



ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

AUGUST 17TH, 2025

**10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AFTERFEAST OF DORMITION**

Scripture Readings

1 Corinthians 4:9-16 (Epistle)

Brethren, I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

Matthew 17:14-23 (Gospel)

At that time, when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

Feast Day: The Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

After Christ's Ascension, the Theotokos lived under the care of St. John the Theologian, offering comfort, prayer, and teaching to the Apostles and the faithful. When the Archangel Gabriel announced her approaching repose, the Holy Spirit miraculously gathered the Apostles from across the world to be with her. On the third hour, in radiant peace and surrounded by the Apostles, she commended her soul into the hands of her Son. Her all-pure and fragrant body was carried in solemn procession to Gethsemane, where it was laid in the family tomb. Three days later, the tomb was found empty, revealing her bodily translation into Heaven.

This feast is celebrated with both the sorrow of her departure and the joy of her continued intercession for the world. In keeping with ancient tradition, flowers and fragrant herbs are blessed on this day, a reminder of the grace that flows from her life and the sweetness of her prayers. These may be kept in the home, and their petals burned with incense in times of illness or family need.

Blessing of Flowers and Herbs for Dormition; why do we do it?

The blessing of flowers and fragrant herbs on the Feast of the Dormition recalls the tradition that, when the Apostles opened the Theotokos' tomb on the third day, they found it empty except for her burial cloths and that the place was filled with a heavenly fragrance. The beauty and sweetness of flowers remind us of the grace that surrounded her repose, the incorruption of her body, and the promise of our own resurrection in Christ. Herbs, often used for healing, symbolize the spiritual healing that comes through her intercession. This blessing is a tangible way the Church connects the joy of the feast with the life of the faithful.

AUG. Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

- 4th - Christina Hanna
- 4th - Garrett Clark
- 5th - Joshua Gimik
- 7th - Mat. Lindsey Osburn
- 9th - Luke Rigato
- 10th - Levi Lentz
- 14th - Nate Hall
- 14th - Mark Guyer
- 15th - Theodore Harrod
- 15th - Maria Guyer (Name's Day)
- 19th - Rachel Woodthorp
- 20th - Bently Carver
- 21st - Marcel Maghiar
- 21st - Ron Somich
- 24th - Andrew Rigato Jr.
- 24th - Dan Léger
- 25th - Felix Galindez
- 25th - Maria Guyer
- 30th - Alex Dita (Name's Day)
- 31st - Asher Beem

SCHEDULE

August 23rd - Saturday
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)
Saturday Night Questing (5:45 PM)

August 24th - Sunday
Hours (9:00 AM)
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Rolling Monkey Youth Event (After Coffee Hour)

WISDOM

"Watch whether your heart agrees with, everything that your tongue pronounces." - St. John of Kronstadt

"The body of her, whose virginity remained unspotted in childbirth, was preserved in its incorruption, and was taken to a better, diviner place, where death is not, but eternal life." - St. John of Damascus

WEEKLY JOKES

Where do bad rainbows go? To prism. It's a light sentence, but it gives them time to reflect.

I tried to pay cash at the plagiarism store. But they only take credit.

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

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

Income Goal: \$14,810
Weekly Collection Goal: \$2,962
Last Week's Collection: \$2,495
Total this Month: \$4,990
Remaining Needed to Meet Goal: \$9,820

Let us continue to give faithfully and generously, so that the work of Christ in our parish may flourish and every need be met to the glory of God.

Donate Online:

You can also give securely online:
<https://savannahorthodox.com/help-us-grow/>

Financial Report:

Glory to God, July was our best month of the year so far - we brought in more than we spent! Thank you for everyone's generosity and faithfulness in supporting the work of our parish. Also, as many have requested, a full copy of our up-to-date budget is available here:

<https://savannahorthodox.com/reports/>
and will be included in the weekly newsletter as a downloadable link.

Special Projects/Extra Expenses:

While we budget for regular expenses, there are some extra needs this month that you can give toward specifically:

AC Repair in Church - \$521.60 (Not Funded)
Fixing the Ceiling - Cost TBD
New Toilets in Hall & Church - Cost TBD

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. We will also be hosting a Luau at the end of the month (August 31st), which will include activities for the kids):

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

Kids Church School: Resumes again September 7th. Registration forms are in Narthex on the cabinet. Please see Jeanie if you have questions.

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. There is also a weekly newsletter sent out with a link. If you are not on there (or our newsletter in general, please let me know).

Jordan and Sharrell Love Baby Registry: <https://savannahorthodox.com/registry/>

Saturday Night Questing: Every other Saturday. Please see David Reynolds (Cell: 706-224-2721) to learn more. The next session will be August 23rd.

St. Christopher Society (Carpooling Service for Parishioners Unable to Attend)

I am looking for someone who can help coordinate this ministry. We have some older folks like Ray Givan who have not been able to attend due to physical limitations and some younger folks who rely on rides from parents to make their way to church. I want to put together a special directory that anyone in our parish with the password for it, can access and request a ride for any given service. We have some folks already who offer rides and that is wonderful but I would like to expand this to all. No one should ever miss because they couldn't get a ride to Church. So what I am asking for is that some folks to volunteer to be on this directory as well as someone to help me coordinate so we can make this happen. It might be a smaller ministry now, but I believe its going to be an important one as well continue to grow and expand. Please consider helping if you are able. I would like to see this launch by September.

Updating Our Commemoration List

We are currently updating our commemoration list for the Proskomedia (Preparation Service that is done before every Liturgy). If you would like to have yourself, your family, or friends included, both living and departed (they do not have to be Orthodox) we have provided cards in the back of the church. Please fill them out and return them to either Dn. Vassily or myself by the end of the month.

Donated Goods - Free to Take (Until August 24th)

The dry and frozen goods that Hilda donated to anyone who is interested is on the back table by the Hall entrance. Please consider taking something if you need it. The frozen items are in the freezer, obviously... Next Sunday Susanna will take anything not yet claimed to be donated to our local pantry.

Blessing Flowers and Herbs (Today)

Today flowers are blessed in church, and people keep them in their homes. During times of family strife or illness, the flower petals are placed in the censer with the incense.

New Adult Study Series (Begins September 10)

Starting Wednesday, September 10th, we will be offering an additional adult class taught by me, Fr. Stephen in addition to our regular Sunday Bible study. This series will focus on a single topic over several weeks, allowing us to explore it in depth. We will begin each evening with Daily Vespers at 5:30 PM, followed by the class. All sessions will be recorded and added to our parish podcast feed for those unable to attend in person. The first topic of this series will be on the Parables.

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

Russ, Nicholas, Brian, Lazar

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, Ann, Durazi, Patrick, George, Doug, David, Katie, Kerri, David, Johanna, Lilly, Haley, Sean, Silke, William, Karris, Mary Ann, Libby with child, Vicki, Myka, Kati, Tonya, Patricia, Tina, James, Kati, Audra, Michelle, Brent, Melody, Nicholas, Hunter

Expecting Mothers: Savannah, Sharrell, Libby

Catechumens: Andrew, Mary Ann, Ally, Andrew Jr, Noah, Luke, Dusty, Evan, Josh, Nicole, Winry, Jeremiah, Dakota, Bridgette, Theodore, Zach, Asher, Audra, Victor, Charlie, Ethan, Austin, Kasey, Bently, Raelynn, Emma, Oakleigh

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 in 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! Come ready to serve, learn, and have fun!

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