



ST MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

APRIL 19TH, 2026
ANTIPASCHA!
ST THOMAS SUNDAY

Scripture Readings

Acts 5:12-20 (Epistle)

At that time, through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

John 20:19-31 (Gospel)

Being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

2ND SUNDAY OF PASCHA: Antipascha: Saint Thomas Sunday

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed "The Doubting Thomas." This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, "The Touching of Thomas." The Slavonic inscription is, "The Belief of Thomas." When Saint Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts. This day is also known as "Antipascha." This does not mean "opposed to Pascha," but "in place of Pascha." Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's Resurrection. Sunday is called "Resurrection" in Russian, and "the Lord's Day" in Greek.

Troparion — Tone 7: From the sealed tomb, You did shine forth O Life! / Through closed doors You did come to Your disciples, O Christ God! / Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit, / by the greatness of Your mercy, O Resurrection of all!

Kontakion — Tone 8: Thomas touched Your life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, / when You did come to Your apostles through closed doors. / He cried out with all: You are my Lord and my God!

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)
1st - Dawson Wichman
3rd - Zoe Osburn
4th - Jordan and Sharrell White
5th - Ana Kenley
12th - Breanne Hughes
14th - Fr. Michael Matsko
15th - Kendra Roberts
23rd - Allison (Alexandra) Somich (Name's Day)
23rd - Meagan Clark
25th - Mark Guyer (Name's Day)

SCHEDULE

April 22nd - Wednesday
GSU Meet Up at the Somich's (5:30 PM)
(See Rdr. Ron and Kristin for Details)

April 24th - Friday (This Week Only)
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329) (10:00 AM)

April 25th - Saturday
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)
Saturday Night Questing (After Vespers)

April 26th - Sunday
Hours (9:00 AM)
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Coffee Hour (After Liturgy)
Church School (11:45 AM)
Adult Class (11:45 AM)

WISDOM

"When you doubt in the truth of any person or any event described in Holy Scripture, then remember that 'all Scripture is given by inspiration of God,' as the Apostle says, and is therefore true, and does not contain any imaginary persons, fables, and tales, although it includes parables which everyone can see are not true narratives but are written in figurative language. The whole of the Word of God is single, entire, indivisible truth; and if you admit that any narrative, sentence, or word is untrue, then you sin against the truth of the whole of Holy Scripture and its primordial Truth, which is God Himself. 'I am the truth,' said the Lord; 'Thy word is truth,' said Jesus Christ to God the Father. Thus, consider the whole of the Holy Scripture as truth; everything that is said in it has either taken place or takes place." - St. John of Kronstadt, My Life in Christ

WEEKLY JOKES

I invented a new game called mental bowling. You've got to be in the right frame of mind for it.

I tried explaining the definition of a palindrome to my wife. But I got it all backwards.

What do you call a reindeer who can write with both hooves? Bambidextrous.

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Parish Financial Report (April 16th, 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: \$10,350
2026 Year to Date: \$55,891

Glory to God, we are off to a strong start this month and already nearing our goal. Your generosity strengthens our parish and supports our life of worship and service in Christ. Thank you everyone for the faithful commitment to our church family.

Full Report here: <https://savannahorthodox.com/reports/>

The Heartbeat of Parish Life – Greeters: Heath, Chandler | Next Week: Anthony, 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 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.

A Small Way to Love One Another: Coffee Hour

Coffee hour is a blessing and an important part of our life together as a parish family. Many people work very hard to prepare and provide food each week for both our members and our visitors, and I am grateful for their love and service. Because we have had a few small issues recently, I want to address them now before they become a bigger problem. Please take only what you will eat, throw away your plate and trash when you are finished, do not place leftovers in the refrigerator, and clean up your spot before leaving. I also ask that we do all of this in love, with patience, and without grumbling. If anyone has been upset or frustrated, I ask you to forgive one another and not hold onto anger. In this way, we can care well for our parish home and for one another in peace.

No Confession During This Season of Pascha

I have had a few people ask about confession during the Paschal season, especially those who were not able to come during Lent. The same guidance also applies to the newly baptized and chrismated. Unless there is a serious need, I would gently encourage everyone to wait until after Pentecost. Lent is the season especially given for repentance, self-examination, and confession, while Pascha and the days that follow are given to us so that we may rejoice in the Resurrection and learn to live in that joy. This does not mean repentance stops or confession is unimportant, but that the Church in Her wisdom gives us this holy season to stand in the light of the empty tomb and give thanks. So unless there is a serious pastoral need, let us keep the feast in peace and brightness. If you are unsure, please feel free to reach out to me.

Easter Egg Hunt (Today)

Our parish Easter Egg Hunt will take place 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 (Today)

There will be a brief parish-wide meeting immediately following Divine Liturgy to elect three members to serve on the Audit Committee. These members will review the parish's financial records, including accounts, disbursements, and bank balances, in keeping with our responsibilities as a nonprofit. Terms last until the next annual meeting. The committee meets annually. If there are more than three nominees, ballots will be handed out, collected as you leave, and the results announced in the hall.

Monthly GSU Meetup at the Somich's (April 22nd)

From Reader Ron: Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Christos Voskreshe! Voistinu Voskreshe! We plan to have a Georgia Southern get together next Wednesday, April 22. I hope y'all can make it for a fun post-Pascha celebration. We'll plan to hang out outside, make plov (get excited!), play games, and just fellowship. Plan for 5:30-6 at our house, come and bring a friend! Text myself (803.280.4080) or Kristin (704.593.8100) for details.

Coffee Chat This Week Moved to Friday (April 24th)

Due to the anniversary (April 23rd) of my father's passing, I have moved coffee chat this week to Friday.

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, a Q&A with Abbot Sergius of St. Tikhon's Monastery, 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 Iliia of Georgia, Fr. Timothy, Fr. John, Dn. Andrei, Annette, Carol, Jan, Elizabeth, Carlos, Anastasia, 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, Tristan

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:

Understanding Culture Through an Orthodox Lens: Introducing the Almost Christian Blog

Many of the movies, books, and songs people love reflect themes like sacrifice, mercy, and hope, even when they are not explicitly Christian. This new series, "Almost Christian," explores how these stories point toward deeper truth fulfilled in the Orthodox Church, while also helping our ranking on Google and other search engines by reaching more people through rich, engaging content. Read More:

<https://savannahorthodox.com/understanding-culture-through-an-orthodox-lens-almost-christian/>

Please read and share this on your social media accounts.

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