



ST MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Scripture Readings

Ephesians 5:9-19 (Epistle)

Brethren, for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Luke 17:12-19 (Gospel)

At that time, as the Lord entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Saint of Yesterday:

Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

Saint Nicholas of Myra was born to godly parents in Patara and from infancy showed signs of divine favor. He grew in prayer, fasting, and love for Scripture, eventually becoming a priest known for hidden generosity. His most famous act was secretly giving gold to save three young women from ruin. After a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, he was chosen by God to become Archbishop of Myra. He guided his flock through persecution, defended the faith at the Council of Nicaea, performed many miracles, and became a protector of sailors, travelers, and the poor.

After his repose, his relics flowed with healing, and devotion to him spread across the world. His wonderworking continued in Russia, Greece, Italy, and beyond, with countless churches and icons dedicated to him. In 1087 his relics were brought to Bari, where they remain a place of pilgrimage. Loved as a swift helper in every need, Saint Nicholas is remembered as a shepherd whose mercy reflects the compassion of Christ.

Saint of Day:

Saint Ambrose, Bishop of Milan

Saint Ambrose of Milan was born in 340 to a noble Roman family and was marked early by signs of God's calling. Educated in Rome, he rose to the rank of governor, but in 374 the people unexpectedly chose him as bishop even though he was still a catechumen. After receiving Baptism and ordination, he gave away his wealth, lived ascetically, defended Orthodoxy against Arianism, and preached with such power that he brought Saint Augustine to the faith. He showed fearless integrity, even calling emperors to repentance.

Renowned for wisdom and pastoral care, he wrote important works on the Trinity, the sacraments, and Christian life. Gifted in prayer and wonderworking, he healed the sick and comforted the suffering. He also reformed worship by introducing antiphonal singing and composing hymns still used today. Falling asleep in the Lord on Pascha night, he left a legacy of holiness, courage, and devotion to Christ and His Church.

DECEMBER 7TH, 2025 SAINT AMBROSE OF MILAN

DEC Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

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

Let me know anyone I may have missed.

SCHEDULE

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

December 10th - Wednesday

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

December 11th - Thursday

Coffee Chat at Paddles (10:00 AM)

December 13th - Saturday

St. Gabriel of Georgia Fitness Club (3:45 PM)

Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

Saturday Night Questing (After Vespers)

December 14th - Sunday

Hours (9:00 AM)

Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

St. Nicholas (At Coffee Hour)

Church School (11:45 AM)

Bible Study Class (11:45 AM)

WISDOM

"Those who love God must extend their hands in charity, for we are mere stewards of what we hold."

- St. Nicholas of Myra

"In Christ we have all things. If you desire to heal your wounds, He is the physician. If you are scorched by fever, He is the fountain. If you fear death, He is life."

- St. Ambrose of Milan

WEEKLY JOKES

Santa without a GPS is a lost Claus.

What nationality is Santa Claus? North Polish.

What has 35 actors, three settings, one writer, and one plot?
Every Christmas Hallmark movie ever made.

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

Monthly Parish Financial Report (As of December 6th, 2025):

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

November Income Goal: \$14,910
November Collection: \$17,458
December Income Goal: \$12,010

Yes. You read that right. We surpassed our November stewardship goal by 17 percent, a real blessing for our parish family. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity. Keep pressing on, and glory to God for all things. 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 extra needs you can support directly:

Bathroom Tile Project - \$1000 (Partially Funded)
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/>

The Heartbeat of Parish Life

Greeter Team: Anthony Ally and Kamaka Goings

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. 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 Dinners: Once a month after Vespers, we will head somewhere together for dinner or have a potluck meal at the hall. January's will be on the 3rd and we will have a fire pit setup. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, sit by the fire, sing a song, tell a story, grill some hot dogs (asking for someone to volunteer to bring) and enjoy the cool of the evening around the warmth of the fire. Do you play the guitar or harmonica? Bring it too. Everyone is welcome.

Women's Bathroom

A heartfelt thank you to Mark Guyer and Tom Maty for their hard work in restoring the women's bathroom. We also thank all who donated toward this project. May the Lord bless and grant them all many years.

Surprise for the Community (December 21st)

Our parish children have prepared a special surprise for everyone on the 21st. We invite you to stay for coffee hour that day so we can enjoy whatever they've got planned together.

Parish Council (December 21st)

Christmas Service Schedule (December 24th & 25th)

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Nativity celebrations in December. On Christmas Eve, December 24, we will gather at 2:30 PM for the Christmas Eve Nativity Vigil. On Christmas Day, December 25, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM. This is a good time to invite someone new and all are welcome as we come together to rejoice in the birth of Christ.

2026 Pledge Forms (Due December 21st)

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.

2026 Church Calendars - On Their Way

We have ordered 75 Lectionary Wall Calendars for a total cost of \$500. They will arrive in a few weeks. 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.

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

Panteleimon, Michael, Peter, Sarah, Gavin, Child Aspen, Victor, Infant Sterling, Gloria, Eleana, 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, 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, Costa, Judith, Bruce, Luke, James, Terry, Robin

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

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?

In Romanian villages, children join in Colinde, traditional caroling that lasts through the Nativity Fast. These songs act like short sermons, telling the story of Christ's birth in simple, poetic lines. Families see it as a blessing when carolers visit, often placing icons or candles in the window to welcome the young singers who proclaim the joy of the Incarnation.

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

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