



ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

DECEMBER 28TH, 2025

HOLY RIGHTEOUS ONES: JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE KING, AND JAMES THE BROTHER OF THE LORD

Scripture Readings

Galatians 1:11-19 (Epistle, Sunday After)

Brethren, I make known to you, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Matthew 2:13-23 (Gospel, Sunday After)

At that time, when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Saints of Today: Commemoration of the Holy Righteous David the King, Joseph the Betrothed, and James the Brother of the Lord

The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26. At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, Saint Stephen (December 27), Saints James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December. In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted Saint James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, Saint Joseph was linked with Saints David and James. Saint Joseph had four sons from his previous marriage: James, Judah, Joses, and Simon (or Symeon), and three daughters: Esther, Martha, and Salome, who was the mother of Saint John the Theologian.

DEC Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

- 5th - Cullen McCallie
- 6th - Bobby (Nicholas) Drevitson
- 9th - Ciana Rose Tomlinson
- 24th - Evgenia (Jeanie) Klezaras (Name's Day)
- 27th - Stefan Dita (Name's Day)
- 27th - Fr. Stephen Osburn (Name's Day)
- 31st - Emerson Cartwright

SCHEDULE

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

December 31st - Wednesday
No Class This Week (Happy New Year!)

January 1st - Thursday
No Coffee Chat This Week (Happy New Year!)

January 3rd - Saturday
St. Gabriel of Georgia Fitness Club (3:45)
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)
Saturday Night Dinner / Firepit (After Vespers)

January 4th - Sunday
Hours (9:00 AM)
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Church School (11:45 AM)
Bible Study Class (11:45 AM)

WISDOM

"When God became known to us in the flesh, He neither received the passions of human nature, nor did the Virgin Mary suffer pain, nor was the Holy Spirit diminished in any way, nor was the power of the Most High set aside in any manner, and all this was because all was accomplished by the Holy Spirit. thus the power of the Most High was not abased, and the child was born with no damage whatsoever to the mother's virginity." - St. Gregory of Nyssa

WEEKLY JOKES

Thanks to autocorrect, 1 in 5 children got a visit from Satan this Christmas.

I asked my wife what she wanted for Christmas... "Nothing would make me happier than a diamond necklace." she replied. So I bought her nothing.

What do you get when you cross a Christmas tree with an iPad? A pineapple.

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

Monthly Parish Financial Report (As of December 27th, 2025):

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

December Income Goal: \$12,010
December Collection as of Today: \$10,232
December Avg. Weekly: \$3,411

Thanks to your faithfulness, we are very close to our December goal. If you are able, an extra gift before the end of the month would help us meet December's needs and finish the year strong. Above all, thank you for your generosity, prayers, and love for the Church. It has been a joy. Full copy of our finances are available here: <https://savannahorthodox.com/reports/>

The Heartbeat of Parish Life

Greeter Team: Josh Takacs and Heath Vincent

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 January 10th): See David Reynolds (Cell: 706-224-2721) to learn more.

St. Gabriel Fitness Club: Join us by the Church Hall every Saturday at 3:45 PM. See Nate Hall (Cell: 912-339-3540) to learn more.

Saturday Night Dinner: (January 3rd after Vespers)

This coming Saturday the 3rd, after Vespers, we will gather for our monthly Saturday Night Dinner. Weather permitting, we will set up the fire pit and enjoy a relaxed evening together at the hall. Please bring a lawn chair or blanket, and feel free to bring a guitar, harmonica, or a song to share as we sit by the fire, tell stories, and enjoy one another's company. We are planning to grill hot dogs and would appreciate volunteers to bring hot dogs, beans, s'mores, and side dishes. Everyone is welcome, and friends are warmly invited. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite someone to Vespers and then stay to share food and fellowship afterward.

Blessing Vasilopita for the New Year (January 4th after Liturgy)

Next weekend, at the end of the Divine Liturgy, we will bless the Vasilopita in honor of St. Basil the Great. This tradition reminds us of St. Basil's generosity and of God's providence, teaching us that every good gift comes from the Lord and is meant to be shared within the life of the Church. The bread will be cut by families rather than individuals, and when a family name is called, the slice represents the whole household, emphasizing that our salvation is lived out together in the home and the parish. The family who receives the coin will have a candle purchased in their name, which will be offered for their family throughout the year as a sign of prayer, thanksgiving, and God's continued blessing upon their household.

Blessing of the Waters - River Street - (January 6th @ 12 PM)

We will celebrate the Feast of Theophany with a Vespers Divine Liturgy the evening before (January 5th at 6 PM), followed by the Blessing of the Waters the next day at 12:00 PM along the Savannah River. We will gather and park at 156 E River St, Savannah, GA 31401, then proceed together for the blessing. After the service, those who wish are invited to stay and go to lunch nearby, with the location decided that day. We hope this public celebration will be a good witness to the Savannah community as we proclaim Christ, who sanctifies the waters and all creation.

House Blessings (Starts January 7th)

House blessings will take place January 7th through February 23th (the beginning of Great Lent). Any household may have their home blessed and this is especially important for catechumens to experience. Sign ups will be available via SignUpGenius: <https://savannahorthodox.com/house-blessing> as well as on a paper sign up sheet in the Narthex, after which I will reach out to schedule a time. I will bring everything needed, but please have a list of the living and departed you would like prayed for prepared. If you would like to share a meal or invite my wife and daughter to join, you are welcome to note that, though it is not required. Also, please do not hesitate to sign up if you feel your home is messy. I understand completely and will never judge anyone for that. I don't mind traveling either. The key is to bless the home so that God can bless and make our lives whole.

2026 Pledge Forms - Past Due - Please get them to Fr. Stephen or Ron.

As we prepare our budget for the coming year, our 2026 pledge forms were due last week and we only have 19 turned in. If you have not yet turned yours in, that is okay. We simply ask that you please submit it sometime this week so we can finalize our planning. You may email your completed form directly to me at frsteve@savannahorthodox.com. These pledges help our parish plan wisely and serve Christ faithfully. Thank you for your prayerful support.

2026 Church Calendars - Now Available

We have ordered 75 Lectionary Wall Calendars for a total cost of \$500. The calendars are free, but if you are able, a donation of \$10 per calendar will help cover the expense. If you would like to donate now, you can write a check to the church and give it to Ron, our treasurer, and please note "Calendars 2026" in the memo line.

Latest Parish Reflection: Carol of the Bells Is an Orthodox Christmas Song?

<https://savannahorthodox.com/carol-of-the-bells-is-an-orthodox-christmas-song/>

Special Projects/Extra Expenses:

While we budget for regular expenses, there are extra needs you can support directly:

2026 Calendars - \$500

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

Nancy, Mark, Edward, Sam, Dorthy, Peter, Panteleimon, Michael, Sarah, Gavin, Child Aspen, Victor, and all children killed through the evil act of abortion.

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, 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, Lansen, Helen, Nicholas, Irena, Pina, Andre, child Oliver, Laurie, Akira, Vic, Jodi, Charlee, Owen, Wendy, Kameron, Karen, Melody, Debra, Johanna, Vickie, Kathy, Michael, Alana, infant Kalea, Bobby, Costa, Luke, James, Terry, Robin, Shawn, Debbie, Leigh, Robert, JaLeigh, Johnny, Cindy, David, Sara, Emily, James

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

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

Catechumens: 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, Landan, Jesse, Nick, Melissa, Astrid, Freyja, Evan, Caleb, Devin, Kaden, Leo, Tyler, Shannon, Mark, Bronson, Emerson, Halston, Lily, Andrew, Evan, David, Eric, Lia, Wyatt, Renata

Prisoners: Stefan, Daron (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 Vasilopita is baked in honor of St. Basil the Great because of a miracle of generosity and providence? When a ruler demanded heavy taxes, Saint Basil gathered the people's valuables for safekeeping. After the ruler repented and left, St. Basil baked the treasures into loaves of bread and distributed them, and by God's grace each family received back what they had given. The Vasilopita reminds us of Saint Basil's love for the poor and our trust in God's care for His people.

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

SavannahOrthodox.com | <https://savannahorthodox.com/review/> | [Facebook.com/SavannahOrthodoxChurch/](https://www.facebook.com/SavannahOrthodoxChurch/) | [Instagram.com/SavannahOrthodox](https://www.instagram.com/SavannahOrthodox)