



# ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN  
RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

## Scripture Readings

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 (Epistle)

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

## John 1:43-51 (Gospel)

At that time, Jesus went to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

## Sundays of Lent: 1st Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy

The first Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of Orthodoxy because it commemorates the restoration of the Holy Icons and the triumph of the Orthodox Faith against the terrible heresy of the Iconoclasts, i.e. those heretics who refused to honor the Holy Icons. For more than a hundred years the Church was disturbed by the evil doctrine of iconoclasm. The first Emperor to persecute the Church was Leo the Isaurian, and the last was Theophilus, the spouse of Saint Theodora (February 11), who reigned after her husband's death and re-established Orthodoxy in the time of Patriarch Methodios (June 14). Empress Theodora proclaimed publicly that we do not kiss the Icons as a sign of worship, nor do we honor them as "gods," but as images of their prototypes. In the year 843, on the first Sunday of the Fast, Saint Theodora and her son, Emperor Michael, venerated the Holy Icons together with the clergy and the people. Since that time this event has been commemorated every year, because it was definitively determined that we do not worship the Icons, but we honor and glorify all the Saints who are depicted on them. We worship only the Triune God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and no one else, neither a Saint, nor an Angel. Originally, the Holy Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Alleluia verses appointed for today's Liturgy reflect this older usage.

MARCH 1ST, 2026

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT  
SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

## MAR Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

- 3rd - James Kenley
- 6th - Kaden Bass
- 6th - Katylin Dekle
- 6th - Fr. Stephen Osburn (Priesthood Anniversary)
- 7th - Wyatt Roberts
- 7th - Aryana Zdonica
- 15th - Wyatt Hares
- 20th - Suzanna (Fotina) Upchurch
- 20th - Zoe (Fotini) Osburn
- 21st - Emma Carver
- 25th - Tom Maty

## SCHEDULE

March 4th - Wednesday  
Presanctified Liturgy (6:30 PM)  
Lenten Potluck Dinner (After Liturgy)

March 5th - Thursday  
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329) (10:00 AM)

March 7th - Saturday  
Lenten Retreat (1:00 PM - 4:30 PM)  
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)  
Saturday Night Dinner (After Vespers)

March 8th - Sunday  
Hours (9:00 AM)  
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)  
Coffee Hour (After Liturgy)  
Church School (12:00 PM)  
Q&A with Fr. John (12:00 PM)

## WISDOM

"For the honor which is paid to the image passes on to that which the image represents, and he who venerates the image venerates in it the person depicted. For the worship of faith belongs to the divine nature alone, but the veneration offered to the icon is directed to the prototype."

"Following the divinely inspired teaching of our holy Fathers and the tradition of the Catholic Church, we confess that the Word of God truly became man, and therefore we depict His human form. For if He was seen in the flesh and lived among men, He can be represented in an image according to His humanity."

Seventh Ecumenical Council (Nicaea II, 787)

## WEEKLY JOKES

A frog got his DNA tested. Turns out he's part Irish, part British, and a tad Pole.

The Treasury announced new pennies featuring puns on the front and back. They'll be known as cents of humor.

Why can't you play hide and seek with a Pokémon? Because it'll Pikachu.

I couldn't figure out how to fix the washing machine so I threw in the towel.

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

## Parish Financial Report (February 27th, 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: \$13,637  
2026 Year to Date: \$25,888

Thanks be to God, we exceeded our February goal and made up for last month's slight deficit. Because of your faithfulness and steady stewardship, we are now back to even year to date. This is a real blessing as we move deeper into Lent and continue the work of the parish together. Thank you all your generosity, commitment, and continued support of our church family. 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: Anthony, Nate | Next Week's Greeters: Josh, Heath

**Sign Up to Serve:** Serving the Church is one of the simplest and most meaningful ways to live out your faith in love. Please consider signing up for Maintenance and Projects, Weekly Church Clean Up, or Coffee Hour at <https://savannahorthodox.com/serve/> and help care for the house of God and our parish family.

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

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

**Tuesday Firepit Dinners:** On Hold Until After Lent.

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

**Saturday Night Questing (Next Session March 14th):** See David Reynolds (706-224-2721) to join.

**St. Gabriel Fitness Club:** For now, we are pausing this ministry due to low participation as we explore new ways to create opportunities for fellowship and activity within our parish family. Stay tuned for what's next.

**St. Ambrose Diaper and Baby Items Donations:** The Donation bin has been relocated to the top of the refrigerator for the time being. We are working on setting up a permanent spot for these kinds of things. In the meantime, please be generous.

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

Please join us next Saturday for a Lenten retreat where we will welcome Fr. John Dresko, one of my mentors who 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 at 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 and tell your friends and family.

### Retreat Schedule: (March 7th)

1:00 PM - Welcome & Opening Prayer  
1:15-2:15 PM - Session One  
2:15-2:45 PM - Break (light refreshments)  
2:45-3:45 PM - Session Two  
3:45-4:30 PM - Q&A and Discussion  
4:30-5:00 PM - Break Before Vespers  
5:00 PM - Great Vespers  
6:15 PM - Lenten Dinner & Fellowship (Dinner follows Vespers)

## Community Fish Fry (March 27th - TBA)

We are exploring the idea of hosting our first parish Fish Fry on March 27th and need to gauge interest before moving forward. If you would attend or help, please let myself or our Warden, Dan know. We are looking to borrow fryers and receive donations of propane, grease, fish, ice, paper goods, gloves, sides, drinks, and a case of paper towels. If you are willing to contribute items, lend equipment, or simply want to attend and support the effort, please let us know as soon as possible. We need to know what folks want by before next Sunday. Please reach out so we can confirm whether we can move forward with this.

## Prospora Baking Class (March 28th @ 12 PM)

On March 28th at 12 PM, Reader Tahir (Markos) and Savannah will lead a class on baking prospora, the bread offered at the Divine Liturgy. This will be an opportunity to learn about the prayer, care, and reverence that go into preparing this sacred offering, and to reflect on the quiet devotion behind something so central to the life of the Church.

## Prayer Rope Making (March 29th - After Coffee Hour That Day)

Join us after Coffee Hour on March 29th for a hands on class in making prayer ropes, taught by Josh Takacs. Learn the meaning and tradition behind the knots and how this simple prayer tool helps root us in the Jesus Prayer and a steady life of repentance.

## Presanctified Liturgy Potlucks

Also looking ahead, we will have a Lenten potluck every Wednesday after Presanctified Liturgy. Please Sign Up on our website: <https://savannahorthodox.com/coffee-hour/>

## Our Lenten Focus: Stewardship in Action

This Lent we are focusing on stewardship as a call to honestly offer back to God the gifts He has given us. Our schedule reflects that, with parishioners leading the prospora and prayer rope classes and Fr. John Dresko joining us for a retreat. Stewardship means using the gifts already among us, simply seeing a need and stepping in to serve. My hope is that we embrace the fullness of Lent and discover that offering what we have to God is not a burden, but a path to holiness.

## 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

Melody, David, Lacromoara, 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 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, Larsen, Helen, Nicholas, Irena, Pina, Andre, child Oliver, Laurie, Akira, Vic, Jodi, Charlee, Owen, Wendy, Kameron, Karen, 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, Tyler, Barbara, James, Jason, Jerry, Brianna, , Tetta, Ashley, Aileen, Beth, and especially all children suffering or in need 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, Kris, Ruth, Breanne

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:

Sunday of Orthodoxy: Why Icons Matter

<https://savannahorthodox.com/why-icons-matter/>

Please read and share this on your social media.

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