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, 7/26  2 Cor 5:20-6:10  Lk 4:14-21
Tuesday, 7/28  Acts 19:1-10  Lk 11:37-41
Wednesday, 7/29  Acts 19:11-22  Lk 11:42-46
Thursday, 7/30  Acts 19:23-29, 35-40  Lk 11:47-51
Friday, 7/31  Rom 16:17-20  Lk 11:49-54
Saturday, 8/1  Acts 20:17-24, 28, 32,35  Mt 23:1-12

Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 25  5:00 PM
For Mark Stevens
Requested by Lou and Robin Isaf

Sunday, July 26  11:00 AM
For Theresa Shiner
Requested by the Ladies Altar and Rosary Society

Tuesday, July 28  10:00 AM
For Dr. Gordon Azar, Jr.
Requested by the Isaf Family

Wednesday, July 29  10:00 AM
For Hannah Walker
Requested by Fred and June Isaf

Thursday, July 30  10:00 AM
For Christa Isaf
Requested by Fred and June Isaf

Saturday, August 1  5:00 PM
For Amir Kolyani
Requested by Sam and Marlene Kolyani

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.

Feast of The 350 Martyrs, Disciples of St. Maron, July 31
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well. We are still under the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and this very difficult time, which is affecting our community, our Church, our society, our country, and our entire world. However, as Christians, we are called to continue working to build a better society and spreading the good news of Salvation through Our Lord Jesus Christ and planting the seeds of Faith, Hope and Love. This is a difficult and unprecedented time for all of us, but now more than ever, we must hold fast to the great virtue of Hope.

Saint Joseph Church is open on a partial basis. The dispensation of the obligation to attend Divine Liturgy remains in effect if you believe it is too soon for you to return to church.

For reasons of health safety and to conform to civil law, we shall do so in the following manner:

There will be two Divine Liturgies on weekends during June, July, and August, one at 5 PM on Saturday and one at 11 AM on Sunday. In order to ensure that we will have enough room for the required social distancing, please attend the 5PM Liturgy on Saturday if possible, so that the 11 AM Liturgy on Sunday will not be too crowded.

The 11 AM Liturgy on Sunday will be live-streamed on our facebook page: facebook.com/sjmccatl.

• The Divine Liturgy will have a 50% seating capacity. We might not having any music or singing. Acolytes will not serve.
• Every second pew will be available for seating. Members of the same household can sit together. Everyone else should maintain social distance of six feet when seated, in the Communion line, and while entering / leaving church.
• No one will be admitted without a mask (bring your own), which must be worn during the entire Divine Liturgy.
• Parishioners over the age of 65, or those with compromised immune systems, or those who are in contact with persons with vulnerable health conditions are encouraged not to attend the Divine Liturgy. Parents are discouraged from bringing children under the age of 5.
• Our Maronite bishop wants us to continue our practice of receiving Holy Communion on the tongue. However, if you wish to receive in your hands, you may do so.
• Parishioners should not congregate in vestibule or parking lot and should proceed directly to their cars. The Sunday Coffee hour remains canceled until further notice.

These norms will remain in effect until circumstances require or permit a change.

May our Blessed Mother protect all of us from all evil.
Devotedly yours in Christ,
Rev Tony Akoury

Once again, parishioners report that they are receiving emails and text messages which appear to come from Father Tony, asking for gift cards to be sent to him immediately. Please ignore these messages. They are not being sent from Father.
We are now working with FlowerCraft to create arrangements befitting our beautifully renovated sanctuary! Parishioners are welcome to donate a month’s altar flowers in memory of or in honor of a loved one, and families may like to contribute together. If you would like to donate, please contact Maryse Murad at marysemurad@gmail.com

The flowers for the Altar for the month of July are given by Lou and Robin Isaf in honor of their children.

The Knights of Columbus have placed donation boxes in the church vestibule for contributions of non-perishable food for various food pantries in Atlanta. These charitable food pantries are in great need of contributions on account of the high unemployment rate in our city and state. Please be generous, as always!!
There is no charge for this event. It is open to all parishioners and friends of St. Joseph Church.
Healing after Abortion

Ocean of mercy

Entering Canaan Days of Prayer and Healing for Women
(Developed by Theresa Bonopartis with the Sisters of Life)

If you would like to speak to a Sister, or find out more about our monthly Days of Prayer and Healing, contact the Sisters of Life at:

866.575.0075 (toll free)
hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org

To register for men:
877.586.4621 (toll free)
Lumina@postabortionhelp.org
July 26,  2020
Ninth Sunday of Pentecost

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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