



ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

MAY 4TH, 2025

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRHBEARING WOMEN

Scripture Readings

Acts 6:1-7 (Epistle)

In those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Mark 15:43-16:8 (Gospel)

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James observed where He was laid. Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away - for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples - and Peter - that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Lives of the Saints:

Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearing Women with the Noble Joseph

The Myrrh-bearing Women were those faithful followers of Christ who, alongside His Mother, remained with Him during His Passion and came to anoint His body after His death. Joseph of Arimathea and Nikodemos, secret disciples of the Lord, asked Pilate for His body, took it down from the Cross, wrapped it in linen with spices, and laid it in a tomb, sealing it with a great stone. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and James (the Theotokos), and other women witnessed where He was laid, remaining faithful even in sorrow.

Today, the Church honors these women — Mary Magdalene, Mary the wife of Cleopas, Joanna, Salome, Martha and Mary of Bethany — as well as the Most Holy Theotokos, Saint Joseph of Arimathea, and Saint Nikodemos. Their devotion teaches us steadfast love and courage in the face of suffering and death. The Church also commemorates the holy Queen Tamara of Georgia, All Saints of Thessalonica, Saint Seraphim of Phanar, and the New Martyrs Elias Ardunis and Demetrios of the Peloponnesos, who likewise bore witness to Christ through their lives.

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 8th - Thursday

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

May 10th - Saturday

Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

May 11th - Sunday

Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

WISDOM

"The myrrh-bearing women, because of their great love, were the first to behold the Resurrection. They showed themselves more faithful than the very apostles."

- St. Gregory Palamas

"The greatest teacher, failure is."

- Yoda - This reminds us that humility and repentance grow through trials—it's not about the fall, but the rising.

WEEKLY JOKES

How do you unlock doors on Kashyyyk? With a woo-key.

What do you call an invisible droid? C-through-PO.

Why do Jedi always burn their pancakes? Force of habit.

What do you call a Sith who won't fight? A Sithy.

What did Han Solo say to the waiter who recommended the haddock? Never sell me the cods!

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Confessions - Every Saturday Before/After Vespers and By Appointment

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): Please sign up on SignUpGenius so I know what's coming and can ensure there's enough food for everyone.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoE48ADAD2DA0F94-56679713-mayfellowship>

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

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

"We're not alone out here" Because We Are At Coffee Chat (May 8th)

If you can get what Star Wars show and who said it, 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. (Honestly, if you know this quote, I may have to buy you a month's worth of coffees...)

Mother's Day Potluck (May 11th)

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 11th) 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 (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.

Short Reflection: Finding Christ in the Stories of the World

Often I get asked, "can culture, especially today's really have a place in the Church?" At first glance, it's easy to say no. After all, so much of modern media is saturated with vulgarity, violence, and messages completely opposed to the Christian life. Yet, I think we sometimes slip into a kind of modern-day Luddite mindset, writing off anything outside the Church as worthless and not something to bother with. That approach not only closes us off from the world around us, it also ignores that with God, all truth is His Truth. The key isn't to blankly reject, but to discern. Of course, Christians shouldn't be filling their ears with songs that glorify hatred or depravity. But that doesn't mean every story is empty. In films and stories like Star Wars, which today is famously referred to as "Star Wars Day" because of May the 4th Be With You, we see themes of self-sacrifice, the triumph of good over evil, and light defeating darkness, all of which echo the Gospel and Christ's commandments. These stories may not be Christian, but they often reflect a deep human longing for truth, love, and redemption that we can and should look to in growing closer to God. Long story, short: it's okay to "celebrate" at "May the Fourth be with you," but you must also joyfully proclaiming the far greater truth: Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! So enjoy the day and May the Resurrection be with you! The Resurrection is with you always. (And for our Star Trek nerds who always feel slighted by today: "Christ has become Q. Truly He is Q.")

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

| April | May |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Income Goal: \$14,610 | Income Goal: \$14,610 |
| Collections: \$5,691 | Collections: TBA |
| Difference: -\$8,919 / -61.1% | Difference: TBA |

PRIEST: Fr. Stephen Osburn 702-521-6988 | **DEACON:** Dn. Vassily Kocher 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

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

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.