



ST MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

SEPTEMBER 28th, 2025 VENERABLE CHARITON THE CONFESSOR

Scripture Readings

2 Corinthians 6:1-10 (Epistle)

Brethren, we as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Luke 5:1-11 (Gospel)

At that time, as the multitude pressed about the Lord to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

Saint of the Day: Venerable Chariton the Confessor, Abbot of Palestine

Saint Chariton the Confessor was born in Iconium during the reign of Emperor Aurelian (270-275). Inspired by the witness of the Protomartyr Thekla, a fellow native of his city, he openly denounced paganism and boldly confessed Christ. He endured cruel tortures but, by God's providence, survived and was freed after Aurelian's death. Though he escaped martyrdom, he dedicated his life to serving the Lord with zeal.

On pilgrimage to Jerusalem, Chariton was captured by thieves and left bound in a cave. While he prayed, a snake poisoned the wine the bandits had stored there, and when they returned, they drank it and died. Giving thanks to God, Chariton distributed their stolen wealth to the poor, churches, and monasteries. He remained in the place of his deliverance, beginning his ascetic life and founding the Pharan Lavra, the first of several monasteries. Many disciples gathered to him, and he became a wise spiritual father to them.

Yearning for solitude, Saint Chariton later withdrew deeper into the desert, yet he continued to guide the monasteries he had established. He also brought many Jews and pagans to the Faith and is credited with compiling the Office of Monastic Tonsure. Falling asleep in the Lord on September 28, 350, he was buried at the Pharan Lavra, where his relics were enshrined in the church built over the cave of his miraculous rescue.

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
- 22nd - Brett (Aaron) Tomlinson
- 29th - Anthony and Susan Ally

SCHEDULE

October 1st - Wednesday

Panakhida (5:30 PM)

Wednesday Evening Orthodox Study (6:00 PM)

October 3rd - Friday

Coffee Chat at Paddles (10:00 AM)

October 4th - Saturday

Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

Saturday Night Questing (After Vespers)

October 5th - Sunday

Hours (9:00 AM)

Baptismal Divine Liturgy for Josh Takacs (9:30 AM)

WISDOM

"When someone who is not Orthodox comes to the Orthodox Church he must go through a furnace of repentance, of change and regeneration of his entire way of thinking and living. This will take a long time. In order for someone's positive attitude towards Orthodoxy to become an experience of his heart, he must lead a life of asceticism and crucifixion form many years under the guidance of an experienced spiritual father. Otherwise the 'old self' will remain, with the result that unbelief and the inclination to go back to the old way of life will often occur." - St. Sophrony of Essex

WEEKLY JOKES

I recently opened a company selling trampolines disguised as prayer mats. Prophets are going through the roof.

What's worse than a box full of snakes? A box that was supposed to be full of snakes.

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

Monthly Parish Financial Report (As of September 26th, 2025):

“Every good and perfect gift is from above...
Your own of Your own, we offer to You.”

September Income Goal: \$11,910
Weekly Goal for September: \$2,978
Weekly Tithe Avg. for September: \$2,755
September Collection Up to Date: \$8,266

We dropped a little bit last week on our tithing but we can still finish strong. If you did not tithe this weekend, please do so online.

Full copy of our up-to-date budget is available here:
<https://savannahorthodox.com/reports/>

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)
Narthex and Shrine Ceiling Blue Paint – \$40 (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.

Donate Securely Online:

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

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

Jill, Juniper, Charles, Iryna, child Fletcher, child Harper, Pam

Living

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

Community: Mother Cassiana, Tammy, Litsa, child Lilliana, Carl, Olga, Rita, child Ciana Rose, Jamie, Ray, Alexandra, Dorthy, Issac, Sandy, Donald, Cole, Joseph, Chad, Landin, Austin, Catherine Ann, Katherine, Jeff, David, Andrew, Polly, Ann, George, Doug, David, Katie, Kerri, David, Lilly, Haley, Sean, William, Mary Ann, Vicki, Kati, Tonya, Patricia, Tina, James, Bill, Lansen, Helen, Nicholas, Irena, Pina, Andre, child Oliver, Laurie, Akira, Vic, Sharrell and her newborn Ozias, Jodi, Charlee

Expecting Mothers: Savannah, Libby, Emma

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, Tyler

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?

Did you know that in Greece that some Orthodox priests will use blessed basil to sprinkle holy water on the laity at the Elevation of the Cross? According to the liturgical tradition, the Holy Empress Helena, Mother of the Saint and King Constantine, found the location of the True Cross by digging for it under a large growth of basil. Basil plants were reputed to have sprung up at the foot of the Cross where the Precious Blood of Christ fell, along with the tears of the Mother of God. So on the Feast, it is customary to rest the Cross on a bed of basil for the veneration of the faithful.

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

Parish Happenings

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.

Coffee Chat: Every Friday – 10 AM Paddles – 401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329.

Saturday Night Questing (Next Session October 18th): See David Reynolds (Cell: 706-224-2721) to learn more.

Water Bottles – Why No Drinks in Church?

We have recently had a little bit of a problem with water bottles and other drinks being left inside of the Church after Liturgy on Sundays. I just want to let everyone know that we don't bring water bottles or drinks into the church, unless blessed to do so. Part of this comes from our fasting before Communion (beginning at midnight we refrain from food and drink, unless needed for medicine, until the time of receiving), partly to keep our worship space uncluttered, but mostly out of reverence for God's house. Everyone is called to follow this same practice whether they are inquirers, catechumens, or Orthodox faithful. The only exception is that clergy and the choir has a blessing to have water as needed for their voices, but bottles should never remain inside after services (Shameless plug, if you want water during the service, join the choir!). That said, let's set a good example for our children and visitors and keep the church prayerful and uncluttered.

Panakhida (October 1st – 5:30 PM)

Every year on October 1st, I do a panakhida for the victims of shootings that happen in our country. It started out when I was in Las Vegas as a memorial to the 58 who lost their lives in the October 1st shooting and has grown to include shootings that have happened in our country. I have also included specific names if you have had any such tragedy in your own family. If you have any names you'd like me to pray for on that day, please let me know.

Young Adults Class (October 5th – After Liturgy)

Dn. Vassily was supposed to teach the class on September 28th, but due to illness, he was not able to come to church this weekend. The first class will be taught next Sunday and the subject will be on iconography and its use in church. If you have any questions, please see me.

Volunteers Needed: Greek Food Festival at St. Paul's (October 9th–11th)

St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church in downtown Savannah will be hosting their annual Greek Food Festival October 9th–11th. We've been asked to help provide volunteers for 4-hour shifts (10 AM–2 PM, 2–6 PM, or 6–10 PM) on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. This is a wonderful way to support our brother Orthodox, enjoy fellowship, and share in the joy of serving, and volunteers will also receive a free meal for helping. If you are able to serve, please let me or Mark Guyer know by October 5th so we can send them our list. As a side note, this would also be a great bit of stewardship for our young adults, as a good chance to get to know the St. Paul's community while serving alongside them.

PRIEST: Fr. Stephen Osburn 702-521-6988 / frsteve@savannahorthodox.com | DEACON: Dn. Vassily Kocher 912-756-5178

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