



ST MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

APRIL 5TH, 2026

ENTRY INTO JERUSALM
PALM SUNDAY

Scripture Readings

Philippians 4:4-9 (Epistle)

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

John 12:1-18 (Gospel)

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt." His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

Palm Sunday: Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem

Palm Sunday celebrates Christ's royal entrance into Jerusalem, where the people welcomed Him like a king with palm branches and cries of "Hosanna." Together with the raising of Lazarus, it points to something greater: Christ's victory over death and the fulfillment of the prophecies about the Messiah. But this triumph is brief and misunderstood. Christ enters Jerusalem not to claim an earthly kingdom, but to go willingly toward His suffering, death, and resurrection in Holy Week. The crowds honor Him as king, yet many are still expecting a political savior rather than the true King who comes in humility to save the world.

Troparion — Tone 1: By raising Lazarus from the dead before Your passion, / You did confirm the universal Resurrection, O Christ God! / Like the children with the palms of victory, / we cry out to You, O Vanquisher of death: / Hosanna in the Highest! / Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!

Troparion — Tone 4: When we were buried with You in Baptism, O Christ God, / we were made worthy of eternal life by Your Resurrection! / Now we praise You and sing: / Hosanna in the highest! / Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!

Kontakion — Tone 6: Sitting on Your throne in heaven, / carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God! / Accept the praise of angels and the songs of children who sing: / Blessed is He that comes to recall Adam!

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)

HOLY WEEK

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

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

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

April 9th - Thursday
Vespertine Liturgy (3:00 PM)
Lenten Meal (After Liturgy)
Matins w/ Passion Gospels (6:30 PM)

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

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

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

WISDOM

Thus, on the eve of Christ's Passion, in the celebration of the joyful cycle of the triumphant days of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, we reunite ourselves to Christ, affirm His Lordship over the totality of our life, and express our readiness to follow Him to His Kingdom "that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead" (Philippians 3:10-11).

- Fr. Paul Lazor of Blessed Memory

WEEKLY JOKES

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

I learn best from the mistakes of people who took my advice.

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST! BLESSED IS HE THAT COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!

Parish Financial Report (April 2nd, 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
March 2026 Goal: \$16,150
March 2026 Collections: \$18,650
2026 Year to Date: \$45,541

Glory to God, our March collections came in \$2,500 above goal. 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/>

The Heartbeat of Parish Life – Greeters: Heath, Chandler, Dr. Chastity | Pascha Greeters: Anthony, Nate, Josh 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 Holy Week

If anyone who hasn't yet gone to confession needs to go during Holy Week, I will be available 30 minutes before and after every service this week. If you need to go at a different time, please reach out to me and I will be happy to schedule a time to meet.

Holy Thursday and Friday In Between Meals (April 9th and 10th)

We will have a light Lenten potluck between services on Holy Thursday, April 9th and Holy Friday, April 10th for those staying at church between the afternoon and evening services. Please consider bringing a simple Lenten dish, snack, or drink to share so we can enjoy a little fellowship and sustenance together during these solemn days. To help us plan, please see Mat. Lindsey or sign up on the website.

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 through the 11th)

Tomb Watching is a beautiful Holy Friday and Holy Saturday tradition in which parishioners take turns keeping prayerful watch at Christ's tomb from after Matins of Holy Friday until the Paschal services begin, pausing only during the Liturgy. Time slots are one hour each with two people per hour, and you are welcome to sign up with someone else or take a slot on your own. Even one 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.

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

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:

One Hour at Christ's Tomb Can Change You

<https://savannahorthodox.com/one-hour-at-christs-tomb-can-change-you/>

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 accounts.

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