



MARY'S HELPERS, INC.

News

No.38 Vol. 11-12 All About Jesus & Mary Nov/Dec 2025
Published December 31, 2025

MEDJUGORJE
November 25, 2025
to Marija Pavlovic'

"Dear children! In this time of grace, I am calling you to follow me. Pray for those who do not pray and do not want peace and joy, which only the Most High can give. May your souls be united in the joy of expectancy and your heart will be filled with peace.

You will be convinced, little children, that all will be good and that God will bless all; because the good that you give will return to you, and joy will enfold your heart because you are with God and in God.

Thank you for having responded to my call."

MEDJUGORJE
December 25, 2025
to Marija Pavlovic'

"Dear children! Also today – when God permits me to carry to you in my arms little Jesus, the King of Peace, that He may fill you with the ardor of love and peace, so that every heart may be similar to His Heart in this time of grace – be resolute and courageous defenders of the love of your God, that in this time of grace, He may give you His peace.

Thank you for having responded to my call."

**Meditation on the
November 25, 2025 Message
by Fr. Al Bermudez, OSSM**



Once again Mary invites us to follow her by: first listening to her message and living out the message in our lives. Secondly by sharing with sisters and brothers her prayers, fasting, sacrificing and acts of love.

Mary reminds us to pray for those who do not pray and do not want peace and joy. No matter how much effort we make, the Most High is the one who dispenses the grace for change. Mary tells us to be united in our Joy and expectation which is seen in the good we partake of and our hearts will be filled with peace. Mary shares with us the knowledge of God's Plan manifested in the good we partake of, as we obey his invitation to share with others. God gives us that grace as a gift; joy in our hearts !!
Love Fr Al

**Meditation on the
December 25, 2025 Message
by Fr. Al Bermudez, OSSM**

Mary shares with us Her time of grace in that she carries the Baby Jesus in her arms and presents Him to us. The King of Peace is given to us to share with ardor of love and peace of Jesus. We are moved in this time of grace to strong and faithful courageous defenders of the love of God in our lives.

We follow Mary by our faithful praying of the rosary and giving good news of peace and love to our neighbors. Look around and see that Jesus spoke of our time where there will be no peace between family, neighbors and including nations. This season of Christmas when we await the baby and King of Glory, let us hold the baby in our hearts and share him with everyone.
Love Fr. Al



**Prayer
for Legal
Protection
of the Unborn
Jan 25TH**

Heavenly Father, We come before You today with hearts full of hope and reverence, seeking Your divine intervention and protection for the most vulnerable among us-**unborn children**. We acknowledge that every life is a precious gift from You, intricately woven together in the womb, and deserving of love, respect, and protection. We lift our voices in prayer, asking for Your guidance and strength as we advocate for the legal rights of these innocent lives.

Lord, we pray for the lawmakers and leaders in our nations and communities. Grant them wisdom and discernment as they create and uphold laws that protect the unborn. May their hearts be moved by compassion and a deep understanding of the sanctity of life. Inspire them to stand firm against the pressures

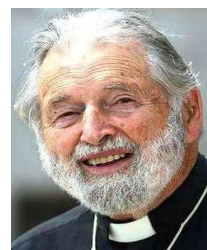
of societal norms that devalue human life, and give them the courage to champion legislation that safeguards the rights of the unborn. Father, we pray for the mothers who carry these precious children. Surround them with love, support, and resources, so they may choose life and embrace the gift of motherhood. We ask that You comfort those who are fearful, uncertain, or in difficult circumstances. May they find strength in Your presence and know they are not alone. Help them see the beauty and potential in the life they carry and may they feel empowered to choose life for their unborn child.

Lord we ask for healing for those who have experienced the pain of abortion. May they find solace in Your graces and forgiveness.

We pray that their testimonies will inspire compassion and understanding. In the name of Jesus, we pray for a future where the legal protection of unborn children is not just a hope, but a reality. May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen

The month of January is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. After the Blessed Virgin Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit, the angel Gabriel appeared to St. Joseph and told him that the Child's name should be called **Jesus**, meaning **"God Saves."**

PRAY FOR US our sweet friends... We need your prayers more than ever!



Fr. Peter Mary Rookey, OSM
Oct. 12, 1916 - Sept. 10, 2014
The Apostle of Compassion



Margaret M. Trosclair
June 19, 1933 - March 14, 2019



Gertrude Gayle Ponseti
Oct 14, 1937-Dec 10, 2019

Let us Trust Like Joseph: Joseph's unwavering trust and obedience to God's plan, even when he didn't fully understand it. This serves as a principle for believers to trust in God's will rather than seeking all the answers.

Believe who Jesus is: Jesus' birth is connected to Isaiah's prophecy of Emmanuel, emphasizing that Jesus is both fully God and fully man. His name, Jesus (God saves), and Emmanuel (God with us), signifies his mission to redeem humanity's spiritual and physical being.

Welcome Emmanuel: The call is to invite God into every aspect of life, recognizing His presence in all circumstances, not just during religious services. This involves surrendering decisions to God, spending time in prayer, and integrating faith into daily joys, struggles, and relationships.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.
Revelation 21:4



♥ **James William Ponseti Sr** ♥
Oct 11, 1934 - Nov 8, 2025
Mr Jimmy passed away peacefully on Nov 8, 2025. He was the loving husband of our dear Ms Gayle Ponseti that ran Mary's Helpers for many years with Ms Margaret. Mr Jimmy was a big part of Mary's Helpers also. His sweet smile and kind soul will be missed by so many. Our sincere thoughts and prayers go out to his family. May God walk with you all during these difficult days and console you and bring you comfort and peace... May Jimmy rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon him.

Mary's "YES"
*continues to shape the
life of every Christian.*

Pope Leo XIV

REMEMBER ALWAYS

Don't let Satan make you forget who you are. He is relentless in his attempts to twist your thoughts, make you question your worth and distract you from the truth.

He wants to make you feel lost, uncertain, and disconnected from God's love. But the enemy has no real power over you unless you believe his lies. His only weapon is deception, and when you stand firm in truth, he loses his grip.

You are chosen, not by accident, but by divine purpose. God called you before you even took your first breath. You are not defined by your past, your mistakes, or the doubts that creep into your mind. Your identity is secured in Christ. You are loved beyond measure covered in grace, and strengthened by God's presence.

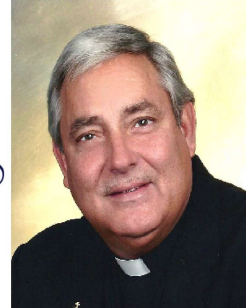
THANK YOU!!

We want to THANK all of our donors that helped us on iGiveCatholic Tuesday December 2 and of course ALL our supporters all year round. We cannot do this without YOU. Please keep us in your prayers as we need prayer as much as you do. Also thank you for your continued love and support for this ministry. Your comments are always welcome. May you have had a **Joyful Christmas and a Blessed New Year!!**

From the desk of FATHER PAUL BERGERON

It's that time again when we enter the Season of Advent. We see that Jesus' cousin; St. John the Baptist plays a major role in the preparation of Christ's birth. He was chosen by God for this particular purpose. Jesus praised him for this mission he accomplished. What role do we play in this Season? Do we need to go to confession? Do we need to increase our Spiritual lives? In the preparation for Christ nothing is off the board. This is our time to tell Jesus we are ready for Him to be born in our hearts. It is our time to shine as Catholics more than just the sparkle of the ornaments on the tree. The greatest gift to give to Jesus for His Birth is the gift of ourselves. May Almighty God grant to you and your family a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Christ
the
Savior
is
Born



God Bless Fr. Paul

THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF COMPASSIONATE PROTECTION

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Just Have Faith in My Son JESUS

JAN 17 SAT 10AM CONFESSION & ROSARY~11AM MASS

FEB 17 TUE 3PM CONFESSION & ROSARY ~ 4PM MASS

CELEBRANT: FATHER PAUL BERGERON



DAYS TO REMEMBER

Jan 1 - Happy New Year 2026

Jan 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Jan 4 - Feast Day of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

Jan 6 - Epiphany of Our Lord (See Page 4)

Jan 11 - Baptism of Our Lord

Jan 17 - Houma Mass SATURDAY 11am

Jan 22-Prayer for Legal Protection of Unborn

Feb 1 - Mary's Helpers Anniversary Mass

Feb 2 - Presentation of Our Lord

Feb 11-Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day

Feb 14-St Valentine Feast Day

Feb 17-Houma Mass TUESDAY 4pm

Feb 18 - Ash Wednesday (Fast & Abstinence)

Mar 4 - Holy Face of Jesus Feast Day

The Holy Face of Jesus - Mar 4



From the Veil of Veronica,
preserved in the Basilica
of St. Peter in Rome

"By offering My Face to
My Eternal Father, nothing
will be refused, and the
conversion of many
sinners will be obtained."

*Our Lord to Sr. Marie de Saint-
Pierre (November 1846)*

38th ANNIVERSARY OF MARY'S HELPERS

Please come help us
celebrate at:

Visitation of Our Lady

Catholic Church

3500 Ames Blvd, Marrero, LA

on SUNDAY AT NOON

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

We hope to see you there.

"Then Jesus said to His
disciples, 'If anyone desires
to come after Me, let him
deny himself, and take up
his cross, and follow Me.'"

Matthew 16:24



2:20 pm and lasted 6 minutes.
Jakov, Our Lady gave the following message:

Today, on this day of grace, in a special way I am calling you to complete
surrender to Jesus. Little children, surrender to Him your wounds and
pains, your past and future, and permit Jesus to begin to rule in your lives.
My children, only with complete surrender, Jesus gives Himself in your
life, and this is the greatest gift that you can receive. Pray that you may
comprehend how precious you are for Jesus and how much He loves you.
Thank you for having responded to my call.

ANNUAL APPARITION TO JAKOV DECEMBER 25, 2025

At the last daily apparition to Jakov Colo on September 12th,
1998, Our Lady told him that henceforth he would have one
apparition a year, every December 25th, on Christmas Day.
This is also how it was this year. The apparition began at

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Nov / Dec 2025

**THANK YOU and
God Bless You!**

Please accept my donation to help defray monthly operating costs of
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(This NEWSletter is made possible through the generosity of YOUR donations.)

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Thank you for always supporting us here at Mary's Helpers. We hope you had a great
2025 and we hope that 2026 has many blessings in store for you. Merry Christmas!





SACRED HEART BADGE

Our Lord revealed to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque His wish for her to order a picture of the image of His Sacred Heart for people specifically to venerate and have in their homes and also small pictures to carry with them. **St. Margaret Mary always**

kept a Sacred Heart badge with her and inspired her novices to do the same. She made many badges and often said this practice was very pleasing to the Sacred Heart.

The popularity of the Badge increased suddenly due to a very dramatic event in the city of Marseilles in France. In the year 1720, about thirty years after the death of St. Margaret Mary, Marseilles was ravaged by the plague. About one thousand persons died each day from the disease. Fear had reached near panic proportions. The Bishop of Marseilles asked the nuns of the city to make thousands of Sacred Heart Badges similar to the kind used by St. Margaret Mary and her friends. When the Badges were ready, the Bishop led a procession to the center of the city. There he consecrated Marseilles to the Sacred Heart, and everybody present put on a Sacred Heart Badge. From that moment not one new case of the plague was reported.

In 1870 a Roman lady, wishing to know the opinion of the Holy Father Pius IX about the Badge of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, presented him with one. Touched by the sight of this emblem of salvation, the Pope approved the devotion forever and said: "This, Madam, this is an inspiration from Heaven. Yes, from Heaven." After a short moment of silence, he added: **"I am going to bless this Heart and want all badges made after this model to receive the same blessing, so that in the future, it will not be necessary for the blessing to be renewed by a priest. And I want Satan to be unable to cause any harm to those who wear this Badge, symbol of the adorable Heart of Jesus."**

Blessed Pope Pius IX granted an indulgence to all the faithful who wear this pious emblem and pray daily one **Our Father**, one **Hail Mary**, and one **Glory Be**.

The Badge is a reminder of reparation by which we accept with love and faith our share in the sufferings of Christ. Thus we cooperate more closely with Christ in the vital work of the redemption of mankind by accepting the obligations of God's commandments, by our fidelity to the daily tasks of our state in life, by the patient acceptance of the trials, disappointments, and crosses thrust upon us each day. Regarding devotion to His Sacred Heart, Our Lord revealed to St. Margaret Mary: "Those who propagate this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart never to be blotted out."

Sacred Heart Badges in our Gift Shop (Page 5)

A beautiful prayer by Bl. Pope Pius IX:

**Open Thy Sacred Heart O Jesus!
Show me its beauty and unite me with
It forever. May the throbbing in all the
movements of my heart, even during sleep,
be a testimony of my love and tell Thee
unceasingly: Yes, Lord Jesus, I adore Thee
... accept my poor little actions ...
grant me the grace of repairing evil done ...
so that I may praise Thee in time
and bless Thee for all eternity.**

St. Maria Troncatti: Mother, Missionary, and Messenger of Hope A New Salesian Saint is Declared!

St. Maria Troncatti: Mother, Missionary, and Messenger of Hope

On October 19, 2025, Pope Leo canonized Sister Maria Benvenuta Troncatti, officially recognizing her as a saint and welcoming a new member of the Salesian Family into the Communion of Saints.

Born in 1883 in Còrteno Golgi, Brescia, Italy, Maria grew up in a large family, helping to graze goats at Alpe del Col d'Aprica. Intelligent, energetic, and responsible, she was allowed to make her First Communion at the age of just six years old.

In fifth grade, she first encountered the Salesians through the Salesian Bulletin, the official Salesian publication founded by St. John Bosco to promote the Salesian charism. Reading about the missionaries stirred in her a deep call to serve and become a missionary, too, one day. At fifteen, she joined the parish Daughters of Mary Association, deepening her devotion to the Blessed Mother. At twenty-two, she began formation with the Salesian Sisters in Nizza Monferrato, making her first profession of religious vows in 1908. Although of fragile health, Maria was known for her prayerful, charitable, and sacrificial spirit.

In 1915, during World War I, she trained as a nurse to aid the wounded. That same year she and another sister nearly drowned in a flood. She later recounted that, after praying, "Mary Help of Christians, if you save us, I will become a missionary," they were miraculously spared. From then on, her missionary vocation was sealed.

In 1922, after years of service and prayer, she was sent to Ecuador. There she established clinics for both native people and immigrants. After eleven years, she was sent to Sucúa, the heart of the Shuar people. Known as madrecita ("little mother"), she worked tirelessly to heal the sick, shelter abused women, rescue abandoned infants and bring reconciliation between peoples.

She taught the rosary, devotion to the Eucharist, and built bridges of peace between cultures. Her initiatives included a hospital for the Shuar (1953), the Shuar Centers for the Defense of Indigenous Rights (1961), and a nurse training center with courses in family health, hygiene, and childcare (1962).

In July 1969, the mission at Sucúa was destroyed by a suspicious fire, yet her work continued. The following month, while traveling for retreat, her plane crashed shortly after takeoff. Sister Maria, aged eighty-six, did not survive. At the news of her death, a rainbow appeared, and the

people cried, "Our Mother, Sister Maria Troncatti, is dead." Her works, however, endured.

Maria's holiness was evident during her life, and reports of miraculous cures multiplied after her death. She was declared Venerable in 2008, Blessed in 2012, and canonized on October 19, 2025. The miracle that opened the way for her canonization was the healing of Juwa Juank Kankua Bosco, a Shuar man who suffered a catastrophic head trauma in 2015.

A stone fragment struck his skull, causing a comminuted fracture, loss of brain matter, diffuse axonal injury, and a coma that evolved into a vegetative state. Doctors expected death or permanent incapacity. His brother placed an image of Sister Maria on his chest and prayed for her intercession. Months later Juwa awoke, reporting dreams in which Sister Maria served as his nurse and promised recovery. Over time, he regained full health. In 2022, medical exams confirmed his brain had regenerated completely.

Saint Maria Troncatti is the first Salesian Sister canonized after St. Mary Mazzarello, co-foundress of the Salesian Sisters. Remembered as a "mother, missionary, and artisan of peace and reconciliation," she remains a powerful witness to the Gospel.

St. Maria Troncatti, pray for us!

BLESSING OF OUR HOMES ON THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD Jan 6 (Blessing of our Homes may be done at anytime)

Have you ever walked past a door and seen what appears to be random letters and numbers written at the top? These letters and numbers actually have a great significance.

Traditionally on the feast of Epiphany, Jan 4 this year, Catholics bless their homes by writing the letters C, M, and B and the numbers of the year on either side — so this year it would look like "20+C+M+B+26."

The letters stand for the traditional names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. They also represent the Latin blessing "Christus mansionem benedicat," which means "May Christ bless this house."

Many Catholic parishes will give their parishioners a piece of chalk, a small bottle of holy water, and the words for the house blessing so that each family can bless its home.

Epiphany, which is also known as "Little Christmas," is the feast that celebrates the arrival of the three Magi who came to worship the child Jesus shortly after his birth. It is traditionally celebrated on Jan. 6. However, the Church in the United States celebrates it on the Sunday between Jan. 2 and Jan. 8.

The blessing has spread around the world and become increasingly popular in the United States.

How do you bless your home?

Begin by having all family members gather outside the front door. All make the sign of the cross. One person will then read this prayer:

Leader: Peace be to this house.

All: And to all who dwell herein.

Leader: From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for

Continued on Page 7

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(See Page 4 Article)



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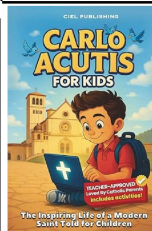
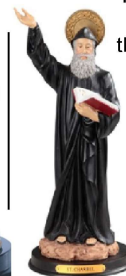


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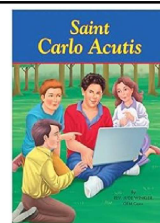
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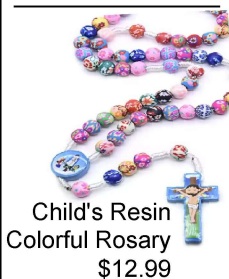
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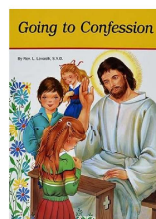
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(See Page 4 Article)

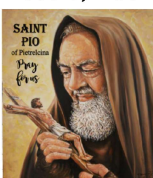
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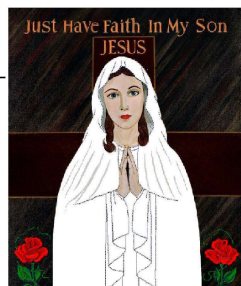
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NOV/DEC 2025

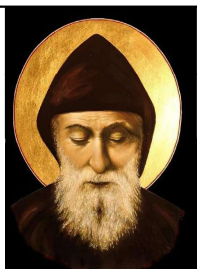
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St. Sharbel Makhlouf

The Ascetic Life and the Path to Christ, Mortification of the Senses

By Family of Saint
Sharbel USA Editorial Team

To those of us who live outside the monastery the bodily mortifications St. Sharbel chose to undergo may seem both mysterious and extreme. As a monk and later hermit, St. Sharbel fasted every day, eating just one meal in the afternoon that never included meat, sweets, or even fruit, despite performing hard labor in the fields. He wore a notoriously uncomfortable hair shirt beneath his habit; he slept very little each night and used a log for a pillow; if he saw a woman walking by, he cast his eyes downward or even changed his path; after being outside in cold weather, he would return to the monastery immediately, not pausing even to warm himself at the fire outside. If doing just what St. Sharbel did is not required of everyone for salvation, what purpose did this Saint's discomfort serve?

In the Syriac Churches especially, ascetic practices, including physical mortifications (meaning forms of physical self-denial), are considered essential to spirituality. Asceticism, derived from the Greek word "askesis," means "training." Yet what are we Christians, and what was St. Sharbel, "training" for? What does askesis have to do with Jesus, and why should training look like this?

The wisdom hidden behind the ascetic work of St. Sharbel, like that of many other saints, was the training of his heart, the formation of his will. Since we are each a union of body and soul, what we do in and with our bodies directly affects our souls. Thus, despite appearances, acts of physical self-denial are essential to Christian spiritual training (askesis) because they have a profound impact on the human heart. They affect our wills even more than our bodies.

The Great Commandment tells us to "love the Lord your God with **all your heart, mind, soul, and strength** and your neighbor as yourself" (Lk. 10:27). This is a call, really, to a total self-gift that takes grace and, typically, practice. Consequently, in any way he could, St. Sharbel was always looking to "lift a stronger weight" or "do the most rather than the least," so to speak, and physical mortifications played an imperative role. St. Sharbel gave up more and more of his own earthly comforts, attachments, and will so that he might "decrease" and God might increase (John 3:30). His strivings toward self-abandonment were not borne of self-hatred or contempt for the physical world, which God created good (Gen. 1), but in making the choices he made daily, St. Sharbel was training himself to choose God over everything else, even very good things. He was making a habit of relinquishing all but what was necessary, practicing the act of foregoing even the mildest comfort as a response to the Great Commandment.

When considering the mortifications St. Sharbel

undertook, Christ's example is enlightening. Led by the same Spirit, Jesus fasted while being tempted in the desert for 40 days and nights, clearing his body and physical surroundings of all distractions before beginning his earthly ministry (Matt. 4:2). He taught that this method—prayer and fasting—is the only way to cast out certain demons (Mark 9:29). While traveling to preach about the kingdom of God, Jesus also said that "the son of man has no place to lay his head" (Matt. 8:20), indicating, in one sense, that he had given up home and even the comfort of a bed for the sake of his calling and, in another, that his real home is not in this world. The 10 Commandments, which Jesus followed perfectly, affirmed that we should have no false gods (Exod. 20:3), and Jesus preached that we should "love one another as I have loved you" (Jn. 13:34-35). Jesus ultimately gave up his physical life entirely so that nothing could act as his god but the Father, and in doing so, he loved all others as he loved himself.

These acts, among many others, demonstrated that the Son of God preferred—and so calls the world to prefer—his Father and the good of souls to even his own physical life and will. St. Sharbel's ascetic practices, then, were ways that he could habitually deepen his communion with Christ as a monk, following Jesus to total self-gift. Fasting and praying as a hermit, St. Sharbel lived in harmony with Christ who fasted, prayed, and resisted temptation alone in the desert. Sleeping little and without a real pillow and giving himself no "home" in the world, St. Sharbel could relive the conditions of Christ's ministry and remain aware that God is our ultimate home. Continually denying himself even reasonable comforts and embracing poverty, chastity, and obedience radically, St. Sharbel could conform his heart to Christ's on the cross with totality, letting nothing and no one be a false god to him. These were acts of humility, as a servant is not greater than their master (Jn. 13:16), and, as such, should never place themselves above their Creator and Lord.

In our own lives, we are each called to imitate Christ radically and totally, and asceticism—the training of our wills to conform to Christ's—is essential to our spiritual growth. For every soul, this will look different. How might Christ be longing to shape your heart?

Mr Maysam Al-Banna cure from cancer

Mrs. Maysam, born in Baghdad in 1988 and residing in Ontario, Canada, was diagnosed in February 2023 with aggressive breast and lung cancer. In her testimony, she wrote: "Despite ongoing medical efforts, including chemotherapy, my condition did not respond to treatment, and after the fourth session, my physicians were unable to offer further solutions. Throughout this difficult period, I was persistent in prayer to Jesus and the Virgin Mary, seeking the intercession of Saint Charbel to heal me from my disease.

"During this time, I dreamt a dream in which the statue of the Virgin became a living person, approached and embraced me, saying, 'I have healed you, live God's love.' This profound experience offered a deep feeling of peace amid my struggle with cancer.

"The next day, Saint Charbel oil, which I used to wipe the cancer spot on my body daily, turned into a picture of him and the oil on it was like blood, and then I was cured without the need for surgical intervention.

"A year after I was cured, the disease reappeared and I suffered from brain tumors. During this period of renewed struggle, Saint Charbel appeared to me in a dream and asked me to gather the family every 23rd of the month and pray the Rosary. Once again, I experienced healing through his intercession, and I was cured without the necessity of surgery.

"On October 16, 2025, I underwent a CT scan which revealed a growing tumor located between the lungs. Following this diagnosis, my physician recommended that I begin radiation therapy.

"Confronted with this challenging news, my spouse and I visited St. Charbel's monastery and attended the healing Mass on October 22nd and prayed with a deep faith in the Lord Jesus seeking the intercession of the Saint.

"The following day we received a phone call from the American University Hospital in Beirut. My doctor delivered the joyful news that the latest tests confirmed the complete absence of tumors, thereby verifying my full recovery. This confirmation brought immense relief and gratitude to our hearts.

"In recognition of this profound healing, I gathered all my medical reports and made a visit to the Monastery of Saint Charbel to express my deepest thanks and gratitude and registered the miracle on October 25, 2025."

On their way to mass, a Sunday school teacher asked her pupils, "And why!" is it necessary to be quiet in Church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."



A little boy walked up to his father and asked him, "Daddy, how do you spell God?" The father replied, "G-O-D". The boy wrote it down, then turned to his father once more and asked, "Now how do you spell Zilla?"

Let's Laugh - One Smile Lifts Spirits

There was a knock on the Pearly Gates, and St Peter answered to find a man standing there. He glanced down at his clipboard to begin the intake process; however, when he looked back up, the man was gone. St Peter shrugged and closed the gates. A moment later the same man knocked again. When St Peter noticed him, he began to speak, but the man disappeared even as the saint was looking right at him. When the man appeared for the third time, St Peter shouted, "Hey, what's the big idea? Are you trying to be funny?" "NO!" the man called back as he disappeared again. "They keep trying to revive me!"



After a night of swatting bugs on their camping trip, Keisha asked her mom, "How did two mosquitoes survive the entire trip on Noah's ark?"

Continued from Last Month

OUR LADY OF CHAMPIONS

PRAY FOR US!

Only US Approved Marian Apparition

Credit: National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion



The Fire

On October 8th, 1871, almost twelve years to the date of Mary's last appearance to Adele, the Great Peshtigo Fire broke out. It is still considered to this day the most devastating fire in United States history, killing between 1,200-2,400 people and burning 1.2 million acres. Due to the high winds and dry grounds, the fire quickly became a storm of fire and roared like a tornado right toward the Shrine's grounds.

Desperate for help, people from the surrounding countryside fled to the Chapel where Adele and her companions were praying for Mary's protection. Lifting the statue of Mary, those there that night processed around the sanctuary, praying the rosary and singing hymns to Jesus and the Blessed Mother. When the wind and fire threatened suffocation, they would turn in another direction to pray. Early the next morning, it is believed that a steady rain came and extinguished the flames of the fire.

The following is the account of Father Peter Pernin, a local priest who described the grounds after the events

"After hours of horror and suspense, the heavens sent relief in the form of a downpour. The fervent prayers to the Mother of God were heard. The fire was extinguished, but dawn revealed the ravages wrought by the conflagration. Everything about them was destroyed; miles of desolation everywhere. But the convent, school, and chapel on the holy land consecrated to the Virgin Mary shone like an emerald isle in a sea of ashes. The raging fire licked the outside palings and left charred scars as mementos. Tongues of fire had reached the chapel fence, and threatened destruction to all within its confines; the fire had not entered the Chapel grounds."

Fr. Peter Pernin

Although the fire charred the outside of the Shrine's fence, it had not harmed the grounds. However, the area surrounding the grounds was destroyed, and the only livestock to survive were the cattle the farmers led to the chapel. While many deeper wells in the area went dry, the chapel's shallow well gave the cattle enough water to survive the heat.

To this day, many descendants of those whose lives were spared during the October 8, 1871 fire come to celebrate the miracle on its anniversary. October 8 continues to draw thousands of people from around the country to visit the Shrine and join in all-night prayer into October 9 – the date historians

believe marks the anniversary of Mary's last appearance to Adele.

Adele and her Sisters continued to teach and catechize the children long after the devastating fire. Their presence had a lasting effect on the people of the community. She lived out her ministry with zeal and love of God and Mary. Adele died on July 5, 1896, and is buried in the cemetery located near The Apparition Chapel on the grounds of the National Shrine.

The Declaration

In 2009, Most Reverend David L. Ricken, Bishop of Green Bay, opened a formal Church investigation into the Marian apparitions that occurred in 1859 on the site of the Shrine. In 2010, Bishop Ricken declared the apparitions "Worthy of Belief" by the Authority of the Catholic Church and in 2016, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops designated the grounds as a National Shrine, making it the first National Shrine in the U.S. with an approved Marian Apparition



BLESSING OF OUR HOMES

Continued from Page 4

the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of his burial.

(Enter your home and read the **Magnificat**, the hymn of praise sung by the Blessed Virgin Mary in Luke's Gospel after being greeted by Elizabeth. During this, sprinkle the area you are in with holy water. After that is complete, pray:)

All: From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of his burial.

Leader: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation,

All: But deliver us from evil.

Leader: All they from Saba shall come

All: Bringing gold and frankincense.

Leader: O Lord, hear my prayer.

All: And let my cry come unto Thee.

Leader: Let us pray. O God, who by the guidance of a star didst on this day manifest Thine only-begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we who know Thee by faith may also attain the vision of Thy glorious majesty. Through Christ, Our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Be enlightened, be enlightened, O Jerusalem, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee — Jesus Christ born of the Virgin Mary.

All: And the Gentiles shall walk in thy light and kings in the splendor of thy rising, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.

Leader: Let us pray. Bless, O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness, and mercy,

the fulfillment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ, Our Lord. **All:** Amen.

After the prayers are recited, walk throughout your home sprinkling each room with holy water. Then write the initials of the Magi connected with crosses at the top of your front door with blessed chalk. Then the numbers of the year. The numbers will be split so that they are on each side of the initials. You will write: **20 + C + M + B + 26** This is a special tradition at the beginning of each year, a way to invite God into your home and place your family under his protection.

POPE LEO XIV VISITS SAINT SHARBEL'S TOMB



(Source: Family of Saint Sharbel Lebanon)

Pope Leo XIV visited the tomb of Saint Sharbel in Annaya, Lebanon on December 1, 2025. Pope Leo asked St Sharbel

to intercede for us. He asked for community, peace and conversion of the world. He prayed the following prayer to Saint Sharbel:

Let us pray to the Lord. Oh God, who granted to St. Sharbel, guardian of silence in the hidden life, to be enlightened by the light of your truth in order to protect your love. Follow his example to fight the good fight of faith in the desert of this world and to walk joyfully in the footsteps of your Son Jesus Christ. May your servant who lived in the secrecy of prayer and overcame temptations by the weapon of penance show to us the greatness of your mercy. Teach us the silence of words and the strength of actions that can open hearts. May he obtain for us from Jesus Christ who has freed us from all evil, health of body and spirit and ever intercede for us so that we may share with the saints in the eternal kingdom. To You be glory and praise, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

It is in being with Mary at the foot of Jesus' cross that our prayer, that invisible bridge which unites hearts, gives us the strength to continue to hope and work, even when surrounded by the sound of weapons and when the very necessity of daily life becomes a challenge.

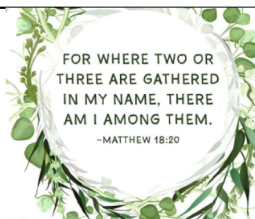
One of the symbols featured in the log on this journey is the anchor. Pope Francis often referred to the anchor as a sign of faith that permits us to always move forward even in the darkest moments until we reach heaven. He said our faith is an anchor in heaven. We have anchored our life in heaven. What must we do? Hold fast to the rope and we go forward because we are certain that our life is anchored in heaven on the shore where we will arrive.

Pope Leo XIV

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Westbank
Prayer Meeting, Mass & Healing Service
7:30 PM, on 2nd & 4th Wednesday
7PM Rosary
 Infant Jesus of Prague Church
 700 Maple St, Harvey, LA



Mary is asking us to pray together. You can always join us on Tuesdays at Noon to pray as a group at Mary's Helpers, 4512 7th St Marrero, LA
We would love to see you.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
 4401 7th St., Marrero LA
 Phone: 504-341-9516
 Confession Fri 5:00-5:45pm Sat 2:30-3:30pm
 Sat Vigil 4:00pm Sun 8:00am 10:00am,
 Sun 12:00 (Espanol), 6pm
Fr. Stephen Leake, Pastor

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Phone 504-348-PRAY (504-348-7729)
E-Mail: maryshelpersi97@bellsouth.net
Website: www.maryshelpers.org

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Ultimo Mensaje, 25 de noviembre de 2025

"¡Queridos hijos! En este tiempo de gracia los invito a seguirme. Oren por aquellos que no oran, ni desean la paz y la alegría que sólo el Altísimo puede dar. Que sus almas estén unidas en la alegría de la espera, y su corazón será colmado de paz. Estarán convencidos, hijitos, de que todo irá bien y que Dios lo bendecirá todo, porque el bien que hacen volverá a ustedes, y su corazón se llenará de alegría porque están con Dios y en Dios. Gracias por haber respondido a mi llamado."

Ultimo Mensaje, 25 de diciembre de 2025

"¡Queridos hijos! También hoy ? cuando Dios me permite llevar en mis brazos al Niño Jesús, Rey de la Paz, para que Él los llene del ardor del amor y de la paz, a fin de que cada corazón sea semejante a Su Corazón en este tiempo de gracia ? sean valientes y decididos defensores del amor de su Dios, para que Él les conceda Su paz en este tiempo de gracia. Gracias por haber respondido a mi llamado."

OUR LENTEN FASTING

FAST from complaints and contemplate simplicity
FAST from pressures and be prayerful
FAST from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy
FAST from selfishness and be compassionate to others
FAST from grudges and be reconciled
FAST from words and be silent so you can listen to others
LENT IS FROM FEB 18 TO APRIL 2, 2026

FATIMA ROSARY

Join Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church to recite the Fatima Rosary on:
January 31 (The Intention is the Unborn)
February 28 (The intention is the Success of All Parishes)



600 Second Ave, Harvey, LA 70058
 Rosary Rally Captain
 Gina McCain (504) 909-9013



Christmas is over. Lent will be here soon. Are you spiritually ready?
 Ash Wednesday is February 8.

2026 Trips to MEDJUGORJE

Reach out to Simply Medjugorje (Patti Flores)
 Phone: (818) 307-4332
 Upcoming 2026 trip dates:
 May 29-Jun 8, 2026 Corpus Cristi
 June 19-29, 2026, 45th Anniversary



MAGNIFICAT WESTBANK BREAKFAST
9:00 a.m. - Noon
Saturday Feb 28, 2026

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