



ST MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

APRIL 20TH, 2025
HOLY PASCHA!!!
RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD
AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Scripture Readings

Acts 1:1-8 (Epistle)

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

John 1:1-17 (Gospel)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Paschal Message: From Archbishop Alexander of Dallas and the South

With hearts anticipating the Paschal joy, I greet you as we approach this radiant and glorious Feast of Feasts—the Resurrection of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ! In this Feast we proclaim the victory of life over death, light over darkness, and the triumph of divine love over the power of sin. As we prepare to celebrate this holy Pascha, let us remember especially the profound significance of Holy Saturday—the day our Lord descended into Hades to shatter its gates and liberate the souls of the righteous. This is the Blessed Sabbath on which God in Christ rests from His work of recreating Adam! The full Paschal mystery encompasses the three days: the Passion, Crucifixion and Death, the Sabbath rest in the tomb, and the glorious Resurrection. Holy Saturday continues a sober reflection on the saving work of Christ through His passion, crucifixion, and death, while at the same time bringing us to the precipice of the Glorious Resurrection. Participation in the entire sacred Triduum—Holy Friday, Holy Saturday, and Pascha—deepens our understanding of God’s saving work and prepares our souls to receive the Resurrection with greater spiritual clarity. Finally, Beloved, as we feast, let us do so with holy sobriety, mindful that our celebration is not in indulgence but in joy in the Lord, the Crucified and Risen Christ. Let our tables reflect the spiritual gladness of the season, tempered by gratitude and self-control, that we may honor the Giver of all good things. May the light of the Resurrection fill your hearts and homes, and may the peace of the Risen Lord abide with you all.

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 24th - Thursday
Coffee Chat @ Paddles (10:00 AM)
401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329

April 26th - Saturday
Panakhida (3:30 PM)
Baptism for Lucas (4:00 PM)
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

April 27th - Sunday
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

WISDOM

“The Sun of Righteousness has arisen, bringing light to those who sat in darkness. The gates of death have been opened, and the only-begotten Son of God, having risen, has raised up Adam and all his race. This is the day of salvation, the beginning of the resurrection, the dawn of an unending joy.”

- St. Cyril of Jerusalem

“The death which they thought to inflict on Him as dishonor and disgrace has become the glorious monument to death’s defeat.”

- St. Athanasius the Great

WEEKLY JOKES

Why is there caution tape outside the church? Because Fr. Stephen broke the fast so hard, it became a liturgical hazard zone.

I love the phrase “bear with me” because it either means “please be patient” or “the zoo heist was a success.”

Next time your wife is angry, drape a towel over her shoulders like a cape and say... “Now you’re Super Angry!”

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

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): 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: 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 website: SavannahOrthodox.com

It Takes a Village to Raise a Pascha - Thank You!!!

On behalf of myself, my family, Fr. Michael and his family, and Dn. Vassily and his family, I want to extend our deepest gratitude for such a beautiful and prayerful Great Lent, Holy Week, and now, Pascha.

Thank you to all who cleaned the church this past week as well prepared the grounds, arranged flowers, and worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make everything look so beautiful for Pascha and Christ's Resurrection. A special thank you to our Choir, whose countless hours of rehearsal (and many hours it was) for making these services so extremely solemn and prayerful. Thank you to the Parish Council for helping guide this parish into bigger and better things. Thank you to Jeanie and Anthony for their hard work shaping the minds towards Christ of our kids and adults. Thank you to Kristin for her hard work organizing Coffee Hour and making sure we have food and fellowship each Sunday (as well as throughout Great Lent). Thank you to Tom for all his hard work organizing the clean ups, keeping the altar in order, and putting up with my random sports comments in the altar.

Lastly, we are also incredibly thankful for the warm welcome we've received in our new parish home. Everyone's kindness has made this transition not only smooth but truly joyful and special. We are blessed to be here and look forward to what God has in store for the growth and building up of Christ's Kingdom in Savannah and beyond! Christ is Risen!

With love in the Risen Christ,
Fr. Stephen, Mat. Lindsey, and Zoe Osburn

Many Years to our Newly Illumined!

May God Grant Many Years to Braden, Dan, Kamaka, Jordan, Sharrell, Rachel, William, baby Lydia, Nathan, and Felix on their entrance into the Orthodox Church! What an absolute joy and wonder! God is good. Now... to our newly illumined, go out and preach to all nations and help us continue to grow!

Backstreet's Back, Alright! And so is Coffee Chat! (April 24th)

If you guys don't come to Coffee Chat, these titles will get cornier and cornier and cornier until we make Nebraska jealous with the amount of corn we're growing...Join us for Coffee Chat at Paddles this Thursday at 10 AM.

Insert the Imperial March Music...Darth Dean is coming... (April 27th)

Next Sunday, Fr. John Cox will be with us to serve Divine Liturgy. Please make every effort to be here with us.

Monthly Parish Financial Report (As of April 19th, 2025):

March	April
Income Goal: \$14,510	Income Goal: \$14,610
Collections: \$12,260	Collections: \$5,691
Difference: -\$2,250 / -15.51%	Difference: -\$8,919 / -61.1%

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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

Cathy, Thomas, Reagan and family, Martin

Living

Clergy: Abp. Benjamin, Abp. Nathaniel, Abp. Alexander, Met. Isaiah, Fr. Michael, Fr. Matthew

Community: Tammy, Litsa, child Lillian, Carl, Christina, Olga, Rita, the 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, child Anastasia, Angie, Ryan, Howe, Georgianna, Sharrell with child

Catechumens: Andrew, Camron, Chandler, Dusty, Evan, Garrett, Jason, Josh, Kate, Kendra, Megan, Nicole, Van, Winry, Wyatt

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 later on today.