



ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN

RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

SEPTEMBER 14th, 2025

**14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
EXALTATION OF THE CROSS**

Scripture Readings

1 Corinthians 1:18–24 (Epistle)

Brethren, the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

John 19:6–11, 13–20, 25–28, 30–35 (Gospel)

At that time, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God." At that time, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. At that time, the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin." When Pilate heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away. And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center. Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. At that time, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.

SEPT. Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

- 3rd - Dn. Vassily Kocher
- 5th - Kate Bright
- 8th - Eliana Nyantakyi
- 8th - Suzanne Upchurch
- 9th - Samson Woodthrop
- 11th - Mary Ann Rigato
- 12th - Nate and Bree Hall
- 13th - Dakota Harrod
- 14th - Jerry and Mary Ann Welsh
- 14th - Braden Hoover
- 15th - Alison Somich
- 29th - Anthony and Susan Ally

SCHEDULE

September 17th - Wednesday

Molieben (5:45 PM)

Wednesday Evening Orthodox Study (6:00 PM)

September 19th - Friday

Coffee Chat at Grounds of Grace (10:00 AM)

September 20th - Saturday

Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

Saturday Night Questing (5:45 PM)

September 21st - Sunday

Hours (9:00 AM)

Baptismal Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

WISDOM

"The Cross is the guardian of the whole world, the Cross is the beauty of the Church, the strength of kings, the glory of priests, and the support of the faithful."

- St. Theodore the Studite

WEEKLY JOKES

Cleaning the house while your kids are home is like brushing your teeth while eating an Oreo.

What do you call a ventriloquist act with no puppets? A show of hands.

Doctor: "Describe your average night." Me: "They wear suits of armor." Doctor: "No, I mean at bedtime." Me: "They probably take it off."

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

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

Last Month Income Goal: \$14,810
Total Last Month: \$14,713
Missed Goal in August: -\$97
September Income Goal: \$11,910
Weekly Goal for September: \$2,978
Last Week's Collection: \$2,656

Ron will give a report after Liturgy on where we stand and where we're headed. Though August numbers initially looked low, online donations brought us to just \$97 short (great news!) Thank you, and please continue offering back to the Lord from His blessings.

Donate Securely Online:

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

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

Stewardship and Serving Our Community

Everyone loves a fresh pot of coffee, a tidy parish hall, and well kept grounds, but those blessings don't appear by Disney magic (though could you imagine if they did? Wow haha). They're made possible by parishioners who give their time and talents to make those things possible. Signing up is an act of love that everyone benefits from, so please, sign up. Don't wait to be asked. Just do it.

Weekly Church Clean-up (through Sept.): <https://savannahorthodox.com/keeping-our-community-clean/>

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

Coffee Hour (Updated for September): <https://savannahorthodox.com/coffee-hour/>

Kids Church School: Every Sunday after Coffee Hour. See Jeanie with questions if your child is not enrolled.

Adult Classes: Join us every Wednesday evening for our adult class series and every Sunday after Coffee Hour for Bible study. All classes are recorded and available online and on all major podcast platforms.

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

Saturday Night Questing (Next Session September 20th): See David Reynolds (Cell: 706-224-2721) to learn more.

Parish Council (Next Sunday the 21st, not this Sunday the 14th)

Youth and Young Adults Groups

After talking with some of our parents, we're reorganizing into two groups: Kids (ages 1-12) and Young Adults (ages 13-25). Each group will now have activities geared to their age, along with parish-wide events open to everyone. Once a month, I will be taking the teens out of Church School for a special lesson with either myself or Dn. Vassily. The older young adults are welcome and encouraged to join those classes as well. We'll also mix in service projects along with fun events, with our first project being to help clean the parish grounds. More details will follow soon. The first class will be on the 28th, taught by Dn. Vassily and the subject will be on iconography and its use in church. If you have any questions or suggestions, please come see me.

Feast Day: The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

The pagan emperors of Rome tried to erase the memory of Christ's death and Resurrection by burying Golgotha and the Tomb of the Lord beneath pagan temples. Emperor Hadrian even placed a shrine to Venus and a statue of Jupiter over these holy sites so that they would be forgotten. For nearly three centuries, sacrifices to false gods were offered on the very place where Christ had conquered death. When St. Constantine the Great legalized Christianity in 313 with the Edict of Milan, he sought to honor Christ openly and restore the holy places. Desiring to find the Cross of the Lord, he sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen, to Jerusalem. After demolishing the pagan temple, she and Patriarch Makarios uncovered three crosses near the Lord's Tomb, along with the nails and Pilate's inscription. To know which was the True Cross, they touched each to a dead man. At the touch of the Life-giving Cross, the man was raised to life, and another woman near death was healed by its shadow. Patriarch Makarios then lifted high the Holy Cross so that the great crowds could see it from afar, and the people fell to the ground crying out, "Lord, have mercy." Thus, in the year 326, the True Cross was revealed to the world and the Feast of its Exaltation was established. St. Helen took part of the Cross and nails back to Constantinople, while Constantine built the magnificent Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem over the Tomb and Golgotha. Centuries later, in 614, the Persians invaded Jerusalem and carried the Cross into captivity for fourteen years. Only after Emperor Herakleios defeated them was the Cross returned. When he first attempted to carry it into Jerusalem in royal splendor, he was stopped and could not move forward. Patriarch Zachariah revealed to him that he must enter humbly, for Christ bore the Cross in humility. Stripping off his crown and royal robes, Herakleios walked barefoot and carried the Cross to its resting place in the Church of the Resurrection. As St. Andrew of Crete preached: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true is gathered together; the Cross is exalted, and the people celebrate the feast." The Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross remains one of the great feasts of the Church, calling us to bow before the life-giving Wood, through which Christ brought salvation to the world.

Financial Report:

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 that you can give toward specifically:

AC Repair in Church - \$521.60 (Not Funded)

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.

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?

Are you giving your first offering to God/tithing regularly?

Prayer List

Departed

Charles, Iryna, child Fletcher, child Harper, Pam

Living

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

Community: Mother Cassiana, 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, Karrisra, Mary Ann, Vicki, Kati, Tonya, Patricia, Tina, James, Myka, Kati, Audra, Michelle, Brent, Melody, Nicholas, Hunter, Bill, Lansen, Helen, Nicholas, Irena, Pina, Andre, child Oliver

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, Nathan, Cullen, Kwasi, Saiah, James, Eliana, Austin, Kasey, Bently, Raelynn, Emma, Oakleigh, Bree

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.

Orthodox Did You Know?

Starting this week, each Sunday there will be a factoid about Orthodoxy that you may or may not know:

Did you know that Orthodox Christians fast completely from oil on the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross, since it is treated like a mini-Good Friday?

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