



ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN
RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

JULY 20TH, 2025

PROPHET ELIJAH
6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture Readings

Romans 12:6-14 (Epistle)

Brethren, having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Matthew 9:1-8 (Gospel)

The Lord Jesus got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" - then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

Saints of the Day: Holy, Glorious Prophet Elijah

The Holy Prophet Elijah, born in Tishba of Gilead 900 years before Christ, was a Levite and the first in the Old Testament to embrace virginity. According to St. Epiphanius, Elijah's birth was marked by a vision of angels swaddling him in fire, a sign of his fiery zeal for God. From youth, he lived a life of asceticism, prayer, and fasting, and rose as a prophet during Israel's apostasy under King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, who led the people into Baal worship. Elijah boldly denounced idolatry, calling down a three-and-a-half-year drought, being miraculously fed by ravens and a widow during that time, and even raising the widow's son from the dead. Elijah famously challenged the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, where God answered his prayer with fire from heaven, leading the people to repentance and the end of the drought. Despite this, Jezebel sought his life, and Elijah fled to Mount Horeb. There, he encountered God not in mighty signs, but in a "gentle breeze," and was comforted with the knowledge that 7,000 in Israel had remained faithful. He was then commanded to anoint Elisha as his prophetic successor. Elijah did not die but was taken alive into heaven in a fiery chariot. According to Church Tradition, he will return as the Forerunner before Christ's Second Coming, preaching repentance and suffering martyrdom at the hands of the Antichrist. Elijah's life is chronicled in several Old Testament books and he appeared at Christ's Transfiguration. Venerated widely in the Orthodox Church, Elijah is honored as a prophet of fiery zeal, and intercessor for rain and temperate weather. His feast is celebrated on July 20, and he holds a special place in Orthodox iconography and liturgical life, even marking the first Divine Liturgy served in Alaskan waters in 1741.

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 26th - Saturday
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)
Saturday Night Questing (5:45 PM)

July 27th - Sunday
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Parish Feast Day Celebrations (After Liturgy)

WISDOM

"Know that we must serve, not the times, but God"
- St. Athanasius

"Now someone, I imagine, may say to this: what he wanted was to be delivered from his disease; and why, then, does Christ announce to him the forgiveness of his sin? It was that you may learn that God silently and noiselessly observes the affairs of men, and watches the course of each one's life... He often purifies those who are entangled in sins by inflicting sickness upon their body. He says by the voice of Jeremiah, 'You shall be taught, O Jerusalem, by labor and the scourge.' Proverbs also has said, 'My son, despise not the teaching of the Lord, nor faint when you are convicted by Him.'"
- St. Cyril of Alexandria, Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew

WEEKLY JOKES

What do you call a blind dinosaur? A Doyouthinkhesawus.

A doctor broke his leg while auditioning for a play. Luckily he still made the cast.

I was spotted by Bigfoot. But nobody believes him.

In what key do cows sing? Beef flat.

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

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

July 2025

Income Goal: \$11,810

Collections This Month: \$6,536

Last Week's Collection: \$5,125

Avg Weekly Goal: \$2,953

What's Left to Meet Our Monthly Goal: \$5,274

Tithing:

We did great last week. Tithing was way up last week. Glory to God! Please keep it up. I know we can do it. Additionally, 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.

Donate Online: <https://savannahorthodox.com/help-us-grow/>

Confessions - Every Saturday Before (4:30 PM) & After Vespers. Also 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/>

Kids Church School: Resumes again in September. Please see Jeanie for Registration.

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/>

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

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>

Brief Report from the 21st All American Council

It was quite the adventure this past week. 3 Canceled Flights, but I made it. I will give a more thorough report at all our annual meeting in January, but the highlights of the week: 1) Archbishop Alexander announced his intention to retire next summer and a nomination to take place shortly after. 2) OCA recognizes the canonicity of the autocephalous Macedonian Orthodox Church. 3) A call to bring back women deacons was struck down. 4) Pension is in much better shape and the addition of some really qualified representatives like Mat. Tamara Patterson will help get it fully funded and stable over the next few years. 5) First for me, my first stop of my flight back had 15 priests and 1 bishop (Archbishop Mark). 6) Venerating Mat. Olga's relics was pretty special. Matushkas make a priest's ministry a success. I heard it once said, "A good priest can have a bad Matushka, but a great priest must have a good Matushka." It is a true statement. Many Years to Mat. Lindsey, Yvonne, and Janice! We are blessed to have 3 great ones.

Blessing Cars (Today)

It is a custom of Orthodox Christians to have their cars blessed both when newly acquired and on or near the feast of the Prophet Elias (July 20th), as he ascended as if into heaven on a fiery chariot. We will bless all cars at the end of Divine Liturgy.

3rd Announcement of Holy Matrimony for Dan and Kamaka (Today)

At 3 PM today, 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 - Next Sunday - Please Sign Up)

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, 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, child 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, Karris, Mary Ann, Libby with child, Vicki, 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!

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

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