



ST MARY MAGDALENE

MAY 11TH, 2025

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN
RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC
4TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Scripture Readings

Acts 9:32-42 (Epistle)

Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

John 5:1-15 (Gospel)

At that time, there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk?'" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

MAY Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

- 2nd - Eliana Lentz
- 8th - Dottie Kocher
- 9th - Noah Rigato
- 17th - Jeanie Klezaras
- 18th - Chandler Blagburn
- 25th - Samson and Rachel Woodthorp
- 28th - Garrett and Meagan Clark
- 28th - Marcel and Carmen Maghiar
- 29th - Fr. Stephen and Mat. Lindsey Osburn
- 30th - Susan Ally

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

SCHEDULE

May 15th - Thursday
Coffee Chat @ Paddles (10:00 AM)
401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329

May 17th - Saturday
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

May 18th - Sunday
Baptismal Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

WISDOM

"The paralytic at the pool is an image of the whole human race, paralyzed in soul, unable to rise until the Word of God came and raised us by His command."
- St. Cyril of Alexandria

"The Angel stirred the water once; Christ stirs the waters of Baptism continually. The law gave a shadow; grace gives truth."
- St. Ambrose of Milan

WEEKLY JOKES

I once wrote a song about a burrito. Actually it was more of a wrap.

How many DIY buffs does it take to change a light bulb? One, but it takes two weeks and four trips to Home Depot.

My phone somehow recorded a 5-minute video of my shoes yesterday. High definition, perfect angle, completely unintentional. Some of the best footage I've ever captured.

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Confessions - Every Saturday Before/After Vespers and By Appointment

Happy Mother's Day!!!

Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and Matushki/Diakonissae! You are all so amazing, and we men would be nowhere without your love, support, and gentle guidance when we veer off in the wrong direction, which we so often do...May God Grant you all Many, Many More Years! God Bless you all!

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://savannahorthodox.com/keeping-our-community-clean/>

Maintenance Items and Projects (through August):
<https://savannahorthodox.com/maintenance-and-projects/>

Coffee Hour (May List - Please sign up on SignUpGenius so I know what's coming and can ensure there's enough food for everyone): <https://savannahorthodox.com/coffee-hour/>

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 end of May.

Church School: Every Sunday after Coffee Hour. Last Sunday is next May 18th until this coming September.

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/>

"I Got Off the Plane." and went right to Coffee Chat (May 15th)

Tell me what show this is from and I will buy you a coffee. 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 at Paddles. Join us for Coffee Chat at Paddles this Thursday at 10 AM.

Parish Council Meeting (May 18th)

Vespertal Liturgy for Ascension (May 28th - 6:30 PM)

Grave Blessings (June 1st After Coffee Hour - Date Moved)

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, June 1st, 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.

Lives of the Saints: Sunday of the Paralytic

Water is central to many of the Bible's most powerful miracles, especially in the Old Testament. From Moses turning the Nile to blood and parting the Red Sea, to bringing forth water from a rock at Horeb, and Gideon's dew-filled fleece—God repeatedly uses water to reveal His power and care. These miracles foreshadow the New Testament, where Christ also performs signs involving water, most notably the healing of the paralytic at the Sheep Pool in Jerusalem. For thirty-eight years, the man waited to be healed, but Christ, full of compassion, restored him instantly—showing that divine mercy surpasses even miraculous waters.

This miracle, commemorated on the Fourth Sunday of Pascha, points to the greater healing offered through Baptism. While the Sheep Pool healed one person a year, Christ now offers healing and salvation to multitudes through the waters of the Church. In the hymns for this feast, the Angel who stirred the pool is identified as Archangel Michael, who is called upon to protect and guide the faithful. As we reflect on this event, we ask Christ to raise our own paralyzed souls—made weak by sin and distraction—and to restore us through His grace, just as He did for the man by the pool.

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

Mat. Eleanor, Eftihia, John, Cathy, Thomas, Reagan and family, Martin

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, Hilda, Polly, June, child Anastasia, Angie, Ryan, Howe, Georgianna, Sharrell with child, Ann, Durazi, Ray

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

Beach After Liturgy (May 25th):

We moved the Grave Blessings to June 1st so that we could have a beach day for the kids (and anyone else who would like to join. The question I have, is which beach should we go to as I am not 100% familiar with what is the best one. Please let me know and everyone else, put this on your calendar.

Monthly Parish Financial Report (As of May 4th, 2025):

April	May
Income Goal: \$14,610	Income Goal: \$11,710
Collections: \$11,932	Collections: TBA
Difference: -\$2,678 / -18.33%	Difference: TBA

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

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