



ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

JULY 13th, 2025

**FATHERS OF THE 1ST COUNCILS
5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Scripture Readings

Romans 10:1-10 (Epistle)

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Matthew 8:28-9:1 (Gospel)

At that time, as the Lord Jesus had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

Saints of the Day: Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils

The Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils honors the bishops who, guided by the Holy Spirit, preserved and defined Orthodox doctrine during times of great heresy and confusion. These councils, from Nicaea in 325 to Constantinople in 681, affirmed foundational truths about the Trinity, the two natures and wills of Christ, and the Theotokos. The Orthodox Church reveres these Fathers as "lights upon the earth," whose teachings remain infallible, grounded in apostolic tradition, and vital for maintaining the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic faith. These councils responded to the urgent theological needs of their times, yet their decisions remain timeless expressions of the Church's faith. Their dogmas are not subject to change or replacement but continue to guide the Church in truth. The Council in Trullo (692) summarized the theology of the first six councils and anathematized all contrary teachings, reinforcing the Church's unity in belief and practice. In addition to doctrine, the councils shaped Orthodox canon law. While not all issued disciplinary canons, their legacy was compiled and expanded by the Council in Trullo, whose 102 canons form the backbone of the Church's canonical tradition. Preserved in The Rudder, these canons continue to guide the Church's external life. Though history brings new challenges, the Orthodox Church consistently returns to the wisdom and authority of the Ecumenical Councils as a sure foundation for faith and order.

JULY Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

- 8th - Jeff and Kate Bright
- 16th - Fr. Michael and Mat. Yvonne Matsko
- 17th - Charlene Griffin
- 20th - Dan and Kamaka Legers
- 22nd - Nadia Holley
- 27th - Litsa Osburn (Name's Day)
- 27th - Mat. Lindsey Osburn (Name's Day)
- 31st - Charis Ally

If you have a birthday, name's day, or anniversary you want remembered, please let me know.

SCHEDULE

July 19th - Saturday
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

July 20th - Sunday
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Dan and Kamaka Wedding (3:00 PM)

WISDOM

"The depth I found in the Orthodox Faith is not found anywhere else. It is not easy to become Orthodox, considering how many religious conflicts there are in the world. But for me, the sign of God is the opportunity to become an Orthodox Christian and the opportunity to find my people. No matter what trials await me, I accept them like a true Japanese warrior. I am not afraid of death, I am afraid of being unworthy of God's love."

- Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa - (Japanese-born American actor known for roles in Mortal Kombat and The Man in the High Castle, martial artist, and convert to Orthodox Christianity.)

WEEKLY JOKES

*What do you call a detective that solves crimes purely by chance?
Sheerluck Holmes.*

I just got my doctor's test results back and it's bad news. Turns out I'm not gonna be a doctor.

Parallel lines have so much in common. It's a shame they'll never meet.

THANK YOU, O LORD! IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE!

Confessions - Every Saturday Before/After Vespers or By Appointment

Stewardship and Serving Our Community

Weekly Church Clean-up (through August):

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

Maintenance Items and Projects (through August):

<https://savannahorthodox.com/maintenance-and-projects/>

Coffee Hour (Please continue to sign up as its not only good for our community but even better when visitors come and see our parish for the first time for us to show how welcoming we are.):

<https://savannahorthodox.com/coffee-hour/>

St. Christopher Society: (Carpool Volunteering) - Please let me know if you are interested in being on this list.

Kids Church School: Resumes again in 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/> as well as you can subscribe on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, Pandora, iHeart Radio, and all other Podcast Platforms.

Catechism Guide: <https://savannahorthodox.com/catechumen/>

St. Brigid's Table: It came to my attention last Sunday that alot of folks don't know about this. On the table in the corner, by the coffee in the Hall is a spot to bring food items and such to be donated to the Manna House. If you'd like to bring anything, please do and help offer this bit of service to those in need.

Homeless Kits: We still have some remaining from Lent if you need a restock. They are in the Hall by the door.

Monthly Financial Report (Today)

Jordan and Sharrell Love Baby Registry

Even though Jordan and Sharrell have recently moved, they will always be part of our church family. Let's show our love and support by helping them as they prepare for the arrival of their little one:

<https://tinyurl.com/baby-reg-2025>

Father at the All American Council (July 14-18th)

I will be away during this week at the All American Council in Phoenix, AZ. If anything comes up while I am away, please reach out to me and I will get it sorted.

2nd Announcement of Holy Matrimony for Dan and Kamaka (July 20th)

At 3 PM on the 20th of this month, Dan and Kamaka will be married in the Orthodox Church. Everyone in the parish is invited to come. There will be a reception in the hall. Please let Kamaka know if you are attending: 912-704-4722

Saturday Night Questing: Orthodox Tabletop Campaign (July 26th)

Looking for something fun and meaningful to do on Saturday nights? You are welcome to join the fantasy campaign after Vespers ran by David Reynolds. It is ran every 2 weeks and is open to young adults and anyone interested. Using the Pathfinder 2E system, this homebrew setting features a monotheistic world shaped by the Pantokrator and Creator Saints, with rich storytelling set in the mysterious "Age of Silence." It's a great way to build fellowship, explore deep themes, and enjoy classic adventure. If you'd like to join, please reach out to David Reynolds at 706-224-2721 to sign up or learn more.

BBQ Contest and Parish Feast Day (July 27th)

Our Parish Feast Day is coming up next month (a special time in the Life of the Church when we celebrate our patron saint, similar to how one celebrates a birthday or anniversary). To mark the occasion, we're starting a new tradition: an Annual BBQ Cook-Off with prizes for Best Meat and Best Side! Bring your grill or prep ahead, but don't miss Liturgy. We'll also have a water slide and games for the kids (and kids at heart). Sign up now with Mat. Lindsey or online at <https://savannahorthodox.com/bbq/>

Ask Yourself This Daily:

Have you brought someone NEW this month or reached out to someone to come back?

Have you gone to Great Vespers at least once this month?

Prayer List

Departed

Robin, DeSean, Christina, Jason, Bill, Susan, those killed in the deadly terrorist attack on Prophet Elias Orthodox Church in Damascus, and the children and families killed in the flooding in Texas.

Living

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

Community: Tammy, Litsa, child Lilliana, Carl, Olga, Rita, Lucinda, infant Ciana Rose, Jamie, Ray, Alexandra, Dorthy, Issac, Sandy, Donald, Cole, Joseph, Chad, Landin, Austin, Catherine Ann, Katherine, Jeff, David, Andrew, Hilda, Polly, June, Ryan, Howe, Georgianna, child Anastasia, Sharrell with child, Ann, Durazi, Patrick, George, Doug, Paisios, Savannah with child, David, Katie, Kerri, David, Johanna, Lilly, Haley, Sean, Silke, William, Mary Ann, those injured or suffering from the deadly terrorist attack on Prophet Elias Orthodox Church in Damascus, and the children and families hurt or affected by the flooding in Texas.

Catechumens: Andrew, Mary Ann, Ally, Andrew Jr, Noah, Luke, Dusty, Evan, Jason, Josh, Nicole, Winry, Jeremiah, Dakota, Bridgette, Theodore, Zach, Asher, Charlie

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

Clean Up and Ice Cream (Aug 24th)

Our youth group is back in action! Join us for a day of service and fellowship as we help clean Mrs. Jeanie's classroom, getting it ready for the new school year, before heading to Garrett and Meagan's Rolling Monkey to see how their ice cream is made! St. James's youth group will also be joining us, God willing. Come ready to serve, learn, and have fun!

Monthly Parish Financial Report (As of July 12th, 2025):

June 2025	July 2025	Tithing
Income Goal: \$14,710	Income Goal: \$11,810	Summer is here and numbers tend to drop because of vacations and such. Not a problem. Just make sure you are still doing your best to tithe as you are able by either mailing it, post dating your checks and providing that to Ron, or even donating on our website here: https://savannahorthodox.com/help-us-grow/
Collections: \$8,138	Collections: \$1,411	
Avg Weekly Goal: \$2,942	Avg Weekly Goal: \$2,953	
Avg Weekly Collection: \$2,035	Avg Weekly Collection: \$1,411	
Difference: -\$6,572 / -44.68%	Difference: -\$10,399 / -88.05%	

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

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