



# ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN  
RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

## Scripture Readings

### 1 Timothy 4:9-15 (Epistle)

My son Timothy, this is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

### Luke 19:1-10 (Gospel)

At that time, as the Lord Jesus entered and passed through Jericho, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

## Saints of the Day: Sunday of Zacchaeus

The Church prepares us for Pascha through Great Lent, and even Lent itself has a season of preparation. This preparation begins five Sundays before Lent with the Gospel of Zacchaeus. In seeking to see Jesus, Zacchaeus begins the movement of salvation, and his encounter with Christ leads him to repentance and a real change of life. He not only confesses his sin, but makes restitution, showing that true repentance is proven by action, not words alone. Zacchaeus reminds us that our Lenten journey begins by recognizing our own sinfulness and trusting in God's mercy. Though small in stature, he climbed a tree to see Christ. In the same way, we are spiritually small and must prepare ourselves for effort and growth by climbing the ladder of the virtues. In this Gospel, we hear Christ's assurance that salvation truly comes to those who seek Him with humility and repentance. Saint Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.

## Sanctity of Life Sunday: January 25th, 2026

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has designated Sunday, January 25, as Sanctity of Life Sunday for the Orthodox Church in America, in conjunction with the annual March for Life in Washington, DC. On this day, we join the Church in prayerfully affirming the sacredness of every human life, from conception to natural death, and in remembering the victims of abortion. To learn more about the Church's teaching, prayers, and ways to respond faithfully, go to:

<https://savannahorthodox.com/life/>. This will redirect you to the OCA website with additional resources and information. If you would like to donate to Pro Life causes go to: <https://zoeforlife.org> and/or <https://www.oclif.org>

## Blessing of Candles for the Presentation of the Lord: Next Sunday

In celebration of the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd, we will bless candles on Sunday, February 1st, at the conclusion of Vespers, which will follow Divine Liturgy. You are encouraged to bring candles from home if you would like them blessed. Blessed candles are traditionally kept and used during prayer in the home, especially during times of illness, difficulty, or thanksgiving, as a reminder of Christ, the Light revealed to the nations and the glory of His people Israel.

**JANUARY 25TH, 2026**

**ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY**

**SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY**

**JAN Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries**

1st - Andrew Rigato  
2nd - Lena Holley  
5th - Ally Rigato  
5th - Gabriel Savasir  
6th - Anna Cartwright  
7th - Calvin Guyer (Name's Day)  
13th - Charlie Boor  
17th - Jim Holley  
17th - Anthony Ally (Name's Day)  
19th - Tahir (Markos) Savasir (Name's Day)  
20th - Litsa Osburn  
23rd - Matthew Somich  
26th - Jesse Edens  
28th - Charis Ally (Name's Day)  
29th - Dn. Vassily Kocher (Ordination)  
29th - Victor Torres  
29th - Calvin Guyer  
30th - Kamaka Leger

## SCHEDULE

January 27th - Tuesday

No Tuesday Firepit - Happy Birthday to Fr. Stephen's Mom, Litsa!

January 29th - Thursday

Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329) (10:00 AM)

January 31st - Saturday

St. Gabriel Fitness Club (3:45 PM)

Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

February 1st - Sunday

Hours (9:00 AM)

Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

Vespers for the Meeting of the Lord (At End of Liturgy)

Coffee Hour (After Vespers)

Annual Meeting (After Coffee Hour)

## WISDOM

"Women who were reputed believers began to resort to drugs for producing sterility. They also girded themselves around, so as to expel what was being conceived. For they did not wish to have a child by either slave or by any common fellow - out of concern for their family and their excessive wealth. See what a great impiety the lawless one has advanced! He teaches adultery and murder at the same time!"

- St. Hippolytus of Rome, "Refutation Of All Heresies"

## WEEKLY JOKES

Son: I have an imaginary girlfriend. Dad: You can do better than that. Son: Thank you Dad. Dad: I was talking to your girlfriend.

My wife's a 10/10 but she's obsessed with Harry Potter, so she's a 9¾.

I was going to ask everyone's opinions on the best coffee at Disney World but I won't because we don't talk about brew, no.

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

## Parish Financial Report (January 23rd, 2026) | 2026 Goal/Budget: \$175,000

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

January 2026 Goal: \$12,800  
January 2026 Collections: \$9,138  
2026 Year to Date: \$9,138

One week to go. We are going to need a strong week (\$3,662) to meet our goal. We ask everyone to please do your best to fulfill your pledges and, if you are able, to go above and beyond, so that together we can strengthen parish life and bring the Kingdom of God.

Full Report here: <https://savannahorthodox.com/reports/>

### Extra Expenses or Kitchen Needs:

Please help support our fellowship hall by donating needed items. We will be sharing a clear list of current needs going forward. If you bring something, please let Fr. Stephen or Suzanne Upchurch know.

2026 Calendars - \$500 (These are free but we are asking a suggested \$10 donation to cover this cost.)  
Paper Towels - Donation Needed

### Donate Securely Online:

Our donation page is getting an upgrade! You can now specify your tithe or donation to any of our programs / ministries.

<https://savannahorthodox.com/help-us-grow/>

**The Heartbeat of Parish Life - Greeters: Nate and Kamaka | Next Week's Greeters: Heath and Kamaka**

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

**Maintenance:** (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:** Sundays (~11:45 AM). All classes recorded and on all major podcast platforms. Catechumens are encouraged to attend the Sunday Class.

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

**Saturday Night Questing (Next Session February 7th):** See David Reynolds (706-224-2721) to join.

**St. Gabriel Fitness Club:** By Church Hall "Most" Saturdays at 3:45 PM. See Nate Hall (912-339-3540) to learn more.

**St. Nicholas Fund:** Through a generous anonymous donation, we have established the St. Nicholas Fund to provide quiet, practical assistance to parish members in genuine need. All requests require the blessing of Fr. Stephen and the Parish Council and are limited only Orthodox Christians and catechumens in our parish. The fund supports modest needs that help sustain parish life, such as gas money to attend church. Donations are welcome to help the fund grow.

### Thank You Everyone and Axios Readers Tahir (Markos) and Ron!

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to welcome His Grace, Bishop Gerasim and to make his visit to our parish such a joyful and memorable blessing. From preparation to hospitality, your love for this parish and care for one another were clearly seen and I am deeply grateful. I would also like to offer heartfelt congratulations and an enthusiastic AXIOS to our newly blessed Readers, Ron and Tahir (Markos). May the Lord strengthen them in their service, grant them humility and wisdom, and bless our parish through their ministry for many years to come. Photos from the weekend are posted on Facebook.

### House Blessings Are Going On - Sign Up Today If You Have Not

House blessings have begun and will continue through February 23rd, the start of Great Lent. All households are encouraged to participate, especially catechumens. Sign up online at <https://savannahorthodox.com/house-blessing/> or let me know and I will contact you to schedule a time. I will bring everything needed. Please prepare a list of the living and departed to be prayed for. Do not hesitate to sign up if your home is messy or if long travel is needed. The goal is simply to bless the home so God may bless and make our lives whole.

### Community Tree Planting in Statesboro (January 28th @ 12-3 PM)

Our own Carmen Maghiar, who volunteers with Georgia Interfaith Power and Light has invited us to join a community tree planting in Statesboro. Volunteers will help plant native trees at the Kennedy Pond Conservancy on Wednesday, January 28, from 12:00 to 3:00 PM. If you are available, please sign up here: <https://savannahorthodox.com/tree/>

### Unofficial Official Youth Open Skate at Enmarket (January 28th @ 7 PM)

There are open skates this month at Enmarket Arena and Zoe and I will be going to the one Wednesday the 28th. I know it is during the week, but if anyone would like to join us, please register here: <https://ghostpirateshockey.com/public-skating/> It is \$20 for Adults and \$15 for 12 and under. Skate rentals are included in the price. Make sure you select the 7:15 PM time slot when registering. Hope to see you all there.

### Parish Annual Meeting (February 1st - Next Sunday)

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on February 1st. All members of the parish are encouraged to attend the annual meeting, including catechumens, even though voting is limited only to Orthodox members in Good Standing. We need to nominate a new warden as Mark Guyer's term will be ending. If you know someone who you'd like to nominate, please speak with me about it.

### Saturday Night Dinner (February 14th after Vespers)

Our next Saturday Night Dinner will take on a Valentine's Day twist with a Firepit Night. Weather permitting, we will gather outside at the hall for a relaxed and cozy evening together. 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, talk, and enjoy one another's company. I especially want to encourage couples to come and consider inviting someone you care about. I brought my wife to church on our third date and this year we celebrate nearly fifteen years of marriage and sixteen years together. You never know how God may use something as simple as shared prayer, food, and fellowship. We plan to grill hot dogs and make s'mores, and we will still need side dishes and drinks. Everyone is welcome, and friends are warmly invited.

### Latest Parish Reflection:

**Thy Will Be Done: Differences in Orthodoxy, Protestantism, and Catholicism:**

<https://savannahorthodox.com/thy-will-be-done-differences-in-orthodoxy-protestantism-and-catholicism/>

### 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

Alana Dee, Nancy, Mark, Edward, Sam, Dorthy, 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 Lillian, 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, Lanser, 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, Eddie, Linda, Ryan, Madeline, Sherelle, Domenic, Mari, Pat Bruce and Family, Hunt Family, Barbara

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

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

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, Dawson, Katylin, James

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 Russia and parts of Europe, Zachaeus Sunday has historically associated with making peace. People are encouraged to reconcile with family or neighbors they are estranged from, forgive entire debts, and echo Zachaeus by giving a huge offering to their Church (which tithing is not something Slavs are not accustomed to normally doing...). It is sometimes called a "hidden repentance Sunday" for this very reason.

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