



ST MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Scripture Readings

Ephesians 2:4-10 (Epistle)

Brethren, God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Luke 10:25-37 (Gospel)

At this time, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Saint of the Day: Apostle and Evangelist Matthew

St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist, also known as Levi, was a tax collector in Capernaum until Christ called him with the words, "Follow Me." He repented, left everything, and became one of the Twelve, witnessing the Lord's miracles, teachings, death, and Resurrection. At the request of Jewish Christians, he wrote the first Gospel in Aramaic to show that Jesus is the promised Messiah. After Pentecost, Matthew preached in Palestine, Syria, Persia, and finally Ethiopia, where he founded the Church and brought many to the faith. He was martyred under the ruler Fulvian, who later repented, was baptized with the name Matthew, and eventually became bishop of that region. St. Matthew's life reveals the power of repentance and the call to bring the Gospel to all peoples.

Nativity Fast: A Simple Guide for the Fast

We are now in the Nativity fast until Christmas day and the Church invites us to prepare for Christ's birth with prayer, generosity, and a spirit of simplicity. Catechumens only need to keep Wednesdays and Fridays as you learn the rhythm of the Church. Older parishioners or anyone with health concerns should fast lightly and wisely, taking on only what strengthens the soul. For those in mixed families (meaning you are the only Orthodox Christian in your home) should follow the St. John Cassian approach: eat less, pray more, serve generously, and keep peace with those around you. This season also calls us to renewed generosity, so tithing and helping support the life of the parish matters now more than ever. These gifts sustain the ministries of the Church and allow us to serve those in need. Enjoy your Christmas parties and gatherings with cheer, but make it a point to be present in church so that your joy stays rooted in Christ. And remember, you do not need to fast on Thanksgiving. May this holy season draw us closer to the Savior with grateful, steady, and hopeful hearts.

NOVEMBER 16TH, 2025 HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST MATTHEW

NOV Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

2nd - Josh (Gabriel) Takacs (Name's Day)

7th - Connor Clark

11th - Anastasia Collins

12th - Luke Shetler

21st - Nathan Corrales

24th - Oakleigh Carver

27th - Ray Givan

30th - Andreas Savasir

SCHEDULE

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

November 19th - Wednesday

Wednesday Evening Orthodox Study with Molioben (6:00 PM)

November 20th - Thursday

Coffee Chat at Paddles (10:00 AM)

Vesperal Liturgy for the Entry of the Theotokos (6:30 PM)

November 22nd - Saturday

Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

November 23rd - Sunday

Hours (9:00 AM)

Baptismal Liturgy (9:30 AM)

Church School (11:45 AM)

Adult Study Class (11:45 AM)

WISDOM

"Fasting gives strength against sin, wipes out iniquity, and prepares the heart for the holy feast. By voluntary self-denial we draw nearer to God, and what we lose in the body we gain in the spirit. Let the faithful therefore sanctify this time with prayer, mercy, and restraint, so that we may worthily celebrate the birth of our Redeemer. Let us prepare a dwelling for Christ by the discipline of fasting. Through self-control and mercy we make ready the way for the Lord. Then the celebration of His Nativity will shine with spiritual joy."

- St. Leo the Great, Homily on the Nativity Fast

WEEKLY JOKES

I tried to walk like an Egyptian and now I need to see a Cairo practor.

How do you comfort a sad English teacher? There, their, they're.

He's making his list...He's checkin' it twice. He left it at home. He's texting his wife.

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

Monthly Parish Financial Report (As of November 15th, 2025):

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

October Income Goal: \$11,910
October Collection: \$11,906
November Income Goal: \$14,910
November First Week Collection: \$5,061

Now that we are in the holiday season, please consider offering a little extra so our parish can stay on a faithful path of good stewardship. That said, Ron will also give a report at the end of Liturgy. Full copy of our up-to-date 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:

Narthex and Shrine Ceiling Blue Paint - \$40 (Not Funded)
Bathroom Tile Project - \$1000 (Not Funded)

Let us continue to give faithfully and generously 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/>

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: Every THURSDAY - 10 AM Paddles - 401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329.

Saturday Night Questing (Next Session November 29th): See David Reynolds (Cell: 706-224-2721) to learn more.

No One to Spend Thanksgiving With? (November 27th)

If you will be alone this Thanksgiving or simply need a place to go, please speak with Ron or Kristin Somich. They are opening their home to anyone in the parish who would like to share the day with others.

Bathroom Tile Project (November 26th-Saturday 29th)

Mark Guyer and Tom Maty will begin work on the women's bathroom on Wednesday, November 26th at noon, aiming to be operational by November 30th. Volunteers are welcome, especially anyone with tiling experience. We are also seeking donations of Ditra waterproof membrane and three toilets for the project. If you can help or contribute materials, please speak with Mark or Tom.

Saturday Night Dinners (Starts December 6th After Vespers)

After Vespers once a month, we are inviting everyone to join us for dinner at a random restaurant somewhere in the Rincon, Pooler, or maybe even downtown Savannah area. It will typically be the first Saturday of the month but that is subject to change throughout the year. Make sure you keep an eye on the schedule for this. The first one will be December 6th at The Tin Fin Restaurant in Rincon. We know the economy is tough right now and if you cannot afford to go, please see me and we will figure something out. Older parishioners who would like to attend but cannot drive late at night should also see me and we can arrange transportation to Vespers. We hope this to be an outreach not just for our young people but for everyone in our parish.

St. Gabriel of Georgia Strength Club (Starts December 6th @ 3:45 PM)

As part of our mission to fill our lives with more Church-centered activities and help our community stay focused on Christ amid the world's distractions, we're forming a new ministry called the St. Gabriel of Georgia Strength Club. This group offers free training advice for anyone interested in getting stronger, with plans to form a parish strength team to represent both our church and Orthodoxy in local strength events. Nate Hall will have a sign-up sheet available this Sunday at church. The group will meet before Vespers each week from 3:45 PM to 4:45 PM. If you want to participate, come early, set up, and lift. Everyone is welcome, no matter your age or ability. It is a time for strength, fellowship, and faith. For more information, see Nate Hall or Josh Takacs.

Icon Order Sign-Up

Diakonissa Janice will soon be placing an order for new icons. If you would like to request a specific icon, such as your patron saint or a favorite feast, please let her know soon so it can be included in the order.

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!

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

Sterling, Gloria, Eleana, Georgia, Summer

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, 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, Kameron, Karen, Melody, Guillermo, Suzanne, Debra, Autum, Torrey, Jessica, Johanna, Vickie, Kathy, Michael, Alana, infant Kalea

Expecting Mothers: Mat. Lindsey, Savannah, Libby, Emma, Melissa

Military and First Responders: Rdr. Alex, Van, Nick, Tyler, Shannon, Landin, Austin, Chad, Vladimir, Andrew, Justin, Mark, Tammy, Nika, Laila, Josh, Kamaka (*Let Dn. Vassily or I know if we are missing anyone here*)

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, Tyler, Joseph, Chastity, Landin, Luke, Bree, Jesse, Nick, Melissa, Astrid, Freyja, Evan, Caleb, Devin, Kaden, Leo, Tyler, Shannon, Mark, Bronson, Emerson, Halston, Lily, Andrew

Prisoners: Stefan, 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 for all of those who are suffering in our community and in the world who are in need of prayers.

Orthodox Did You Know?

Did you know that the Nativity Fast used to be called the Fast of St. Philip because it begins the day after his feast on November 14. Over time, as the Church emphasized preparing for the birth of Christ, the name gradually shifted to the Nativity Fast to reflect its focus on the coming of the Lord. The older name never disappeared, but the newer title makes the purpose of the season clearer for the faithful.

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