Saint Sharbel USA**



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