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	<b>December 5th, 2010</b>

**Abouna Dominique's Corner: "Light of the World" a Must-Read**

An American Student in Rome writes, "Between the international headlines generated by the New York Times and Associated Press reports, I stopped everything I was doing and picked up "Light of the World." It was the best thing I did this semester, as his message of hope in the face of tremendous challenges offers calm amid chaos. Not surprisingly, the secular media got the Pope's message wrong. Ironically, the Associated Press claimed: "Pope's remarks on condoms sow widespread confusion."

The point of contention is in Chapter 11, when the Pope speaks hypothetically of a prostitute using a condom as a sign of an awakening of his moral conscience. This tiny paragraph has now spawned novels -- proving the Pope's point in the preceding lines, that "concentrating on condoms alone banalizes sexuality." His remarks make perfect sense, the only mystery being why Catholics would look to the secular media for interpretation of the Pope's teaching, especially those outlets that had spent most of this year trying relentlessly yet unsuccessfully to accuse him of complicity in the sex abuse crisis. Why not read Cardinal Raymond Burke, why not just read the Pope himself? The book was meant to be read as a whole, not as sound bites. Peter Seewald conducts the interview as if embarking on an epic adventure, with Benedict XVI as our guide.. There are many things to fear, our own weaknesses included, but the gentle voice of the Holy Father helps us to look at the darkness of evil for what it is and then to forge ahead following the light of Christ.

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<b>DIVINE LITURGIES</b>	<b>REQUESTED BY</b>
<b><u>Saturday, December 4, 2010</u></b>	<b>Readings: Galatians 4:21-5:1 &amp; Luke 1: 57-66</b>
<b>5:00 PM Special Intentions</b>	
<b><u>Sunday, December 5, 2010</u></b>	<b>Readings: Galatians 4:21-5:1 &amp; Luke 1: 57-66</b>
<b>9:00 AM For Francis Shiner</b>	<b>David &amp; Liza Nasser &amp; Family</b>
<b>11:00 AM Special Intentions</b>	
<b><u>Saturday, December 11, 2010</u></b>	<b>Readings: Ephesians 3:1-13 &amp; Matthew 1: 18-25</b>
<b>5:00 PM For the Intentions of Jan Burk</b>	<b>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Bob Hartle</b>
<b><u>Sunday, December 12, 2010</u></b>	<b>Readings: Ephesians 3:1-13 &amp; Matthew 1: 18-25</b>
<b>9:00 AM For the Intentions of the Shamatta Family</b>	<b>Mrs. Eileen Chahrouri</b>
<b>11:00 AM For George Pharaon</b>	<b>Mona Rached &amp; Jocelyne Nassar</b>
<b><u>THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IS OFFERED BEFORE EACH LITURGY</u></b>	

## **Abouna Dominique's Corner: "Light of the World" a Must-Read**

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Benedict XVI reveals what it meant to answer the call to succeed St. Peter, sharing his feelings in the "Room of Tears," when he accepted this heavy burden. The Holy Father gives himself diligently to the reader, as he prepares to lead us through the "dark wood" of the modern age where even Dante was lost. Then, as in the "Divine Comedy," we are standing at the gates of hell, looking at the sex abuse crisis in the Church. With no time to prepare or escape the turmoil, Chapter 2 brings us into the heart of the scandal. While we may look for others to blame, Benedict focuses the gaze inward. One can imagine sitting next to Cardinal Ratzinger in his office at the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith reading through report after report, studying how to combat the "filth" in the Church and, most importantly, praying, even weeping for the innocent victims. The book is encyclopedic, covering everything from climate change to Islam and even the conversion of actress Raquel Welch. There are, however, moments when he makes twists, as we recognize ourselves to be part of the problem; at the same time the Holy Father offers us the means to be part of the cure.

Two things in particular struck me about the book. The first was that for an interview, there is very little "I." Amid the endless stream of first-person gushing in autobiographies, blogs and social networking pages -- the bulk of our literary output -- the Pope speaks for his Church or of his Church and most importantly, of the example of Christ. Benedict XVI states facts, recalls history and illustrates trends objectively. He limits his first person to opinions on questions outside of Church teaching, for example when asked about the Burqua law in France. The second is how Benedict XVI startles with his humility and his hope. The secular media see the Pope as just another powerful political figure, yet the Holy Father lives his role quite differently.

At the end of the tempestuous week of the book release, the Church celebrated the feast of Christ the King. On this day we remember that our King does not march in triumphal parades at the head of rejoicing legions, nor does he force all nations to revere him through his visible awesome majesty. Our King walked among men as one of us; He was beaten, mocked and died a criminal's death. Benedict points out that "for the first three centuries of the Church, Rome was the capital of the persecution of Christians." He alerts readers that "the Church, the Christian and especially the Pope, must be aware of the fact that the witness they must give may become scandal, and not be accepted and therefore he will find himself in the condition of the witness of the suffering Christ." Tradition, history, are a large part of the Church but not the secular media, which feed on the here and now. We carry a rich, often heavy past of experience and custom, errors made and lessons learned.

The papacy has never been about triumphal parades, but navigating the Ship of Peter until it reaches safe haven. Benedict XVI has great hope in God's ability to transform our lives and world. The door is open and the light is on and Benedict is on the path pointing the way. The media may try to twist and confound his message, but in God's wondrous way, the foolishness of men (and women) will bring many to read the Pope's message and to learn that Christianity really is "Light of the World."

## Miscellaneous Events & Announcements

***Feast of the Immaculate Conception:*** Wednesday December 8th is the feast of the Immaculate Conception, there will be a liturgy @ 7:30 in the evening. This is feast is a holy day of obligation.

***NAM Awareness Sunday:*** Shehade Chihane, Louis Ragy and Tracy Doueir are the delegates for NAM (National Apostolate for Maronites) representing Saint Joseph Parish. On Sunday, December 5th, they will be giving an awareness session explaining to the community the importance of the NAM on the parish and eparchial (diocesan) level.

***Men's Club Volunteer Day:*** All men of the parish are asked to help decorate the outside of the church for Christmas this Saturday, December 11 from 11-5p.m. Please pass by the church if you have an hour or two to spare. Lunch will be served. Contact Abouna Dominique or Habib Abi Sarkis for more info.

***Soccer Game:*** A soccer game between the men's of the golden age and the youth of our parish will be held on December 12th @ 2:00. If you are not afraid to wear shorts and chase the ball, please come and join the Golden Age group. For more information please see Raymond Sassine

***Saint Joseph Christmas Party:*** Our Parish Christmas Party will take place on Sunday December 19th after the 11:00 o'clock liturgy. The Liturgy on that Sunday will be served by the Junior Choir. Spaghetti Lunch, Santa and other surprises will follow the liturgy.

***Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Toy or Gift Drive:*** We are extending the deadline for the children's Christmas gifts to Sunday, December 12th. Last year we contributed 39 gifts and toys. Let's try to match that number again this year or even exceed it. Thank you for your wonderful concern for these hospitalized children. Gifts must be safe, sturdy and non-toxic. The age range of patients at Eggleston's is from infancy up to 21 years old. Please leave your gifts in the receptacle provided for this purpose in the downstairs hallway. For further info, please contact Reem Ragy or Marie DiPaola.

***Junior Choir:*** There will be a junior choir rehearsal for children between 7 - 18 every Sunday after the 11:00 o'clock liturgy. George Moussa and Cecilia Romero will be in charge of the Choir. Please encourage the children to take part in this activity.

***St Joseph's 100 years in Pictures:*** You are needed to help compose a memorable pictorial digital documentary of 100 years of St Joseph in Atlanta. Kindly email your carefully chosen pictures of major events at St Joseph to LebanonCedars@Ymail.com. Please send one (1) picture per email. Put in subject: the year & event description (*ex: 1998 – First Communion*) Put in email body the names of parishioners and /or relevant people in picture (*ex: Priest's mother*)

### ***Congratulations***

The parish family of St. Joseph would like to welcome into the Church Reese Olivia Creeden who was baptized Sunday, November 14 and Anwar Adballah Saoud and Memphis Nadime Abdalla Saoud who were baptized on November 28. Surrounded by family and friends, they all received the sacraments of baptism and confirmation.

### ***Christmas Trees***

Freshly cut Christmas Trees for sale by Boy Scout Troop 129.  
4650 Hugh Howell Road, Tucker, GA 30084 - at Sears Parking lot, Hugh Howell just east of Mountain Industrial Blvd. Alex Nassar is on duty there December 4, 11 and 12. Trees were chosen by the scouts during the summer, and cut a couple of weeks ago. For more information, please contact Alex Nassar at 770 493 1670.

## **NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL 2011**

Friday December 31, 2010 (8 PM to 3 AM)

**TICKET PRICE (Donation)**

**Adults: \$75**

**Child: \$30 (3 yrs - 14 yrs)**



*Live Music  
Featuring  
Lebanese Star  
**Chadi Hachem**  
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**Reception Hall International  
585 Franklin Road, Suite 150  
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**On-Site Baby Sitter Provided  
Full Mediterranean MEZA  
Dinner (Multi-Selection Grilled Kabobs)  
Toasted with Sweets, Fruits & Champagne Toast  
*Catered By "Mediterranean Bakery"***

For reservation please contact:  
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Tel : (404) 525-2504  
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