



ST MARY MAGDALENE

**ORTHODOX CHURCH IN
RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA**

APRIL 12TH, 2026

HOLY PASCHA!

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Scripture Readings

Acts 1:1-8 (Epistle)

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, and to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

John 1:1-17 (Gospel)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

HOLY PASCHA: The Resurrection of Our Lord

Pascha (Easter) is the feast of Christ's Resurrection and the very center of the Christian faith. If Christ were not risen, there would be no Gospel, no Church, and no hope, but because He has conquered death, all things are made new. In His Resurrection, Christ is revealed as Lord and King, opening to us the life of the Kingdom and the promise that death and sorrow will not have the final word. For the Orthodox Church, Pascha is truly the feast of feasts, prepared for through Great Lent and Holy Week by prayer, fasting, repentance, forgiveness, and almsgiving. On the night of Pascha, the faithful gather in darkness, process with candles, and proclaim with joy, "Christ is risen!" as the church is filled with light. Pascha is not only remembered, but entered into, especially in the Divine Liturgy, where the faithful receive the risen Christ in Holy Communion and taste even now the joy of His everlasting Kingdom.

Troparion — Tone 4: Christ is risen from the dead, / trampling down death by death, / and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Troparion — Tone 8 (Hypakoe): Before the dawn Mary and the women came / and found the stone rolled away from the tomb. / They heard the angelic voice: "Why do you seek among the dead as a Man / the One Who is everlasting Light? / Behold the clothes in the grave; go and proclaim to the world: / 'The Lord is risen; He has slain death, / as He is the Son of God, saving the race of man.'"

Kontakion — Tone 8: You descended into the tomb, O Immortal, / You destroyed the power of death. / In victory You arose, O Christ God, / proclaiming: "Rejoice!" to the Myrrhbearing Women, / granting peace to Your Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

APR Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

- 1st - Savannah (Maria) Savasir (Name's Day)
- 1st - Astrid Hajduk
- 1st - Liam (Mary) Loomis (Name's Day)
- 1st - Maria Guyer (Name's Day)
- 3rd - Zoe Osburn
- 4th - Jordan and Sharrell White
- 5th - Ana Kenley
- 12th - Breanne Hughes
- 14th - Fr. Michael Matsko
- 15th - Kendra Roberts
- 23rd - Meagan Clark
- 25th - Mark Guyer (Name's Day)

SCHEDULE

April 16th - Thursday
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329) (10:00 AM)

April 18th - Saturday
Baby Shower (See Anastasia for Details)
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

April 19th - Sunday
Hours (9:00 AM)
Baptismal Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Coffee Hour (After Liturgy)
Easter Egg Hunt (During Coffee Hour)
Parish Council Meeting (After Coffee Hour)

WISDOM

The Christian faith is celebrated in the liturgy of the Church. True celebration is always a living participation. It is not a mere attendance at services. It is communion in the power of the event being celebrated. It is God's free gift of joy given to spiritual men as a reward for their self-denial. It is the fulfillment of spiritual and physical effort and preparation. The resurrection of Christ, being the center of the Christian faith, is the basis of the Church's liturgical life and the true model for all celebration. This is the chosen and holy day, first of sabbaths, king and lord of days, the feast of feasts, holy day of holy days. On this day we bless Christ forevermore (Irmos 8, Paschal Canon)..
- Fr. Paul Lazor of Blessed Memory

Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him.
- St. Gregory the Theologian

It is the day of Resurrection, let us be radiant, O people.
- St. John of Damascus

WEEKLY JOKES

My wife texted me, "your great". I replied, "no, you're great." She's been in a great mood ever since. Maybe I should correct her grammar more often.

I was going to tell a sodium joke but then I was like Na.

Last weekend I read through so many Easter jokes it wasn't even bunny.

Easter is the one day of the year you should put all of your eggs in one basket.

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Parish Financial Report (April 10th, 2026) | 2026 Goal/Budget: \$175,000

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

April 2026 Goal: \$13,040
April 2026 Collections: \$4,493
2026 Year to Date: \$50,034

We are off to a great start! Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our parish. Your giving strengthens the life of the church and helps make possible our worship, ministries, and shared service in Christ.

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.

Give Securely Online:

You can give securely through our online donation portal. The platform may ask if you would like to leave a tip, but this is entirely optional. Our portal is set up so that we receive 100% of your intended donation. Give now: <https://savannahorthodox.com/help-us-grow/>

Thanks Be to God for Pascha!

On behalf of myself, Fr. Michael, Dn. Vassily, and our families, I want to offer heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped carry our parish through Great Lent, Holy Week, and into the joy of Pascha. I know this has been a hard Lent for everyone and an even more demanding Holy Week for many, but thanks be to God, we made it (and just in time for the NHL playoffs so I can watch hockey again...)

"It is the day of Resurrection, let us be radiant, O people." - St. John of Damascus

Thank you to everyone who gave their time, strength, and care to help prepare the church and grounds for these holy days. From cleaning and organizing to flowers, setup, and all the many quiet tasks behind the scenes, your work helped make everything beautiful, reverent, and ready for the feast. A special thank you to our choir for the many hours of rehearsal and for the offering of your voices throughout these services. Holy Week and Pascha ask a great deal, and your faithfulness helped lead the whole parish more deeply into prayer and into the joy of these sacred days. Thank you to the Parish Council for your steady work and support, and to all who teach, organize, serve, cook, clean, plan, and step in wherever needed. To quote our Warden Emeritus, Mark so much of parish life depends on people who simply see a need and fill it and that spirit of love, sacrifice, and stewardship has been a real blessing. Most of all, thank you for your prayers, your endurance, and your love for Christ and His Church. It is a blessing to serve this parish, and we are grateful to God for all that He continues to do here. Christ is Risen!

With love in the Risen Christ,
Fr. Stephen, Mat. Lindsey, Zoe, and our soon to be son, Stephen the 3rd.

The Heartbeat of Parish Life - Pascha Greeters: Anthony, Nate, Josh | Next Week's Greeters: Heath, Chandler
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 April 25th): 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.

Easter Egg Hunt (April 19th)

Our parish Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Sunday, April 19th, during Coffee Hour following Divine Liturgy. It will be a joyful time for our children and families to celebrate together in the bright joy of Pascha, and a few of the eggs will even include fun surprises like 3D printed crosses. Thank you to everyone who donated candy, gifts, and other items to help make this a special day for our children.

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.

Parish Council Meeting (April 19th)

Pilgrimage to Saints Mary and Martha Monastery (April 25th)

Saints Mary and Martha Orthodox Monastery in Wagener, South Carolina, will host its Twenty-Fourth Annual Pilgrimage on Saturday, April 25, with the visitation of the wonderworking Icon of Saint Anna, Mother of the Theotokos, from Saint Tikhon's Monastery. The day will include Matins at 8:00 AM, Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM, a Moleben to Saint Anna, the Blessing of the Graves, and a catered luncheon. Pilgrims are asked to bring a dessert. If you are interested in venerating this holy icon, please consider making the trip. For more information, contact the monastery at 803-564-6894.

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. Timothy, Fr. John, Dn. Andrei, Annette, 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: Mother Cassiana, Kelly, 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, Chastity, Boris, Harry, Maegan, Lara, Nicholas, and especially all children suffering or in need throughout the world.

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

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, Zach, Asher, Audra, Austin, Kasey, Bently, Raelynn, Emma, Oakleigh, Tyler, Joseph, Jeremiah, Chastity, Nick, Melissa, Astrid, Freyja, Devin, Courtney, Kaden, Leo, Tyler, Shannon, Evan, Eric, Lia, Wyatt, Renata, Dawson, Katylin, James, Joshua, Kris, Ruth, Breanne, Samuel, Wyatt, Cody, Michaela, Anna, Corey, Aidan, Aaron, Tim, Anthony, Evan

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:

Why Is Pascha the Feast of Feasts in Orthodoxy?

Pascha is not just the happiest day on the Orthodox calendar. It is the feast of feasts, the victory of Christ over death, and the center of the Christian life. Everything in the Church leads to this, and everything is changed by it. After the long road of Great Lent and Holy Week, we stand in the joy of the Resurrection and proclaim that death, sorrow, and darkness do not have the final word. Read More:

<https://savannahorthodox.com/pascha-in-orthodoxy-the-greatest-feast-of-all/>

Please read and share this on your social media accounts.

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