



ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Scripture Readings

2 Timothy 3:10-15 (Epistle)

My son Timothy, you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Luke 18:10-14 (Gospel)

The Lord said this Parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Lives of the Saints:

Publican and the Pharisee / Beginning of the Lenten Triodion

The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the Triodion (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins. Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things, and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances. The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (Luke 18:14). The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee's religious piety, nor the Publican's repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation. Two weeks before the beginning of the Fast, as part of our preparation for Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha, the Church prescribes the reading of Saint Mark's Gospel. From Monday to Friday the focus is on the end times, and the Savior's death and burial.

Leavetaking of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple

The Leavetaking of the Meeting of the Lord usually falls on February 9, but may be moved if the Feast falls during the period of the Triodion. In that case, the Typikon must be consulted for information on the Leavetaking. Usually, the entire office of the Feast is repeated except for the Entrance, festal readings, and Litya at Vespers, and the Polyeleos and festal Gospel at Matins. The festal Antiphons are not sung at Liturgy, and the Epistle and Gospel of the day are read.

FEBRUARY 9TH, 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

18th – Andreas Savasir

SCHEDULE

February 15th:

Great Vespers (5 PM)

February 16th:

Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

WISDOM

"The Pharisee, overcome by a foolish arrogance, spoke to God in pride, not in prayer. He accused others instead of praying for them. The Publican, however, stood far off and would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but cried out for mercy. And because of this humility, he was justified rather than the Pharisee."

– St. Cyril of Alexandria

"Nothing is more grievous than pride, nothing more execrable. This has turned angels into devils. This hurls men into the extreme of evils. This makes men think they are clean when they are filthy. The Pharisee was condemned for this, while the Publican was justified for his humility."

– St. John Chrysostom

WEEKLY JOKES

Before I was married, I briefly dated a tennis player, until I found out that love meant nothing to her.

*Why did the structural engineer break up with his girlfriend?
Because there was too much tension and not enough support!*

I once screwed up a joke about infinity. I never heard the end of it.

I like podiums. That's a product I can really stand behind.

What's a ref's favorite kind of tea? Penalty.

COME AND SEE! YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Many Years to Liam Loomis!

With great joy, we congratulate Liam Loomis on his reception into the Holy Orthodox Church through the sacred mystery of Baptism! May God grant him many years of faith, love, and spiritual growth in Christ!

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#/
/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoD4FA5AB2EAAF8C07-54210134-house#/)

Kiosk in the Hall

Please do not go behind the kiosk. If you're bringing something other than food, kindly see Dia, Janice or my wife, Mat. Lindsey and they will take care of it for you.

Tithing Envelopes

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

Youth Schedules 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).

All American Council Delegate Election (After Liturgy)

Before we can send our Annual Meeting Report to the Diocese of the South, we need to elect a delegate for the All American Council this July (14th-18th). We will be electing both a delegate and alternate after my announcements at the end of Liturgy.

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. I will also be reaching out to St. Paul Orthodox Church next week to invite them as well. For this evening, we are going to have a Lenten Potluck.

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.

Prayer List

Living:

Clergy: Abp. Benjamin, Abp. Nathaniel, Abp. Alexander, Met. Isaiah, 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. John, Fr. George, Veronica, Braswell, Dolores, Alkinoi, David, Mat. Eugenia

Youth:

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. I will be bringing a TV but if someone has a projector, we may be able to set it up outside and enjoy some of this Spring weather a little better. Also, it will be a Lenten potluck dinner that evening. Everyone is welcome!

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](tel:702-521-6988) | **DEACON:** Dn. Vassily Kocher [912-756-5178](tel:912-756-5178)

E-MAIL: frsteve@osburnfamily.com | STMMOCA.org | Facebook.com/St.MaryMagdaleneRincon