



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 20 | March 2024*

## Peace of Christ



**Family of Saint  
Sharbel USA**

### **Blessings this Holy Week!**

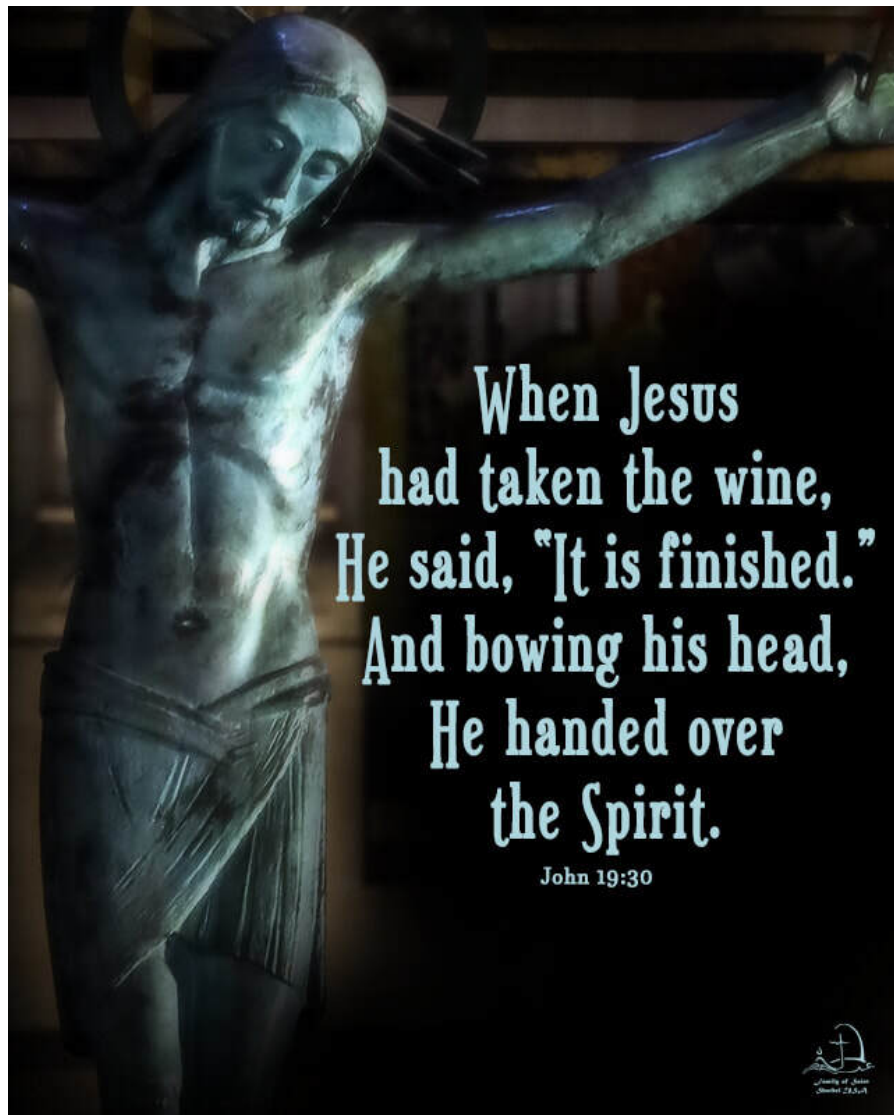
As we remember the passion, death, and resurrection of Our Lord, the Family of Saint Sharbel USA gratefully presents its 20th Newsletter. We are thankful and happy to be walking with you, and we ask for your prayers as our community of faith continues to grow! **Please spread the word; we would love to have you all join us.**

- CLICK HERE TO ACCESS OUR NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE -

View this Letter as a PDF

## Contemplation Corner

A Reflection by Fr. George Andari, FSS Board Member



<https://www.familyofsaintsharbel.org/spiritual-designs/it-is-finished>

**The Glorious Resurrection of the Lord**

Easter is the Holy day of all Holy days; it is the Resurrection of the body of our Lord and Savior from the dead. It is victory over death.

The following Hymn summarizes all we need to know about the Resurrection: “Christ has risen from the dead; He trampled death by death; He gave life to those who were dead by His Resurrection; He overcame death and brought everlasting life to the living and the dead. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad.”

From a non-Christian perspective, resurrection can mean rising again into life or prominence. It can also mean revival such as restoration to life, consciousness, etc. Hence, it is a phenomenon. It should be pointed out that the resurgence/revival are done by someone else or something else causes it.

In God's love, Resurrection is a pivotal point in the Christian life...

[Click here](#) to read Father George's full reflection.

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

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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 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 in El Paso, Texas**

**St. Sharbel Mission of Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

**Holy Hour in Honor of St. Sharbel:**

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

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## **In Case You Missed It**

### **Lenten Retreat with Bishop Gregory**

On Saturday, March 2nd, Bishop Gregory Mansour of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn led a Lenten Retreat at Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Church in Washington, DC. The one-day retreat included a celebration of the Divine Liturgy, talks on the subject of **prayer**, an opportunity for confession, and more!

### **The Family of Saint Sharbel USA Lent 2024 Retreat**

A group from the Family of Saint Sharbel, USA, attended a retreat with the **Maronite Monks of Adoration** at Most Holy Trinity Monastery in Massachusetts from Thursday, March 7th through Sunday, March 10, 2024.

During the retreat, Abbot Patrick, Fr. Robert, and Fr. Maron delivered talks with question and answer sessions on the transformative effect of fasting, the transformative effect of prayer and almsgiving, and awareness of vices and virtues. Participants also engaged in personal adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and attended the monks' liturgical services, including Morning Prayers (Safro), Divine Liturgy, Midday Prayers, Evening Prayers (Ramsho), and Night Prayers (Sotooro).

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## **Saint Spotlight**

**Saint George**



Icon of St. George - Public Domain Image

**Catholic Feast Day:** April 23rd (supposed date of his martyrdom)

**St. George** was a Christian who lived in Lydda during the time of the Diocletian persecution, which was a mandated suppression of Christianity that took place in the Roman Empire during the reign of Diocletian (around the early 300s AD). Though it is difficult to obtain clear details about his life, St. George was known to be a Roman soldier martyred for his firm faith in the Lord, which he refused to renounce even when faced with death threats. According to popular legend, George slayed a dragon (really, a demon) that was terrorizing his people, and this is frequently how he is remembered and depicted in iconography. Symbolically, however, George's interaction with the dragon could be likened to the way he approached threats to Christianity in his time and place—with the courage of a holy soldier.

*Saint George, Pray for Us!*

## Family of Saint Sharbel Shops

An advertisement for Saint Sharbel items. It features a close-up of Saint Sharbel's face on the left. In the center, there are two books: 'SHARBEL' and 'SAINT SHARBEL: MAXIMILIAN'. To the right, the text reads 'Saint Sharbel Items Available at amazon'. Further right, there is a call to action: 'Click for the full list of products.' with a play button icon.

*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 in general are available for order, including works created by the Family of Saint Sharbel. Please click the buttons below to explore!

Amazon

Shopify

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## Editor's Pick: FORMED Resource



*Click the image above (copied from the FORMED online streaming platform) to be directed to an insightful talk on the Jewish roots of Holy Week.*

**The Family of Saint Sharbel offers all of 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 enter the sacred Triduum this week, we would like to share **The Jewish Roots of Holy Week** by Dr. Brant Pitre with you. This excellent and eye-opening talk places the events we commemorate this week into their original Jewish context, helping listeners centuries beyond the events recognize the significance of Christ's Passion's smallest details. Though discussed from a Latin-Rite Catholic perspective, this talk's contents apply to Catholics of any Rite or tradition within the Church.

**Click the button link below to listen!**

[Listen 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](#)

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## Reading Nook

### **Is the Crucifixion a Wedding Celebration?**

**The Hidden Pearl Press**



Image saved from:  
[https://superacpov.live/product\\_details/34594021.html](https://superacpov.live/product_details/34594021.html)

“On the Great Friday of the Crucifixion, the Maronite Church commemorates the death of the Son of God on the cross by celebrating the rite of the Adoration of the Cross. When one, however, closely looks at what the Church actually proclaims, one surprisingly discovers a fascinating and profound theological notion and a powerful biblical expression of salvation that one does not typically associate with a crucifixion: a wedding celebration. The objective of this article is to show that the Maronite Church announces that on the cross, Christ betrothed the Church. He is the Bridegroom, and she his Bride: his crucifixion is his wedding celebration to the Church...”

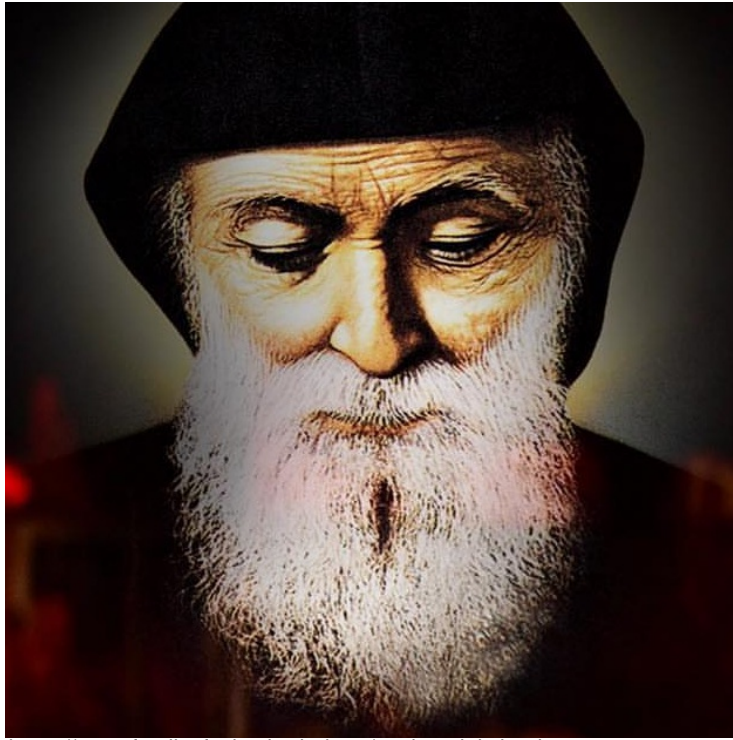
[Read More Here](#)

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## Articles and More

### New Testimonials





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

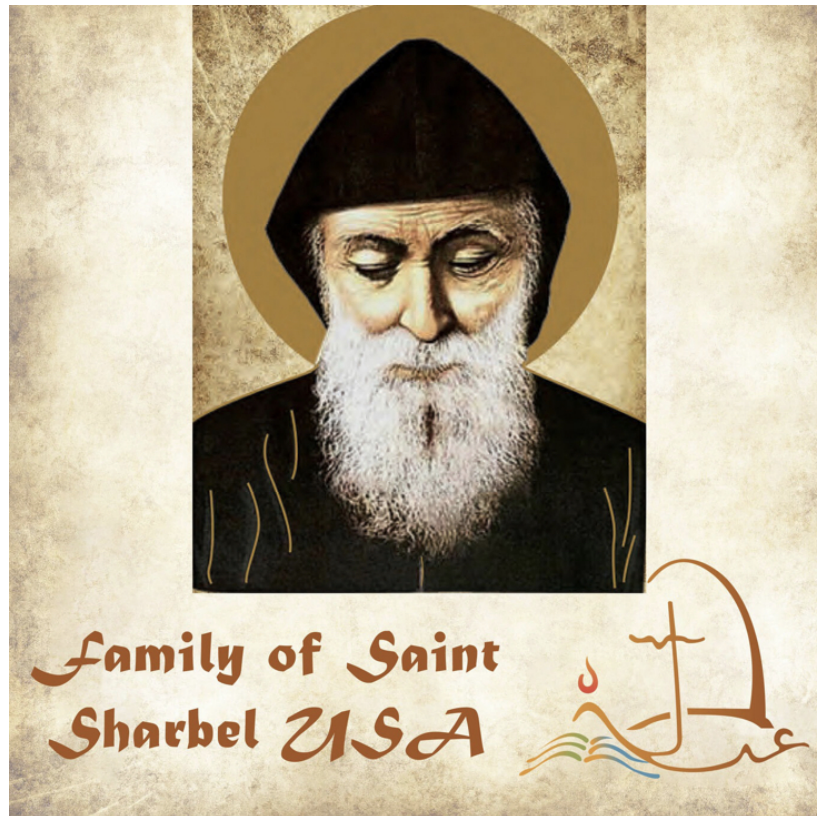
Periodically, we receive stories from people around the globe who have experienced the work of God through the intercession of St. Sharbel. We would like to the most recent testimonies with you below! Click on a title to read the full story; all posted testimonies have been shared with the author's permission.

### **Healing testimony of Elise Nassif Bou Diwan**

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

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### **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](#)

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**Zoom Prayer Gathering - Arabic**



Every Tuesday at 8:00 PM ET, members of the Family of Saint Sharbel from various locations gather on Zoom to pray Ramsho, the evening prayer from the Maronite Liturgy of the Hours, in Arabic. Each week, a priest leads the celebration, cantors sing hymns, and lectors read Scripture passages. To conclude, the priest reads the day's Gospel and gives a short homily, either sharing a scheduled teaching or leading the group through Lectio Divina before engaging in a Q&A session.

Come experience the serenity that prayer instills in us and the fellowship our meeting creates among all the members of our Family!

Email [communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org](mailto:communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org) for more information and be put on the Prayer Group email list.

## Where to Find Us

- [Website](#)
- [Shrine](#)
- [YouTube.Healings](#)
- [YouTube.Family.Channel](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Online.Shop](#)
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- [Spanish.Website](#)
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- [Sanctuary.of.Saint.Charbel.in.Lebanon](#)

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**God Bless,**

## The Family of Saint Sharbel USA



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