



ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Scripture Readings

Romans 13:11-14:4 (Epistle)

Brethren, do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Matthew 6:14-21 (Gospel)

The Lord said if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Lives of the Saints:

Sunday of Cheese-fare: Expulsion of Adam from Paradise

As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendants became heirs of death and corruption. Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ. At Forgiveness Vespers we sing: "Let us begin the time of fasting in light, preparing ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our soul, let us purify our body. As we abstain from food, let us abstain from all passion and enjoy the virtues of the spirit...."

Forgiveness Sunday

On Forgiveness Sunday, the last Sunday before Great Lent the Orthodox Church highlights Christ's command to forgive one another (Matt. 6:14-15) and begins the solemn season at Vespers with the Great Prokeimenon, the prayer of St. Ephraim, and the rite of mutual forgiveness. Accompanied by Paschal hymns that hint at the joy of the Resurrection, this ritual makes clear that Lent is not mere adherence to dietary rules but a deeper journey of repentance, spiritual renewal, and genuine reconciliation. By asking forgiveness from each other, faithful believers confront hidden barriers like indifference or self-centeredness, discovering that authentic communion with God and neighbor springs from divine love. Thus, forgiveness becomes both the doorway into the Lenten struggle and a foretaste of the Kingdom, where Christ's presence transforms our fractured relationships into brotherhood.

MARCH 2ND, 2025 CHEESEFARE AND FORGIVENESS SUNDAY

MAR Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

3rd - James Kenley

6th - Fr. Stephen Osburn (Priesthood Anniversary)

7th - Wyatt Roberts

7th - Aryana Zdionica

15th - Fr. Stephen Osburn (Diaconate Anniversary)

25th - Tom Maty

30th - Theodosia (Teddy) Lentz

31st - Ceilia (DeeDee) Lentz

SCHEDULE

March 3rd:

Kanon of St. Andrew (6 PM)

March 4th:

Kanon of St. Andrew (6 PM)

March 5th:

Presanctified Liturgy (6 PM)

March 6th:

Coffee Chat @ Paddle's Coffee (10 AM)

Kanon of St. Andrew (6 PM)

March 8th:

Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers (5 PM)

March 5th:

Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

WISDOM

"By forgiving others, we imitate God's mercy, for He forgives all who turn to Him in repentance."

- St. Gregory of Nyssa

WEEKLY JOKES

I saw a man going up a hill with a trolley full of horseshoes, four-leaf clovers and rabbits feet. I thought: "Wow, he's pushing his luck!"

Ancient Egyptian architect: "Do you know how to build a pyramid?"
Ancient Egyptian builder: "Well, err yeah, up to a point."

COME AND SEE! YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Asking Forgiveness

Great Lent is a time to remember that we are crucified, buried, and risen with Christ. It is not about food or deprivation but about setting aside time to focus on God, listening to the Holy Spirit, and truly repenting in a way that changes our hearts, minds, and actions to reflect His Kingdom. As we begin this sacred journey, I humbly ask for your forgiveness for any ways I have failed you, whether in word (especially my sports jokes), deed, or shortcomings as your priest. On behalf of my family, as well as Dn. Vassily and his family, we ask forgiveness for any offense, known or unknown we may have committed. May we all enter Lent with purified hearts, pray, presence in worship, so that we may reach Pascha with true joy, proclaiming together:

“Christ is Risen!”

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 (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.stmmoqa.org/calendar>

A Guide to Fasting for Great Lent in Narthex

Earlier this week, I sent out a guide for fasting during Great Lent. I have printed it out if anyone wants a copy. The guide has been amended to include fasting for Seniors (Young at Heart).

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.

2024 Financial Statements

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

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).

Weekly Coffee Chat @ Paddies (Thursdays During Lent - 10 AM)

Join us for our weekly coffee chat over at Paddle's Coffee in Springfield (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329). During Lent it will be on Thursdays.

Saturday (“Sunday”) of Orthodoxy (March 8th)

Next 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 to be served on Saturday. For this evening, we are going to have a Lenten Potluck after Vespers.

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

We are hosting our (Now) Annual Lenten Act of Service Homeless Kit Assembly Event on March 15 at 1:00 PM. We need volunteers to donate supplies and help put the kits together. If you are able to, above and beyond your normal tithing commitment to help in this effort, please sign up for the supplies here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoD4FA5AB2EAAF8Co7-55336201-homeless>

If you do sign up, please have your stuff in my office by not later than March 12th (Before or After Presanctified Liturgy). I appreciate everyone's generosity and time. It will make a real difference and is a great way to aid in our Lenten journey! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me and please] consider signing up.

Monthly Parish Financial Report (As of February 22nd, 2025):

January	February
Income Goal: \$9,610	Income Goal: \$11,535
Collections: \$10,039	Collections: \$6,880
Difference: \$429 / 4.46%	Difference: -\$4,655 / -40.36%

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

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

Confessions Every Saturday Before (4:15 PM) and After Vespers or By Appointment. During Lent, Confessions 30 Minutes before 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, Ron, Sandy, Donald, Cole, Marco, Joseph, Chad, Landin, Austin, Catherine Ann, Katherine, Jeff, David, Andrew, Eftihia, Hilda

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

Fr. Symeon, Fr. John, Fr. George, Rdr. John, Ron, George, Veronica, Braswell, Dolores, 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. It will be a Lenten potluck dinner that evening. Everyone is welcome!