



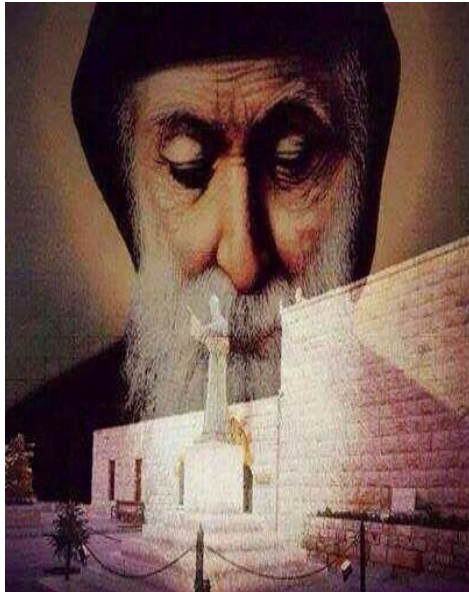
# Our Lady of Purgatory



## Maronite Catholic Church

July 23-24, 2022

### EIGHTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST



#### FEAST OF SAINT SHARBEL

Youssef Antoun Makhlof was born in 1828, in Bekaa Kafra (North Lebanon). He had a true Christian upbringing, which had given him a passion for prayer. Then he followed his two hermit uncles in the hermitage of the St Antonious Kozhaya monastery and was converted to monastic and hermetical life.

In 1851, he left his family village and headed for the Our Lady of Maifouk monastery to spend his first monastic year, and then he went to the St. Maron monastery in Annaya, where he entered the Maronite Order, carrying the name Charbel, a name of one of the Antioch church martyrs of the second century. On November 1st, 1853, he exposed his ceremonial vows in St Maron's monastery - Annaya. Then he completed his theological studies in the St Kobrianous and Justina monastery in Kfifan, Batroun.

He was ordained a priest in Bkerky, by the Maronite Patriarchate, on July 23rd, 1859. He lived 16 years in the St Maron's monastery - Annaya. From there, he entered, on February 15th, 1875, the St Peter & Paul hermitage, which belongs to the monastery. He was a typical saint and hermit, who spent his time praying and worshipping. Rarely had he left the hermitage where he followed the way of the saintly hermits in prayers, life and practice.

St Charbel lived in the hermitage for 23 years. On December 16th, 1898, he was struck with an illness while performing the holy mass. He died on Christmas' eve, December 24th, 1898, and was buried in the St Maron monastery cemetery in Annaya.

Few months later, dazzling lights were seen around the grave. From there, his corpse, which had been secreting sweat and blood, was transferred into a special coffin. Hordes of pilgrims started swarming the place to get his intercession. And through this intercession, God blessed many people with recovery and spiritual graces.

In 1925, his beatification and canonization were proposed for declaration by Pope Pious XI. In 1950, the grave was opened in the presence of an official committee which included doctors who verified the soundness of the body. After the grave had been opened and inspected, the variety of healing incidents amazingly multiplied. A multitude of pilgrims from different religious facets started flocking to the Annaya monastery to get the saint's intercession. Prodigies reached beyond the Lebanese borders. This unique

phenomenon caused a moral revolution, the return to faith and the reviving of the virtues of the soul.

SAINT SHARBEL PRAY FOR US!  
[http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=112](http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=112)

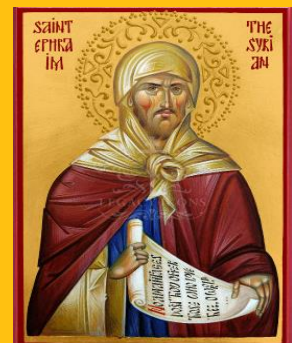
#### SAINT SHARBEL AND LESSONS OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

I've had the opportunity to live in Rome twice, once as an undergraduate and once as a graduate student. There's nothing like living in the Eternal City, and both semesters impacted my faith in incredible ways. I find myself getting "Rome-sick" pretty frequently, so I have to constantly remind myself that it wasn't just sunshine, roses, papal Masses and gelato. Luckily, I kept a

#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Inexpressibly great is the love shown by the Lover of mankind; for from our race, He chose an Intercessor and through Him made peace between the world and His greatness."*

*St. Ephrem the Syrian*



Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Mr. Jean Mattar, Deacon | Joseph Abraham, Sub-deacon

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OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

detailed blog and journal so that whenever I have the itch to move back, all I need to do is flip through and remember all the craziness and idiosyncrasies that made me crave Target and standing in queues.

One of the blessings I received as a grad student was the opportunity to live on the grounds of a Maronite monastery. I had been somewhat familiar with the Eastern Rites of the Catholic Church before that, but nothing compares to living with the Maronites and praying with them on a regular basis. We had the opportunity to join them for the Divine Liturgy every morning and we ate almost all our meals with the monks—the “abounas,” as we called them.

Before living with monks, the feast of St. Charbel Makhlef would be just another blurb in my Magnificat. But now it reminds me of the abounas and their devotion to the saint, which seemed right up there next to their devotion to St. Maroun. I think of the incredible lessons they taught me, even if they didn’t realize they were teaching. I remember sitting at dinner and observing the monks, who had now become my friends. There was Abouna Charbel the mosaic artist and Abouna Michel who worked in the Vatican. Victor was studying violin. One taught at the Angelicum, and one was in school. We had regular visitors from Lebanon, including an opera singer, and nuncios and bishops were regular guests at the dinner table. Conversations in Arabic swirled around me without me giving it so much of a second glance, my amens began to sound like *ah-meem*, and I was introduced to Lebanese customs and food.

It wasn’t uncommon that I wanted the gift of understanding so I could know what the abounas were saying at meals. Sometimes there was a great joke that sent everyone into laughter, and one of the monks would lean over and try to explain it to us. The evening the papal nuncio from Qatar, Yemen, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates was at dinner I listened intently, as if I could pick out words here and there... but alas, what might work for Italian homilies certainly did *not* work for Arabic conversations! The few words I

could pick out were “Beirut” and “Hezbollah.”

During the spring we lived there, there was a political crisis in Lebanon that came to a head, leading to armed clashes for about a week. The airport in Beirut was closed, leaving several of the visitors to the monastery stranded in Rome. The conversations would grow in intensity, and scenarios would begin to grow in my head. The priests knew English very well, and I knew I could just ask them what was happening, but I remained silent until I could ask one of them privately. I often felt so ignorant and uninformed, and I was aware that whatever I did know was filtered through the American media. The monks would occasionally ask questions about the policies of America, and sometimes I could barely articulate my country’s position on issues. Whereas I didn’t know the Lebanese political situation, they kept themselves abreast of the situation in the United States, and I soon realized my government sometimes affected their lives as much as it did mine.

Those few months connected me to the Church in a completely foreign part of the world. I knew from my first semester in Rome that I would experience the universal Church in a unique way in Rome, but I wasn’t prepared for the depth that experience would have, thanks to my friendship with the Lebanese monks. I became even more acutely aware that the Body of Christ was much larger than my little parish family back home. The enormity and diversity of the Pope’s flock came alive.

Whether it was the beauty of the Maronite liturgy or the complexity of foreign political situations, I lost my myopic view of the world, at least for a while. I began to appreciate the diversity of the Church Militant and how little I was in it all. But it is a little like studying the solar system—gaining an understanding for how minute you are should simultaneously give you a sense of thanksgiving for how loved you are. I’m a member of this Body of Christ, one among billions, a speck in this nation, a blip on this timeline ... and I am a child of God, fearfully and

wonderfully made, and not a hair on my head goes uncounted.

The feast of St. Charbel (an optional memorial) no longer goes unnoticed on my calendar. It is a time for me to thank God for the enormity of the Church. It is a time to pray for those Christians who live in war-torn parts of the world, especially those persecuted for their Faith. Every saint’s feast day is a time to celebrate the diversity of the Body of Christ, the multitude of paths to holiness, and the one holy Catholic Church.

St. Charbel, pray for us! All you holy men and women, pray for us!

<http://www.integratedcatholiclife.org/2015/07/watson-st-charbel-lessons-universal-church/>

## FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER’S APPRECIATION DINNER

We will have an appreciation BBQ for the volunteers who worked so hard for the festival on Saturday, August 6, immediately following the 4:30 PM Divine Liturgy. I ask all those who helped prep food, set up, assisted during the two-day festival, and breaking down on Sunday, to please email me at the office to RSVP for the BBQ. Please contact the Church office via email at: [ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com)

Once again, thank you to all who helped make the festival a great event for OLOP. Blessings to all of you.

## SAVE THE DATE MYO GATHERING

MARONITE YOUTH ORGANIZATION



## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Saturday, July 23, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Sharbel).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Saba Ramia requested by Subdeacon Joe Abraham and Carol Ann Maslanka. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George J. and Mary C. Saba requested by Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, July 24, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Christina of Tyre).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Leo Farhat requested by Family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the Deceased Members of Victoria Lahood Family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

**Monday, July 25, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Anne, Mother of Our Lady, the Virgin Mary).** Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light convent.

**Tuesday, July 26, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Bridget of Sweden).**

**Wednesday, July 27, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Pantaleon).**

**Thursday, July 28, @ 7:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Anthusa). Arabic Liturgy.**

**Saturday, July 30, @ 4:30 PM (Feast of Saints Abdon and Sennen).** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Sophie Moujaber requested by Subdeacon Joe Abraham and Carol Ann Maslanka. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Ibrahim Hanna, Journalist Joseph Assad Harden, John, Malvina and Joseph David requested by Rafic and Family. May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, July 31, @10:30 AM (Celebration of The 350 Martyrs, Disciples of Saint Maron, feast of Saint Ignatius of Loyola). Welcome Me Into Your Kingdom Liturgy.** Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Lauretta Mello requested by Matt and Cathy Thomas and family. May her soul rest in peace.

## WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine for the month of July is offered in memory of the living and deceased members of the Daher and David families requested by Mariam David and family. May their souls rest in peace.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Please know that confession is available before liturgies. You may also call to set up an appointment

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Angela Scorza-Anderson, Renee Helmer, Terry Amsden, Lisa Mello-Frost, Ziad Al-Ghoubry, Natalya Sarkis, Joe Reid, Octavia David, Jacob Rego, Amal Assaf, Peter Helmer, Denise Magaletta, Fernanda Thomas, Leo Rodrick, Theresa John, Laurette Bou Ramia, Annie Peter, Jeannie Francis, Mariam David, Norma Thomas, Zita Drouin, Lucienne Rodrigues, Ed Da Rocha, Edmond Salameh, and Alice Daher. If anyone is missing from this list, please contact the Church office.

## SAINT JOSEPH SODALITY NEWS

Periodically we will be publishing news and coming events from the St. Joseph Sodality. The Sodality is the oldest organization in the Parish, having been founded in 1918. Through their devotion to St. Joseph, Sodality Members seek to emulate the life and faith of St. Joseph, and by doing so, hope to achieve eternal happiness as he did. The Sodality encourages you to consider becoming a member.

## DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 7/25-7/30/22

### Monday:

Acts of the Apostles 15:36-16:1-3,6-10

Luke 11:1-4

### Tuesday:

Acts of the Apostles 16:11-23

Luke 11: 5-8

### Wednesday:

Acts of the Apostles 16:25-34

Luke 11:9-13

### Thursday:

Acts of the Apostles 17:1-12

Luke 11:14-23

### Friday:

Acts of the Apostles 17:16-20,22-24,30-34

Luke 11:24-26

### Saturday:

Acts of the Apostles 18:1-11

Luke 11:27-32

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Charbel Baroody requested by Jacques and Amal Barbour. Anyone who would like to offer the sanctuary candle for a loved one or special intention, this will be offered each week. An offering of a \$10.00 donation is appreciated.

## LECTORS FOR JULY 2022

**Saturday, July 23,**

Mae Dickinson

**Sunday, July 24,**

Joan Mello/Gaby Baroody

**Saturday, July 30,**

Carol Ann Maslanka

**Sunday, July 31,**

Ann Dupre/Rana Choubah

(If you are not able to read on your given day, please contact Mae Dickinson)

## LECTORS FOR AUGUST 2022

**Saturday, August 6,**

Smitty Cabral

**Sunday, August 7,**

Mae Dickinson/Jano Baroudi

**Saturday, August 13,**

Rachel Higgins

Intercessions: Anna & Helen Higgins

**Sunday, August 14,**

Joan Mello/Gaby Baroody

**Saturday, August 20,**

Carol Ann Maslanka

**Sunday, August 21,**

Ann Dupre/Hiba Chdid

**Saturday, August 27,**

Mae Dickinson

**Sunday, August 28,**

John Barbour / Rana Choubah

(If you are not able to read on your given day, please contact Mae Dickinson)

## WEEK OF JULY 16-17, 2022

**Sunday Collection** \$ 694.00

**Candles** \$ 20.00

**Total** \$ 714.00

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY BY SENDING IN YOUR WEEKLY COLLECTIONS VIA MAIL. THIS HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL FOR THE CHURCH. GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.**

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Joseph & Marie Kenyon

*Eternally in our hearts and in our thoughts. We miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We cherish the day we will join you in GOD's Heavenly Kingdom. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing day.*

Your Loving Children



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