



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 25 | August 2024

Peace of Christ



*Family of Saint
Sharbel USA*

Greetings!

The Family of Saint Sharbel USA joyfully presents its 25th Newsletter. We are thankful and glad to be walking with you, and we ask for your prayers as our community of faith continues to grow! **Please spread the word; we would love to have you all join us.**

Contemplation Corner

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross and the Sign of the Cross

by Fr. Kamil Al-Chouefati



<https://www.familyofsaintsharbel.org/spiritual-designs/turn-from-evil-and-do-good6261202>

The holy Church celebrates the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14th of each year. This feast is associated with the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ on Mount Calvary. After this incident, the traces of the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified disappeared because the Romans threw it into the large hole that was near Mount Calvary to keep Christians from visiting the place and venerating the holy cross. The situation continued like this until the year 326 AD when Saint Helena, the Empress, mother of Emperor Constantine the Great, came to Jerusalem to search for the wood of the holy cross.

When she asked about the matter, she was told that the cross was buried near the temple of Venus, which was built by Emperor Hadrian. She ordered the place to be dug up and found three crosses....

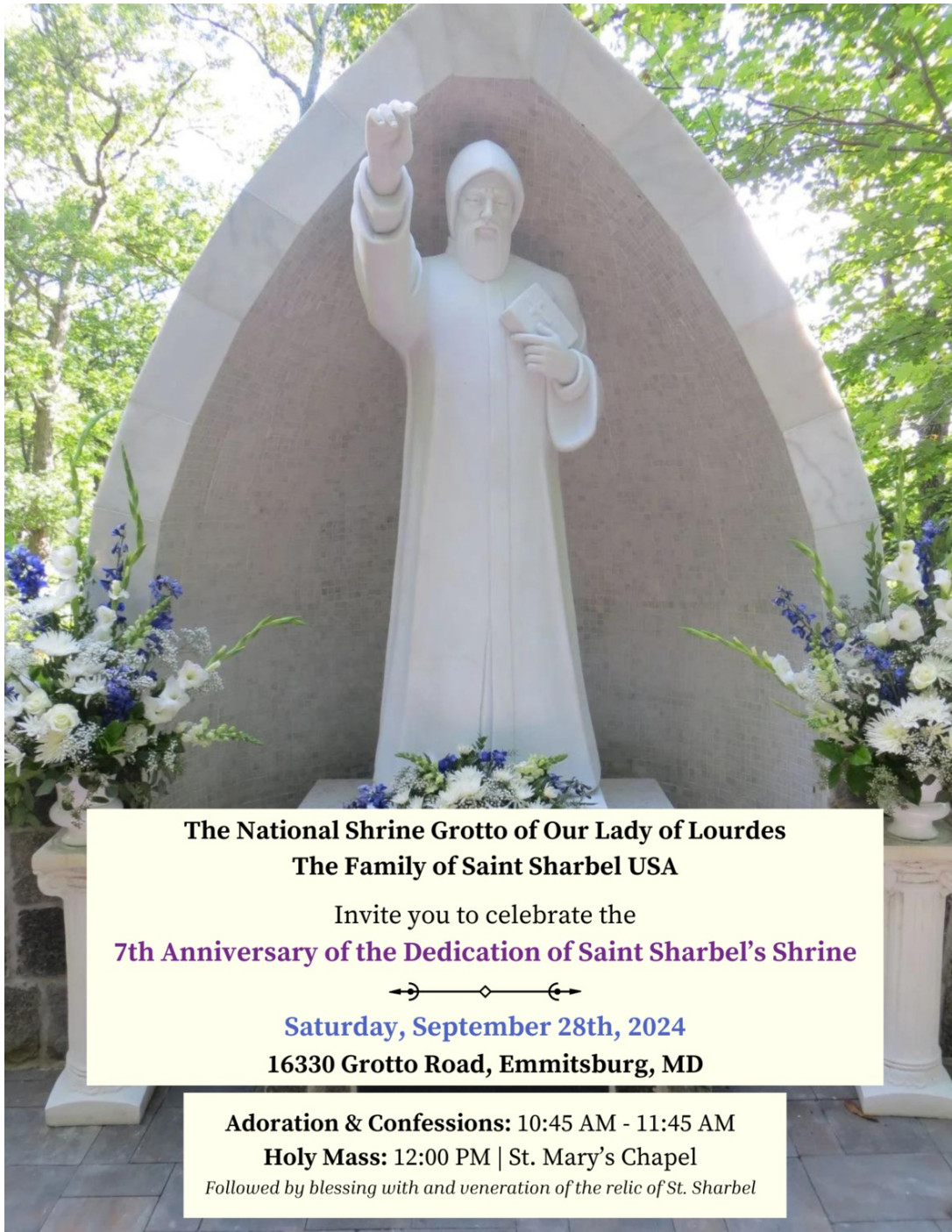
[Click here](#) to read Fr. Kamil's full reflection.

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

What's Ahead

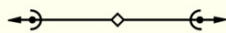
Shrine Anniversary Celebration: Sept. 28, 2024

Join the Family of Saint Sharbel at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes on Saturday, September 28th, 2024 to celebrate the 7th anniversary of the St. Sharbel shrine's dedication! Clergy interested in participating in the event should contact the National Shrine Grotto's management office (301-447-5318). Please see the flyer or weblink below for additional information!



**The National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes
The Family of Saint Sharbel USA**

Invite you to celebrate the
7th Anniversary of the Dedication of Saint Sharbel's Shrine



Saturday, September 28th, 2024
16330 Grotto Road, Emmitsburg, MD

Adoration & Confessions: 10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Holy Mass: 12:00 PM | St. Mary's Chapel

Followed by blessing with and veneration of the relic of St. Sharbel

[National Shrine Grotto Webpage](#)

Our Blessed Mother's Birthday - 9/8/2024 | Greenlawn, NY

All are invited to join St. Francis of Assisi Church in Greenlawn, NY in celebration of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Sunday, September 8th, 2024! In addition to a rosary, Mass, and refreshments, the evening will include a testimonial by Deacon Michael Chirichella and an opportunity to venerate a first class relic of St. Sharbel and be blessed with the holy oil of St.

Sharbel. See the flyer below for details!

Our Mother Queen of Peace – Betania XIII

INVITES YOU TO SPEND THE EVENING CELEBRATING
OUR BLESSED MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY

Sunday, September 8th, 2024



St. Francis of Assisi Church
29 Clay Pitts Road
Greenlawn, NY 11740

MAIN CELEBRANT:
Father Peter Kaczmarek

CONCELEBRANT:
Father Joseph Habila
Deacon Michael

7 pm Rosary 7:30 pm Holy Mass
Music: Al Barbarino



*Our guest speaker will be Deacon Michael Chirichella
- He will be witnessing the miracle he received from
Saint Sharbel. You will be able to venerate a first class
relic and receive a blessing with his holy oil.*



Deacon Michael Chirichella is from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. He has a strong devotion to the Lebanese miracle worker Saint Sharbel. He is also a cancer survivor, and ministers to people with cancer through conversations, and phone calls. Deacon and his brother Father Vincent Chirichella have a monthly healing Mass in honor of Saint Sharbel at Saint Joseph Church in Astoria, NY. He also has a podcast with his brother called "The brothers in Faith."

**Refreshments to follow in honor of the Nativity of
Mary and farewell to our Pastor, Father Peter.**

For further information please contact:
Dolores 516-903-6630 or Anne 631-339-2217

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 in Honor of St. Sharbel:

St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church, Phoenix, Arizona

St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Mission of Stockton, California

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

St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church, Clinton Township, Michigan

Our Lady Star of the East Maronite Catholic Church, Pleasantville, New Jersey

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Astoria, New York

St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

St. Sharbel Mission, El Paso, 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

Raymond Nader Speaks in Washington, DC



In celebration of the Feast of Saint Sharbel, Raymond Nader, President of the Family of Saint Sharbel, gave a talk at Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Church in Washington, DC during his trip to the US! Click the button link below to learn more and hear his message.

[Watch Now](#)

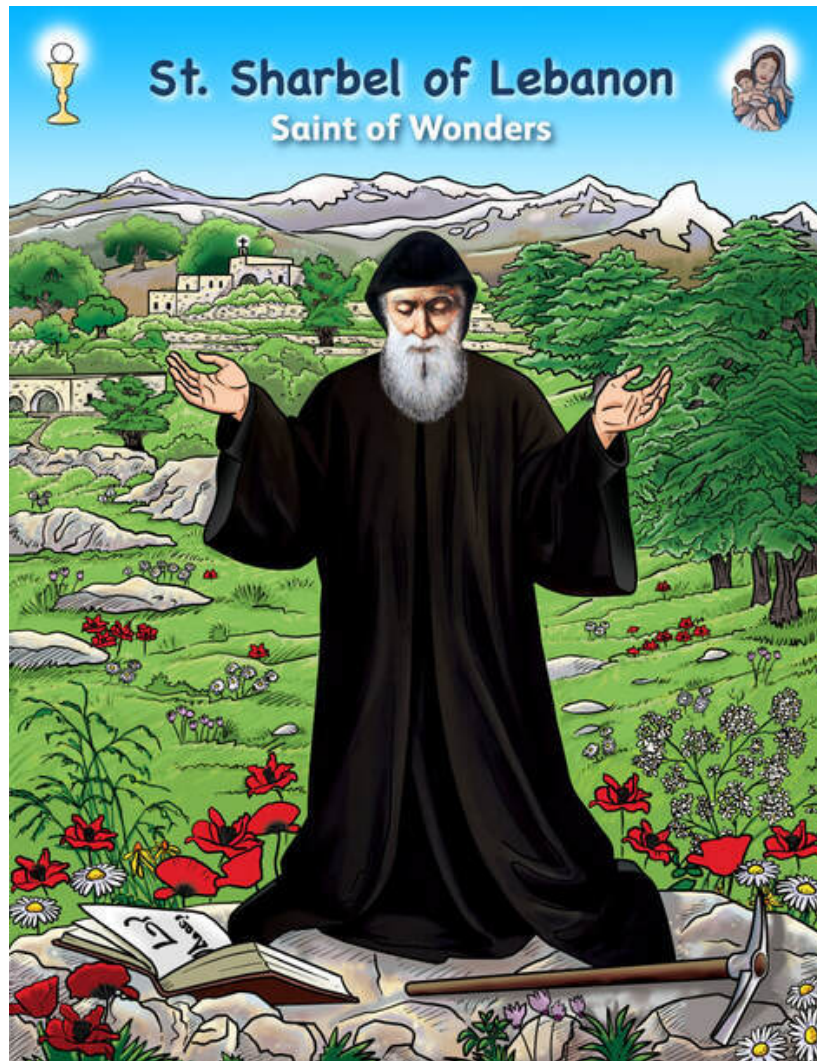
Beatification of Patriarch Estephan El Douaihy



On August 2nd, 2024, former Maronite Patriarch of Antioch Estephan El Douaihy (1630 -1704) was beatified! During his earthly life, Bl. Douaihy was known to have been gifted in teaching and leading with the help of the Holy Spirit, and he took a special interest in writing on Maronite history and liturgy. Click below to learn more about him!

[Learn More](#)

St. Sharbel Illustrated Book - Available in English and Arabic!



St. Sharbel of Lebanon: Saint of Wonders is one of the Family of Saint Sharbel's latest projects! **Available in English and Arabic*, this illustrated book recounts the life of Saint Sharbel in context, beginning with a brief history of the Maronite Church and the Lebanese Maronite Order and ending with the legacy left behind by Christ's work in this Saint, including the formation of the Family of Saint Sharbel. Click the links below to learn more or purchase this book in your preferred language!*

[Order Online - Arabic](#)

[Order Online - English](#)

Saint Spotlight

St. Simeon the Stylite



Image from Britannica

Feast Day: September 1

St. Simeon the Stylite was born in Syria around 390 A.D. into a family of poor shepherds. Called from an early age to a life of asceticism, Simeon entered a monastery where he practiced significant penances as a sign of reliance on God. The extent of his devotion, however, inspired jealousy among other monks, and he was eventually asked to leave the monastery for this reason. Outside the monastery, Simeon sought an eremitic life but found himself surrounded by people who were attracted to his holiness, seeking to imitate him or receive advice. In response to this, Simeon climbed up a column (in Greek, “style”) to seek a refuge conducive to meditation. Once there, he didn’t come down except to mount even taller columns until his death 30 years later (459

A.D.). Caught up in prayer and self-gift to God, Simeon the Stylite entered the mystery of the crucifixion, dying to himself that God might live in Him. As a fruit of this witness, he became well known for his holiness both during his earthly life and after it.

St. Simeon, please pray for us!

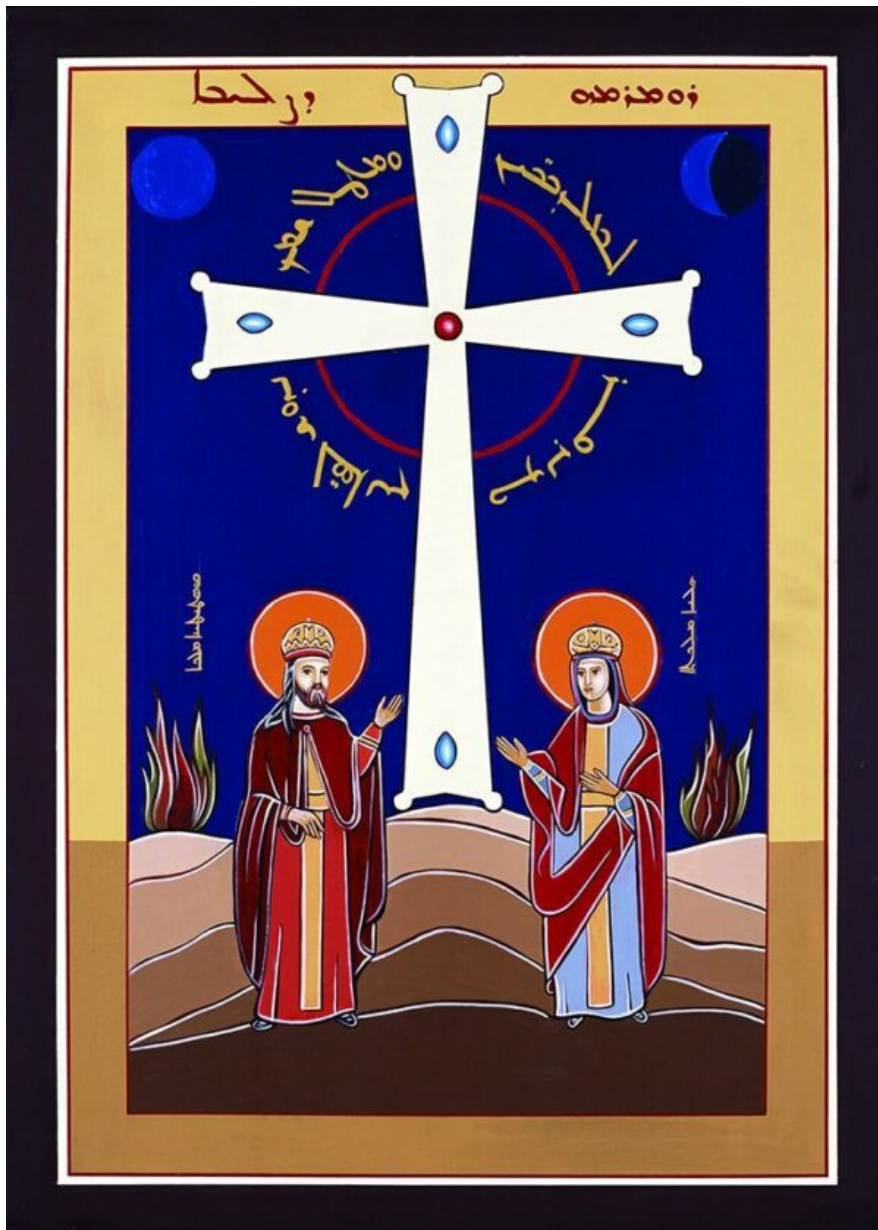
[Click Here](#) to pray the Sedro prayer for the feast of St. Simeon!

Information about this Saint was sourced from [The Desert](#).

Reading Nook

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

by Bishop Antoine Charbel Tarabay



Icon of St. John and Mary, Mother of God, at the cross sourced from Bishop Antoine Charbel Tarabay's article in The Catholic Weekly

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which marks the beginning of the final season of the Maronite liturgical year, will take place on **Saturday, September 14th!** The article below (from October 2022) by Bishop Antoine Charbel Tarabay explains the origins and meaning this feast from a Maronite perspective. Click the button below to read the full text!

"...on the 14 of September, the Universal Church celebrated the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This feast has a lot of significance not only in the Maronite Church but also in the Spiritual Eastern Traditions of the Church.

The feast, which marks the beginning of the final season of the Maronite liturgical year, originated with the discovery of the True Cross in Jerusalem by St Helena in 326 A.D.

The Cross of Christ was identified when people were miraculously healed simply by touching it.

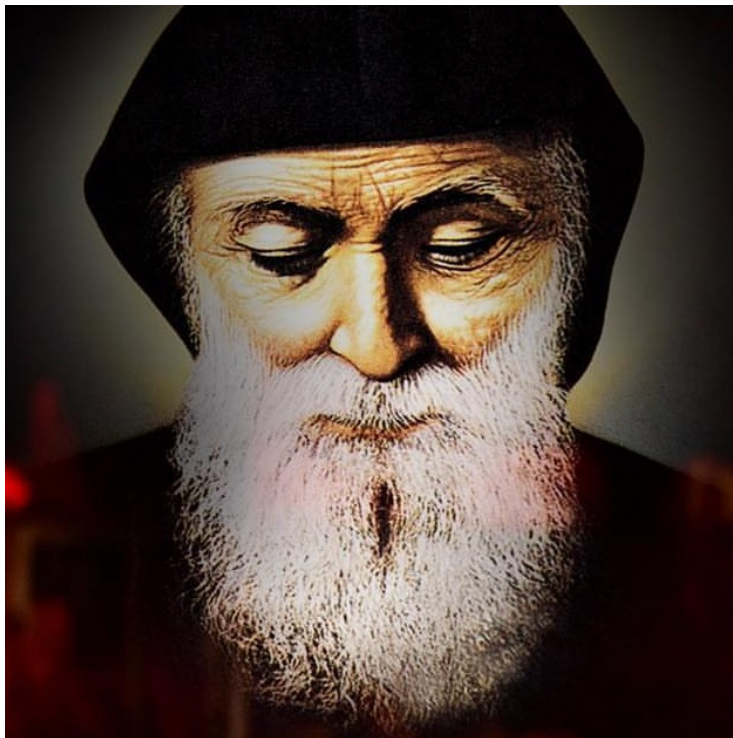
There is no doubt, that the Cross, our source of strength and encouragement, is a symbol of Christianity. When a Cross or crucifix is visible on a building, we can safely assume this is a Christian place.

But the Cross is more than a symbol, it reveals our identity – that we are Christians, we are believers in Jesus Christ, and we belong to the Church."

[Read More Here](#)

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 the intercession of St. Sharbel. 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 Mary Jo El-Shami

Healing Testimony of Eid Khalil Youssef

Healing Testimony for the child Evan Wissam Ayyar

Healing Testimony of Pauline Tanios Faris

Healing Testimony for the Child Maria Isabella Morales

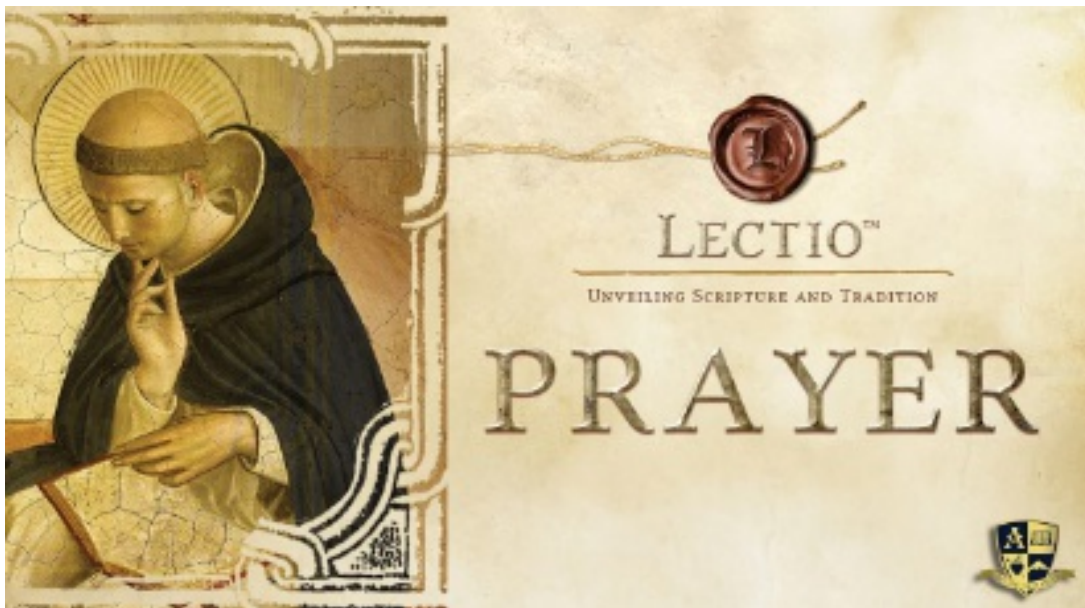
*Available in English and Spanish

Healing Testimony for the child Noor Milad Nasri Nasrallah

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 anecdotal 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 Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God with Dr. Tim Gray!

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:

As we prepare to enter the season of the Glorious Cross, we would like to

recommend FORMED's Lectio series on prayer: *Lectio: Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God!* Prayer is the lifeline that connects us to God, making the true self-giving, cruciform love that Christ calls for possible. Yet how can we open ourselves better to receive God's Word more deeply? Do we really know how to pray?

Click the button link below to watch!

Watch Here

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!

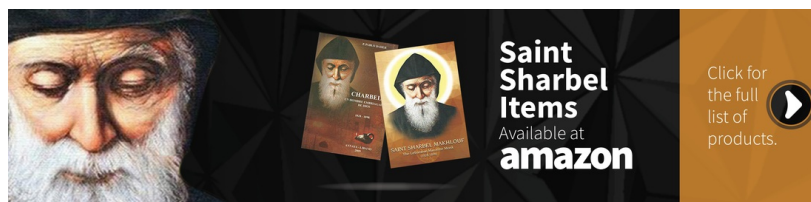
Below are the links to FORMED on social media:

Instagram: [formedcatholic](#)

Facebook: [FORMEDCatholic](#)

YouTube: [Augustine Institute](#)

Family of Saint Sharbel Shops



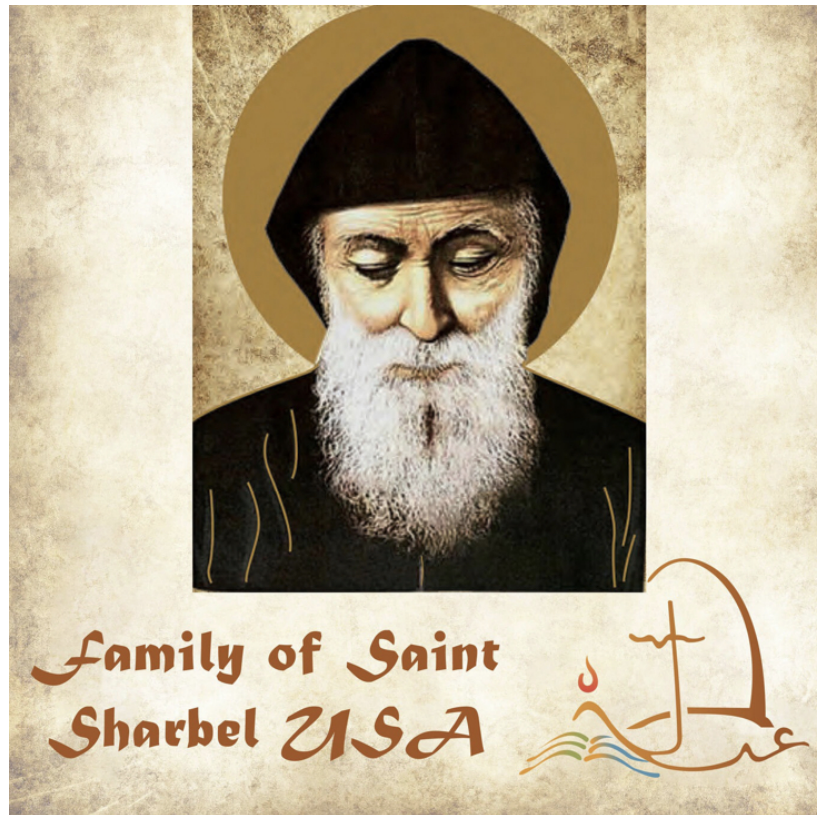
Click this image to view our Amazon shop!

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

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](#)
- [Portuguese.Website](#)
- [Sanctuary.of.Saint.Charbel.in.Lebanon](#)

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



©2024 Family of Saint Sharbel USA | 9340 Braymore Circle, Fairfax Station, VA 22039

[Web Version](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by
GoDaddy Email Marketing®