SAINT JOSEPH

Maronite Catholic Church

6025 GLENRIDGE DR. SANDY SPRINGS, GA, 30328 (404) 525-2504 | WWW.SJMCC.ORG

Mass Times

November 6, 2022 Consecration of the Church

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday 5:00 PM
English & Aramaic

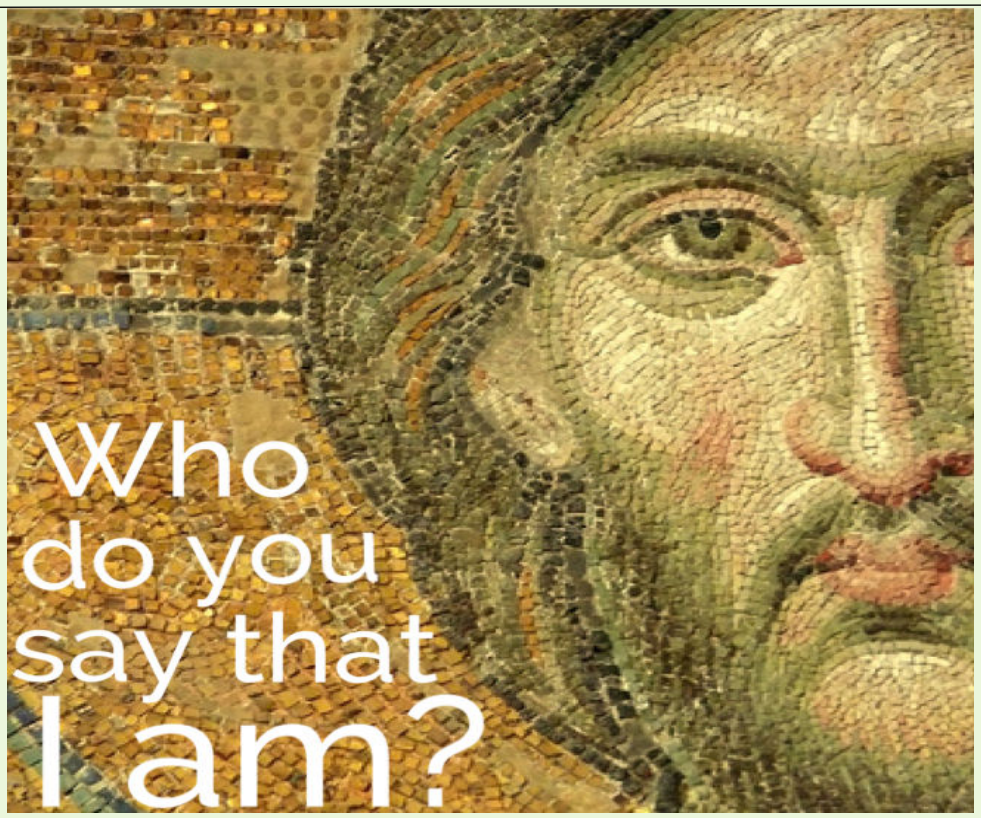
Sunday 9:00 AM
English and Aramaic

11:00 AM
English & Aramaic
and Arabic

Tuesday-Friday 10:00 AM
(in the Chapel)

Confessions
BY APPOINTMENT

Eucharistic Adoration
every Thursday at 9:30 AM
(before Mass)



Our Clergy

Rev. Tony K. Akoury
Pastor

Rev. Mr. Robert Calabrese
Deacon

Rev. Mr. David Nasser
Sub deacon

Rev. Mr. Michel Bassil
Sub deacon

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 5
5:00 PM
For Joe Corey and Nora Ferris
Requested by Lou and Cindy Abdou

Sunday, November 6
9:00 AM
For Ernest Najjar
Requested by the Shamatta Family

11:00 AM
For Antoine Azzi
Requested by Madonna and Elie Azzi

Tuesday, November 8
10:00 AM
For Joyce Ann Bowman
Requested by Fred and June Isaf

Wednesday, November 9
10:00 AM
For Joseph Stevens
Requested by the Shamatta Family

Thursday, November 10
10:00 AM
For Francis Slade
Requested by Ann Hartle

Friday, November 11
10:00 AM
For Thomas and Abby Isaf
Requested by Fred and June Isaf

Saturday, November 12
5:00 PM
For June Thomas
Requested by Lou and Cindy Abdou

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

Sunday, 11/6	**Heb 9: 1-12**	**Mt 16: 13-20**
Monday, 11/7	**Heb 10: 11-18**	**Jn 17: 1-8**
Tuesday, 11/8	**Heb 10: 19-25**	**Jn 17: 9-13**
Wednesday, 11/9	**Heb 10: 26-31**	**Jn 17: 14-19**
Thursday, 11/10	**Heb 10: 32-39**	**Jn 17: 20-23**
Friday, 11/11	**Rom 5: 12-16**	**Jn 17: 24-26**
Saturday, 11/12	**Rom 5: 17-21**	**Jn 15: 15-21**

Call for Altar Servers!!
Boys who have received First Holy Communion are eligible to serve.
Please see Deacon Bob before or after the 11AM Divine Liturgy on Sunday
or contact the parish office.
info@sjmcc.org

FALL BAKE SALE

WHERE

ST. JOSEPH MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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ATLANTA, GA 30328

WHEN

Sunday, November 20, 2022
10:00am—1:30pm

Hand-crafted Lebanese Sweet and Savory Delights:
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Elizabeth Joseph:
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404-374-2526

Thank You

The flowers on the altar for the month of November are given by Elizabeth and Paul Joseph in memory of John and Selma Domit and Joseph Joseph.

The candles, bread, and wine for the month of November are given by Ana and Chaouki Bassil for a special intention.

If you would like to donate flowers or candles, bread, and wine for the altar in memory or honor of a loved one, please contact the parish office at info@sjmcc.org. Names will be published in the bulletin.

WORDS of FAITH

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES: Lectio Divina

Our Catholic faith contains a rich treasury of powerful words: beloved prayers, timeless creeds, scripture readings, and liturgical texts. Words of Faith is a growing collection of bulletin inserts structured around these amazing words that teach us who we are, what we believe, and how we are to live.

We Hear

I would like in particular to recall and recommend the ancient tradition of lectio divina: the diligent reading of Sacred Scripture accompanied by prayer brings about that intimate dialogue in which the person reading hears God who is speaking, and in praying, responds to him with trusting openness of heart. If it is effectively promoted, this practice will bring to the Church—I am convinced of it—a new spiritual springtime. —Pope Benedict XVI

We Practice

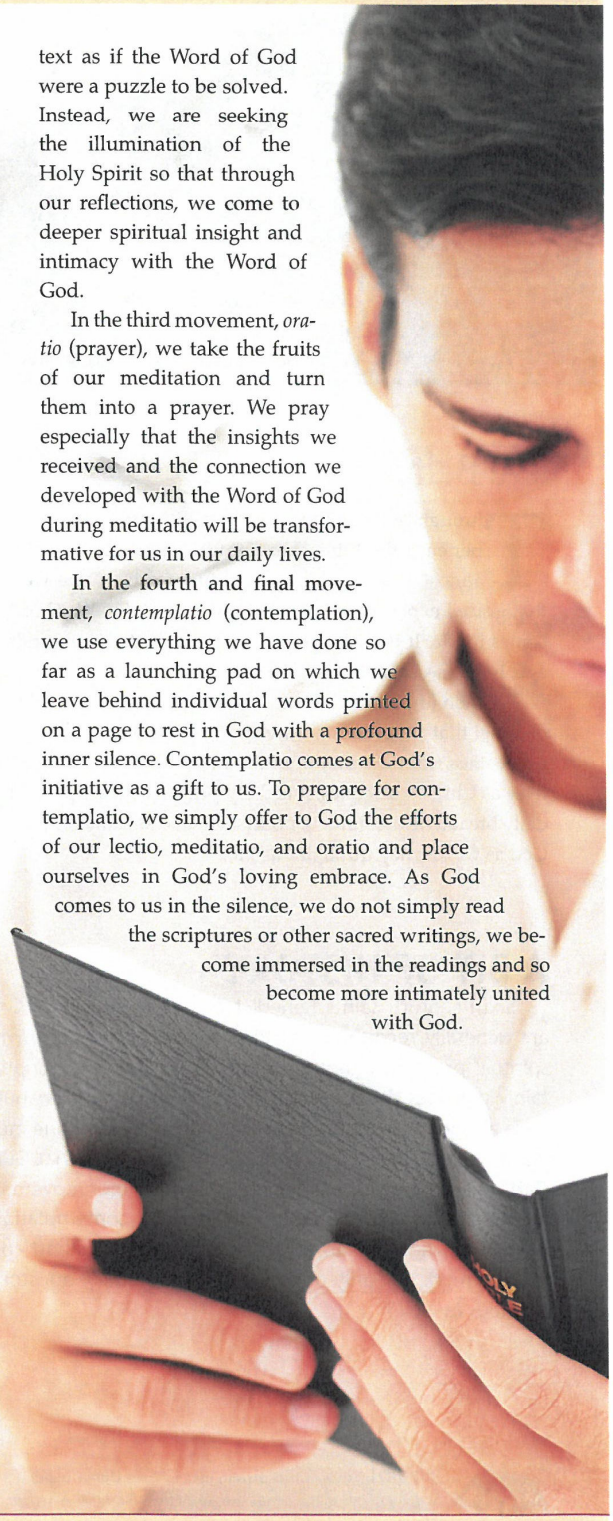
The Second Vatican Council ignited a revival of scripture-based prayer and study in the Church. Catholics, whose bibles had been relegated far too often to decorations on the coffee table, began diving into our scriptures. One of the ways we have done so is through the practice of *lectio divina*, which as the Holy Father points out, is one of the most powerful ways of immersing ourselves in the Word of God. Literally "divine reading," lectio divina is a prayerful way of reading scripture or other spiritual writing that is typically broken into four movements known by their Latin names of *lectio, meditatio, oratio,* and *contemplatio*.

In the first movement, *lectio* (reading), we slowly and attentively read a selected passage, noting the words and images that draw our attention. Typically we read the passage several times, each time getting slower as the words and phrases begin to sink in. Although any passage may be chosen, it is common to pick a book of the Bible, especially one of the gospels, and slowly work through the entire book over several weeks or even months.

In the second movement, *meditatio* (meditation), we reflect or ruminate on the passage, particularly those words and images that drew our attention during lectio. This meditation occurs not in a monologue of our own thoughts, but in a dialogue between us and the Holy Spirit. We are not trying to figure out the scriptural text as if the Word of God were a puzzle to be solved. Instead, we are seeking the illumination of the Holy Spirit so that through our reflections, we come to deeper spiritual insight and intimacy with the Word of God.

In the third movement, *oratio* (prayer), we take the fruits of our meditation and turn them into a prayer. We pray especially that the insights we received and the connection we developed with the Word of God during meditatio will be transformative for us in our daily lives.

In the fourth and final movement, *contemplatio* (contemplation), we use everything we have done so far as a launching pad on which we leave behind individual words printed on a page to rest in God with a profound inner silence. Contemplatio comes at God's initiative as a gift to us. To prepare for contemplatio, we simply offer to God the efforts of our lectio, meditatio, and oratio and place ourselves in God's loving embrace. As God comes to us in the silence, we do not simply read the scriptures or other sacred writings, we become immersed in the readings and so become more intimately united with God.



Andrew Gawrych, C.S.C., is a Holy Cross priest, serving as Associate Director of the Office of Vocations for the Congregation of Holy Cross, Indiana Province.

DID YOU KNOW?

Although in one sense a progression, the four movements of lectio divina are meant to be fluid. For example, our prayer might drive us back to a deeper meditation, which might, in turn, spring us forward to a deeper contemplation and then back again to meditation. To get the hang of lectio, you can practice the steps first with a well-known prayer like the Our Father or Hail Mary. You can also use the same basic method of reading, meditation, prayer, and contemplation when reading other spiritual works, such as the lives of the saints.

We Believe

Through lectio and other prayer with scripture, we come to experience the Bible speaking to us directly and personally—almost as if it were written just for us. Once we have had that graced experience, our relationship with the Word of God truly comes to life. It is no longer a static text written thousands of years ago, but a message that is living and active, speaking to us today.

We then understand what Moses meant when he told the people of Israel that "one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord" (Deuteronomy 8:3). In our lives as Christ's disciples, it is daily prayer with scripture that is our daily bread. We are guided, nourished, and sustained by the Word of God as we journey through this life.

A BIT OF HISTORY

Sixth-century saints Benedict of Nursia and Pope Gregory I are generally recognized as the originators of lectio divina as a spiritual practice, although a prayerful reading of scripture certainly predates them. Lectio, liturgical prayer, and manual labor have always been the three pillars of life in Benedictine monasteries. It was not until the twelfth century, however, that Guigo II, a Carthusian monk, broke the prayer down to four movements and named them lectio, meditatio, oratio, and contemplatio. Lectio divina long ago spread to other religious orders and continues as a hallmark not only of monastic orders but of apostolic communities as well.

We Live

The Bible is not just the story of our ancestors in the faith; it is our story as well. The more we are able to claim the story of the Bible as our own, the more we are able to enter into and participate in God's gift of salvation—of eternal life and love—to us. That means recognizing our stories in the story of the Bible as we read it, but it also means seeing the story of the Bible in our lives as we live them. In other words, we hope to have so immersed ourselves in scripture that we are continually reminded of the story of salvation in our everyday lives. We watch a child give away his only stuffed animal, and we are reminded of the Father who loved us so much that he gave us his only Son. We see people banding together in the wake of a disaster, and we are reminded of the loaves and the fishes that miraculously fed the five thousand. Then our daily lives become an encounter with the Word of God that gives us life in abundance.

> In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children and talk with them. And such is the force and power of the Word of God that it is the church's support and strength, imparting robustness to the faith of its daughters and sons and providing food for their souls.
>
> —*Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation* (Dei verbum), 21

- Start a lectio group in your parish or neighborhood. Try meeting weekly, taking time to talk about how the practice is affecting your life.
- Pick up a book written by a saint and read it prayerfully using lectio's four-movement method.

With Children

- Read the Bible as a family. Spend time talking about what you read. Invite children to say what they learned from the passage or what questions they have after reading it. Then offer prayers in your own words that flow from the reading and your conversation.
- Pick a saint to read about each week and talk about how he or she might inspire us to become more holy.

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Thanks to all those who helped make our All Hallows Eve "Trunk or Treat" such a great event!!

November and December
Knights of Columbus are collecting new, unwrapped toys for children living in Georgia homeless shelter. Please leave your donations in the church vestibule or in the chapel vestibule.
Thank You!!

The clothing drive was a huge success! Donations were given to the Pregnancy Aid Clinic, Catholic Charities, the International Rescue Committee, and Good Will.
Thanks to all who contributed!
Mass will be offered on Friday, November 18

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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