



# ST MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

**MAY 31ST, 2026**  
**HOLY PENTECOST**  
**8TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA**

## Scripture Readings

### Acts 2:1-11 (Epistle)

At that time, when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs — we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

### John 7:37-52, 8:12 (Gospel)

At that time, on the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" So there was a division among the people because of Him. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." Nikodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?" They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee." Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

## 8TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: Holy Pentecost

Pentecost is the fulfillment of the whole saving work of God and the beginning of the Church's life in the Holy Spirit. Fifty days after Pascha, the Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples, revealing the Church as the Body of Christ filled with grace, truth, holiness, and divine life. The feast shows us that salvation is not only something Christ has accomplished for us, but something we are now called to live and receive. At Pentecost, the Church celebrates both completion and beginning. The promises of the Old Testament are fulfilled, the apostles are empowered to preach to all nations, and the whole world is invited into the Kingdom of God. For the first time since Pascha, we again sing, "O Heavenly King," calling upon the Holy Spirit to come and abide in us. The Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost reminds us that, after the joy of Pascha, we return to our daily struggle in the world. Kneeling for the first time since Easter, we ask God for forgiveness, the help of the Holy Spirit, and mercy for those who have departed this life. The flowers and greenery of Pentecost remind us that the Church is always alive, always being renewed by the Holy Spirit, the Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life.

**Troparion - Tone 8 - Blessed are You O Christ Our God / You have revealed the fishermen as most wise / by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit / through them You drew the world into Your net / O Lover of Man, Glory to You!**

**Kontakion - Tone 8 - When the most High came down and confused the tongues, / He divided the nations; / but when he distributed the tongues of fire / He called all to unity. / Therefore, with one voice, we glorify the All-holy Spirit!**

## 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
- 21st - Dia, Janice Kocher (Name's Day)
- 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

June 4th - Thursday  
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329)  
(10:00 AM)

June 5th - Friday  
Online Adult Class (6:30 PM) - Link to be Emailed Later This Week

June 6th - Saturday  
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

June 7th - Sunday  
Hours (9:00 AM)  
Baptismal Divine Liturgy for Stephen III (9:30 AM)  
Coffee Hour (After Liturgy)

## WISDOM

*"If from one burning lamp someone lights another, then another from that one, and so on in succession, he has light continuously. In the same way, through the Apostles ordaining their successors, and these successors ordaining others, and so on, the grace of the Holy Spirit is handed down through all generations and enlightens all who obey their shepherds and teachers."*

- St. Gregory Palamas, "On how the Holy Spirit was manifested and shared out at Pentecost"

## WEEKLY JOKES

Canada invented pineapple pizza. Congrats to them for the only war they've ever started.

When I die, please bury me with pictures of my wife so that when I meet God, I can show Him, I've already been to Hell.

What do you call a spider with 10 eyes? A spiiiiiiiiider!

# GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

## Parish Financial Report (May 26th, 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: \$12,806  
2026 Year to Date: \$77,413

Thank you for your faithful support of our parish. We are still ahead for the year, though a little behind for the month. Please prayerfully consider giving this weekend or donating online as we continue serving Christ and caring for the work entrusted to us.

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 or Weekly Church Clean Up at <https://savannahorthodox.com/serve/> and help care for the house of God and our parish family.

**Youth Church School:** Sundays at 11:45 AM: Ages 3 through 10 with Jeanie Klezaras and ages 11-17 with Dr. Christina Hanna and Laila Zdionica. Today is the last Sunday Until September 13th.

**Online Weekly Bible Studies:** Online Fridays at 6:30 PM. Link Emailed Weekly. All classes recorded and on all major podcast platforms. Catechumens are encouraged to attend the Class.

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

**Coffee Chat:** Thursdays at 10 AM at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329)

**Saturday Night Questing:** On Hold Until September - Summer Break.

**St. Bridget Ministry (Narthex):** We are retooling the St. Bridget Ministry in the narthex as a simple place to donate useful items, including diapers and baby supplies, and to take what you need with gratitude and peace.

**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.

### 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, 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. This is not meant to single anyone out, but 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.

### New Online Bible Study (Friday at 6:30 PM ONLINE - June 5th)

Beginning Friday, June 5 at 6:30 PM, we will test a new online Bible Study format by Zoom every Friday evening in June. The classes will still be taught by Anthony with the studies recorded with video and audio so they can be shared afterward for those who cannot attend live. This will help keep Sunday fellowship focused on welcoming visitors, catechumens, and members, while giving our Bible Study a better time and setting. If it works well, Friday evening online Bible Study may become our regular format going forward. Zoom link will be emailed this week via Constant Contact.

### Baptism for Stephen III and Coffee Hour (Next Sunday - 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.

### The Heartbeat of Parish Life

Greeters: Josh, Dr. Chastity | Next Week: Heath, Chandler  
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.

### 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/>

## 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

Jerry, Larry, 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, Met. Isaiah, Fr. Matthew, Fr. Michael, Fr. Stephen, Dn. Vassily

Community: Mother Cassiana, 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, Holly, Barry, Jerry (Gerasimos), 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, 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, 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: Almost Champions?

Sports can be enjoyed by Christians when they remain gifts and do not become idols. In this "Almost Christian" reflection, we look at how sports can teach discipline, courage, teamwork, humility, and joy while still pointing beyond themselves to the true race that leads to the Kingdom of God.

<https://savannahorthodox.com/almost-champions/>

Please read and share this on your social media accounts.

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