

Issue 38 | September 2025

Blessed Month of the Rosary!



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

Peace of Christ, and Happy Fall!

As we begin the month of the Holy Rosary (the final month of the Maronite liturgical year!), we are excited to share about:

- Our **Shrine Dedication Anniversary**
- Two **Newly Canonized Saints**
- **Upcoming**

**Retreat,
Talk,
and
Prayer
Opportunities
in
the
U.S.!**

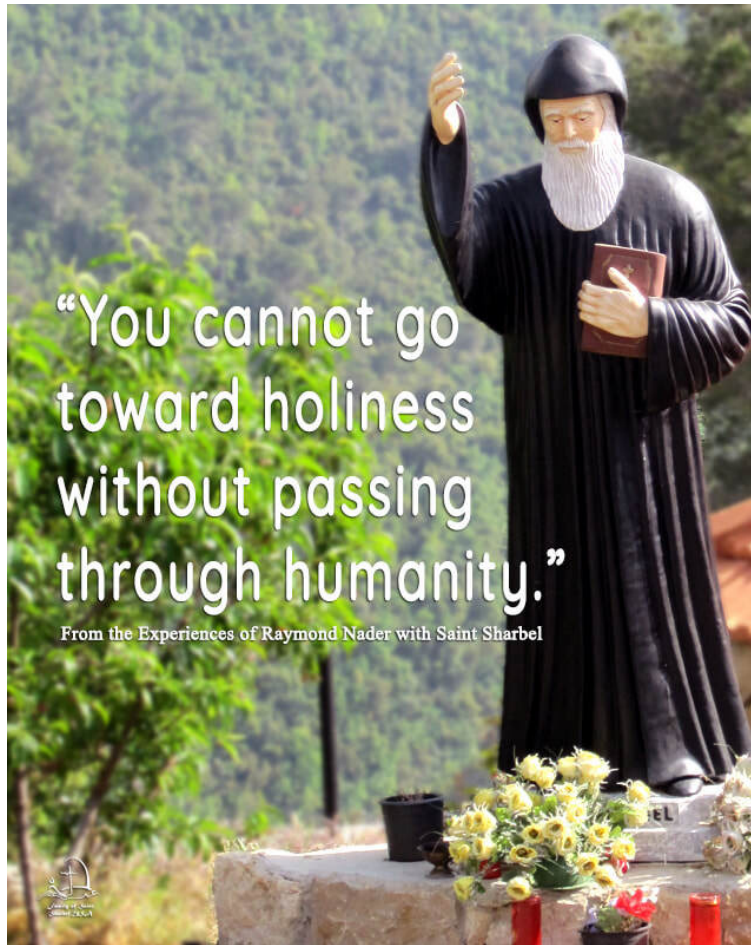
Please share this newsletter and **keep us in your prayers**—we are praying for you daily!

[NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE](#)

Contemplation Corner

The Holy Rosary & Saint Sharbel

by **Fr. Kamil AlChouefati, Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Church, Easton, PA**



"The most basic precursor to the rosary prayer is ancient, as recorded in the writings of early historians. Well before the modern rosary came to be, Christians in the early centuries used a rope tied with a few knots to count their acts of devotion, moving their thumbs over each knot. When monasteries and religious orders were founded from the 4th century onward, monks prayed the Divine Office together. At that time, this was limited to reciting the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the 150 Psalms of David. Illiterate monks assigned to work the land were exempt from reciting the Psalms. Instead, they recited the Lord's Prayer followed by 150 Hail Marys.

It can be said, then, that the Rosary prayer was a human creation until the Virgin Mary intervened through her famous apparition to St. Dominic..."

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

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

"Family" Updates

8th Annual Shrine Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday, September 27th, the Family of Saint Sharbel celebrated 8 years since the dedication of the St. Sharbel Shrine in Emmitsburg, MD (2017). This prayerful celebration included adoration, confession, Mass, and more! **Click the button link below to read a full report or view recorded coverage of the event.**



Attendees venerate a first-class relic of St. Sharbel (right side) and receive a blessing with the oil of St. Sharbel (left side).



Fr. Theodore Trinko celebrates Mass in St. Mary's Glass Chapel during the celebration.



Participants - local, pilgrim, lay, and religious - pray together during the liturgy.

[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 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:

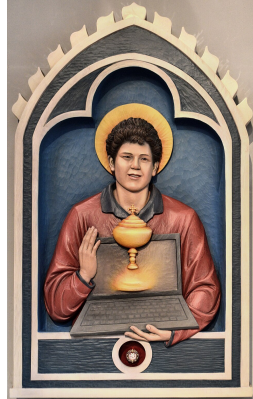
Shrine Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Brooklyn, New York

Community News

Canonizations: Carlo Acutis & Pier Giorgio Frassati

On Sunday, September 7th, 2025, Pope Leo XIV canonized Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati! Both Saint Carlo Acutis and Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati lived short lives, passing at ages 15 and 24, respectively, but they left behind much for the world to learn. Click the button links below to view St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City,

USA's interview with St. Carlo's mother or to watch a free movie about St. Pierre Giorgio!



Icon of St. Carlo Acutis



St. Pier Giorgio Frassati

[Interview - Antonia Acutis \(Carlo's Mother\)](#)

[Pier Giorgio Frassati Movie](#)

Saint Sharbel Center - Recent Talks Available on YouTube!

The **Saint Sharbel Spiritual Life Center** in Pittsburgh, PA **recently hosted the Order of Saint Sharbel Retreat** and has made some of the talks from this retreat available online! Speakers include Dr. Anne Borik (the Center's directress), Bishop Gregory Mansour, and Fr. Boniface Hicks. Click the button link below to listen!

[Watch on YouTube](#)

Monastère Saint Charbel Inaugurated in France

On Saturday, September 20th, Cardinal Boutros El Rai of Lebanon, the Maronite Patriarch, inaugurated the **Monastery of St. Charbel in Villiers-sur-Marne, France**. **Click the button links below to learn more** or watch a recording of the event by the Lebanese Maronite Order!

**The article below is published in French. To translate this article to English from a web browser, right click on the page and select "Translate to English."*

[Read More](#)

[Watch on YouTube](#)

Pilgrim Fatima Statue to Visit St. Sharbel Center (Pittsburgh, PA)



The **Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima** is scheduled to visit the **St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center** in Pittsburgh, PA (820 Crane Ave.) on **Monday, October 6th from 6pm - 9pm**. The visit will include a crowning of the Blessed Mother, a sharing of Our Lady of Fatima's message, collection of petitions (to be taken to Fatima, Portugal), and a rosary and reception. Please join!

[St. Sharbel Center Website](#)

Covenant of Marriage - Betrothal and Crowning (Zoom Talk)



Join **Bishop Gregory Mansour** of the **Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn** and the **Eparchial Couples Ministry** on **October 7th at 8:00PM EST** for a Zoom Talk on the Covenant of Marriage! Join using the **Meeting ID 847 1365 0071** with the **Passcode 653500** or by clicking the button link below.

[Click to Join \(on 10/7\)](#)

Day Retreat at the National Shrine Grotto (Emmitsburg, MD)



Click this image to learn more!

DIVINE MERCY & EUCHARISTIC HEALING RETREAT Saturday, October 11th

Registration: \$35
with Lunch: \$50

The National Shrine Grotto invites you to join us
for a Day of Retreat with Fr. Ken Geraci, CMP.



Join **Fr. Ken Geraci, CMP** at the **National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes** for a Divine Mercy & Eucharistic Healing Day Retreat on **Saturday, October 11th!** Click the button link below to view the full schedule and register to attend.

[Information & Registration](#)

Order of St. Sharbel Sunday



*Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary in Washington, D.C.
(public domain image).*

Throughout the Maronite Church in the United States, **Sunday, October 12th** is **Order of St. Sharbel Sunday**, a day intended to highlight and garner support for the Order of St. Sharbel's important mission. The **Order of St. Sharbel** provides financial support and prayers for seminarians and, when possible, retired priests of the Maronite Church in the United States, and they are always in need of new members! If you are able to help support Maronite seminarians and retired priests, please consider becoming a member on one of two levels:

- **Annual**

- \$500 annually (may be gifted in \$125 installments if preferred)

- **Perpetual**

- \$5,000 one-time donation (or may be made as 4, \$1,250 gifts over one year)

Please click the button link below to learn more or become a member, and keep

the Order, our seminarians, and our priests in your prayers!

[Learn More](#) | [Join](#)

Community Highlight: Maronite Servants of Christ the Light



Maronite Servants of Christ the Light at Our Lady of Lebanon Church in Washington, DC (source: MSCL website, linked below).

A handful of Maronite religious communities have formed in the United States, and they play a vital role in sharing the love of Christ among us. This month, we would like to highlight the **Maronite Servants of Christ the Light** located in **Dartmouth, MA!**

Origins: Under the direction of Bishop Gregory Mansour of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn, the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light were established by Mother Marla Marie Lucas in 2010. They are the first order of Maronite religious sisters to have been formed (and have their motherhouse!) in the United States!

Community Charism: The Maronite Servants of Christ the Light live as spiritual mothers in their community. They maintain a contemplative-active lifestyle, meaning that they serve and are physically present to others, but they are deeply committed to living and giving in a spirit of prayer, offering multiple hours of their day to the Divine Liturgy, the Maronite Liturgy of the Hours, adoration, and private devotions. They serve all throughout the Eparchy of St. Maron and beyond!

Click here to view their Facebook page or click the button link below to view their website. **Click here to support their mission!**

Saint Spotlight

St. Pelagia the Penitent



Icon of St. Pelagia (Image Source: Sharon Mollerus, Wikimedia).

Feast Day: October 8th

“St. Pelagia was a beautiful pagan girl from Antioch. She was a famous and celebrated dancer and a courtesan, equally celebrated for her beauty, her wealth and the disorder of her life. During a Synod at Antioch, she passed by bishop St. Nonnus of Edessa, who was struck by her beauty. The next day she went to hear him preach and was so moved by his sermon that she asked him to baptize her, which he did. She gave her wealth to Nonnus to aid the poor and left Antioch dressed in men's clothing. She became an anchorite in a cave on Mount Olive in Jerusalem, where she lived in great austerity, performing penance and [becoming] known as ‘the beardless monk,’ until after her death in the year 457, when it was discovered that she was in fact a woman.”

Source: The Maronite Synaxarion by Kozhaya S. Akiki

St. Pelagia, Pray for Us!

Reading Nook

The Rosary and Maronite Faith

By Fr. Danny Nouh



Image Source: Wikimedia Commons

"...We Maronites are predominantly a people of faith and prayer. For the Maronite Church, the Liturgy is our primary source of spirituality, inspiration and theology.

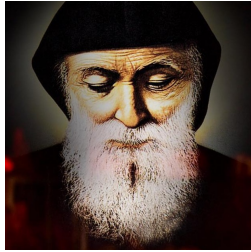
Whereas the Western Church relies heavily on the writings of the Great Fathers who explain to us the Scriptural, Traditional and Dogmatic understanding of our faith, the Maronites take a spiritual understanding inspired by the prayers and hymns of saints and hermits, the blood of our martyrs and the everyday witness of our mothers and fathers.

This prayerfulness or spirituality has been handed down from Saint Maroun and his disciples through the generations and it stems from the monastic and ascetic life that they lived; this we have adapted without even knowing, in our ordinary, everyday life.

As such the Rosary has naturally become the most important form of prayer after the Divine Liturgy..."

[Read More](#)

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 for Sharbel Said Nassif

Healing Testimony for the child Sharbel Fadel

Healing Testimony of Marie Gerges Abi Khalil

Healing Testimony of Ange-Marie Abou Jaoudeh

Healing Testimony of Sobhiyeh Abdallah Shahrou

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



Saints Pier Giorgio Frassati (left) and Carlo Acutis (right); image sourced from

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:

This month, we would like to highlight resources on the Church's most recently canonized Saints, Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis (canonized on Sept. 7, 2025). Click the linked text below to learn about their lives!

St. Pier Giorgio Frassati: "**Pier Giorgio Frassati: Man of the Beatitudes**", an informative talk by Fr. Tim Deeter and ***Pier Giorgio Frassati: If I Didn't Have Love***, an Italian film about St. Pier Giorgio's life (subtitled in English).

St. Carlo Acutis: ***The Boy from Milan | Stories of Carlo Acutis***, a video compilation of testimonies about St. Carlo Acutis, a millennial with many surviving contemporaries, from those who knew him.

Sign Up for FORMED

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](#)

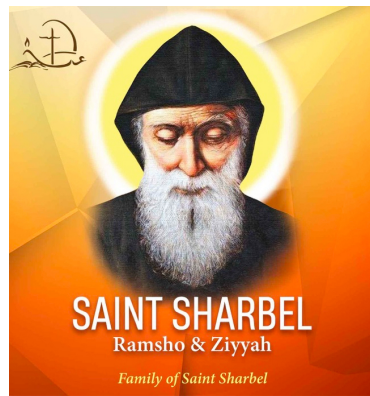
Find Us Online!



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!**

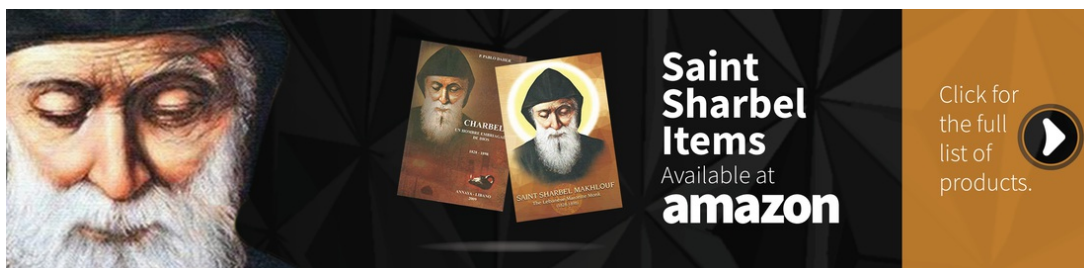
Family of Saint Sharbel on Apple Music, Spotify, and More!



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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