



ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN
RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

MAY 17TH, 2026

SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN
6TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Scripture Readings

Acts 16:16-34 (Epistle)

At that time, as we went to prayer, a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, saying, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city and teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

John 9:1-38 (Gospel)

At that time, as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." (CONTINUED)

MAY Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

2nd - Timothy Teeter
4th - Susan Ally (Name's Day)
5th - Alex Dita
6th - Jeff Bright
9th - Noah Rigato
10th - Benjamin Bentley
12th - Renata Hares
15th - James Nyantakyi
17th - Jeanie Klezaras
18th - Chandler Blagburn
28th - Garrett and Meagan Clark
10th - Marcel and Carmen Maghriar
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 20th - Wednesday
Ascension Liturgy (6:30 PM)

May 21st - Thursday
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329)
(10:00 AM)

May 23rd - Saturday
Panakhida for Tom's Father (4:30 PM)
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)
Saturday Night Questing (After Vespers)

May 24th - Sunday
Hours (9:00 AM)
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Panakahida for Angie Gimik (After Liturgy)
Coffee Hour (After Liturgy)
Church School (11:45 AM)
Adult Class (11:45 AM)

WISDOM

"Being full of love for man, and caring for our salvation, and desiring to stop the mouths of the foolish, He omits nothing of His own part, though there be none to give heed."

- St. John Chrysostom, Homily 56 on John

WEEKLY JOKES

Today I am taking the post-liturgy nap or as the church canons formally label it, "anapema".

Marriage is like a workshop. The husband works, the wife shops.

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Parish Financial Report (May 14th, 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
May 2026 Collections: \$7,795
2026 Year to Date Goal (with May included): \$71,365
2026 Year to Date (with First Two Weeks): \$72,102

Glory to God, our financial report is much improved this week. We are ahead of our year-to-date goal with two weeks still remaining. Thank you for your faithful generosity, which helps sustain our worship, service, and life together 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/>

John 9:1-38 (Gospel Continued) Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from." The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

6TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: Sunday of the Blind Man

On the Sunday of the Blind Man, the Church reveals Christ as the Light of the world, who heals both body and soul. The man born blind is not being punished for sin, but becomes the place where God's works are revealed. As Christ gives him sight, he comes to confess Him with faith, while others remain spiritually blind. This Gospel calls us to receive Christ's healing, confess Him without fear, and seek the true sight that leads to worship.

Kontakion — Tone 4: I come to You, O Christ, / blind from birth in my spiritual eyes / and I call to You in repentance: / You are the most radiant light of those in darkness!

Parents of Young Children Offer Feedback

Thank you to everyone who has offered such encouraging feedback about the new guidelines for children in church. Several parents shared that Divine Liturgy felt calmer, more prayerful, and easier to enter into, and that the children seemed more connected to the service as well. Glory to God, this is a good step forward as our parish continues to grow and as we work together to help our children learn how to worship with the whole Church.

The Heartbeat of Parish Life - Greeters: Nate, Dr. Chastity | Next Week: Nate, Heath

As our parish continues to grow, we need to work together in good order. The lay leaders listed below for each area of parish life have my blessing to organize, guide, and make the needed decisions in those areas. Please listen to them, respect their direction, they are here to help, and go to them with questions or offers to help.

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): Ages 3 through 10 with Jeanie Klezaras and ages 11-17 with Dr. Christina Hanna and Laila Zdionica. May 31st is the last Sunday Until September 13th.

Weekly Bible Studies: Sundays (~11:45 AM): All classes recorded and on all major podcast platforms. Catechumens are encouraged to attend the Sunday Class.

Firepit Dinners: Tentatively we will have our return of this on Saturday, June 13th after Vespers.

Coffee Chat: Thursdays - 10 AM Paddles - 401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329.

Saturday Night Questing: See David Reynolds (706-224-2721) to join.

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.

St. Timothy's Young Adult's Group: A new Young Adult Group has started at the parish for activities, fellowship, discussion, and staying connected. Catechumens in the young adult age range are also welcome. Anyone interested should see Anastasia Collins.

OCF at GSU: In association with St. Timothy's Young Adult Group, we are working to start the OCF group at GSU. This will give our college students another opportunity for fellowship and growth in the Church. Anyone interested should speak with Rdr. Ron or Kristin Somich.

Coffee Hour in Memory of Angie Gimik (May 24th)

Next Sunday, May 24th, we will serve a Panakhida for Angie Gimik following Divine Liturgy. Coffee Hour will be catered by the Gimik family in honor of her one-year memorial. May Angie's memory be eternal.

3 Week Adult Chanting Class (June 14th, 21st, & 28th)

After Coffee Hour on June 14, June 21, and June 28, Dn. Vassily and Tammy will teach an adult class on learning the services and how to chant. This will be a helpful opportunity to better understand the structure of our services, the role of chanting in the worship of the Church, and how to participate more confidently and prayerfully. The class is open to anyone who would like to learn, but it is mandatory for all choir members. Please make plans to attend.

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. John, Cindy, Dillion, Dylan, Kathleen, Annette, Carol, Jan, Elizabeth, Carlos, Anastasia, Gene, infant Santiago, 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, Fr. Stephen, Dn. Vassily

Community: Mother Cassiana, Mat. Lindsey, Tammy, Litsa, child Lilliana, Jonas, George, Carl, Olga, Rita, child Ciana Rose, Jaimie, Ray, Polly, Pina, Vic, Jodi, Owen, Tyler, Tetta, Ashley, Aileen, Beth, Dewitt, Vinia, Greg, Carl, Kenny, Chastity, Boris, Harry, Maegan, Lara, Nicholas, Luna, Fletcher, Andrew, Terri, Kate, Ruth, Wanda, Luna, Vicki, Carlisle, Kathy, and especially all children suffering or in need throughout the world.

Expecting Mothers: Ori, Rachel, Hailey, Akira, Erin, Deanna, Cassidy, Geymi, Violetta, Darienne, Michaela, Kara, Noel

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: 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, Carson, Christopher, Sarah, Chesney, Lily, Grayson, Freyja, Zachary, Chandler

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 E.T. a Christ Figure?

This week's Almost Christian reflection looks at the movie E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial and the recent Orthodox conversations around Fr. Seraphim Rose and discernment. The film is not Orthodox, but it gives us a simple and moving way to think about fear, mercy, the stranger, and the longing for home. Read More:

<https://savannahorthodox.com/is-e-t-a-christ-figure/>

Please read and share this on your social media accounts.

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