

Our community welcomes all, but especially those who want to share our prayer and our life and those who are looking for a place where they can talk with brothers about the problems of the world and of the Churches.

It proposes:

Lectio divina, that is, study and prayer on the **Sunday and fe-
stal** Biblical texts every Saturday and every vigil, from 20.30 to 22.00.

Days of individual retreat and of review of one's life at every time of the year under the guidance of a member of the community. Please write or phone beforehand.



View of the complex of San Masseo

Common prayer every day:

weekdays	morning	6.00
	midday	12.30
	evening	18.30

Thursdays and saints' memories: 12.00 **eucharist**

Saturdays as on weekdays and also 20.30 **lectio divina**
on the Sunday texts

Sundays and feasts	morning	8.00
	eucharist	12.00
	evening	17.00
	compline	20.00

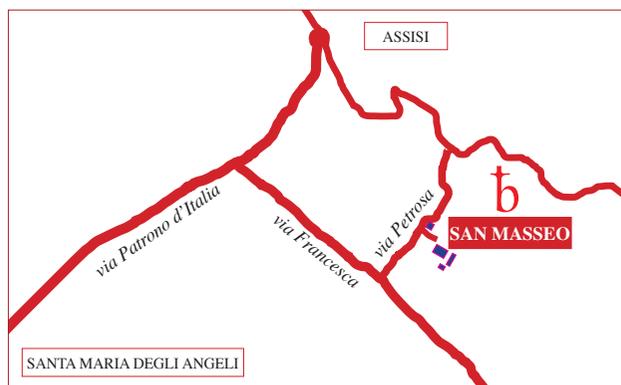


how to arrive to San Masseo by train

From the Assisi train station you can arrive to San Masseo on foot in 25/30 minutes. Leaving the station, take *via Gabriele D'Annunzio* on the left, then turn towards Assisi at *via San Rufino d'Arce*, cross *via Francesca* and enter *via Petrosa*. San Masseo is 400 meters on the right.

how to arrive to San Masseo by car

From *via Patrono d'Italia*, which goes from Santa Maria degli Angeli to Assisi, take *via Francesca* on the right and turn at the third street on the left, for *via Petrosa*. The monastery entrance is 400 meters on the left.



Monastero di Bose San Masseo Assisi

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Monastery of Bose San Masseo Assisi

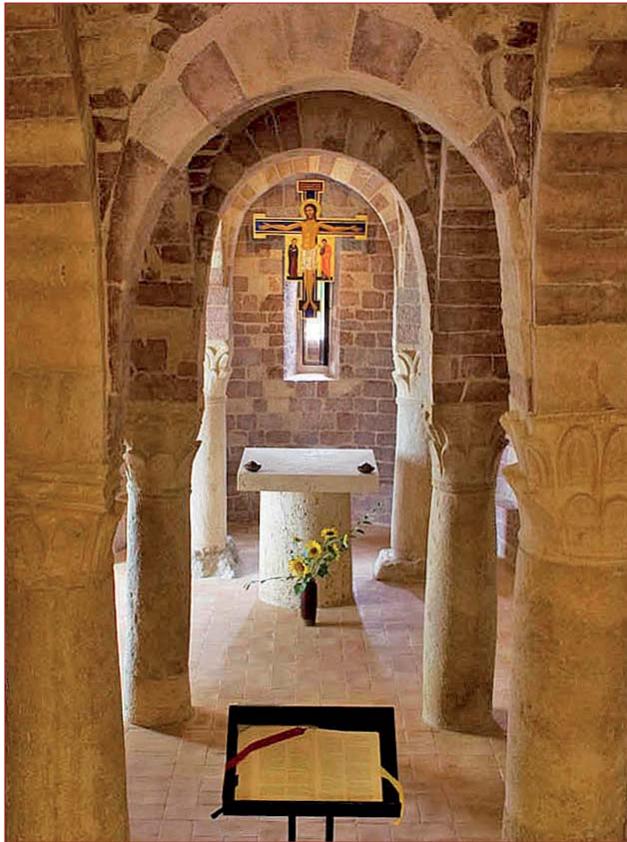


San Masseo is located halfway up the Assisi hill between Santa Chiara, San Damiano and the Porziuncula.

- «Bose» is a monastic community of men and women that come from various Christian Churches.
- it is a monastic community that seeks God in celibacy, in fraternal community, and in obedience to the Gospel.
- it is a monastic community present in the company of men and women and at their service.

THE MONASTERY OF SAN MASSEO

On the basis of archeological finds, the hypothesis has been formed that in ancient times a temple stood on the site of **San Masseo**. According to documentary sources and studies, **the church and a monastery of San Masseo di Platheia or San Masseo de pede Asisii are supposed to have been founded between 1059 and 1091.**



Crypt of San Masseo

San Masseo belonged to the St Benedict Abbey of Subasio, which some want to date from the times of St Benedict himself, who is supposed to have founded it on a votive spot of classical antiquity. The two crypts in St Benedict at Subasio can in fact be considered almost as the prototypes of the **crypt in San Masseo**.

The entire complex, located centrally with regard to the natural theater that surrounds it, is situated at the foot of the reliefs on which rises the town and which in their turn can well be said to be seated (assisi) with regard to Mount Subasio. Situated between San Damiano, the Porziuncula, and Santa Chiara, the monastery of San Masseo is reached from the street called *via Petrosa*, which went up from the fields of the Spoleto valley to *Porta Mojano*, turning off *via Francesca*. At the center of a catch basin, which forms a kind of natural amphitheater, placed on the town's central axis, the San Masseo priory imposed its own **agrarian structure** on a Roman drainage, perfecting the irrigation system and the capacity of yield of the vast agricultural lands that it held, of its workshops and its mills.



View of the complex of San Masseo

It is traditionally held that **the locality of San Masseo** was the first shelter for suspected cases of leprosy (cf. the episode of Francis kissing the leper). San Masseo is supposed to have been **a place of rest and of prayer for St Francis**; some even wish to see there the crypt in which, according to Thomas of Celano, Francis *Patrem in abscondito exorabat* and where he *latitavit*. Already before that, however, in May 1130, the church of San Masseo together with all its properties was ceded to the Holy Cross Abbey of Sassovivo; it was a basic commercial center of the latter, a mainstay of its economy, and remained under its jurisdiction until 1503, when the San Masseo priory was incorporated among the properties of the Abbey of St Peter in Assisi.



View of the main building San Masseo - northeast side

It used to be thought that only the Romanesque crypt remained of the ancient Benedictine church of the eleventh century. In reality, however, the nave and the sanctuary are preserved, as appears from the present restoration, conducted in concert with the Regional Executive and Board of architectural and landscape heritage of Umbria. **The church**, hence, is and remains with all the signs of its time. This church is **dedicated in honor of St Matthew the Evangelist**; the name, which goes back to a Byzantine matrix, became San Masseo in the local dialect.

Church of San Masseo

