



ST MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

APRIL 13TH, 2025

PALM SUNDAY - ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Scripture Readings

Philippians 4:4-9 (Epistle)

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

John 12:1-18 (Gospel)

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt." His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

Feast Day: Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday celebrates the triumphant entrance of Christ into Jerusalem. Riding a colt He had sent for, Jesus allowed the people to hail Him as King. They welcomed Him with palm branches and garments laid in His path, crying: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" (John 12:13). This day, along with the raising of Lazarus, points to Christ's victory over death. Lazarus' resurrection foreshadows the joy and hope made available to all through Christ's own death and resurrection. His entry into Jerusalem fulfills prophecy (Zech. 9:9) and reveals Him as the true Messiah—humble, peaceful, and divine. Yet this triumph is short-lived. Christ knowingly enters a city that will soon reject Him. The crowds misunderstood His mission, hoping for a political savior rather than a suffering King who would establish an eternal Kingdom through the Cross. Palm Sunday does not only recall the past—it makes us participants in these saving events. We bless and raise our branches as a sign of renewed faith, reaffirming the vows of our baptism: "Do you accept Christ?" We respond by lifting the palm and saying, "I accept Him as King and God!" In this way, Palm Sunday becomes a bold declaration of loyalty to Christ. As we prepare to follow Him through Holy Week, we declare our readiness to suffer and rise with Him, so that we too may share in the power of His resurrection (Phil. 3:10-11).

APR Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

- 1st - Savannah (Maria) Savasir
- 1st - Liam (Mary) Loomis
- 3rd - Zoe Osburn
- 4th - Jordan and Sherrell White
- 5th - Ana Kenley
- 14th - Fr. Michael Matsko
- 15th - Kendra Roberts
- 23rd - Meagan Clark

This is the current April List. If you have a birthday, name's day, or anniversary you want remembered, please let me know.

SCHEDULE

- April 14th - Monday
Bridegroom Matins (6:30 PM)
- April 15th - Tuesday
Bridegroom Matins (6:30 PM)
- April 16th - Wednesday
Bridegroom Matins (6:30 PM)
- April 17th - Thursday
Vesperal Liturgy (3:00 PM)
Passion Gospel Matins (6:30 PM)
- April 18th - Friday
Vespers of Holy Friday (4:00 PM)
Matins of Holy Saturday (6:30 PM)
- April 19th - Saturday
Holy Saturday Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Pascha Services (11:30 PM)
- April 20th - Sunday
Agape Vespers (11:00 AM) / Easter Egg Hunt

WISDOM

"The children, untouched by malice, cried 'Hosanna!' because only those with hearts made pure can truly recognize the King when He comes."

- St. Gregory of Nyssa

WEEKLY JOKES

My wife and I promised to never go to bed angry at each other. We've been awake since Thursday.

Every time a water bottle is left in the church, an angel loses its wings. - Our Choir Director, Tammy. Don't leave your bottles in church, please.

COME AND SEE! YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Confessions:

Until Holy Thursday, Confessions 30 Minutes before all Services; by appointment only until after Pentecost.

Stewardship and Serving Our Community

Thank you to everyone who came and cleaned yesterday! May God Grant you all Many Years!

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 - Please make every effort to sign up for these. The list looks very empty...)

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

Maintenance Items and Projects (through August):

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

Coffee Hour (April): I know often times folks just bring something without signing up, but please make effort sure to sign up on SignUpGenius so I have an idea what is coming and to make sure we always have a meal for all to share.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoE48ADAD2DAoF94-56050971-april>

St. Christopher Society: (Carpool Volunteering) - Please let me know if you are interested in being on this list. I will be taking addresses and adding them to a Google Map with pins and contact details that folks can access through a secure link. I would like to have this live by middle of May

Church School: No Church School today (April 13th) or Pascha Sunday (April 20th). Resuming April 27th.

Adult Class: Every Sunday after Coffee Hour, unless noted everyone is welcomed to join. This is not just for our catechumens. Classes will also be available to download at: <https://savannahorthodox.com/adult-study/>

All links on our NEW website: SavannahOrthodox.com

Egg Decorating (April 17th - Thursday 12 PM)

We will be decorating Eggs for Pascha at 12 PM on Holy Thursday before Liturgy. Please join us if you are free.

Decorating the Tomb (April 17th - Thursday After Matins)

I've been asked by Nika and my wife that anyone bringing Flowers to decorate the Tomb, please bring the flowers before the Matins service and stay after to help please.

Holy Thursday and Holy Friday Potlucks (April 17th and 18th)

We will have a light Lenten potluck between services on Holy Thursday and Friday. Please sign up on the SignUp Genius.

Tomb Watching Sign Up (April 18th and 19th)

There is an Orthodox tradition of "watching the tomb" after the Matins of Holy Friday and into Holy Saturday morning (paused during the Liturgy), and concluding right at the start of the Pascha services, where parishioners take turns guarding the Epitaphios - a cloth icon of Christ's body prepared for burial, placed on a "tomb". This act, often accompanied by Psalms or hymns or readings reflects for us Christ's sacrifice and anticipates the joy of Pascha. My apologies that I did not send this out sooner, but I've created a sign up list on Sign Up Genius for tomb watching this year. Please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoD4FA5AB2EAAF8C07-56251496-tomb>

Pascha Baskets

It is tradition to bring in a basket of foods from which we have been fasting to be blessed following the Resurrection Paschal Liturgy, which is then eaten to break the fast and celebrate Pascha. Every region has its own traditions and specific foods to be included, each with specific symbolic meaning. Every family has their own specific foods and recipes, as well as their own traditions. Everyone is encouraged to bring in a basket to be blessed. I will bless baskets after the night service in the Hall and Agape Vespers in the Narthex.

No Coffee Chat This Week

New Website is live! SavannahOrthodox.com

If you haven't checked out our new site yet, whatcha doing? It's now live with resources for the Choir, Bible Study/Adult Class, Calendar, and Weekly Homilies. We still have more functions and features coming such as a parish directory and a map of volunteers who can help provide rides to some of our members, so stay tuned for that. Also, note that my email has changed. You are still welcome to email me at my personal email but I will be emailing primarily from the new email: frsteve@savannahorthodox.com

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

March	April
Income Goal: \$14,510	Income Goal: \$14,610
Collections: \$12,260	Collections: TBA
Difference: -\$2,250 / -15.51%	Difference: TBA

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

E-MAIL: frsteve@savannahorthodox.com | SavannahOrthodox.com | Facebook.com/SavannahOrthodoxChurch/

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

Departed

Reagan and family, Martin, George, Veronica, Braswell

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, Cathy, child Anastasia, Angie

Catechumens: Andrew, Braden, Chandler, Dan, Dusty, Evan, Felix, Garrett, Jordan, Kamaka, Kate, Kendra, Megan, Nathan, Nicole, Rachel, Sherrell with child, Van, William, Winry, Wyatt, Camron, Jason, Josh

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.

Youth

Easter Egg Hunt (April 20th):

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