



# ST MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

## Scripture Readings

### 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 (Epistle)

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

### Luke 15:11-32 (Gospel)

The Lord said this parable: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."'" And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'"

### Lenten Triodion: Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The Sunday of the Prodigal Son calls us to recognize our distance from God and to return to the Father with repentance and trust. Christ assures us that the Father receives every repentant child with joy. At Matins, the hymn By the Waters of Babylon introduces the theme of exile and longing for home, which continues in the coming weeks. Beginning tomorrow, the weekday Gospel readings walk us through the events of Holy Week, from Christ's Entry into Jerusalem to His crucifixion and death.

### Latest Parish Reflection: Why Candles Matter in Orthodoxy More Than You Think:

<https://savannahorthodox.com/why-candles-matter-in-orthodoxy-more-than-you-think/>

## FEBRUARY 8TH, 2026 PRODIGAL SON SUNDAY AFTERFEAST OF MEETING

### 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  
11th - Heath Vincent  
17th - Tyler Howell  
18th - Andreas Savasir  
28th - Stefan Dita

## SCHEDULE

February 10th - Tuesday  
No Tuesday Firepit - Father has a house blessing.

February 12th - Thursday  
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329) (10:00 AM)

February 14th - Saturday  
St. Gabriel Fitness Club (3:45 PM)  
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)  
Saturday Night Dinner (After Vespers)

February 15th - Sunday  
Hours (9:00 AM)  
Baptismal Liturgy (9:30 AM)  
Coffee Hour (After Vespers)  
Church School (11:45 AM)  
Adult Class (11:45 AM)

## WISDOM

"As God's athlete, be sober: Eternal life is at stake."  
- St. Ignatius the God-bearer

"Here is the place of refuge. Here is the place of angels. There is no better place to come than here in the Liturgy, in the Church, at this moment."  
- Our own Abp. Alexander of Dallas and the Diocese of the South on the Liturgy as the Kingdom of Heaven at the Pastoral Conference last week.

"The Church is not a theater, nor Christianity a spectacle. We do not come here to be seen, but to be changed."  
- St. John Chrysostom

## WEEKLY JOKES

The Winter Olympics are the only time I watch people slide down mountains and think, "Yes, this is peak human achievement."

Tom Brady retired, but he does so as the GOAT, with 7 Super Bowls, but more importantly, he's 5x better than Nickelback...he's a quarterback..

Winter Olympians train for years just to prove they're better at falling than the rest of us.

I love Olympic hockey because it answers the question, "What if hockey... but jet lag?"

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

## Parish Financial Report (January 28th, 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: \$12,251

2026 Year to Date: \$12,251

Since we did not have church services last week, there was no opportunity for our usual weekly offerings. 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/>

## 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

Infant Cooper, Katherine, Catherine, Ryan, Alana Dee, Nancy, Mark, 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, Kathy, Michael, infant Kalea, Bobby, Costa, Luke, James, Terry, Robin, Shawn, Debbie, Leigh, Robert, JaLeigh, Johnny, Cindy, David, Sara, Emily, James, Eddie, Linda, Ryan, Madeline, Sherelle, Jerry, Domenic, Mari, Barbara, Wanda, James, Jason, Brianna, Tyler

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, Kaden, Leo, Tyler, Shannon, 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?

On the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, the Triodion consistently places the repentance of the son in the first person. The Church is no longer telling a story about someone else. She is training us to speak it as our own confession, to recognize ourselves in the son's words, and to begin repentance not as an idea or a lesson, but as a personal return to the Father.

## The Heartbeat of Parish Life - Greeters: Heath and Kamaka | Next Week's Greeters: Dr. Chastity and Josh

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.

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. Dr. Christina will only be with us until the end of the school year (End of May), so we are looking for a more permanent teacher if anyone is interested and able.

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 February 21st): 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: To put our faith into action, we are launching a new diaper ministry to support women's shelters and pregnancy centers. A donation bin will be located in the hall by the bookstore. If you are able, please consider donating a pack of diapers once a month or every few months. Even small gifts can make a real difference and help us show Christ's love to young mothers in need.

## 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. \*If you are unable to get your home blessed due to scheduling and we need to go past February 23rd, please contact me directly and we will set something up.

## Many Years to Mat. Yvonne Matsko on the celebration of her 29th Birthday! (Today)

Today we give thanks to God for our beloved Matushka Yvonne on her birthday. Her children have lovingly prepared a cake and for the over 21s, a celebratory mimosa bar for us to enjoy. May the Lord grant her many more years in health, joy, and peace!

## Blessing Candles (Today)

Since we did not get a chance to bless candles last weekend, we will do so at the end of Liturgy.

## Annual Meeting (Today) - Please stay after Coffee Hour

## Georgia Southern Orthodox Fellowship Meeting & House Blessing (February 11th)

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 11 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 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.

## 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. The full times of the retreat will be announced shortly in the coming weeks.

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