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.
Mass Intentions

Sunday, October 25
11:00 AM
For Najat Nasr
Requested by Jocelyne and Roger Murad

Tuesday, October 27
10:00 AM
For Mark Stevens
Requested by Judy and Kam Nassar

Wednesday, October 28
10:00 AM
For Nora Ferris
Requested by Ann Hartle

Thursday, October 29
10:00 AM
For the Parents of Sub-deacon Michel Bassil
Requested by Sub-deacon Bassil

Friday, October 30
10:00 AM
For Linda and Bob Burnett
Requested by Fred and June Isaf

Saturday, October 31
10:00 AM
For Mark Stevens
Requested by Louie and Cindy Abdou

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Every Thursday at 9:30 AM
(before Mass)

WE NEED LECTORS!!!
Arabic and English

If you would like to serve the church by reading the Epistle in Arabic or English during the Divine Liturgy, please contact the parish office at info@sjmcc.org.

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.

Readings of the Week

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<td>Rom 12:9-21</td>
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<td>13-14, 20, 26</td>
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October 25, 2020  Sunday of Christ the King

1 October 2020

Feast of Saint Theresa the Little Flower

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Church in the United States observes October as Respect Life Month. This is the time to give thanks for God’s gift of life and to rekindle once again in each of us the responsibility to care, protect, and defend the gift of life. The theme of this year is “Live the Gospel of Life” in commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of Saint Pope John Paul II’s encyclical Evangelium vitae (The Gospel of Life). As Pope John Paul articulated so well, the unborn, the elderly, those with special needs, and the marginalized are all worthy of the right to life.

We thus value the culture of life, for God created us in his image and likeness, and life is a sacred gift, precious in God’s eyes.

Yet, to be honest, we must recognize that even though life is so valuable and beautiful, we live in a world that promotes a culture of death. Man believes he owns, and has every right to end life whenever it presents a “burden” to him. In this culture, the human person is evaluated only in terms of “function” and “usefulness” and there is a deep disconnect from God. Therefore, instead of life being precious and protected, it becomes a commodity, threatened by abortion or euthanasia.

Despite these challenges, however, there are ways to build a culture of life. Prayer is the foundation. We pray in honor and defend the gift of life, from conception to natural death. We also advocate, with a strong and reasonable advocacy, to promote in our society and in all aspects of government a sincere respect for life as a gift from God.

Lastly, let us redouble our efforts in our own families to cultivate the virtues, teach the dignity of, and promote the sanctity of life. May our families continue to help us in this sacred duty.

With prayerful best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Gregory

+ Gregory John Manosar
GIM’s

Anchored in Hope

VIRTUAL REGIONAL MYO RETREAT

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord; the Lord will be their hope. Jeremiah 17:7

Southern & Far Southern Region:
October 24th
6:30 - 8 PM (EST)

Register at maroniteyouth.org

Email the MYA Office at myyoffice@gmail.com with any questions.
Guidelines for Liturgy

The Archbishop of Atlanta encourages all who are healthy to return to church for Mass and the Sacraments.

The obligation to keep a holy Sabbath remains, and Catholics are reminded that, even while homebound, they are to devote themselves to, among other practices, personal prayer, meditation on the readings from the Sunday Mass and the making of a spiritual Communion. While those who are at high risk or who care for someone at risk can and should stay home and participate in an online or televised liturgy, Archbishop Hartmayer encourages those who are healthy and not burdened with the fear of being exposed to the virus to begin returning to Mass and receive the sacraments of reconciliation and the Eucharist.

For reasons of health and safety and to conform to our governor’s guidelines, we shall continue to hold our Liturgies in the following manner:

There will be two Divine Liturgies on weekends during October, 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 Divine Liturgy will have a 50% seating capacity. 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
The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary and to respect for life. Please join the Ladies Altar and Rosary Society for the prayer of the Rosary every Sunday during the month of October at 10 AM in the chapel. The Rosary will be prayed in both Arabic and English. We will offer our prayers especially for these intentions:
For all those who are facing serious medical or spiritual difficulties.
For the re-opening of our church for life, marriage, and family.

Flowers for the altar are donated by Joan and Stephen Walsh In Memory of their Parents
John and Evelyn Paquette
And
William and Mary Walsh

Congratulations to Dany Dagher, the raffle winner of the magnificent St. Sharbel plaque from Lebanon generously donated by Marlene Kolyani. The Raffle which ended on St. Sharbel Sunday was sponsored by The Order of Sharbel to raise much needed funds for our Maronite Seminarians and Retired priests.

It is not too early to think about poinsettias for Christmas! If you would like to donate Poinsettia flowers for the altar, please contact the parish office at info@sjmcc.org. You may specify in whose honor or memory you want to donate them and we will post the names in the Christmas bulletin. Checks should be made out to St. Joseph Church and sent to the parish office.
Demand a COVID-19 Vaccine Free from Abortion

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked all Catholics to contact the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Alex Azar, to prevent the use of cell lines from aborted babies in vaccines for the corona virus. Please follow this link to the website where you will be able to write directly to Secretary Azar.
https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/Campaigns/73486/Respond

CALL TO ACTION ON ABORTION PILL

A rising threat to the lives of unborn babies is the chemical abortion pill. The number of chemical abortions in the US has gone up dramatically, while the overall number of abortions has decreased. COVID-19 is expected to only make the problem worse, with more women (and teen girls) seeking chemical abortions at home—even illegally, by mail and without a doctor’s prescription. This is especially scary because chemical abortion can be more painful, traumatic, and risky for women than surgical abortion. But there is hope: a new bill has been introduced that could help protect mothers and babies from chemical abortion.

SAVE Moms and Babies Act (H.R. 4399 / S. 3072)

The Support and Value Expectant (SAVE) Moms & Babies Act (H.R. 4399 / S. 3072) could help improve regulation of chemical abortion pills. The SAVE Moms & Babies Act would codify current FDA (Food and Drug Administration) safety regulations requiring physicians to dispense the pills, prevent providers from dispensing these drugs remotely, by mail, or via tele-medicine, and prevent the (FDA) from approving new chemical abortion drugs or from making labeling changes to existing abortion drugs.

Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith introduced S. 3072. On Tuesday, September 22, she plans to go to the Senate floor to ask the Senate to adopt the bill by “unanimous consent”. While this request is unlikely to succeed (it only takes one member to object), this request will provide an opportunity to talk about the dangers of chemical abortion and to raise awareness about the need for this bill. You can watch Senator Hyde-Smith’s request and other pro-life senators’ comments live on Tuesday, tentatively scheduled for 4:15 ET.

Please TAKE ACTION NOW to urge your Senators and Representative to co-sponsor and work to enact S. 3072 or H.R. 4399 or to thank them if they have already done so

Thank Sanofi Pasteur for Pro-life Vaccines

The FDA recently approved Sanofi Pasteur’s request to switch from using an aborted fetal cell line (MRC-5) to using an ethical animal cell line to produce its polio combination vaccines Pentacel and Quadracel. The drug company has also chosen to discontinue production of its stand-alone polio vaccine, Poliovax, which also used MRC-5 for its production, and to retain another stand-alone polio vaccine, IPOL, that is ethically produced. Furthermore, Sanofi-Pasteur’s ongoing effort to develop a vaccine for COVID-19 also does not rely on cell lines linked to elective abortion.

One important step we can take to ensure the production of ethical vaccines is to recognize and thank drug companies, like Sanofi Pasteur, when they move away from unethical vaccine production. We can hope that, with some encouragement, other vaccine manufacturers may consider creating other morally acceptable vaccines.

Any motivation to create additional, morally acceptable products will certainly be strengthened if we can show a market demand for ethical sources.

Please TAKE ACTION NOW to thank Sanofi-Pasteur and to encourage others to do so as well.
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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