



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 31 | February 2025*

## Peace of Christ



**Family of Saint  
Sharbel USA**

### **May God bless you this Lent!**

As we enter the **Season of Lent**, the Family of Saint Sharbel USA is grateful to share its **31st newsletter** with you. **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.*

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## Contemplation Corner

### Great Lent and Passion Week in the Maronite Church

By Fr. George El-Andari, Our Lady of Lebanon Church, Lewisville, TX

“The lenten season is a sacred 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving; these are the three pillars of Lent, which begins on Cana Sunday with the Gospel reading of Jesus turning water into wine and is followed by Ash Monday and ends on the Friday before Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday. Thus, counting the days from Ash Monday until the Friday before Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday is exactly forty days, but even in the Book of Apostolic Canons, which dates back to the beginning of the fourth century, we know that they did not fast on Saturday or Sunday...”

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

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

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## Upcoming Events

### Our Lady of the Cape - National Shrine Grotto

The **National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes** in Emmitsburg, MD intends to welcome leaders of the **Marian Devotional Movement** and a pilgrim statue of Our Lady of the Cape from Quebec, Canada on **Friday, March 7th!** Click the button link below to learn more about the event, and [click here](#) for more information about Our Lady of the Cape.



[Learn More](#)

### Lenten Day Retreat

The **St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center** in Pittsburgh, PA invites you to join them on **Saturday, March 15th** from **9:00AM - 4:00PM** for a Lenten Day Retreat! Fr. Jim Doran intends to lead the retreat, focusing on "**The Stages of the Spiritual Life in the Light of Lent**". Click the button link below to learn more, see the full schedule, or register to attend!

[Learn More | Register](#)

### Blessed Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit

The Blessed Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit and a first-class relic of Bl. Carlo Acutis will be at the **St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center** in Pittsburgh, PA from **Friday, March 21 - Saturday, March 22, 2025**! Click the button link below to learn more, view the full schedule, or register to attend.

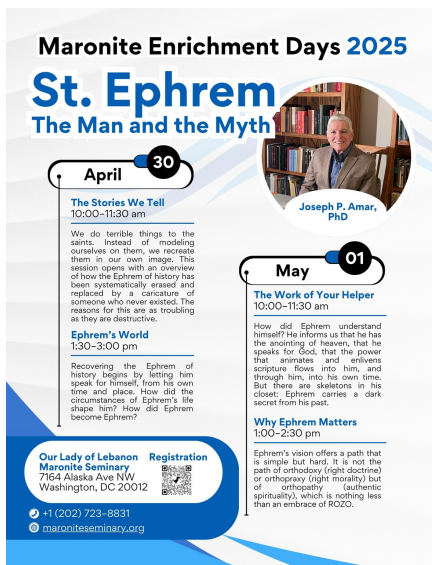
[Learn More | Register](#)

### 1st Annual FLOURISH Women's Retreat

The **Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn** and the **St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center** in Pittsburgh, PA plan to host their first annual FLOURISH Women's Retreat at the St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center from **Friday, April 25 - Saturday, April 26, 2025**! This year's theme will be "**Who is Mary? Facets of the Feminine Genius**" with keynote speaker **Johnnette Benkovic Williams**, host of "Woman of Grace" on EWTN. Deadline to reserve a hotel room in the retreat's block is **March 26th, 2025**. Click the button link below to learn more or register to attend!

[Learn More | Register](#)

## Maronite Enrichment Days



**Maronite Enrichment Days 2025**  
**St. Ephrem**  
The Man and the Myth

**April 30**  
**The Stories We Tell**  
10:00-11:30 am

We do terrible things to the saints. Instead of modeling ourselves on them, we recreate them in our own image. This session opens with an overview of how the Ephrem of history has been systematically erased and replaced by a caricature of someone who never existed. The reasons for this are as troubling as they are destructive.

**Ephrem's World**  
1:30-3:00 pm

Recovering the Ephrem of history begins by letting him speak for himself, from his own time and place. How did the circumstances of Ephrem's life shape him? How did Ephrem become Ephrem?

**May 01**  
**The Work of Your Helper**  
10:00-11:30 am

How did Ephrem understand himself? He informs us that he has the anointing of heaven, that he speaks for God, that the power that animates and enlivens scripture flows into him, and through him, into his own time. But there are skeletons in his closet: Ephrem carries a dark secret from his past.

**Why Ephrem Matters**  
1:00-2:30 pm

Ephrem's vision offers a path that is simple but hard. It is not the path of orthodoxy (right doctrine) or orthopraxy (right morality) but of orthopathy (authentic spirituality), which is nothing less than an embrace of ROZO.

**Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary**  
7164 Alaska Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20012

**Registration**

+1 (202) 723-8831  
maroniteseminary.org

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary in Washington, DC is planning to host its annual **Maronite Enrichment Days** from **April 29th - May 2nd!** These days will feature time for the Divine Liturgy, meals, and talks by **Joseph P. Amar, PhD** for the purpose of learning more about topics within the Maronite faith (this year, **St. Ephrem**) and building community. **Click here** to view the full schedule or click the button link below to RSVP!

[RSVP Here](#)

## Come and See! Maronite Servants of Christ the Light

The **Maronite Servants of Christ the Light** of Dartmouth, MA would like to invite **young adult women aged 18-39** to explore their order! The sisters have planned a few discernment events throughout 2025, including two **“Come and See” retreats** and two **Prayer & Supper evenings** at the convent to help young women get to know them and discern their vocation. They also offer guidance and community through a monthly vocational discernment group! Click the button link below to see what's ahead.



Image from the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light's website.

[Learn More](#)

## 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 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**

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## **Recent News**

## Maronite History Zoom Series

Throughout the month of February, the **Maronite Servants of Christ the Light** and the **Saint Sharbel Spiritual Life Center** hosted a series of Zoom talks on Maronite history, including:

**"St. Maron & the Maronite Church"** by Fr. Dominique Hanna

**"Maronite Music & Melodies"** by Fr. Neemtallah Oneissy

**"Maronites & the Holy See"** by Chorbishop John Faris

Click the button link below to watch the recorded talks online!

[Watch Here](#)

## A Call to Monthly Commitment

Donations support every aspect of the Family of Saint Sharbel's operation from routine printing of materials (prayer cards, books, novenas) and shop and media upkeep to funding special projects and a small staff. In hopes of



**increasing the stability of our organization's management**, we've created a fundraising campaign titled "A Call to Monthly Commitment" to help us reach \$20,000 in recurrent monthly donations. Click the button link below to learn more or contribute - no amount is too small!

[Learn More | Donate](#)

## Saint Spotlight

### St. John Maron

**Feast Day:** March 2nd

**St. John Maron** was born near Syrian Antioch - one of the early Church's **five patriarchal sees** - in the early 7th century AD. Though little is known of his early life, John eventually studied at the Monastery of St. Maron ("Beit Maroun"), where he took monastic vows, became a priest, and adopted the monastic name, "John Maron." As a priest, St. John Maron travelled to preach the Gospel and Church teaching in accordance with the council of Chalcedon (451AD), which was contested in the region at the time. He was

appointed Bishop of Batroun in 676, but due to ongoing conflict in Antioch, the see of Antioch had been left vacant since 609 and became juridically vacant in 685., and the Maronites elected St. John Maron to fill it. From his patriarchal election until his death in 707, St. John Maron worked to formally organize the Maronite Church, appointing bishops and establishing monasteries and convents, among other important works despite various persecutions. He was the **first Maronite patriarch**, and by God's grace, he was far from the last. Click the button link below to learn more, and may you have a blessed feast!



*St. John Maron, pray for us!*

[Learn More](#)

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## Reading Nook

### Lent and the Harbour of Salvation

By **Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay**, Maronite Eparchy of Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania



Icon of Cana Sunday

"In the Maronite tradition, Ash Monday prepares us for the fulfillment of Cana Sunday, which falls on the last Sunday and signifies the entrance into the Great Lent.

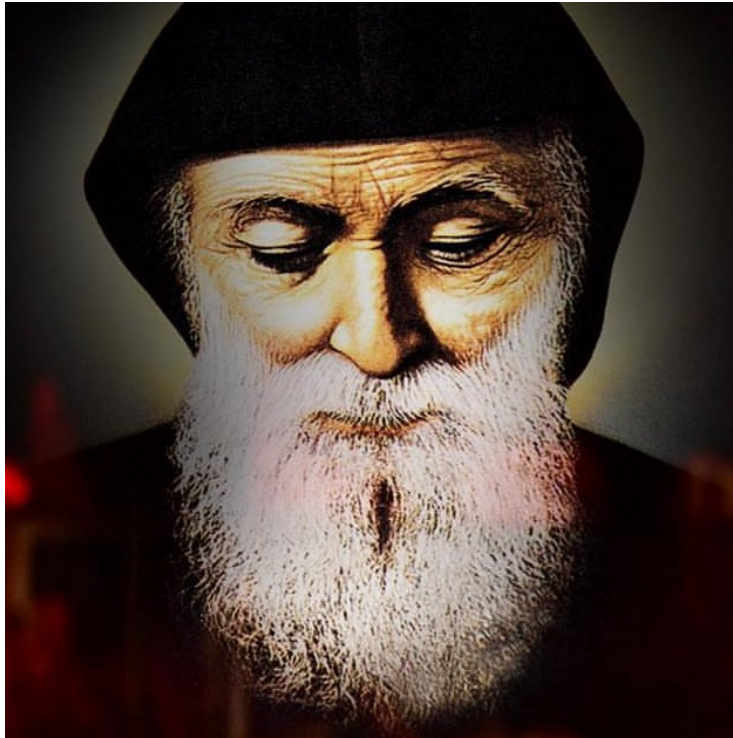
*Behold the fast! On this day it calls to us...through it we inherit life and rejoice with all the saints.* (Incense Hymn of the Liturgy for Wedding Feast at Cana of Galilee)

The Wedding Feast at Cana, a biblical account of joy and feasting, would seem like quite an odd place to begin the Season of Lent, a time of fasting and penance.

Yet in this supposedly odd relationship, we come to find deep theological symbolism filled with Syriac Bridal Theology. Before we begin to understand Cana Sunday, we must first understand the importance of the three preceding weeks in the Maronite Liturgical Calendar..."

[Read More Here](#)

## 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 Kanana Issam Al-Dakr](#)**

**[Healing Testimony for Sharbel Osama Stephan](#)**

**[Healing Testimony for the child Youssef Awad](#)**

**[Healing Testimony of Vania Tanios Eid](#)**

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 the image above (copied from the FORMED online streaming platform) to be directed to Living Lent as a Family!*

**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:**

**Living Lent as a Family** is a thought-provoking video series in which Catholic parents share their ideas and experiences about living Lent with their families.

Click below to watch - you might be inspired!

[Watch Now](#)

**To access this resource and many others:**

1. **Go to:**  
<https://formed.org/signup>
2. **Enter:**  
"Family of Saint Sharbel"
3. **Enter your**

**name  
and  
email  
address.**

FORMED is also on social media!

\* *Instagram:* [formedcatholic](#)

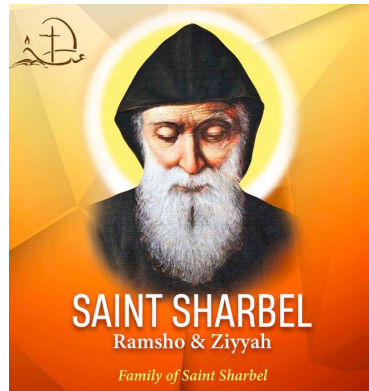
\* *Facebook:* [FORMEDCatholic](#)

*YouTube:* [Augustine Institute](#)

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## Find Us Online!

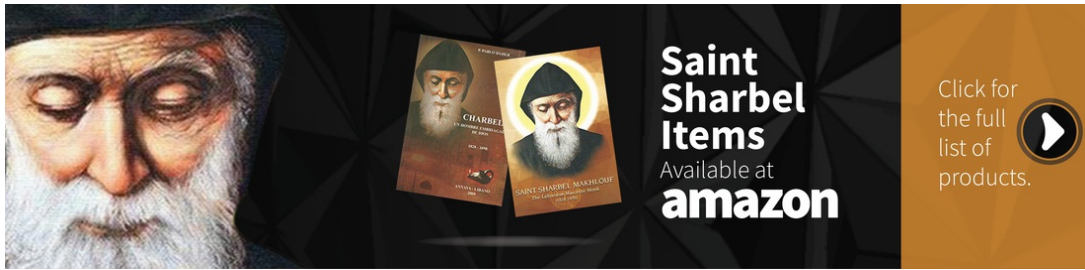
### Family of Saint Sharbel on Apple Music, Spotify, and More!



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 USA (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](#)

[FSS Podcast](#)

## Zoom Prayer Gathering - Arabic



[Click Here to Learn More!](#)

### Other Useful Links

[English Website](#)

[Spanish Website](#)

[Portuguese Website](#)

**NEW!** [Tagalog Website](#)

[St. Sharbel Shrine - Emmitsburg, MD](#)

[FSS Facebook](#)

[FSS Instagram](#)

[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,

The Family of Saint Sharbel USA



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