



ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN

RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

FEBRUARY 15TH, 2026

SUNDAY OF MEATFARE

LAST JUDGMENT

Scripture Readings

1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 (Epistle)

Brethren, food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Matthew 25:31-46 (Gospel)

The Lord said: When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Lenten Triodion: Sunday of the Last Judgment / Meatfare Sunday

Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (Slavic practice). The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, "Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed. As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did not do such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt. 25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt. 25:45).

FEB Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

- 1st - Joseph Kisel
- 2nd - Jordan White
- 2nd - Camron Farrell-Haynes
- 3rd - Anthony Ally
- 6th - Paul McCollum
- 8th - Mat. Yvonne Matsko
- 8th - Jason Maslo
- 10th - Craig Dixon
- 11th - Heath Vincent
- 17th - Tyler Howell
- 18th - Andreas Savasir
- 28th - Stefan Dita

SCHEDULE

February 17th - Tuesday
Tuesday Firepit Dinner (6:00 PM)

February 18th - Wednesday
House Blessing at Somich's for GSU and Young Adults (5:30 PM)

February 19th - Thursday
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329) (10:00 AM)

February 21st - Saturday
St. Gabriel Fitness Club (3:45 PM)
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

February 22nd - Sunday
Hours (9:00 AM)
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Forgiveness Vespers (After Liturgy)
Coffee Hour (After Vespers)
Church School (12:00 PM)
Adult Class (12:00 PM)

WISDOM

"Fasting is not for the sake of afflicting the body, but for the purification of the heart." - St. John Cassian; *The Institutes and The Conferences*

"While you have time, visit Christ in the sick. Give Christ food. Clothe Christ. Welcome Christ. Honor Christ—not only at the table, as some do, nor only with ointments, like Mary, nor only in His tomb, like Joseph of Arimathea. Christ desires mercy, not sacrifice. Nothing so honors God as mercy. Let us not wait for the Day when He will say, 'I was hungry and you gave Me no food.' Let us rather hear the blessed voice: 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you.'" - St. Gregory the Theologian

WEEKLY JOKES

Can February march? No, but April may.

Forget 'long story short.' I'm switching to 'short story long' and taking you on a journey you didn't ask for.

What is the difference between a step stool and a 3D printer? The former is a ladder, while the latter is a former.

CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST! HE IS AND EVER SHALL BE!

Parish Financial Report (February, 2026) | 2026 Goal/Budget: \$175,000

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

February 2026 Goal: \$12,800
February 2026 Collections: \$6,022
2026 Year to Date: \$18,273

Our tithing is down because we missed a week, unfortunately our expenses have not. If you give weekly, please consider making up for that missed week by including it with your donation this week or bringing it next Sunday. This will help us stay on track toward our monthly parish goal. Thank you for your continued faithfulness and support of our parish.
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.)

Donate Securely Online:

Our donation page has been upgraded! 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: Dr. Chastity and Josh | Next Week's Greeters: Nate and Heath

Weekly Church Clean-up: We are completely revamping our cleaning team. In the meantime, if someone (or a few) can stay after Bible Study for the next week or so and help clean up, that would be much appreciated.

Maintenance: We are completely revamping our maintenance team. Stay tuned on this.

Coffee Hour: <https://savannahorthodox.com/coffee-hour/> or see Mat. Lindsey to sign up.

Youth Church School: Sundays (~11:45 AM): Church School is splitting up into 2 groups. Ages 3 through 10 are with Jeanie and ages 11-17 will go with Dr. Christina and Charis.

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

Saturday Night Questing (Next Session March 13th): 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. Ambrose Ministry: Donation bin located in the hall by the bookstore.

Tuesday Firepit is becoming Tuesday Firepit Dinner (February 17th)

Three slight changes to the firepit on Tuesdays: 1) This will be almost every week but during Lent may be moved or canceled; 2) Will replace our Saturday Night Dinners so bring something to share; 3) We will meet at the firepit instead of in the Church first and do a simple Oh Heavenly King and blessing of the food.

Georgia Southern Orthodox Fellowship Meeting & House Blessing (February 18th)

Georgia Southern Students! Would you like to experience a House Blessing, a home-cooked meal, and some Orthodox Fellowship? If so, please join us on Wednesday, February 18 at 5:30 PM at Ron and Kristin Somich's House in Portal (just outside of Statesboro) for the first of what we hope will turn into many fellowship evenings. I will bless their house so that you can experience a traditional house blessing. They will provide a meal and fellowship to follow. Open to all students and please feel free to bring a friend. Text Kristin at 704-593-8100 for directions and further details.

Saturday of Orthodoxy Vespers at St. James in Beaufort (February 28th @ 5 PM)

On Saturday, February 28th at 5:00 PM, we will gather together with St. James Orthodox Church (9 Tekoa Lane, Beaufort, SC 29902) for Vespers of the Saturday of Orthodoxy. This is a beautiful opportunity to pray together as one Church. All are encouraged to attend as we mark this feast together in worship and fellowship. Also, reminder now to not forget to bring your icons for the procession in the service.

Lenten Retreat with Fr. John Dresko (March 7th and 8th)

Looking ahead, join us for a Lenten retreat in March where Fr. John Dresko, one of my mentors will be speaking on the theme "Equipping the Saints: Feeding the Body of Christ." The retreat will include two one-hour sessions with time for questions and discussion, concluding before Vespers on Saturday evening. Fr. John will also preach on that Sunday and host an informal Q&A during coffee hour, where he has promised to tell a few stories about a certain college student (me) you all will want to hear. A Flyer has been printed. Please post them where you see fit.

Presanctified Liturgy Potlucks

Also looking ahead, we will have a Lenten potluck every Wednesday after Presanctified Liturgy. There is no sign up for this but it wouldn't hurt to let Mat. Lindsey know what you are planning on bringing.

Lenten Fasting Guide: <https://savannahorthodox.com/fasting/>

With Lent just around the corner, I have published a full pastoral guide covering traditional fasting rules, guidance for catechumens, families, seniors, and mixed-faith households. Visit our website for the complete guide and practical direction on fasting, prayer, and almsgiving during Great Lent.

Who, what, and how:

- 1) Most Faithful: Abstain from meat and dairy on all weekdays of Great Lent and throughout Holy Week.
- 2) Catechumens: Fast on Wednesdays and Fridays and during Holy Week.
- 3) Mixed-Faith Households: Fast as you are able, especially on Fridays and during Holy Week
- 4) Families With Children: Fast as you are able, but children should fast on Fridays and during Holy Week
- 5) Seniors or Those With Medical Needs: Modify the fast as needed for health, observing days as you are able, especially during Holy Week, without harming the body.

Above all, we fast according to our ability, attend services faithfully, increase our daily prayer, and give more generously as we prepare our hearts for Pascha. If you have further questions, don't hesitate to ask me.

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

Doug, Wanda, Rakeem, James, Katty, Kevin, James, Thomas, Infant Cooper, Katherine, Catherine, Ryan, Alana, 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, Lansan, Helen, Nicholas, Irena, Pina, Andre, child Oliver, Laurie, Akira, Vic, Jodi, Charlee, Owen, Wendy, Kameron, Karen, Melody, Debra, Johanna, Kathy, Michael, infant Kalea, Bobby, Costa, Luke, James, Terry, Robin, Shawn, Debbie, Leigh, Robert, JaLeigh, Johnny, Cindy, David, Sara, Emily, Eddie, Linda, Ryan, Madeline, Sherelle, Domenic, Mari, Barbara, James, Jason, Jerry, Brianna, Tyler, Tetta, infant Gabriel, and all children in the ICU throughout the world.

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

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, Courtney, Kaden, Leo, Tyler, Shannon, Lily, Andrew, Evan, David, Eric, Lia, Wyatt, Renata, Dawson, Katylin, James, Joshua

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.

Latest Reflection:

A Guide to Fasting for Great Lent

<https://savannahorthodox.com/fasting/>

Share this on your social media.

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/ | Instagram.com/SavannahOrthodox