



# ST MARY MAGDALENE

## ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

### Scripture Readings

#### Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 (Epistle)

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the Church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you. Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the Church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

#### John 17:1-13 (Gospel)

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me, and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You, and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world, but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept, and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves."

### 7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA:

#### Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

On the Seventh Sunday of Pascha, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council, held in Nicea in 325. The Council was called to address the Arian heresy, which falsely taught that Jesus Christ was a created being and not truly God. The 318 Holy Fathers rejected this error and confessed the true faith of the Church: that the Son is of one essence with the Father. From this Council came the first part of the Nicene Creed, along with canons for Church order and guidance on the celebration of Pascha. This commemoration reminds us that Christ preserves His Church in the truth, even in times of confusion and false teaching.

**Troparion — Tone 8: You are most glorious, O Christ our God! / You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth! / Through them you have guided us to the true faith! / O greatly Compassionate One, glory to You!**

**Kontakion — Tone 8: The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one faith for the Church. / Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, / it defines and glorifies the great mystery of Orthodoxy!**

# MAY 24TH, 2026

## FATHERS OF FIRST COUNCIL AFTERFEAST OF ASCENSION

### 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
- 10th - Marcel and Carmen Maghiar
- 12th - Renata Hares
- 15th - James Nyantakyi
- 17th - Jeanie Klezaras
- 18th - Chandler Blagburn
- 26th - Jeremiah Williams
- 27th - Sam Nessim
- 28th - Garrett and Meagan Clark
- 28th - Jamie and Tammy Collins
- 28th - Ron and Kristin Somich
- 28th - Nick Hajduk
- 29th - Fr. Stephen and Mat. Lindsey Osburn
- 30th - Susan Ally
- 31st - Raelynn Carver

## SCHEDULE

May 28th - Thursday  
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329)  
(10:00 AM) - Father will not be there this week.

May 30th - Saturday  
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

May 24th - Sunday  
Hours (9:00 AM)  
Pentecost Divine Liturgy with Kneeling Prayers (9:30 AM)  
Coffee Hour (After Liturgy)  
Church School (12:00 PM)  
Adult Class (12:00 PM)

## WISDOM

"They asked Abba Sisoës, 'If a brother sins, surely he must do penance for a year?' He replied, 'That is a hard saying.' The visitors said, 'For six months?' He replied, 'That is a great deal.' They said, 'For forty days?' He said, 'That is a great deal, too.' They said to him, 'What then? If a brother falls, and the agape is about to be offered, should he simply come to the agape, too?' The old man said to them, 'No, he needs to do penance for a few days. But I trust in God that if such a man does penance with his whole heart, God will receive him, even in three days.'"

- The Sayings of the Desert Fathers: The Alphabetical Collection

## WEEKLY JOKES

When you clean out a vacuum cleaner, you actually become a vacuum cleaner.

Arrived late to the weekly kleptomaniacs anonymous meeting and all the seats were taken.

I just got my doctor's test results back and it's bad news. Turns out I'm not gonna be a doctor.

# CHRIST IS ASCENDED! FROM EARTH TO HEAVEN!

## Parish Financial Report (May 21st, 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: \$10,289  
2026 Year to Date: \$74,896

Thank you to everyone who continues to give faithfully to the life of our parish. With two Sundays left, we are on pace to meet our goal and possibly go a little beyond it. This is encouraging because every gift helps us serve Christ, care for His Church, and continue building up our parish family together.

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

**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 our firepit dinners 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: Retool Mode, Not a Full Rebuild IMPORTANT PLEASE READ (June 14th)

Due to the blessed growth of our parish, we are revamping the fellowship coffee hour starting June 14th. Coffee hour will switch from potluck sign-up to designated food teams. Each food team will be a mix of young adults, older adults, and married couples creating the perfect blend of folks to represent the richness and backgrounds of our parish. The teams will work together, drawing on each other's experience and sharing of ideas. Most importantly, this is not going to be a Food Network competition. Meals are to be simple, stress-free and enjoyable for the entire team. We will very much encourage theme weekends but its about community, not competition. Each team's job will be to make / bring food, get the coffee ready, and make sure the pitchers of water and lemonade are placed on the tables. Teams will be large enough so that no one person is over burdened, regardless of age or experience. Every person has a special place on the team. Teams will be shown how to work the ovens by their team leader and where the supplies are. As well as, Suzanne and Garrett will continue to maintain the kitchen supplies so please reach out to them if you ever need anything. Matushka Lindsey and I will be in charge of forming the teams and providing oversight and guidance. Thank you for helping us share the work, welcome others well, and keep building parish life together as one family in Christ.

### Parking Lot Notice

New gravel will be placed in the parking lot next week to help fill the potholes and improve the condition of the driveway. Please drive slowly and carefully over the gravel, especially while it is still settling. Driving too quickly can cause the gravel to shift and wash out, which may lead to the potholes returning sooner. Thank you for helping us take care of the church property.

### A Gentle Reminder: Food and Drink in the Church

Please remember that food and drinks should remain in the parish hall and not be brought into the church. This applies during Divine Liturgy, all other services, and Adult Class. Plates of food, coffee, soda, and other drinks should be finished in the hall before entering the church. The only exception is water for the clergy and choir during services, since they are serving and singing for an extended time. Otherwise, no food or drink should be brought into the church. This is not meant to make anyone feel singled out. We simply want to preserve the church as a sacred space set apart for prayer, worship, and teaching. Thank you for helping us care for the church with reverence and love.

### Another Gentle Reminder: The Children during the Gospel and Sermon

During the Gospel reading, the children should come forward and sit behind Dn. Vassily, and they should remain there through the sermon. This helps them listen, stay engaged, and learn that the Gospel and sermon are important parts of the Divine Liturgy for them too. Please also make sure one of the children has the collection bowl with them so it is ready at the proper time. Thank you for helping us teach our children to participate in the life of the Church with reverence and joy.

### Baptism for Stephen III and Coffee Hour (June 7th)

On Sunday, June 7th, we will celebrate the baptism of my son, Stephen III. Please keep him in your prayers as he is received into the life of Christ and His Holy Church. Reader Alex Vlachos and Anastasia Collins will serve as his godparents, taking on the beautiful responsibility of helping guide him in the Orthodox faith (and taking him to Disney...a lot...well, mostly just Anastasia doing this...but anyway...) We will also be hosting coffee hour that weekend in thanksgiving for his baptism and we hope everyone will stay and celebrate with us.

### 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.

**PRIEST:** Fr. Stephen Osburn 702-521-6988 / [frsteve@savannahorthodox.com](mailto:frsteve@savannahorthodox.com) | **DEACON:** Dn. Vassily Kocher 912-756-5178

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## 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

Aaron, Betty, Cindy, Dillion, Dylan, Kathleen, 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, Bp. Gerasim, Mt. Isaiah, Fr. Matthew, Fr. Michael, Fr. Stephen, Dn. Vassily, and the newly ordained Fr. Tikhon

**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, Gavin, Sam, Wesley, Lily, and especially all children suffering or in need throughout the world.

**Expecting Mothers:** Ori, Rachel, 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, Bently, Raelynn, Emma, Oakleigh, Tyler, Joseph, Nick, Melissa, Astrid, Freyja, Devin, Courtney, Kaden, Leo, Tyler, Shannon, Evan, Eric, Lia, Wyatt, Renata, Dawson, Katlyn, 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, Sidney

**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 Pixar's Up Christian or Just Good Morals?

Pixar's Up gives us a moving picture of grief, memory, sacrifice, and learning to love again. While it is not a Christian film in the full sense, it reflects truths the Orthodox Church teaches more deeply: that love requires self-giving, that grief needs healing, and that the people God places before us often become part of our salvation. Read More:

<https://savannahorthodox.com/is-pixars-up-christian-or-just-good-morals/>

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