



ST MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

NOVEMBER 23RD, 2025
**AFTERFEAST OF THE ENTRY
OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER
OF GOD INTO THE TEMPLE**

Scripture Readings

Ephesians 2:14-22 (Epistle)

Brethren, He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Luke 12:16-21 (Gospel)

The Lord told this Parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 'And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Feast: Afterfeast of the Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Temple

According to Holy Tradition, Joachim and Anna brought the three year old Mary to the Temple to fulfill their vow to God. Strengthened by grace, she ascended the steps of the sanctuary, and the High Priest, inspired from above, led her into the Holy of Holies. There she lived a hidden life of prayer, purity and Scripture, prepared by God to become the Mother of the Savior. From the earliest centuries the Church has celebrated this feast as the sign that salvation was beginning to unfold. Saint Gregory Palamas teaches that Mary's Entry shows God choosing a spotless vessel through whom Christ, the new Adam, would renew our fallen nature. As Mary entered the Holy of Holies, we are called to lift our hearts from earthly things to heavenly ones, so that through her prayers we may draw near to Christ our life.

Thanksgiving: It's Okay to Break the Fast on This Day, here is why:

Fasting trains our hearts toward God and we are normally called to keep the Nativity Fast in its fullness. Yet there are moments when the spirit of the season calls for a pastoral blessing to relax the fast and Thanksgiving is one of them. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann reminds us that the family table is the basic image of life, a small entrance into the Kingdom where gratitude, sharing, and communion are learned. When people gather with loved ones, offer thanks for God's mercy, and rejoice in one another's presence, they step into a thanksgiving that is deeply Christian. A feast shared in love becomes a living prayer, showing that God's gifts are meant to be received with humility and joy. This kind of joyful fellowship is not opposed to the fast, because the purpose of fasting is to cleanse the heart so that gratitude can rise freely. When we sit together and truly give thanks, we practice the very virtue the fast is meant to form. In many ways, the table becomes a little icon of the Kingdom, where God's goodness is tasted and shared. These moments of warmth and unity do more for the softening of the heart than strict rules kept without love. They remind us that God often speaks most clearly through the simple gift of being together. And they teach us that joy, too, is a holy offering to God. So be at peace, enjoy the turkey, watch a little football, treasure the people around your table, and let the whole day become an offering of thanks to the Glory of God!

NOV Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

- 2nd - Josh (Gabriel) Takacs (Name's Day)
- 7th - Connor Clark
- 11th - Anastasia Collins
- 12th - Luke Shetler
- 16th - Landan Withers
- 16th - Matthew Somich (Name's Day)
- 16th - Wyatt (Matthew) Roberts (Name's Day)
- 21st - Nathan Corrales
- 24th - Oakleigh Carver
- 25th - Patrick Welsh
- 27th - Ray Givan
- 30th - Andreas Savasir (Name's Day)

SCHEDULE

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

November 26th - Wednesday
No Class this week.

November 27th - Thursday
No Coffee Chat - Happy Thanksgiving!

November 29th - Saturday
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)
Saturday Night Questing (After Vespers)

November 30th - Sunday
Hours (9:00 AM)
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Panakhida for Silvia (After Liturgy)
Church School (11:45 AM)
Adult Study Class (11:45 AM)

WISDOM

"I will never bless breaking the fast, but know this: I will be having Turkey on Thanksgiving." - Abp. Dmitri of Blessed Memory

"Every meal is a sign of Christ's presence. When the family gathers at the table and gives thanks, it becomes a little church, a place where the Kingdom is made manifest." - Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

WEEKLY JOKES

My family has already asked me to stop telling Thanksgiving jokes. But I can't just quit cold turkey.

Why wasn't the Thanksgiving stuffing seasoned this year? Because the cook ran out of thyme.

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

Monthly Parish Financial Report (As of November 21st, 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: \$8,699

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. 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:

Bathroom Tile Project - \$1000 (Partially 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/>

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 Lillian, 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, Bobby

Expecting Mothers: Mat. Lindsey, Savannah, Emma, Hailey

Military and First Responders: Rdr. Alex, Van, Nick, Tyler, Shannon, Landin, Austin, Chad, Vladimir, Andrew, Justin, Mark, Tammy, Nika, Laila, Josh, Kamaka

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, Bentley, 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?

The word Thanksgiving has deep roots in our faith. In Greek, the word for thanksgiving is eucharistia, which is also the word the Church uses for Holy Communion. This means that every time we give thanks, we are already touching the heart of the Eucharist itself. Our family tables on Thanksgiving become little reflections of the Lord's Table, where gratitude, love, and the presence of God all come together.

Greeter Team This Week: Nate Hall and Anthony Ally

The Heartbeat of Parish Life

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

Maintenance Items and Projects (Please see Tom before signing up): <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 December 13th): See David Reynolds (Cell: 706-224-2721) to learn more.

St. Demetrius Ministry: Protect Our Parish (Last Week to Submit Resumes)

Our parish is forming a security team to help safeguard our worship. We are seeking volunteers who already have solid firearms experience and can serve with calm, respectful judgment. Training will cover how to respond to potential threats or disruptions. Please pray before deciding to take part, as we need qualified participants. This is the final weekend to submit resumes to Dan or me. After reviewing all submissions, Dan, Dn. Vassily, and I will meet with those we believe are a good fit. If you have medical training, please include that as well. Speak with Dan Leger or me if you are interested.

Icon Order Sign-Up (Last Week Before Order Placed)

This is the last week before Diakonissa Janice places 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.

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, above and beyond your normal tithing to help cover the costs. If you can help or contribute materials, please speak with Mark or Tom.

Saturday Night Dinners (Starts December 6th After Vespers)

Once a month after Vespers, we will head out together for dinner at a local restaurant in Rincon, Pooler, or sometimes downtown Savannah. It will usually be on the first Saturday, though dates may shift, so keep an eye on the schedule. Our first outing is December 6 at The Tin Fin in Rincon. If cost is an issue, or if you need help with transportation after dark, please speak with me and we will make arrangements. This is meant to be a simple outreach for all ages in our parish.

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

To help us grow in Christ and build more Church-centered community, we are starting the St. Gabriel of Georgia Fitness Club. It offers free training advice for anyone who wants to get stronger, with hopes of forming a parish strength team for local events. Ladies are warmly encouraged to join. We meet each week before Vespers from 3:45 to 4:45 PM. Come early, set up, and lift. All ages and skill levels are welcome. For details, see the sign up sheet in the Narthex or speak with Nate Hall or Josh Takacs.

St. Nicholas is Coming to Town! (December 7th After Liturgy)

Our Church family will be celebrating St. Nicholas following Divine Liturgy on December 7 and it is my understanding that St. Nicholas plans on visiting the children (and everyone!) of the parish following Divine Liturgy. We will also have our usual, albeit more festive, fellowship meal so please consider bringing a dish to share (we do not want St. Nicholas to think we are not hospitable).

2026 Pledge Forms

As we begin preparing our budget for the coming year, we want to have a clear and organized picture of how our parish can continue to grow and serve Christ faithfully. Pledge forms for 2026 are available now and we are asking they be returned the week before Christmas, on Sunday, December 21st. These forms are more than financial planning tools; they help us discern how we can offer our time, talents, and resources to God and to the building up of His Kingdom. By returning your pledge form, you help our parish plan wisely, strengthen our ministries, and support the work God has entrusted to us. Thank you for your prayerful participation.

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