We are the Maronite Eastern Catholic Community of Saint Joseph Parish in Sandy Springs GA, part of the Universal Catholic Church. We follow and preserve the rich traditions and heritage of the Monastic Maronite Antiochene Catholic Eastern Syriac rite. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered by our baptismal promises and the Lord’s disciples as stewards of God’s bountiful gifts. Our purpose is to joyfully proclaim the presence of Christ to the total community by dedicating ourselves to worshiping, teaching, learning and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are a family of God who works together for the spiritual, physical and social growth of the community. We respect every individual regardless of race or ethnic origin and we welcome them as part of our community. We are committed to preserve and pass-on our Eastern Antiochene tradition and spiritual heritage to our children.
Readings of the Week

Sunday, 2/23  
Rom 14:14-23  
Jn 2:1-11

Monday, 2/24  
2 Cor 5:20-6:7  
Mt 6:16-21

Tuesday, 2/25  
Rom 15:1-13  
Mt 6:5-15

Wednesday, 2/26  
Rom 15:14-21  
Mt 6:1-4

Thursday, 2/27  
1 Tim 6:6-12  
Mt 6:25-34

Friday, 2/28  
2 Thes 3:6-14  
Mt 7:13-27

Saturday, 2/29  
Heb 3:14-4:4  
Lk 18:9-14

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 22  
5:00 PM
For George Aseff, Sr.,  
requested by Georgette Samaritan

Sunday, February 23  
9:00 AM
For Raymond and  
Evelyn Stevens,  
requested by the  
Shamatta Family

Sunday, March 1  
9:00 AM
For the intentions of  
Abouna Tony,  
requested by  
Georgette Samaritan

PRAYER REQUESTS
To offer a Mass for a loved one, please stop by the parish office or call us to check the schedule and book your Mass.

Visiting the Sick
If you know a parishioner who is sick or shut-in, and who would like Father to visit, please send that person’s contact information to the parish office: info@sjmcc.org or 404-525-2504.

Altar Servers

New altar servers Michael Chabbouh, Bshara Azzi, and Michael Azzi will “shadow” our experienced altar servers Alex, Marco, and Rohan at this Sunday’s 11am Divine Liturgy. Arrive at least 15 minutes beforehand.

Female altar attendants should see Deacon Bob 15 minutes before the Divine Liturgy and immediately after the Liturgy for before and after duties.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>Sunday of the Priests; Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple; Ladies Altar and Rosary Society meeting at 10AM; Knights of Columbus meeting at 10AM.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>7PM Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola</td>
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<td>February 7</td>
<td>7PM Holy Hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to pray for Lebanon. Followed by pot-luck supper.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>Feast of Saint Maron; Sunday of the Righteous and Just; Ladies Society breakfast to benefit Maronite seminarians</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>7PM Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 16</td>
<td>Sunday of the Faithful Departed; No MCF classes; 9AM Liturgy is cancelled. See Page 5.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>7PM Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>Pre-Lenten Retreat for Children 9AM-Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>Cana Sunday, Entrance into Great Lent; No MCF classes; Ladies Society leads Rosary at 10AM (English) and 10:20AM (Arabic) in the chapel.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>Ash Monday : Divine Liturgy at 11:30 AM and at 7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>7PM Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>7:00 PM Stations of the Cross followed by Lenten supper.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 29</td>
<td>10AM until noon. Drug Awareness Program</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**To benefit the Knights of Columbus Charities**

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Bingo & Dinner!

Open to the community—FUN for everyone! $14 buys 9 cards for 10 games, $5 chances to win up to $1,000 and more.


All proceeds go to All Saints Knights of Columbus Charities.

All Saints Social Hall, 2443 Mt. Vernon Rd, Dunwoody, doors open at 6:00pm. NEXT BINGO—FEB. 27, followed by MARDI 26 Cut out and present this ad for additional bingo cards.

DINNER MENU
PASTA & FAGIOLI
(PASTA AND BEANS)
(A MEEKLESS SELECTION ALSO AVAILABLE)
The Ladies will lead the recitation of the Rosary on Sunday, February 23, at 10AM (English) and 10:20AM (Arabic) in the chapel. All are welcome to join us.

Panel Discussion at Our Lady of the Assumption

Giving with Intention

Pregnancy Aid Clinic and the Catholic Foundation of North Georgia invite you to an informal panel discussion on Thursday, March 19, 2020, 6:00 pm, at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, Moylan Hall, 1350 Hearst Drive, NE, Atlanta, GA. Learn about Planned Giving tools and how best to structure charitable contributions to your tax advantage. Reception (6:00 pm), panel discussion (6:30 - 8:00 pm), and informal Question & Answer (8:00 - 8:30 pm). Register at: www.pregnancyaaidclinic.com/panel.html. (Should you have any questions, please contact L. Grace, Director of Development, lgrace@pregnancyaaidclinic.org)

It is not too late to register for Arabic classes!!

For information, please contact:
Nelly Younes Daou at nellyydaou@hotmail.com or Perla Osta at perlaosta1@gmail.com.

If you are of Lebanese descent and want to obtain your Lebanese nationality, contact:
Nelly Younes Daou, representative for "Project Roots".
**Ash Monday Liturgies**  
**On Ash Monday, February 24, there will be two Divine Liturgies:**  
11:30 AM  
And  
7:00 PM

In preparation for our Lenten season, MCF is hosting a Pre-Lenten retreat for our young parishioners (ages 4-11) on February 22nd from 9 am to 12 pm at our church. A movie highlighting the Holy Week as well as crafts, activities, snacks, and introduction to the Stations of The Cross will be part of the retreat. Please plan to join us as we introduce our young parishioners to this very important time of the year. Attendance is required for MCF students. If you have any questions, please contact Kathie Calabrese at kathie.calabrese46@gmail.com

**Lenten Guidelines for Fasting**

All Maronites who are physically capable are to abstain from meat on Ash Monday (March 04, 2019) and all Fridays of Lent. Ash Monday and the Great Friday of the Crucifixion are also days of fasting. Fasting in the Maronite Church involves eating and drinking nothing at all (except water and medicine) from midnight until noon. The rest of the day normal meals can be taken, but without meat. All Maronites who are physically capable are to fast on these two days.

Clergy, religious and laity who wish to observe the more traditional Maronite practice of fasting and abstinence are encouraged to do so. That practice is summarized in the following, taken from the Synod of Mt. Lebanon (1736): Every weekday of Lent (Monday through Friday) is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat and dairy products (eggs, butter, milk, etc.) Fasting involves eating and drinking nothing at all (except water and medicine) from midnight until noon. The rest of the day normal meals can be taken, but without meat or dairy products. Dairy products are excluded because they are animal byproducts. Saturdays and Sundays are exempt from fasting and abstaining, as are the following four feast days: St. Maron - February 9, The 40 Martyrs - March 9, St. Joseph - March 19, and the Annunciation - March 25.

**Stations of the Cross and Lenten Suppers**

We continue our tradition of praying the Stations of the Cross every Friday night at 7PM during Lent, followed by a Lenten supper. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule of the chapel, if you would like to provide one of the Lenten suppers.

We need volunteers for the following dates: March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27 and April 4.
OUR RENOVATION HAS BEGUN!!!
Please be patient with us as we undertake the long-awaited renovation! During this time, we cannot celebrate the Liturgy in the main sanctuary.

All three weekend Liturgies
Saturday 5PM
Sunday 9AM
Sunday 11AM
will be celebrated in the chapel.

Mercy Meal Policy

On account of our contract with the Apostles Learning Center, it is not possible to use the parish hall for Mercy Meals on weekdays. The school has very strict policies concerning the security of the children in their care and they cannot open their facilities to us while the children are in the building.
Thank you for your cooperation with this policy.

Lenten Mission at St. Jude’s Church: Joe Farris, a Maronite Catholic, will be the speaker.

LENTEN MISSION ~ SAVE THE DATE!

2020 Lenten Parish Mission With Joe Farris
March 9th - 11th, 2019  7:00-8:00 pm
Lay Passionist, Speaker, Storyteller, Father & Husband
You don’t want to miss Joe’s blend of storytelling and humor, scripture and stories as we explore what it looks like to be fully alive.
Monday: Reclaim: The Adventure of True Freedom
Tuesday: Unpredictable: An Encounter with Love
Wednesday: Reconnect: The Solution
Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church Presents

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola

Thursdays from January 23rd to March 26th at 7pm

1- You are invited to intimate encounter with God through Christ our Lord
2- To deepen our love for Jesus
3- To advance in our prayer life
4- To a greater love of Holy Scriptures
5- To examine one’s conscience more closely
6- Discenment of Spirits—The ability to distinguish the voice of the Holy Spirit from whisperings of the evil spirit.
7- A deeper understanding and love of the Sacrament of Confession and the Eucharist.

Email: info@sjmcc.org  Tel: 404.525.2504
A Special “Thank You” for our supporters.
Our weekly bulletin reaches more than 600 people by both email and print. We encourage you to advertise your business and share the services you can offer to other parishioners. To advertise in the bulletin, send us your business card. Suggested donation $200 per year.

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