

MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT



ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN
RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Scripture Readings

Hebrews 9:11-14 (Epistle)

Brethren, Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Mark 10:32-45 (Gospel)

At that time, they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Sundays of Lent: 5th Sunday of Great Lent: St Mary of Egypt

St. Mary of Egypt was a woman who lived a very sinful life in her youth, giving herself over to passion and impurity for many years in Alexandria. When she traveled to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, she tried to enter the church but found herself mysteriously unable to go in. Realizing it was because of her sins, she was struck with deep repentance and prayed before an icon of the Theotokos, asking for mercy and promising to change her life. After she was finally able to enter and venerate the Cross, she left everything behind, crossed the Jordan, and went into the desert. There she lived for decades in extreme repentance, prayer, fasting, and spiritual struggle. At first she suffered terribly from hunger, memories of her old life, and temptations, but through God's grace she was purified and transformed into a great saint. Near the end of her life, she was found by the monk St. Zosimas, who was amazed by her holiness, humility, and spiritual wisdom. She asked him to bring her Holy Communion the next year, and after receiving the Holy Mysteries, she reposed in peace. When he found her again, she had died, and her life became a witness that no sin is greater than God's mercy, and that true repentance can make even the greatest sinner into a radiant saint.

Troparion — Tone 8: In you, O Mother, was preserved with exactness what was according to the image; / for you took up the Cross and followed Christ. / By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh, for it passes away; / but to care for the soul, since it is immortal. / Therefore, O Venerable Mary, your spirit rejoices with the Angels.

Kontakion — Tone 3: Having been a sinful woman, / you became a Bride of Christ through repentance. / Having attained the angelic life, / you defeated demons by the weapon of the Cross; / therefore, O most glorious Mary you are a Bride of the Kingdom.

MARCH 29TH, 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
ST. MARY OF EGYPT

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 Zdionica
8th - Lilly Cejic
15th - Wyatt Hares
16th - Kris and Ruth Hughes
20th - Suzanna (Photina) Upchurch (Name's Day)
20th - Zoe (Fotini) Osburn (Name's Day)
20th - Meagan (Photini) Clark (Name's Day)
21st - Austin Carver
21st - Emma Carver
25th - Tom Maty

SCHEDULE

April 1st - Wednesday
Holy Unction (6:30 PM)

April 2nd - Thursday
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329) (10:00 AM)

April 4th - Saturday
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

April 5th - Sunday
Hours (9:00 AM)
Baptismal Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Fish Fry Lunch (After Liturgy)

[Holy Week Schedule on Back.](#)

WISDOM

"Let us say something about the thorns. Blessed Mary of Egypt was twelve years old when she fell into the hands of the devil. She lived in sin day and night. But the merciful God enlightened her and she abandoned the world and went into the desert. There she led a hermit's life for forty years. She was cleansed and became like an angel. God wished to give her rest, so he sent the holy ascetic Zosimas to hear her confession and to give her holy communion. Then He received her holy soul into paradise, where she rejoices with the angels. If there is anyone here like Blessed Mary, let him immediately weep and repent, now that he has time, and let him be assured that he will be saved as was Blessed Mary."

- St. Kosmos Aitolos

WEEKLY JOKES

Coffee was just voted the best drink of the country. But it was unfair, there were absent tea ballots.

I have a joke about a forklift, but some might find it unpalatable.

What does a clock do when it's hungry? It goes back four seconds.

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

Parish Financial Report (March 27th, 2026) | 2026 Goal/Budget: \$175,000

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

March 2026 Goal: \$16,150
March 2026 Collections: \$14,329
2026 Year to Date: \$41,220

Glory to God, we are still ahead! Your faithful and generous giving keeps our parish strong. Because of your steady support, we continue to worship, serve, and proclaim Christ together. Thank you to everyone for your commitment to our church family and the mission we share in Him.
Full Report here: <https://savannahorthodox.com/reports/>

Extra Expenses or Kitchen Needs:

Suzanne is price shopping supplies that we may need and will let everyone know soon. If anyone would like to help, please let her know.

In the meantime, she is asking if you are a coffee drinker, bring your own cup so we can save on having to buy cups. You can leave it in the shelf but you need to wash it.

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/>

Holy Week Schedule

Monday - April 6th - Bridegroom Matins (6:30 PM)

Tuesday - April 7th - Bridegroom Matins (6:30 PM)

Wednesday - April 8th - Bridegroom Matins (6:30 PM)

Thursday - April 9th - Vespers Liturgy (3:00 PM) / Matins w/ Passion Gospels (6:30 PM)

Friday - April 10th - Vespers of Holy Friday (4:00 PM) / Matins of Holy Saturday (6:30 PM)

Saturday - April 11th - Holy Saturday Liturgy (9:30 AM) / Pascha Services (11:30 PM)

Sunday - April 12th - Agape Vespers (11:00 AM)

The Heartbeat of Parish Life - Greeters: Nate, Josh | Next Week's Greeters: Heath, Chandler, Dr. Chastity
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 28th): 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.

Confession During Great Lent

Anyone who would like to go to Confession during Great Lent may do so 30 minutes before Vespers, and the Presanctified Liturgy, or by appointment with me. Lent is a blessed time for repentance and renewal, and all are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity for spiritual preparation for Pascha.

Palm Sunday Fish Fry (April 5th)

As we prepare to enter Holy Week, we will have a special Palm Sunday fish coffee hour after Liturgy. Palm Sunday is traditionally a fish day, and our own parishioner Josh Takacs has generously offered to smoke the fish for everyone to enjoy. This year will be especially joyful, as we will also be receiving several of our catechumens into the Church that day. Please plan to stay after Liturgy so we can celebrate together as a parish family. If you would like to bring a side dish or help with setup or cleanup, please let my wife Mat. Lindsey know or better yet, sign up on the Coffee Hour page on our website. It will be a wonderful time of fellowship before the solemn days of Holy Week begin.

Holy Friday Tomb Flowers (April 10th)

As we prepare to decorate the Lord's Tomb for Holy Friday, we invite anyone who would like to help to bring potted spring flowers for the grave. Easter lilies are especially needed, followed by other flowers such as hydrangeas, tulips, hyacinths, azaleas, calla lilies, daffodils, mini roses, or other beautiful spring flowers. Any color is fine, and it is most helpful if flowers are purchased in groups of two. Publix, Costco, Sam's Club, Home Depot, and Lowe's garden centers are all good places to look, and if anyone has a florist friend who would like to help, that would be wonderful as well. Flowers may be brought to church beginning on Palm Sunday, but they must arrive by Holy Thursday. We plan to keep them in the church school room during Holy Week so they can be watered and kept cool. If you can help, see Nika.

Tomb Watch Sign Up (April 10th-11th)

A beautiful Orthodox tradition of Holy Friday and Holy Saturday is keeping watch at Christ's tomb following the Matins of Holy Friday and continuing until just before the Paschal services begin, pausing only during the Liturgy. During this time, parishioners take turns praying before the Epitaphios, keeping vigil in stillness, grief, and hope as we await the joy of the Resurrection. Time slots are one hour each, with two people assigned per hour. You are welcome to sign up with someone else or take a slot on your own, and you may sign up for more than one hour if you wish. Even a single hour is a meaningful offering. Sign up here: <https://savannahorthodox.com/tomb/>

Special Parish Wide Meet to Elect Auditors (April 19th)

There will be a brief parish-wide meeting immediately following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, April 19th to elect three members to serve on the Audit Committee. These members will be responsible for reviewing the parish's financial records, including auditing accounts, inspecting disbursements, and verifying bank balances, in accordance with our responsibilities as a nonprofit. This initial term will last until the next annual meeting (less than one year), after which three members will be elected annually for one-year terms. The committee meets once per year. All parish members are encouraged to attend. If you know anyone who you think would be a good fit for this role, please let me or Dan, our warden know.

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

Patriarch Ilia of Georgia, Fr. John, Carol, Jan, Elizabeth, Carlos, Anastasia, Micheal, Melody, David, 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 (*A lot of these names have been removed due to not knowing who is still needed to be prayed for. What I'm doing with all future names is if you tell me, I will add them on for 40 days and then remove them like I do with the departed, unless requested otherwise:*)

Mother Cassiana, Tammy, Litsa, child Lilliana, Carl, Olga, Rita, child Ciana Rose, Jaimie, Ray, Polly, Pina, Vic, Jodi, Owen, Tyler, Tetta, Ashley, Aileen, Beth, Dewitt, Vinia, Greg, Cindy, Carl, Kenny, and especially all children suffering or in need throughout the world.

Expecting Mothers: Mat. Lindsey, Ori, Hailey, Akira, Erin, Deanna, Cassidy, Geymi, Violetta, Hakeema

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

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, Samuel, Wyatt, Cody, Michaela, Anna, Corey, Aidan, Aaron

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 Reflections:

The Struggle Against the Passions

<https://savannahorthodox.com/the-struggle-against-the-passions/>

What Goes in an Orthodox Pascha Basket?

<https://savannahorthodox.com/what-goes-in-an-orthodox-pascha-basket/>

Please read and share this on your social media.

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