

Saint Sharbel

Romans 8:23-39

New
Testament
Reading

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39



Today we celebrate the feast day of a saint who served the Lord faithfully throughout his entire life and whose prayers are responsible for thousands of miracles around the world. The saint we celebrate today is Saint Sharbel.

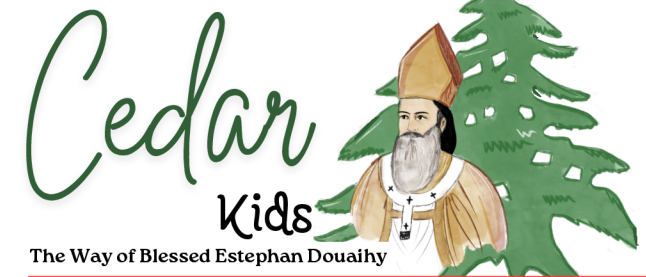
Saint Sharbel was born on May 8, 1828 in Bekaa Kafra in Lebanon and his parents gave him the name Youssef Antoun Makhoulf. He was the youngest of five children and grew up tending

his family's herd, taking them to graze each day while he prayed at a nearby grotto.

When he was 23 years old, Youssef joined a monastery where he took the name "Sharbel" and he later moved to another monastery where he was ordained a priest.

Saint Sharbel spent the rest of his life in prayer, service to others, and in total detachment from the world. He understood that we are deeply loved by God who wants nothing more than for us to love Him back and to reach Heaven one day.

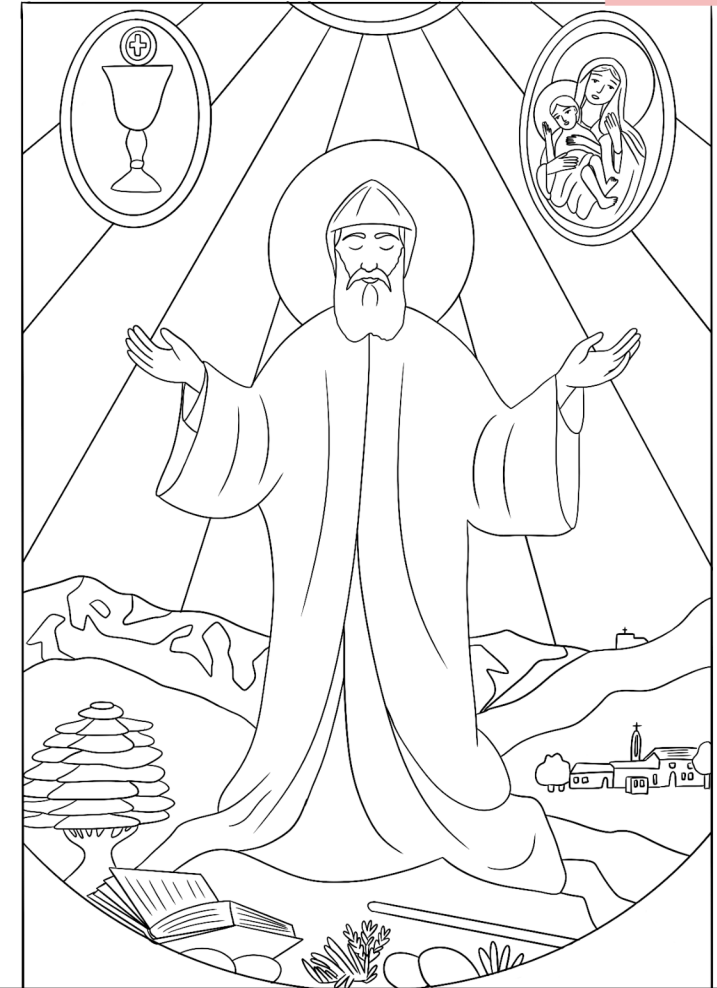
After a long and faithful life, Saint Sharbel died on Christmas Eve 1898. Shortly after his death, people began to see lights around the tomb of Saint Sharbel and miracles and healings began to take place. Saint Sharbel is a wonderful example and saint who we can turn to when we need prayers. Saint Sharbel, pray for us!



The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy

Feast of Saint Sharbel, Vol 2, No. 45

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O Saint Sharbel, in your life
you served God most faithfully
as you prayed in solitude,
nourished by the Spirit's grace.





Gospel Corner

Matthew
13:36-43

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus had just finished speaking with a large crowd of people. He told them many parables, which are short, easy to understand stories that teach a life lesson. But the disciples didn't understand the meaning of one of the parables, so they asked Jesus to explain!

Jesus then explained the parable of the sowing of the seed, in which a farmer planted good seed, but at night his enemy planted bad seed. Rather than trying to get the weeds out, the farmer let the weeds grow amongst his wheat and then separated them at the end when he harvested the crop.



Jesus told his disciples that the farmer represents himself, the field is the world, and the enemy is the devil. The good crop are the people who follow Jesus, and the weeds are the people who follow the evil one.

Just as the farmer waited patiently till the harvest to separate the good from the bad, so God is patient with us. God gives all people a chance to repent and turn back toward him to lead a good life.

Just as there are weeds amongst the good crop, we also shouldn't be surprised by evil things in the world. Rather than focusing on the bad, however, we must always strive to be good and virtuous ourselves. We are called to look at the good examples God gives us, like Saint Sharbel and other holy people in the world, that can help us grow strong in our faith. So long as we follow the path of virtue and doing the will of God, we will one day reach eternal happiness in heaven with our loving Father, just as Saint Sharbel did.



Did you know?

VIRTUE of SOLITUDE

In the Catholic Church, the virtue of solitude is the intentional practice of stepping away from noise and distractions to be alone with God. Solitude helps you build a foundation of prayer, to discover your own identity, and foster a deeper personal relationship with Jesus.



What you can do

Read a book or do some research to learn more about Saint Sharbel.

Spend some time alone in quiet prayer and away from distractions just as Saint Sharbel did.

Ask Saint Sharbel to pray for you.



Finish the Picture

Draw the other half of the shrine of Saint Sharbel.

