

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 41 | December 2025*

## For Unto Us a Child was Born



**Family of Saint  
Sharbel USA**

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

### **Wishing You a Blessed New Year!**

New Year's Greetings! With grateful hearts,  
the Family of Saint Sharbel USA is happy to  
start 2026 with the opportunity to share  
about:

**Our 2025 Christmas Retreat**  
**Spanish and French editions of *St.***  
***Sharbel of Lebanon***

**A new Online St. Nimatullah Novena**  
**Finding Peace in Troubled Times** and  
more!

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

## NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

### Contemplation Corner

#### The Epiphany of Christ and the Communion of Saints

by the **Family of Saint Sharbel USA Editorial Team**



We adore and confess you,  
**One God in three persons,**  
for you appeared  
in a wondrous manner  
at the baptism of the Son.

Maronite Liturgy



"Epiphany (January 6th) in the Maronite Church is an interesting feast. In the West, Epiphany is a celebration of the coming of the magi at Christ's birth, and it is a single day that marks the transition from Christmas into the season of Ordinary Time. In the Maronite Church, however, this same feast is about Christ's baptism in the Jordan River, and it is the beginning of its own liturgical season; it marks the end of the

Season of the Glorious Birth and precedes Great Lent. Though different at face value, both ways of celebrating Christ's epiphany are just that—ways of celebrating Christ's manifestation or dawning, theophanies that are not limited to one specific event but, as differing traditions make clear, include many moments that reveal Jesus' identity, a spiritual reality that Christians—the communion of saints—are united in recognizing and are called to change their lives for..."

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

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

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## “Family” Updates

### A Recap of Pope Leo XIV's Journey to Lebanon



*Image courtesy of the Family of Saint Sharbel in Lebanon*

From November 30th - December 2nd, 2025, Pope Leo XIV visited Lebanon following a trip to Turkey, aiming to bring a message of peace to the region. To provide full coverage of the Pope's time in Lebanon, where the Family of Saint Sharbel was born, **the Family of Saint Sharbel has curated a playlist of video news coverage of the Pope's trip.** These videos include recordings of the Pope's messages to **Lebanon's political leaders, religious leaders,** and **youth,** his visits to **Annaya** and **Harissa,** **Mass celebrated in Beirut,** and more! **Click below to access the full playlist!**

[Watch Here](#)

### Family of Saint Sharbel Christmas Retreat

From December 4th to 7th, members of the Family of Saint Sharbel USA journeyed to **Most Holy Trinity Monastery** in Petersham, MA for their annual Christmas

retreat! Praying alongside the **Maronite Monks of Adoration**, participants joined in the Liturgy of the Hours, Divine Liturgy, adoration, and more and were given the opportunity to hear enriching talks meant to help them enter deeply into the Season of Announcements. **Click the button link below to learn more!**



[Read More Here](#)

### **FSS Philippines Continues to Grow**

Throughout 2025, the Family of Saint Sharbel in the Philippines has experienced notable new growth! Last January, the group held its first official meeting; in April, they held a **Zoom talk on the Way of Life of the Maronite Monks** (by Charbel Fakhry, VP of FSS Lebanon), and, recently, they were able to hold a Mass for the sick in Manila that included a blessing with the holy oil of Saint Sharbel! They now plan to hold masses followed by a blessing with the holy oil of St. Sharbel and veneration of his relic on the 22nd of each month. Thanks be to God for the grace of this growth!



***St. Sharbel of Lebanon: Saint of Wonders- New Languages Available!***

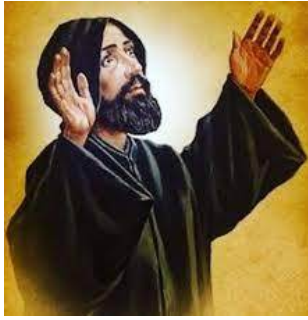


The Family of Saint Sharbel's illustrated book, ***St. Sharbel of Lebanon: Saint of Wonders***, is now available in **Spanish** and **French**, and a **Portuguese** edition is undergoing final proofing! **Click the button links below to access these new translations!** **English** and **Arabic** copies are also available.

[Spanish](#)

[French](#)

**St. Nimatullah Novena Available Online!**



The Family of Saint Sharbel is pleased to share that an English translation of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina's "Novena to St. Nimatullah" is now available on our website! **Click the button link below to access the novena booklet online.**

[St. Nimatullah Novena](#)

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## 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**

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## Saint Spotlight

**St. Jacob, Bishop of Nisibis**



*Tomb of St. Jacob of Nisibis (Gareth Hughes, 1999)*

**St. Jacob**, bishop of Nisibis and teacher of St. Ephrem (Maronite feast: Jan. 28th), was born in the city of Nisibis. He loved solitude and chose a monastic life of prayer and fasting from a young age, and a reputation of virtue and piety followed him. Locals of Nisibis chose Jacob for their bishop because of his evident holiness; he was a noted ascetic and preacher who helped others see the error in the Arian heresy and attended the first council of Nicaea (325AD), bringing his disciple, St. Ephrem, with

him. It was also said that, by the prayers of Sts. Jacob and Ephrem, Sapor the Persian's planned siege on the city of Nisibis was thwarted, as a cloud of bees frightened the soldiers' horses and elephants and sent the troops retreating in disarray. St. Jacob passed from this world in 338AD.

*St. Jacob, pray for us!*

### Other Notable Saints Celebrated This Month:

**St. Anthony the Great - Jan. 17 ( [learn more here!](#) )**

**St. Ephrem the Syrian - Jan. 28 ( [learn more here!](#) )**

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## Reading Nook



*The Circumcision of the Lord - Icon  
written by Fr. Abdo Badawi*

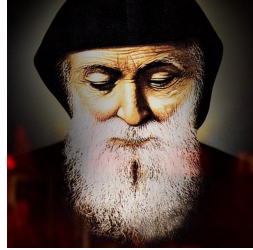
## New Year's Feasts of Peace

By **Fr. Eliah Abboud**

“The New Year celebration holds threefold importance in the Maronite Liturgical Calendar. It marks the celebration of the Circumcision of the Lord, the Feast of Sts Basil and Gregory of Nazianzus, and the Day of Peace. Three feast days, all observed at the beginning of the year. At first glance, they may seem unrelated, but a deeper reflection reveals their intrinsic connection....”

[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 Estephan Karim Al-Rajji](#)

[Healing Testimony of Tani Youssef Wehbeh](#)

[Healing Testimony for the child Elissa Jerdak](#)

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.

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[Editor's Pick: FORMED Resource](#)



Click this image to listen! (Source: 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:**

One remarkable fruit of the Holy Spirit is the gift of supernatural peace, even in objectively challenging situations. This month, we would like to share **“Finding Peace in Troubled Times,”** a reflective and enriching conversation about embracing Christ's peace regardless of your situation. **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](#)

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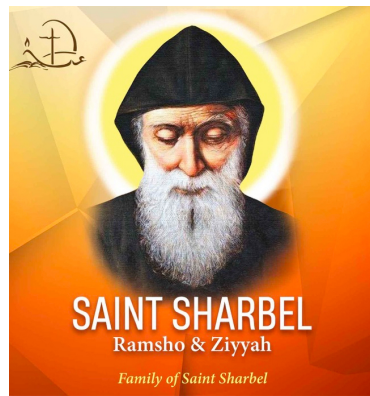
**Find Us Online!**



### 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!**

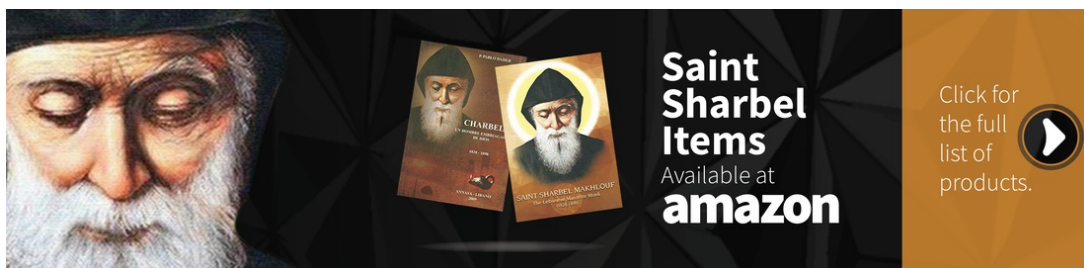
### Family of Saint Sharbel on Apple Music, Spotify, and More!



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](#)

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## Questions or Comments?

Email [communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org](mailto:communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org) to let us know!

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**God Bless,**

**Family of Saint Sharbel USA**



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