



ST MARY MAGDALENE FEBRUARY 23RD, 2025

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

Scripture Readings

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 (Epistle)

Brethren, food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Matthew 25:31-46 (Gospel)

The Lord said this parable: When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Lives of the Saints:

Sunday of Meatfare of the Last Judgment

Today's Gospel reading, Matthew 25:31-46, recounts the parable of the Last Judgment, reminding us that while Christ is loving and merciful, He is also the righteous Judge. We cannot expect Him to overlook our sins if we remain unrepentant, for He calls us to turn from wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). The time for repentance and seeking God's forgiveness is now, in this life. At the Second Coming, Christ will judge each person according to their deeds (Rom. 2:6), and the opportunity to seek His mercy will have passed. As Father Alexander Schmemmann explains in Great Lent, sin is the absence of love and leads to separation. Christ's judgment will be based on love—whether we have shown love to others or failed to do so. We serve Christ by feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, and visiting the sick and imprisoned (Mt. 25:40). Neglecting these acts means neglecting Christ Himself (Mt. 25:45). Today also marks Meatfare Sunday, the last day for eating meat before Pascha, as we gradually prepare for the deeper fasting of Great Lent.

FEB Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

- 2nd - Jordan White
- 2nd - Camron Farrell-Haynes
- 3rd - Anthony Ally
- 8th - Mat. Yvonne Matsko
- 11th - Heath Vincent
- 18th - Andreas Savasir

SCHEDULE

February 26th:

Coffee Chat @ Paddle's Coffee (10 AM)

March 1st:

Great Vespers (5 PM)

March 2nd:

Divine Liturgy w/ Forgiveness Vespers (9:30 AM)

WISDOM

"The antidote to the atomization and disconnection of post-modern life could be the real life of the Orthodox parish: where we gather together for services, as we journey through the ecclesiastical year together, as we take meals to the sick, as we grieve by praying a Panikhida for a parishioner who died -- all this intentional community fights what is happening in the culture and shows a better way. Perhaps this is more important now than ever before."

- Dn. Dr. Samson Nash - 2025 Diocesan Pastoral Conference

WEEKLY JOKES

Inflation is really getting out of hand these days, but that's just my nine cents.

A battery and a firework were arrested. One was charged, the other was let off.

I have joined a tribute band called Paper. We cover rock.

What car would Christ drive? A Honda. Because he chose it of his own accord.

COME AND SEE! YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME!

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>

St. Christopher Society: (Carpool Volunteering) (On Hold until new website is developed)

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

Handouts for the Kids (Sunday of Orthodoxy and Journey to Pascha)

Kristin has printed out some icons for the kids to take home as well as a Journey to Pascha that they can color in. It would be great if the kids took those icons home and brought them back for the Sunday of Orthodoxy services (Saturday and Sunday). While not officially icons, it is still a good lesson for them and something to engage them with the Church. Please take them. They are in the Narthex.

2024 Financial Statements

Individual Financial Statements for last year are in the Narthex for picking up. If you cannot find yours, please see Ron.

Tithing Envelopes

Tithing envelopes are available in the Narthex. Feel free to take some if you prefer to give privately.

Youth Schedules Still Needed

To reiterate what I stated in my annual report, I am again asking that you all provide me with your children's schedules—whether it's ball games, recitals, competitions, or other events—so that I can do my best to be there and cheer them on (and trust me I will...I'll be the loudest one there).

Parish Council Meeting (Today after Coffee Hour)

Weekly Coffee Chat (Wednesday - February 26th - 10 AM)

Join us for the start of our weekly coffee chat over at Paddle's Coffee in Springfield (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329), where we can relax, socialize, and get to know everyone a little better. In the past when I've done this, it has become a bit of an informal adult class to go with our regular adult class so please come and ask questions. Every topic is up for discussion (and I mean everything) and everyone is welcome! (Also, this does not have to be our permanent place for this. If anyone has a coffee shop they like better, I am all ears. I just went with this one because it has good Yelp reviews.) This will be a regular Wednesday meet-up (Thursdays during Lent) and put on hold in the summer (June to August) and resume in September.

Sunday of Orthodoxy (March 8th)

On Saturday, March 8th we will be having Fr. James Bozeman and his parish, St. James (Beaufort) with us to celebrate the Vespers for Sunday of Orthodoxy. Normally this service is done on a Sunday night but we felt it would be more fitting liturgically if it was served on the actual Sunday time (being that our Vespural services are the night before) so it will be on that Saturday night in a month's time. For this evening, we are going to have a Lenten Potluck after Vespers.

Lenten Service: Homeless Care Bags (March 15th - 1 PM)

On March 15th, we will meet at the hall to assemble care bags for the homeless. These bags will then be given out to all parishioners to put in their cars so that you have something any time you encounter someone in need. In the meantime, we are collecting donations of zip lock bags (the large ones), socks, gloves, hygiene items, bottled water, non-perishable snacks, and first aid supplies. If you are able to donate any of these items, please let me know. We will store all of them in my office.

Monthly Parish Financial Report (As of February 14th, 2025):

January	February
Income Goal: \$9,610	Income Goal: \$11,535
Collections: \$10,039	Collections: \$5,720
Difference: \$429 / 4.46%	Difference: -\$5,815 / -50.41%

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

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Confessions Every Saturday
Before (4:15 PM) and After
Vespers or By Appointment

Prayer List

Living

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

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

Catechumens: Andrew, Braden, Camilo,
Chandler, Dan, Dusty, Evan, Felix,
Garrett, Jordan, Kamaka, Kate, Kendra,
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. Symeon, Fr. John,
Fr. George, Rdr. John, Ron, George,
Veronica, Braswell, Dolores, Alkinoi,
David

Youth Group

Man of God Movie (March 22nd):
After Vespers on the 22nd of March, we
will gather for a movie over at the Hall, to
watch and discuss the film Man of God. We
have a TV but are in need of a white screen
for outside, since we do have the Somichs'
bringing a projector. Also, it will be a
Lenten potluck dinner that evening.
Everyone is welcome!