



# ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN  
RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

MAY 3RD, 2026

PARALYTIC  
4TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA

## Scripture Readings

### Acts 9:32-42 (Epistle)

In those days, as Peter went through all parts of the country, he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

### John 5:1-15 (Gospel)

At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, and paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first after the stirring of the water was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk?'" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

### 4TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: Sunday of the Paralytic

The Old Testament contains many miracles involving water, from the Nile turning to blood, to the Red Sea parting, to water flowing from the rock at Horeb, to Gideon's fleece being filled with dew. These events prepare us to understand Christ's miracle at the Sheep Pool, where He healed the paralytic who had waited thirty-eight years for healing. While the pool healed only one person when the angel stirred the water, Christ brings healing and salvation to countless people through Holy Baptism. The Church also connects this miracle with the Archangel Michael, asking his protection and guidance. As we remember the paralytic, we ask Christ to raise up our own souls, which are often paralyzed by sin, weakness, and careless living.

*Troparion — Tone 3: Let the heavens rejoice, / let the earth be glad, / for the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world / great mercy.*

*Kontakion — Tone 3: By Your divine authority, O Lord, / as You raised up the paralytic of old, / so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sundry sins and unseemly acts; / so that being saved I may cry: / "Glory to Your power, O compassionate Christ!"*

## MAY Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

- 4th - Susan Ally (Name's Day)
- 5th - Alex Dita
- 8th - Dottie Kocher
- 9th - Noah Rigato
- 12th - Renata Hares
- 17th - Jeanie Klezaras
- 18th - Chandler Blagburn
- 28th - Garrett and Meagan Clark
- 10th - Marcel and Carmen Maghiar
- 26th - Jeremiah Williams
- 27th - Sam Nessim
- 28th - Jamie and Tammy Collins
- 28th - Ron and Kristin Somich
- 28th - Nick Hajduk
- 29th - Fr. Stephen and Mat. Lindsey
- 30th - Susan Ally
- 31st - Raelynn Carver

## SCHEDULE

May 7th - Thursday  
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329)  
(10:00 AM)

May 9th - Saturday  
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)  
Saturday Night Questing (After Vespers)

May 10th - Sunday  
Hours (9:00 AM)  
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)  
Mother's Day Coffee Hour (After Liturgy)  
Church School (11:45 AM)  
Adult Class (11:45 AM)

## WISDOM

*"The sick one who is acquainted with his sickness is easily to be cured; and he who confesses is pain is near to health. Many are the pains of the hard heart; and when the sick one resists the physician, his torments will be augmented."*

- St. Isaac the Syrian

*"The soul is greater than the body: the body becomes sick, and with that it is finished. But a spiritual sickness extends into eternity. Deliver us, O lord, from such illness, and grant us healing."*

- St. Macarius

## WEEKLY JOKES

Someone ripped the 5th month out of my new calendar. I'm dismayed.

I went to the hardware store to buy a hammer. They were priced by the pound.

It wasn't much fun when I broke my neck last year. But now I can look back and laugh.

# CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

## Parish Financial Report (May 1st, 2026) | 2026 Goal/Budget: \$175,000

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

May 2026 Goal: \$16,575  
April 2026 Goal: \$13,040  
April 2026 Collections: \$11,787  
2026 Year to Date: \$62,289

Glory to God, our parish has exceeded its giving goal for four straight months and is now 14% ahead of goal. Your generosity continues to support the worship, service, and daily life of our church family, and thank you to everyone for your faithful care for Christ and His Church. God is good.  
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, Nate | Next Week: Josh, Heath

**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:** Coming back this Month. Stay Tuned!

**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.

## 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.

## 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.



## He is Here! (April 29th, 2026)

With the 29th pick in the 2026 NHL draft, the Vegas Golden Knights are proud to select, from the Savannah Ghost Pirates, Stephen Charles Osburn III.

**Analysis Report:** Stephen Charles Osburn III enters the 2026 NHL Draft as the long-awaited answer to the Vegas Golden Knights' goal situation. After years of searching for stability in the crease, Vegas has finally found its franchise netminder 8.2 pounds, 20.5 inches of pure upside, elite calm under pressure, and absolutely no understanding of the salary cap, not that Vegas cares about that anyway. Scouts are encouraged by Osburn's calm positioning, strong crease presence, and complete refusal to move unless absolutely necessary. There are questions about stamina, as he often needs to be pulled after a short shift for a nap. With proper development, steady feeding, and a strict training plan of milk, naps, and tummy time, Vegas may have finally found the answer in net. Good luck kid and many years to my wife, Mat. Lindsey and to everyone who prayed for us during this beautiful time in our lives!!

## 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

Fr. Timothy, Fr. John, Dn. Andrei, Kathleen, Annette, Carol, Jan, Elizabeth, Carlos, Anastasia, 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, Andrew, Terri, Kate, Ruth, newly born Stephen, 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, Evan

**Catechumens:** Dusty, Evan, Nicole, Winry, Zach, Asher, Audra, Austin, Kasey, Bentley, Raelynn, Emma, Oakleigh, Tyler, Joseph, 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, Kirsten, Jackson, Connor, Zen, Eleia

**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:

### Bridge Over Troubled Water Feels Oddly Orthodox

In this week's "Almost Christian" reflection, we look at Simon & Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water" and its themes of mercy, consolation, and self-giving love. The song is not Christian in itself, but it gives us a moving picture of what it means to bear one another's burdens and stay near those who are suffering.  
Read More:

<https://savannahorthodox.com/bridge-over-troubled-water-feels-oddly-orthodox/>

Please read and share this on your social media accounts.

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