



# ST MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

**SEPTEMBER 7th, 2025**

**13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
FOREFEAST THEOTOKOS NATIVITY**

## Scripture Readings

### 1 Corinthians 16:13-24 (Epistle)

Brethren, watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren - you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints - that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand - Paul's. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

### Matthew 21:33-42 (Gospel)

The Lord said this Parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?' They said to Him, 'He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'

## Feast Day: The Nativity of the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary

The Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos is the first great feast of the Church year and is celebrated as a day of universal joy, for it marks the beginning of God's plan of salvation being revealed in history. At a time when mankind had fallen into deep moral decay and faith seemed nearly extinguished, the righteous Joachim and Anna, though aged and barren, placed all their hope in the Lord's mercy. Through their steadfast prayers and trust in God, they were granted a daughter—Mary—chosen before the ages to become the Mother of the Savior of the world.

The Archangel Gabriel announced to them the glad tidings that their petitions had been heard, and in Nazareth the Virgin was born, surpassing in purity and virtue not only all mankind but even the angels themselves. From her would come forth Christ, the Light of the world, and through her would dawn the salvation of all creation. The Church sings of her as the living Temple of God, the East Gate through which the Lord entered, the dwelling place prepared by Divine Providence for the Incarnation of the Son of God.

Her birth marks the true turning point of history, for through her God's promises to Israel and to all mankind begin to be fulfilled. The barren become fruitful, the hopeless are given hope, and the long-awaited Kingdom of God is made manifest. The Virgin's nativity is thus not only the joy of her righteous parents but the joy of the whole world, for in her the plan of salvation is set forth. She is revealed as the merciful Intercessor for all who call upon her with faith, and as the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who through her has brought life, truth, and everlasting salvation to the world.

## SEPT. Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

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

List looking a little empty...Let me know if I missed anyone.

## SCHEDULE

September 10th - Wednesday

Molieben (5:45 PM)

Wednesday Evening Orthodox Study (6:00 PM)

September 12th - Friday

Coffee Chat at Paddles (10:00 AM)

September 13th - Saturday

Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

September 14th - Sunday

Hours (9:00 AM)

Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

Parish Council (After Coffee Hour)

## WISDOM

"Today a barren woman gives birth to the child foreordained from all ages, the dwelling place of God, the Queen and Virgin, the lamp of the Light, the throne of the King, the One who receives Him Who cannot be contained in creation."

- St. John of Damascus

"This day is for us the beginning of feasts. It is the door to grace. Today the barren gates are opened and the virgin door comes forth from a sterile womb, and grace begins to bear fruit."

- St. Andrew of Crete

## WEEKLY JOKES

My friend works in IT and I asked him, "How do you make a motherboard?" He said, "I usually tell her about my job."

My Visa declined at the sweater store, so the cashier had to ask for my cardigan.

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

## Monthly Parish Financial Report (As of September 3rd, 2025):

Last Month Income Goal: \$14,810  
Total Last Month: \$11,482  
Missed Goal in August: -\$3,328  
Income Goal: \$11,910  
Weekly Goal for September: \$2,978

Last month we missed our goal of \$14,810 by \$3,328, but together we can meet September's weekly target of \$11,910. Please offer back to the Lord from the blessings He has given us.

### Donate Online:

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

### 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 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

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.

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: Resumes again next Sunday, 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.

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

Saturday Night Questing (September 20th): Please see David Reynolds (Cell: 706-224-2721) to learn more / join.

## New Adult Study Series (This Wednesday - September 10th)

This Wednesday, September 10th, we will be offering an additional adult class taught by me, in addition to our regular Sunday Bible study. This series will focus on a single topic over several weeks, allowing us to explore our Faith in a different kind of depth. We will begin each class with a Molioben service for study 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.

## Coffee Chat at Paddles (September 12th)

Every other Friday, our Coffee Chat will rotate between Paddles and Grounds of Grace. Both are wonderful spots, and this rotation gives us a chance to be present in different parts of our greater Savannah community rather than gathered in just one place. Next week's Coffee Chat will be at Paddles on Friday at 10 AM!

## Parish Council (Next Sunday - September 14th)

## St. Christopher Society (Carpool Ministry)

I'm looking for someone to help coordinate a new ride ministry. Some of our parishioners can't attend due to age, health, or lack of transportation. We hope to create a parish directory (password-protected) where people can request rides for services. A few already offer rides, but we'd like to expand so no one misses church for lack of transportation. We need volunteers to give rides and someone to help coordinate. Please consider helping, we hope to launch by end of 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.

## We are now on Instagram @SavannahOrthodox:

Follow us on Instagram at <https://instagram.com/savannahorthodox>. There are daily inspirational posts that you can share with your family and friends and were made in mind that folks of all backgrounds and faiths can draw near to.

## 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

Pam, Russ, Lazar, and 2 children killed in the Minnesota shooting.

## 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, Vicki, Kati, Tonya, Patricia, Tina, James, Myka, Kati, Audra, Michelle, Brent, Melody, Nicholas, Hunter, Bill, Larsen, Helen, Nicholas, the families and children affected by the Minnesota shooting.

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.

## Youth

### Pines & Sweets (Sept. 21st)

Sunday, Sept. 21st, after Church School, our youth will celebrate St. Euphrosynos the Cook with service and fellowship, helping Tom clean up the church grounds, then decorating and enjoying caramel apples in remembrance of his joyful hospitality.

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

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