



ST MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Scripture Readings

2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9 (Epistle)

Brethren, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Luke 8:5-15 (Gospel)

The Lord told this parable: “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?” And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; and then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Saints of the Day:

Prophet Joel

The Prophet Joel (800 B.C.) predicted the desolation of Jerusalem. He also prophesied that the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon all people, through the Savior of the world (Joel 2:28-32). The hymnographer Anatolius links Joel’s prophecy to the Nativity of the Lord. In the Praises at Matins on the Sunday following the Nativity, he refers to Joel 2:30, saying that the blood refers to the Incarnation, the fire to the Divinity, and the pillars of smoke to the Holy Spirit.

Martyr Varus, and seven Monastic Martyrs with him

Martyr Varus lived in Egypt during the persecutions of Christians in the late third to early fourth century. A military commander and secret Christian, he aided the persecuted by visiting prisons at night, bringing food, tending wounds, and offering encouragement. One night he stayed with seven imprisoned monks who had been beaten and starved, and when they were led to execution, Varus marched beside them. Seeing his courage, the judge had Varus severely beaten until he died, after which the monks were beheaded.

OCTOBER 19TH, 2025 PROPHET JOEL & MARTYR VARUS

OCT Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

- 5th - Tahir Savasir
- 7th - Liam Loomis
- 8th - Nilka Matsko
- 11th - Fr. Stephen Osburn
- 11th - Phillip Savasir (Name’s Day)
- 12th - Tammy Collins
- 12th - Jaimie Collins
- 17th - Savannah Savasir
- 22nd - Rdr. Alex Vlachos

SCHEDULE

Confessions Every Saturday Before (4:30 PM) and After Vespers or by Appointment.

October 22nd - Wednesday
St. James Liturgy at St. Paul’s Orthodox Church (6:00 PM)
No Wednesday Class

October 23rd - Thursday (Day Change)
Coffee Chat at Paddles (10:00 AM)

October 25th - Friday
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

October 26th - Sunday
Hours (9:00 AM)
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Church School (11:45 AM)
Young Adult’s Class (11:45 AM)

WISDOM

“The Sower is God, Who made both the visible earth and the invisible heart of man. He loves all He has made and does not withhold His goodness from any part of creation. Just as the sun shines upon all, so the divine Word is poured out upon all; and those who receive it become what they were created to be—living reflections of divine beauty.”

– St. Gregory of Nyssa, Homilies on the Song of Songs, 8

WEEKLY JOKES

What do you call a muscular pumpkin? A jacked-o-lantern.

A guy dressed as a wizard said he’ll slowly turn me into a loaf of bread. I laughed. But now, I’m starting to Wonder.

My friend Jack claims he can communicate with vegetables. Jack and the beans talk!

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

Monthly Parish Financial Report (As of October 1st, 2025):

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

October Income Goal: \$11,910
Weekly Goal for October: \$2,978
October Collection: \$5,804
Avg. October Collection: \$2,902

Ron will give his monthly report to the parish during our Weekly Announcements today. Full copy of our up-to-date budget and finances are 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

Summer, Jill, Juniper, Charles

Living

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

Community: Mother Cassiana, Tammy, Litsa, child Lilliana, Carl, Olga, Rita, child Ciana Rose, Jamie, Ray, Alexandra, Dorothy, 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, Lansan, Helen, Nicholas, Irena, Pina, Andre, child Oliver, Laurie, Akira, Vic, Jodi, Charlee, Owen, Wendy, Vladimir, Kameron, Irene and her newborn child Alejandra, Karen, Melody, Guillermo, Suzanne

Expecting Mothers: Savannah, Libby, Emma

Catechumens: Andrew, Mary Ann, Ally, Andrew Jr, Noah, Luke, Dusty, Evan, 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, Joseph, Chasity, Landin, Luke, Jesse, Nick, Melissa, Astrid, Freyja, Evan, Caleb

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?

Halloween has Christian roots. The word “Halloween” comes from “All Hallows’ Eve,” the night before the Western feast of All Saints. It was once a time to prepare for remembering all who lived holy lives in Christ, though over time many cultural customs replaced its spiritual meaning. In the Orthodox Church, we celebrate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost, reminding us that holiness is the fruit of the Holy Spirit poured out upon the Church. Every saint, known and unknown, shines with the light of that same grace. So while the world may see Halloween as a night of costumes and candy, we can remember its deeper origin, a call to holiness and the victory of Christ’s light over all darkness.

The Heartbeat of Parish Life

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

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

Coffee Hour: <https://savannahorthodox.com/coffee-hour/> or see Mat. Lindsey to sign up.

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

Weekly Bible Studies: Classes on Wednesdays (6 PM) and Sundays (11:45 AM). All classes recorded and on all major podcast platforms. Catechumens are encouraged to attend Sunday Classes. Wednesday is optional.

Coffee Chat (NEW DAY): Every THURSDAY - 10 AM Paddles - 401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329.

Saturday Night Questing (Next Session November 1st): See David Reynolds (Cell: 706-224-2721) to learn more.

St. James Liturgy at St. Paul’s Orthodox Church (October 22nd at 6PM)

On Wednesday, October 22 at 6:00 PM, St. Paul’s will celebrate the Feast of St. James with the ancient Divine Liturgy of St. James, the oldest Eucharistic service in the Church. Our parish has been invited to attend, and I encourage everyone to join in this rare and beautiful liturgy. I will be serving there on behalf of our parish. *Please note there will be no Wednesday evening class this week.*

Young Adults Class (October 26th - Next Sunday After Liturgy)

Next week, Dn. Vassily will be teaching the first class on the beauty and meaning of iconography and its place in the life of the Church. This class is specifically for our young adults (ages 13-25), but as always, everyone is warmly welcome to join. I am also encouraging our catechumens in our parish to stay for this class as we are recording this for our revamped catechism curriculum.

Fall Fest and Chili Cookoff! (November 2nd)

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, November 2, we’ll gather for our annual Fall Fest and Chili Cook-Off. Enter your best dish in one of three categories: Best Chili, Best Side, or Best Dessert. There will be plenty of fun for the kids too: piñata, crafts, caramel apple bar, face painting, and a s’ mores bar. To sign up, please see Mat. Lindsey or Nika Matsko. Tell your friends, family, your neighbors, and your coworkers to come and join us for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and fall fun!

Baby Sprinkle for Savannah (November 9th)

On Sunday, November 9th, after Liturgy, we invite everyone to join us for a baby sprinkle in honor of Savannah and her 3rd baby boy. The ladies of the parish are preparing a small gift for her and the family has mentioned that diapers and wipes would be especially appreciated. Coffee hour will be potluck, so please bring something to share as we celebrate together.

Parish Greeters Needed

We’re looking for friendly faces to help welcome visitors and parishioners each Sunday! Greeters play an important role in making everyone feel at home in our parish family and helping us continue to grow. If you’re interested in serving in this ministry, please see me for more information or to sign up.

A Time for Prayer, Not Conversation

During the Divine Liturgy, let’s keep the narthex a place of stillness and prayer, giving our hearts and minds fully to God. This sacred time is when heaven and earth meet, and our attention belongs first to Him. Fellowship and conversation can wait until coffee hour, where our joy in one another continues. And please don’t worry about the little ones. Children’s quiet chatter or movement is a natural part of our worship. Their presence reminds us that the Church is alive and growing, and their voices belong in the house of God.

St. Demetrius Ministry: Protect Our Parish

In light of recent events in our society, the parish council voted and is asking that we form a parish security team dedicated to the safety and peace of our worship. We are asking for Volunteers with prior experience and who are already comfortable and proficient with firearms to sign up. Training will include how to respectfully and properly address any potential threats, violence, or disruptions that may occur at our church. Please also take the time to pray before considering being part of this ministry. We only want qualified participants. Speak with Dan Leger if you are interested in joining our team.

St. Brigid’s Basket Food Collection

We are renewing our parish food outreach to support Manna House Ministries as an expression of our call to serve others in Christ’s name. Please bring Jiffy corn muffin mix (or any brand) and turkey gravy for their Thanksgiving food drive, or any non-perishable items to help local families in need. Acts of service like feeding the hungry are at the heart of Christian life. Thank you for helping fill St. Brigid’s Basket in the Hall!

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

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