



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 15 | October 2023

Peace of Christ!



*Family of Saint
Sharbel USA*

Dear Friends,

The Family of Saint Sharbel USA presents its latest Newsletter. We are grateful and happy to have you on board and ask for your prayers as our community of faith continues to grow! **Please spread the word among your family and friends; we would love to have you all join us.**

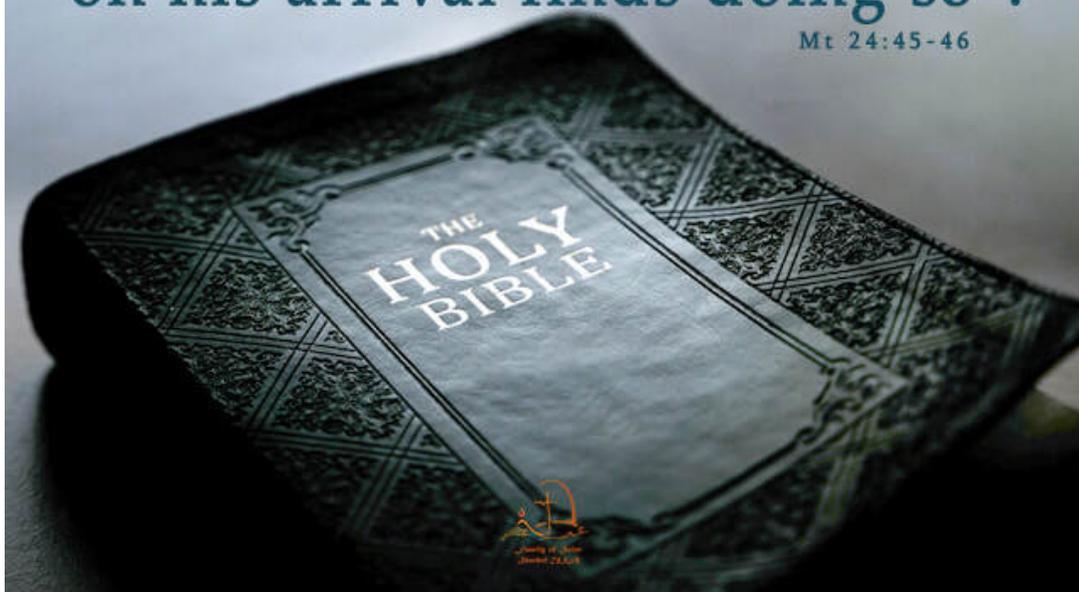
- CLICK HERE TO ACCESS OUR NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE -

Contemplation Corner

A Reflection by the Family of Saint Sharbel USA

“Who, then, is the faithful and prudent servant, whom the master has put in charge of his household to distribute to them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on his arrival finds doing so”.

Mt 24:45-46



<https://www.familyofsaintsharbel.org/spiritual-designs/who-then-is-the-faithful-and-prudent-servant>

Though our hearts may struggle to identify it, God has made clear to us what, in every moment, He means for us to be being and doing: He is always asking us to love. This is our service, and a faithful servant has a consistently loving spirit (the Holy Spirit), but what does this mean? To lay down our lives for our friends? To wholly share Christ's focus on the others in front of us? In the words of St. Thomas Aquinas, to love is to will the good of the other—to will the will of God (who is good) for another. Though the precise, material form of this love shifts depending on the responsibility God entrusts to us—be it to work dutifully while we are clocked in for a job or to lay everything else aside when someone speaks to us—the spirit of this call is always one and the same thing, and communion with this Spirit is sainthood. Our call to love is a call to stewardship, a call to generously accept responsibility, and a call to prudent, gentle, and intentional servanthood in relation to all things God has entrusted to our care. Yet a generous response to this call can only possibly be given through reliance on God, who, no matter how great our vocation may seem to us, makes every burden on our souls light. Will we rely on our Lord to help us be faithful? Can we accept that our responsibilities may not always be the same? What does this mean for you in this moment?

This All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, may our hearts be open to pray for the faithful departed, to contemplate the purpose of our lives, and to consider the spirit in which we live right now. May our souls be open to conversion and desirous of deeper reliance on God, and may Christ always find us living in the light that will let us, one day, be counted among the faithful and prudent servants remembered during this season.

Questions to Ponder:

What are the responsibilities that God has given to me? For each of responsibility I list, what might it look like (spiritually and physically) to fulfill it well?

Which of these responsibilities, if any, do I struggle to shoulder right now?

Are there any places where I struggle to identify what is truly my responsibility? How, if at all, might God's call for me differ from my own expectations?

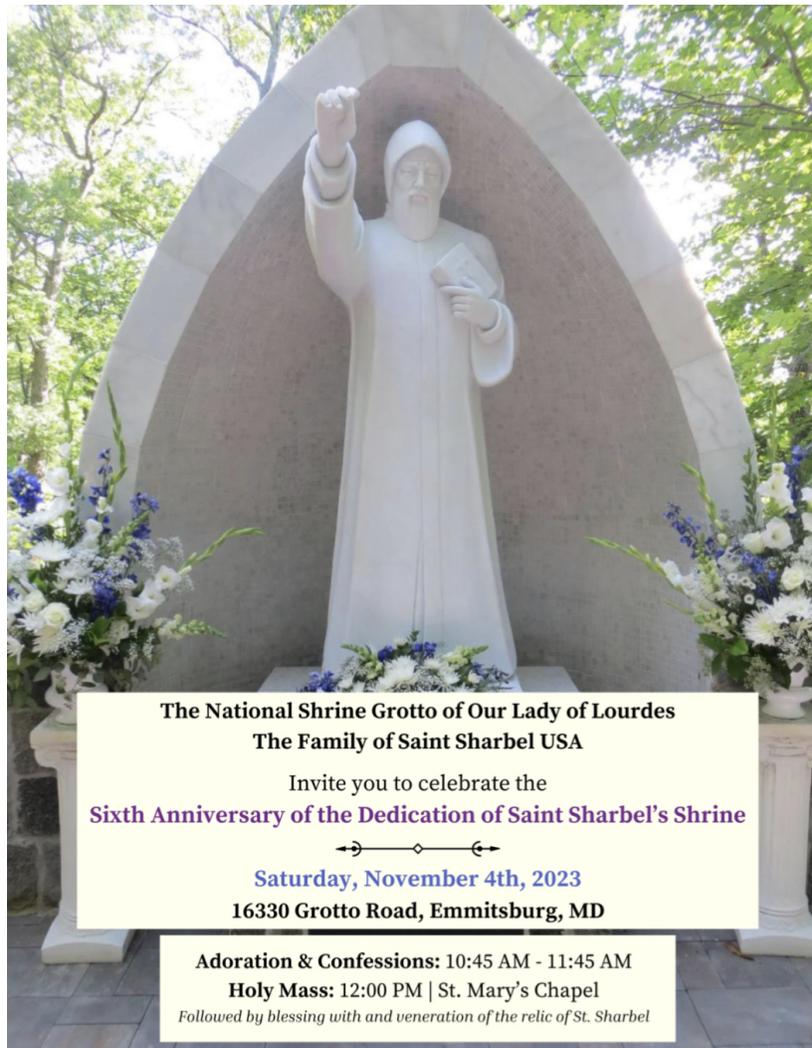
How might God be inviting me to deepen my reliance on Him - even if it may be through reliance on others - to help me love in the way He is asking of me?

Please be assured of our prayers for you, and if you enjoyed the above image, find more of our spiritual designs [HERE](#).

What's Ahead?

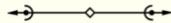
Shrine Dedication Anniversary

Attention, all! We welcome and encourage you to join us in celebrating the 6th anniversary of the Shrine to Saint Sharbel at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes this Saturday, November 4th. Please see the image below or [click this link](#) for further information!



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

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



**Saturday, November 4th, 2023
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

Saint Sharbel Events in the USA

Find an event near you and explore the links below:

Healing Masses in Honor of St. Sharbel:

St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church, Phoenix, Arizona

St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Mission of Stockton, California

PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUED | St. Agnes Catholic Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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

St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church, Clinton Township, Michigan

NEWLY ADDED! 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 Cathedral, Brooklyn, New York

Our Lady of Victory Maronite Catholic Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

St. Sharbel Mission of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Healing Holy Hour in Honor of St. Sharbel:

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

In Case You Missed It

Family of Saint Sharbel (FSS) Annual Gala Dinner

On Saturday, October 28th, 2023, 200 people gathered in the social hall at Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church in support of the Family of Saint Sharbel and its mission! Highlights of the evening included talks from Raymond Nader, founder and President of the Family of Saint Sharbel and Deacon Michael Chirichella, recipient of a [healing miracle](#), as well as traditional hymns and Middle Eastern food shared by all. During this year's event, the Family of Saint Sharbel also hosted a silent auction of icons and played [this video](#) that captures the places where St. Sharbel spent his time on earth, including Bekaa Kafra (Sharbel's birth village), the Monastery of Mayfouk, the Monastery of St. Maron in Annaya, the hermitage of saints Peter & Paul in Annaya, and more. The hymns in the background of the video are taken from the Maronite Ramsho

(evening prayer) to Saint Sharbel in English, and both the music and the video were produced by the Family of Saint Sharbel. To those who attended or assisted, thank you sincerely for your generosity of heart and presence. To all reading, we are so happy that you are a part of this family of prayer, and we hope to share this event with you in the future!

Watch a Video of the Event [HERE](#)

To listen to Raymond Nader's address for this event, please [click here](#).

To listen to Deacon Michael Chirichella's testimony, [click here](#).

To view the Family of Saint Sharbel's "Places" Video, [click here](#).

To view the Family of Saint Sharbel's video on Icon Writing, [click here](#).

Saint Spotlight

Saint Romanos, Martyr of Antioch



Image (Orthodox icon) retrieved from <https://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2016/11/holy-martyr-romanos-of-palestine-with.html>.

Feast Day: November 18

Saint Romanos of Antioch, also called Saint Romanos of Palestine, was born in Palestine in Caesarea and ordained a deacon in the one of the villages

belonging to this province. When the Roman Emperor, Diocletian, began to persecute Christians both in the east and in the west, especially at Antioch, many Christians began to abandon their faith. Upon hearing this, Romanos immediately decided to go to that city to preach. The emperor threatened to cut out Romanos' tongue, but the future martyr continued preaching and urged the people to confess to no other savior but Jesus. He was imprisoned and ultimately killed for this response in 303 AD.

Romanos still lives in the memory and lives of the Maronite faithful in Lebanon and the United States who have churches named in his honor. He is also venerated among Orthodox Christians! May our trust in God become, by God's grace, like that of this Saint, and may our concern for our neighbors' salvation and eagerness to share the love we've received grow each day.

Saint Romanos, Pray for Us!

(Information retrieved from [this page](#))

*Note: Many assert that St. Romanos was born in Antioch rather than Palestine, but this confusion can be attributed to the fact that early Christians associated martyrs with the place where they shed blood rather than the place where they were born.

Editor's Pick: FORMED Resource



Click on the image above (copied from the FORMED online streaming platform) to be directed to a series

about eternal rest.

The Family of Saint Sharbel offers a FREE subscription to FORMED, a Catholic online platform with thousands of resources for spiritual growth.

As we celebrate All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) and All Souls' Day (Nov. 2), the Church invites us to remember and pray for all those who have passed away. At the same time, we are invited to contemplate a topic that Christ reminds us of consistently: our own mortality and, in light of it, our vocation today. How can we live with eternity in mind? What happens when we die and after? *Eternal Rest: The Art of Dying Well* is a video series that addresses these questions and many others in 4 full-length episodes (about 30 minutes each) supplemented by shorter clips on more specific, related topics. **Click here** to view!

Sign up to 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](#)

Reading Nook

Maronite Icons: Saints of the Maronite Church

THE MARONITE ICONS

SAINTS OF THE MARONITE CHURCH



<http://saintmaronpublications.org/product/the-maronite-icons-saints-of-the-maronite-church/>

Title: *The Maronite Icons: Saints of the Maronite Church*

Author: Maronite Archbishopric of Cyprus

Abstract: This book contains **colorful icons** of various Maronite Saints in a Syro-Maronite style accompanied by descriptions in English and Arabic. It is available for \$30 through St. Maron Publications!

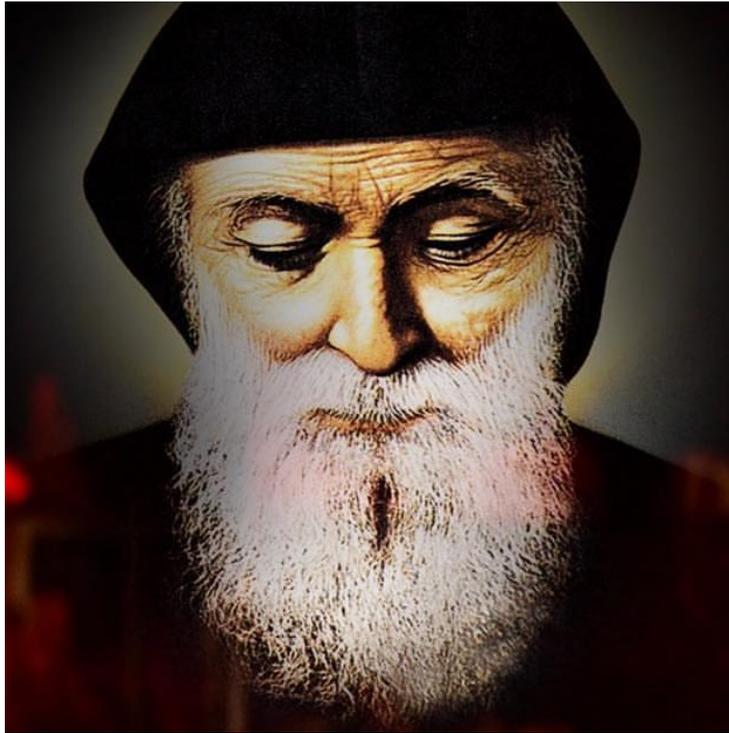
Language: Descriptions in English and Arabic (side by side).

You can purchase this book using the following link:

Saint Maron Publications

Articles and More

Healing Testimony of Nada Ahmad Qubaisi



<https://www.familyofsaintsharbel.org/testimonials.html>

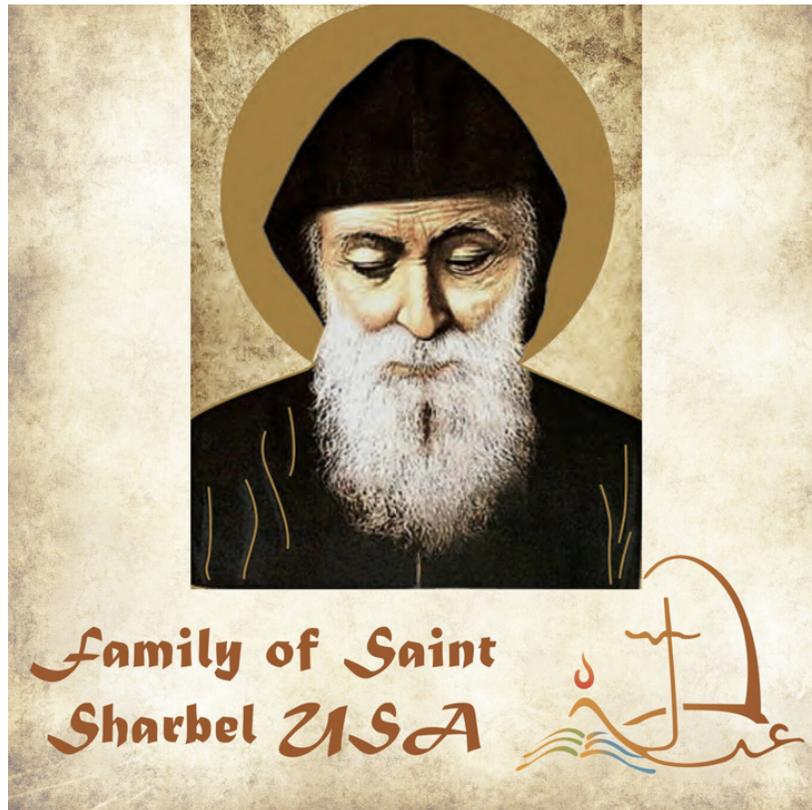
Mrs. Nada Ahmad Qubaisi, born in Al Mazraa, Beirut in 1961, residing in Mar Elias, Beirut. She works as a sports trainer and she is a Muslim Shiite. She shares her health condition based on medical report:

"I experienced severe abdominal pain and started vomiting. I couldn't eat or drink for ten days, and my face and body turned yellow. I went to Al-Makassed Hospital, where Dr. Nasser El-Din attended to me. It was discovered that a bacteria was attacking my liver, and my liver was deteriorating rapidly..."

Read the full Testimonial [HERE](#).

You can read more personal testimonials on our Testimonials page [HERE](#).

The Family of Saint Sharbel Podcast



<https://www.familyofsaintsharbel.org/podcast>

The Family of Saint Sharbel 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](#)

Where to Find Us

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



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