



ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Scripture Readings

Hebrews 1:10-2:3 (Epistle)

Brethren, "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail." But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.

Hebrews 7:26-8:2 (Epistle, Saint)

Brethren, such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Mark 2:1-12 (Gospel)

At that time, the Lord entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" - He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

John 10:9-16 (Gospel, Saint)

The Lord said: I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

MARCH 16TH, 2025 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

MAR Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

- 3rd - James Kenley
- 6th - Fr. Stephen Osburn (Priesthood Anniversary)
- 7th - Wyatt Roberts
- 7th - Aryana Zdionica
- 25th - Tom Maty
- 28th - Kate Jackson
- 30th - Theodosia (Teddy) Lentz
- 31st - Ceilia (DeeDee) Lentz

SCHEDULE

March 19th:
Presanctified Liturgy (6:30 PM)

March 20th:
Coffee Chat @ Paddle's Coffee (10 AM)
(401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329)

March 22nd:
Great Vespers (5 PM)
Movie Night (After Vespers)

March 23rd:
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

WISDOM

"The mind that is scattered by distractions cannot perceive God. But when it recollects itself in stillness and descends into the heart, shutting out the noise of the world, it will begin to taste the sweetness of divine presence. This is why the saints call Hesychia (inner stillness) the path to true knowledge. For when the soul is free from worldly thoughts, it is filled with light, and this light is not of the senses, but of the Spirit, given to those who purify their hearts in prayer."

- St. Gregory Palamas

WEEKLY JOKES

A man is staying in a hotel. He walks up to the front desk and says, "Sorry, I forgot what room I'm in, can you help me?" The receptionist replies, "No problem, sir. This is the lobby."

Lenten loophole: To eat a whole cake would be to commit the sin of gluttony, but to eat a whole pie is okay, as the sin of pi is zero.

COME AND SEE! YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Stewardship and Serving Our Community

Please make every effort to participate in these meaningful opportunities for stewardship within our parish.

Weekly Church Clean-up (through May): (Holy Week sign up needed more than anything due to extra services)

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

Maintenance Items and Projects (through August):

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

Coffee Hour (March):

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoE48ADAD2DA0F94-55447864-march>

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

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

Lenten Cookbook for Sale

We have a Lenten Cookbook for sale in our bookstore if anyone is interested. If you want to buy one, see Dia. Janice.

Espresso Your Faith...Coffee Chat (March 20th at 10 AM - Paddle's)

My apologies for the poor dad joke there...That said, our attendance for this impromptu chat / outreach have started to...brew up some serious concern... I'm not saying you should feel guilty for missing coffee chat... but even decaf showed up. Okay I'll stop with the bad dad jokes. I promise. Now obviously no one is required to come but if you have some time or are free, please come join us. It is a great time and we have some good conversations. People see who we are in our community and it works as a subtle outreach. I've already had a few approach me asking who we are and the more we are in our community, the more we grow as a community. So if you are able to, please come. You won't be disappointed, I mocha vow to that! (I lied. I couldn't help myself with that last one...)

Thank you! Lenten Service: Homeless Care Kits

Thank you to everyone who came out to help assemble the kits yesterday. Also, a huge thank you to everyone who donated for this worthy cause. We have placed all of the bags in the Narthex in a bin, please take a few and put into your car so that you can have them at the ready any time you encounter a homeless or needy person. May God Grant everyone Many Years!

Parish Council (Today)

Lives of the Saints: St. Gregory Palamas

Saint Gregory Palamas, originally honored on November 14, was given a second commemoration on the Second Sunday of Great Lent, known as the Triumph of Orthodoxy. Born in 1296 in Constantinople, he was educated under the patronage of Emperor Andronicus II but chose monastic life over a government career. At a young age, he entered Mount Athos, where he immersed himself in Hesychasm, a spiritual tradition of inner prayer and stillness. He studied under experienced elders, adopting the practice of unceasing prayer and eventually moving to Thessalonica, where he was ordained a priest. Despite his priestly duties, he remained deeply committed to the monastic life, balancing his ministry with solitude, prayer, and theological reflection.

In the 1330s, Palamas became a leading defender of Hesychasm when the theologian Barlaam of Calabria challenged the practice, dismissing it as heretical and denying the monks' experience of the Uncreated Light—the divine illumination seen by Christ's disciples at the Transfiguration. In response, Palamas wrote the "Triads in Defense of the Holy Hesychasts", arguing that God's essence is unknowable but that He reveals Himself through His energies, such as the light of Mount Tabor. The Council of Constantinople in 1341 upheld Palamas' teachings, condemning Barlaam as a heretic, but opposition continued. Palamas was even imprisoned for four years under Patriarch John XIV, though he was later freed and appointed Archbishop of Thessalonica.

Despite political and theological turmoil, Palamas remained steadfast, enduring imprisonment by the Turks while continuing to preach even to his captors. Recognized for his deep spiritual wisdom, he performed miracles in his final years before passing away on November 14, 1359. His teachings were formally affirmed in 1368 at a council in Constantinople, where he was canonized as a saint. Today, Saint Gregory Palamas is celebrated as one of the greatest defenders of Orthodox theology, particularly for his doctrine on divine energies and the path to union with God through Hesychasm.

Monthly Parish Financial Report (As of March 5th, 2025):

February	March
Income Goal: \$11,535	Income Goal: \$11,535
Collections: \$9,017	Collections: \$0
Difference: -\$2,518 / -21.83%	Difference: TBD

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Confessions Every Saturday Before (4:15 PM) and After Vespers or By Appointment. During Lent, Confessions 30 Minutes before all Services.

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, Sandy, Donald, Cole, Marco, Joseph, Chad, Landin, Austin, Catherine Ann, Katherine, Jeff, David, Andrew, Eftihia, Hilda, John

Catechumens: Andrew, Braden, Camilo, Chandler, Dan, Dusty, Evan, Felix, Garrett, Jordan, Kamaka, Kate, Kendra, Megan, Nathan, Nicole, Rachel, Sherrell with child, 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 of the South and USA.

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

Departed

Fr. Symeon, Fr. John, Fr. George, Rdr. John, Ron, George, Veronica, Braswell, Dolores, David

Youth Group

Man of God Movie (Next Sunday):

After Vespers, we will gather for a movie over at the Hall, to watch and discuss the film Man of God. It will be a Lenten potluck dinner that evening. Everyone is welcome!