



ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Scripture Readings

Hebrews 6:13-20 (Epistle)

Brethren, for when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Mark 9:17-31 (Gospel)

At that time: one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

Lives of the Saints: St John Climacus (of the Ladder)

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John Climacus, the author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, a spiritual classic that outlines the difficult but rewarding path toward the Kingdom of God. As the abbot of Saint Katherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai, Saint John emphasizes the intense struggle required in the Christian life—a battle not merely against the physical but against spiritual forces of darkness (Ephesians 6:12). His teachings encourage perseverance, reminding the faithful of Christ's words: "He who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 24:13).

Saint John entered monastic life at age sixteen and spent decades in asceticism, solitude, and prayer, eventually becoming a model of hesychastic life. His extreme discipline, humble diet, and unceasing prayer helped him overcome passions like pride, anger, and despondency. His writings, especially *The Ladder*, were born from deep experience and divine longing. He passed away around the year 603 at the age of seventy-five, leaving behind a legacy of spiritual wisdom. His icon bears the inscription from Step 7 of *The Ladder*, describing compunction as a ceaseless inner work that leads to profound spiritual transformation.

MARCH 30TH, 2025

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

MAR Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

- 3rd - James Kenley
- 6th - Fr. Stephen Osburn (Priesthood Anniversary)
- 7th - Wyatt Roberts
- 7th - Aryana Zdionica
- 20th - Suzanna (Fotina) Upchurch
- 20th - Zoe (Fotini) Osburn
- 25th - Tom Maty
- 28th - Kate Jackson
- 30th - Theodosia (Teddy) Lentz
- 31st - Ceilia (DeeDee) Lentz

SCHEDULE

April 2nd:

Presanctified Liturgy (6:30 PM)

April 3rd:

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

April 5th:

Great Vespers (5 PM)

April 6th:

Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

WISDOM

"Ascend, my brothers, ascend eagerly. Let us run the race eagerly, let us ascend the ladder laid before us, having our Lord as our helper, who has set this ladder as our way."

"Let your prayer be completely simple. For both the publican and the prodigal son were reconciled to God by a single phrase."

- St. John Climacus

WEEKLY JOKES

This morning, instead of water I put Redbull in my coffee. I was halfway to church before I realized I forgot my car.

Three weeks ago I sent my hearing aid in for repair. I've heard nothing since.

COME AND SEE! YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Confessions:

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

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)

Church School: Jeanie would like to remind parents that there will be no Church School on Palm Sunday (April 13th) or Pascha Sunday (April 20th). We will continue on afterwards as normal. Also, the Lenten Offering Boxes they have been putting their offerings in should be brought on Palm Sunday.

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

Special Collection for Pascha Flowers (Over the next few weeks)

Tentative Holy Week Schedule

I've been asked by many to provide this ahead of time so that folks can properly ask for time off and I am, of course offended and non-obliged. Kidding. I have no problem providing this so here it is:

Sunday - April 13th - Palm Sunday (9:30 AM) (No Bridegroom Services that evening)
Monday - April 14th - Bridegroom Matins (6:30 PM)
Tuesday - April 15th - Bridegroom Matins (6:30 PM)
Wednesday - April 16th - Bridegroom Matins (6:30 PM)
Thursday - April 17th - Vespers Liturgy (3:00 PM) / Matins w/ Passion Gospels (6:30 PM)
Friday - April 18th - Vespers of Holy Friday (4:00 PM) / Matins of Holy Saturday (6:30 PM)
Saturday - April 19th - Holy Saturday Liturgy (9:30 AM) / Pascha Services (11:30 PM)
Sunday - April 20th - Agape Vespers (11:00 AM) / Easter Egg Hunt

There will be a light potluck for Thursday and Friday of that week. Please make sure to Sign Up on Kristin's April list when it comes out.

Extended Lenten Service: Charities to Support

- International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) - iocc.org
- Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) - ocmc.org
- FOCUS North America - focusnorthamerica.org
- Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) - theocpm.org
- ZOE for Life! - zoeforallife.org
- Project Mexico & St. Innocent Orphanage - projectmexico.org
- Reconciliation Services - rs3101.org
- Orthodox Church Capital Improvement Fund - OCCIF.com

Got me singing Celine Dion (April 3rd - Paddle's Coffee at 10 AM)

Y'all got me singing "All by myself" by Celine Dion. I was all by my lonesome self last Thursday for Coffee Chat. Don't leave the priest hanging. Jokes aside, I understand folks are busy and jobs and families come first but if you've got some free time and you aren't doing anything, I would love to have you join us for Coffee Chat this week. We even have a special guest this week...(Spoiler: Its my mother.)

New Website Coming Soon

We are in the process of redesigning our website and relaunching more as a parish in the greater Savannah area. If you have any suggestions or things that you think would be good for the new site that I may not have taken into consideration, please let me know. I'm open to all ideas that will help us establish ourselves better to Orthodoxy, our home here, and to those seeking Christ.

Monthly Parish Financial Report (As of March 16th, 2025):

February	March
Income Goal: \$11,535	Income Goal: \$11,535
Collections: \$9,017	Collections: \$5,948
Difference: -\$2,518 / -21.83%	Difference: -\$5,587 / -51.56%

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

The Come and See Challenge:

Have you brought someone NEW this month or reached out to someone come back?

Have you gone to Great Vespers at least once this month?

When was the last time you went to Confession?

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, Polly, June

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

Ron, George, Veronica, Braswell

Youth

Easter Egg Hunt (April 20th):

We will be having our Easter Egg Hunt after Agape Vespers on Pascha Sunday.