



ST MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

APRIL 27TH, 2025
ANTIPASCHA
ST. THOMAS SUNDAY

Scripture Readings

Acts 5:12-20 (Epistle)

At that time, through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

John 20:19-31 (Gospel)

The same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Lives of the Saints/Feast Day: Thomas Sunday / Antipascha

The Sunday after Pascha, called St. Thomas Sunday, Anti-Pascha, and Renewal Sunday, highlights the deep truth that faith is not the result of investigation or even direct sight, but a gift from God. In the Gospel reading from John, Christ tells Thomas, "Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed." Though many witnessed Christ's miracles firsthand, including the Apostles and the Pharisees, not all believed. True faith is revealed by the Father to the heart willing to receive it—it is given, lived, and only then understood. Throughout history, the idea that "seeing is believing" has often been manipulated by the evil one and by deceivers who exploit appearances to mislead people into falsehoods, heresies, and sin. Human vision and logic alone are unreliable; only the Risen Christ can cut through the lies and gently reveal Himself to the human heart. Faith begins with trust in God's revelation, not in external proofs. We believe first, and through belief, our understanding is gradually illuminated. On Renewal Sunday, we are reminded that Christ Himself "opens our minds to understand the Scriptures," just as He did for the Apostles. True faith is a work of divine love, not human effort alone. As we open even a small way for Him to enter our hearts, Christ leads us to the full knowledge of His Resurrection. Renewal Sunday calls us not only to remember Thomas' doubt but to embrace a renewed and living faith that transforms both mind and soul.

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

May 1st - Thursday

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

May 3rd - Saturday

Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

May 4th - Sunday

Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

WISDOM

"He says: I was dead, and behold, I am alive for, evermore, amen; and you also will be alive forever. This is the meaning of the words of Him Who arose: I am the first and the last; I am He that liveth and was dead for you, for your redemption from death, and I; that is: I conquered your death by My innocent death for your sake, and behold, I am also forever and will sit with My Father on His throne; I was not separated from Him, even though I was on earth accomplishing My great work for you who are subject to sin and death. Therefore, do you also, My followers, work and struggle against sin and do righteous deeds, and where I am, there shall My servant be also—that is, in the eternal Kingdom."

- St. John of Kronstadt, Homily on Pascha

WEEKLY JOKES

My wife text messaged me with one word: "Earth." It meant the world to me.

My wife told me she's making a trail mix without any raisins or M&M's. I told her, "Well that's just nuts."

A truck load of glue crashed on the highway. Traffic was stuck for hours.

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 (May List Coming Next Week via Email and Bulletin): 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.

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: Every Sunday after Coffee Hour

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

All links on our website: SavannahOrthodox.com

Many Years to the child Lucas and his family on his baptism yesterday!

“Courage is found in unlikely places.” And Coffee Chat (May 1st)

I told y'all these titles would get weirder...if you can get what movie that is from, I will buy you a coffee, but you have to tell me at coffee chat or else the deal is null and void. If you tell me at church, it doesn't count. Must happen there, at Paddles. Join us for Coffee Chat at Paddles this Thursday at 10 AM.

Mother's Day Potluck (May 12th)

Can't believe I'm about to say this, but I have issued a royal decree that all women of our parish are banned for this day and only this day (May 12th) from doing anything for Coffee Hour. Yes, you read that right. You are banned from any commitments to Coffee Hour, whether with food or clean up or anything. The men will be doing the cooking, cleaning, and the taking care of all of our parish that day as you ladies, whether you are a mother, a grandmother, a godmother, a matuska/diaconisa, or even those who are motherly figures have the day off. If I see any of you ladies help that day, you will be sent to the dungeons. (I hope everyone knows I'm joking about all this dungeon stuff...) That said, men, grill up your meats and make those side dishes, you're on the clock. The quest has begun. You are on the hook for this and let's make sure to take care of these wonderful women who have done so much for us and still do so much for us.

Grave Blessings (May 25th After Coffee Hour)

Traditionally, Orthodox Christians bless graves on Thomas Sunday as a witness to the Resurrection and in prayerful memory of our loved ones. Since I am still new to the parish and learning the lay of the land, we will hold the Blessing of Graves this year on Sunday, May 25th, after Coffee Hour instead of today. Please email me at frsteve@savannahorthodox.com or text me (702-521-6988) with the names and cemetery locations of your loved ones and I will add it to the church's calendar. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Extra Wisdom of the Week: (So good, we needed 2 this week)

God's presence is absolute and perfect in our trials and tribulations, precisely at the moment when the sense of abandonment by Him feels most intense. It is impossible for God to be absent from our salvation. Ultimately, the true world is not the one that we see, but another world that exists—one that we must learn to discern. Then we shall glorify God for the rich blessings He gives us: not merely for the possibility of regaining our health (which we shall lose at some point), nor for escaping threats to our life (for that too will end), but above all for the joy of salvation—the opportunity to become partakers and members of the Kingdom of God eternally, and to see our God and Savior “face to face.”

—Metropolitan Nikolaos, Metropolitan of Mesogaia and Lavreotiki

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%

PRIEST: Fr. Stephen Osburn [702-521-6988](tel:702-521-6988) | DEACON: Dn. Vassily Kocher [912-756-5178](tel:912-756-5178)

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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

Eftihia, John, Cathy, Thomas, Reagan and family, Martin, Stephen

Living

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

Community: Tammy, Litsa, child Lilliana, 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, Hilda, 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 27th):

We wanted to allow for more kids to enjoy this event so we moved it to today after Liturgy.