



ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Scripture Readings

Acts 6:1-7 (Epistle)

In those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Mark 15:43-16:8 (Gospel)

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, came and took courage, and went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph observed where He was laid. Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples, and Peter, that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

3RD SUNDAY OF PASCHA:

Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearing Women with the Noble Joseph

The Myrrh-bearing women were those faithful women who followed Christ throughout His ministry and remained near Him during His saving Passion, together with His Mother. After His death, they came with myrrh and spices to honor His body, while Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus courageously asked Pilate for the Lord's body, took Him down from the Cross, wrapped Him in linen and spices, and placed Him in the tomb. The Church remembers these women because they showed great love, courage, and faithfulness when many others had scattered. Among them are Mary Magdalene, Mary the wife of Cleopas, Joanna, Salome, Martha and Mary the sisters of Lazarus, and above all the Most Holy Theotokos. On this day the Church also honors Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, who cared for the burial of Christ are commemorated alongside the Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women.

Troparion — Tone 2: The comely Joseph, / when he had taken down Your most pure Body from the tree, / wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices, / and placed it in a new tomb. / But You rose on the third day, O Lord, / granting the world great mercy.

Kontakion — Tone 2: When You proclaimed "Rejoice" to the Myrrhbearers, / You caused the lamentation of the foremother Eve to cease by Your Resurrection; O Christ God; / commanding Your Apostles to proclaim: / "The Savior is risen from the tomb."

APRIL 26TH, 2026

MYRRHBEARING WOMEN 3RD SUNDAY OF PASCHA

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
- 23rd - Justin Sarver
- 25th - Mark Guyer (Name's Day)

SCHEDULE

No Coffee Chat This Week

May 2nd - Saturday
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

May 3rd - 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

"You have heard, dearly beloved, that holy women who had followed the Lord came to the sepulcher with spices. They had loved Him when He was alive, and they showed Him their eager tenderheartedness even when He was dead. Their deed points to something that must be done in our holy Church. Thus as we hear of what they did, we must also think of our responsibility to imitate them. We too, who believe in Him Who died, approach His sepulcher with spices if we are strengthened with the sweet smell of the virtues, and if we seek the Lord with a reputation for good works. And the women who came with spices saw angels, since those who advance toward God through their holy desires, accompanied by the sweet smell of the virtues, behold the citizens from on high."

- St. Gregory the Great, Forty Gospel Homilies

WEEKLY JOKES

I went skydiving for the first time today. A guy strapped himself to me, and we jumped out of the plane. As we were plummeting, he yells, "So..." "How long have you been an instructor?"

Men who kiss their wives before leaving for work live an average of five years longer than men who don't. Yea I know how murder works.

Do short people start their stories as "when I was little" or "as I am today"?

That car looks nice but the muffler seems exhausted.

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: \$11,787
2026 Year to Date: \$57,328

We are moving in a good direction and remain on track to meet our monthly goal. Let's finish the month faithfully and generously, not only reaching the goal but, God willing, surpassing it. Thank you for supporting the worship, ministries, and daily life of our parish in service to 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/>

The Heartbeat of Parish Life – Greeters: Anthony, Dr. Chastity | Next Week: TBD

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 May 9th): 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.

Big Week in the Osburn Household (April 29th)

Next week will be a full one for the Osburn household, as a certain Matushka is scheduled for her C-section on Wednesday. If I am a little slower than usual in replying to messages, emails, or calls, you will know the reason why. There will also be no Coffee Chat on Thursday or Friday next week. Barring any complications, the weekend services should go on as normal. If I need to miss Saturday, Dn. Vassily will lead Reader's Vespers and if I need to miss Sunday, Fr. Michael has kindly agreed to serve in my place. I would be grateful for your prayers for Mat. Lindsey, for the baby, and for our whole family.

Mother's Day Brunch. Men, You're Up. (May 10th)

As Mother's Day approaches in a few weeks, I would like to ask the men of the parish to take charge of a special brunch after the service that day. Since my wife will not be there to organize it (and she shouldn't anyway since this is the guys' time to shine), I need a few of the men to step up, coordinate things, and make sure everything is handled. This is a good opportunity for us to show a little love and gratitude to all of the women of the parish, who serve, organize, give, and care for others far more often than many of us ever see, and certainly far more than we deserve. It is only right that we treat them well and make the day a little easier and more joyful for them.

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, George, George, Kathleen, all children killed through the evil act of abortion, and all the fallen soldiers who defend our nation.

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, George, 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, Luna, Fletcher, 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:

Is There Christian Symbolism in Interstellar?

Interstellar is more than a space film. It touches on love, sacrifice, and the longing for something beyond this world. But where does it fall short? And how does the Orthodox Church answer those same questions? Read More:

<https://savannahorthodox.com/is-there-christian-symbolism-in-interstellar/>

Please read and share this on your social media accounts.

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