



# ST MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

## Scripture Readings

### 1 Timothy 4:9-15 (Epistle)

My son Timothy, this is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

### Hebrews 7:7-17 (Epistle, Meeting)

At that time, Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

### Luke 19:1-10 (Gospel)

At that time, the Lord entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

### Luke 2:22-40 (Gospel, Meeting)

At that time, when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel." And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, **(FLIP OVER)**

# FEBRUARY 2ND, 2025 MEETING OF THE LORD ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY

## FEB Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

2nd - Jordan White

2nd - Camron Farrell-Haynes

3rd - Anthony Ally

8th - Mat. Yvonne Matsko

11th - Heath Vincent

## SCHEDULE

February 8th:

Great Vespers (5 PM)

Board Game Night (5:45 PM)

February 9th:

Baptism for Liam Loomis (8:45 AM)

Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

## WISDOM

"Have a sense of responsibility. Do not reconcile yourself, my children, with decline. You often hear the phrase: But, that's how it is... It is wrong to copy what is being done. The issue is what needs to be done. There is a lot of injustice, a lot of disappointment, a lot of corruption. Our responsibility is to resist decline. When I say not to reconcile ourselves with decline, I add that we must make a quality resistance. The best we can do in our lives, the best we can offer. When you take on responsible positions, make sure to offer quality, precision, honesty. This makes the difference. There are many intelligent people. There are not as many intelligent, responsible and mature people as there should be. This suffering place needs quality people at all levels. We have nothing to envy from other peoples. We just have to make use of the talents that God has given us."

- Anastasios, Archbishop of Tirana and all Albania

"Do not say, 'I have sinned many times; will He forgive me?' Listen to Zacchaeus: he was a chief tax collector, yet he found salvation."

- St. John Chrysostom

## WEEKLY JOKES

My wife told me she's making a trail mix without any raisins or M&M's. I told her, "Well that's just nuts." She replied, "think of all the cashew saved."

I would make a font joke but I'm not bold enough.

I read a couple of my jokes to a mime today. He was speechless.

# COME AND SEE! YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME!

## Scripture Readings (CONT.)

"Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

## Serving Our Community:

**Weekly Church Clean-up (through March 30):**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B4BAAAC23ABF49-52968691-weekly>

**Maintenance Items and Projects:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B4BAAAC23ABF49-52940655-maintenance>

**Coffee Hour (February):**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoE48ADAD2DA0F94-54799493-february>

**Church School**

Parents, if you have not yet filled out the registration form, see Jeanie.

**St. Christopher Society: (Carpool Volunteering)**

We still need volunteers to sign up and over the coming weeks/months will put together a special directory that will be available on our website (with a Google Map and pins). Please see me if interested.

All links on our website (under the Calendar tab): <https://www.stmmo.org/calendar>

## House Blessings:

You can still sign up for House Blessings (or by contacting me at 702-521-6988). Catechumens (and anyone, really) can have their home blessed and should too. Having the home blessed invites God's presence, protection, and peace into our daily lives, sanctifying the space where we live, pray, and grow in faith.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoD4FA5AB2EAAF8C07-54210134-house#/>

## Annual Meeting Today

Our annual meeting will be today after Coffee Hour. Please make sure you stay after for this important meeting. Additionally, all catechumens and inquirers, while you can not vote should still be there to see how the "business" of the Church works.

## The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord commemorates the presentation of the infant Jesus at the Temple, fulfilling the Law of Moses. Although the Virgin Mary had no need for purification, she humbly followed the law, bringing Jesus to the Temple, where they were met by the righteous Elder Simeon and the Prophetess Anna. Simeon, who had been promised he would see the Messiah before his death, recognized Jesus as the Savior and spoke the prophetic words now recited in evening prayers. Anna also praised God and spoke of Jesus to those awaiting Jerusalem's redemption, marking the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. This ancient feast has been celebrated since the early Christian centuries, with notable sermons by early Church fathers. Its significance grew during the reign of Emperor Justinian when a solemn prayer service on this feast day was believed to have ended a devastating plague. The feast has been enriched by hymns from revered Church hymnographers and is associated with the icon "Softening of Evil Hearts," symbolizing Simeon's prophecy of Mary's sorrow. The Byzantine Emperors honored the day with grand vigils at the Blakhernae church, a tradition upheld until the fall of the empire.

## Blessing of Candles: Light of Christ in our Lives

On the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, we remember the moment when the righteous Elder Simeon held the infant Christ in his arms and proclaimed: "A light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Luke 2:32). This feast reminds us that Christ is the true Light, guiding us out of darkness and into the fullness of His love and salvation. As such, we will bless candles at the end of the Divine Liturgy right before the dismissal. If you have any from home you'd like to bring or want to buy some candles from the church to be blessed, please bring them. These candles are a powerful reminder that Christ's light is always with us and I encourage you to take these blessed candles home and use them in prayer, asking the Lord to fill your heart and home with His divine light and peace. May we always carry His light within us and share it with the world. Amen.

## Prayer List

### Living:

**Clergy:** Abp. Benjamin, Abp. Nathaniel, Abp. Alexander, Met. Isaiah, Fr. John, Fr. Matthew

**Community:** Tammy, Litsa, child Lilliana, Carl, Christina, Olga, Rita, Lucinda and her newborn child Ciana Rose, Jamie, Alexandra, Dorothy, Issac, Ron, Sandy, Donald, Cole, Marco, Joseph, Chad, Landin, Austin, Catherine Ann, Katherine, Jeff, David, Andrew

**Catechumens:** Andrew, Braden, Camilo, Chandler, Dan, Dusty, Evan, Felix, Garrett, Jordan, Kamaka, Kate, Kendra, Liam, Megan, Nathan, Nicole, Rachel, Sherrell, Van, William, Winry, Wyatt, Camron, Jason

**Prisoners:** Basil, Mark

**Orthodox Missions:** St. James (Beaufort) St. Basil (Marietta), St. John the Merciful (Kissimmee), St. Anthony (Rock Hill), Holy Resurrection (North Augusta), Annunciation (Jacksonville), St. John the Baptist (Colorado Springs), Ss. Mary and Martha Monastery (Wagner) and all missions and monasteries throughout the Diocese and USA.

**And all of those who are suffering throughout our community and the world who are in need of prayers.**

### Departed:

Abp. Anastasios, Fr. George, Alkinoi, Mat. Eugenia, and those who tragically lost their lives in the DC Plane Crash.

### Youth:

**Board Game Night (Feb 8th):** After Vespers next Saturday, we will be having our first youth activity in the form of Board Game and Get to know the kids sort of event in the parish hall. There will also be dinner (pizza and drinks) for the kids. Everyone is welcome (even adults who are kids at heart...like me), but please parents, bring your kids and yourselves to this event. I would also encourage our youth to bring any outside friends with them as well.

**Brett and Lucia Baby Registry:** If you still want to purchase something for their registry you can do so here (It is also included in the weekly email): <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/brett-tomlinson-lucia-tomlinson-february-2025-springfield/>

**PRIEST: Fr. Stephen Osburn 702-521-6988 | DEACON: Dn. Vassily Kocher 912-756-5178**

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