

The **fraternity of san Masseo** welcomes all, but especially those who seek a time of retreat, a place to experience community life, or a chance to share their joys and struggles with brothers. The fraternity desires to be nothing other than a small oasis on the path of those proceeding to the Kingdom of God in everyday life.

### The fraternity offers:

**Lectio divina**, that is, the study and prayer of the biblical texts read **on Sundays and feast days**, is held in Italian each Saturday from 20:30 – 22:00.

**Days of personal retreat and reflection** are possible throughout the year, guided by a member of the community. Please write or call ahead to make a reservation.

**For reservations**, call +39 075.81 55 261 Monday through Friday from 20:30 – 21:30.



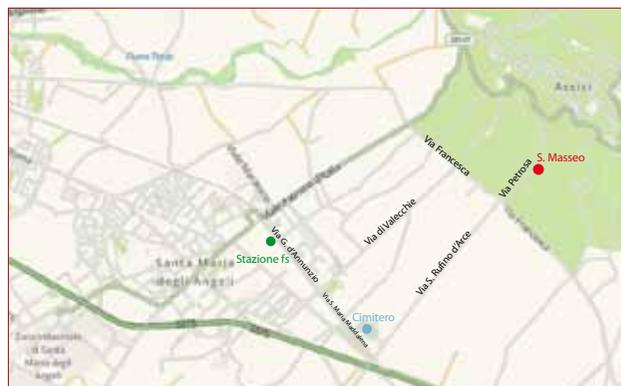
*View of the complex of San Masseo*

### Community prayers (all are welcome):

<b>Weekdays</b>	Morning	6:00
	Midday	12:30
	Evening	18:30

**Saturday** as on weekdays, plus 20:30 **lectio divina** (praying the Sunday readings)

<b>Sunday and Feast Days</b>	Morning	8:00
	Eucharist	11:00
	Evening	17:00
	Compline	20:00



### How to arrive at San Masseo by train

It is possible to arrive at San Masseo on foot from the Assisi train station in around 40 minutes. As you exit the station, go right on **Via Gabriele D'Annunzio**. Continue straight on **Via S. Maria Maddalena**. Once you have passed the cemetery, turn left on **Via San Rufino d'Arce** and continue until you cross **Via Francesca**. Continue up **Via Petrosa** until you find the entrance to the Monastery of San Masseo—about 150m further, on your right.

From the train station it is also possible to **take the city bus**. Take the **“C” line** and get off at **C10**, the stop after Porta San Pietro. Take **Via Petrosa** and descend toward the valley for 450m until you reach the entrance to the monastery on your left.

### How to arrive at San Masseo by car

Exit from SS75 at Santa Maria degli Angeli **Nord** and follow signs to the train station. Take **Via Gabriele D'Annunzio**, which runs parallel to the railroad tracks, and turn toward Assisi on **Via San Rufino D'Arce**. Cross **Via Francesca** and continue up **Via Petrosa**. Continue for about 150m, staying to your left. The entrance to the monastery will be on your right.

If you are coming from **Via Patrono d'Italia**, which goes up from Santa Maria degli Angeli to Assisi, turn right on **Via Francesca** and take the third left onto **Via Petrosa**. The entrance to the Monastery of San Masseo will be 150m further, on your right.

### Comunità monastica di Bose Monastero di San Masseo

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# Bose Monastic Community San Masseo Assisi



*San Masseo is located half-way up the hill of Assisi, between Santa Chiara, San Damiano, and the Portiuncula.*

- «Bose» is a monastic community of men and women who come from different Christian churches
- a monastic community in search of God through celibacy, fraternal communion, and obedience to the gospel
- a monastic community present among men and women, and at their service

## THE MONASTERY OF SAN MASSEO

According to historical sources, the church and monastery of **San Masseo de Plathea** (also called **San Masseo de pede Asisii**) was founded between 1059 and 1081

The complex is situated at the foot of the outcrop on which Assisi is built. Located between San Damiano, the Portiuncula, and the Basilica di Santa Chiara, the property is flanked by two trenches called Santureggio and San Masseo.



*Crypt of San Masseo*

The monastery can be reached by Via Petrosa, the road that rises from the fields of the Spoletina Valley to Porta Mojano (Assisi's ancient city gate). In 1130, the church of San Masseo, along with all its goods, became a priory of Santa Croce di Sassovivo, a Benedictine abbey near Foligno. It remained so until 1503, when it was incorporated into San Pietro, the Benedictine abbey of Assisi. In his *vita prima*, Thomas of Celano refers to a crypt where St. Francis would retreat for prayer, and the location described suggests that San Masseo may have been the place (*"Crypta quadam era[t] iuxta civitatem, ad quam frequenter euntes...Patrem suum in abscondito exorabat,"* *vita prima* 1.3.67).

Because so much of the complex had been repurposed over the years, it was long thought that only the 11th century Romanesque crypt had remained intact. In reality, the church nave and presbytery also survived, as one can see through the current restoration work. The church is dedicated to St. Matthew the apostle and evangelist.

**Monastero di Bose** is a community of men and women work, pray, and live the monastic tradition together. The community's main vocation is to believe, through word and deed, in him whom God has sent: Jesus Christ. By a great gift of grace, the community is made up of sisters and brothers who belong to different Christian confessions. Over time the community has opened new fraternities in Ostuni, Assisi, and Celole.



*View of the complex of San Masseo*

**The Fraternita di Assisi**, located at the site of the old monastery of San Masseo, is a place of silence and hospitality for those hoping to rediscover themselves and their relationship with God. By working together, sharing fraternal life, and encountering Scripture, the brothers seek to listen and share in the joys, hopes, sorrows and anxieties of all who knock at their door. This enables them to pursue the goal of monastic life with renewed faithfulness, which like every Christian vocation, is ultimately rooted in love.

Each day is marked by three communal offices or prayers, and moments of private prayer and *lectio divina*. *Lectio* is a time for prayer, listening, and contemplation so that the eternal Word of God can become a present word of life for the believer.



*View of the main building San Masseo - northeast side*

Daily work in the olive grove, the vineyard, and the vegetable garden helps sustain the community. It is carried out in simplicity, with care.

**Hospitality** is a ministry that has always been practiced by monastics, who knew that by welcoming a guest, one welcomes Christ. The monk or nun who wants to know God must learn to discern the face of Christ in each guest, and to allow his hidden presence to emerge through the mystery of encounter and communion.



*Church of San Masseo*