



ST MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

JUNE 7TH, 2026

SYNAXIS OF ALL SAINTS
1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture Readings

Hebrews 11:33-12:2 (Epistle)

Brethren, through faith the saints subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, and turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, and were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, and tormented, of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30 (Gospel)

At that time, Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father Who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father Who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me, and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me." Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: Synaxis of All Saints

The Sunday after Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those known to us and those known only to God. This feast shows us the fruit of Pentecost. By the descent of the Holy Spirit, human beings are raised from their fallen state and made holy in Christ. The Lord commands us, "Be holy, for I am holy," and the saints show us that this calling is possible by the grace of God.

The saints have come from every time, place, and way of life. The Church honors the Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, Confessors, and the Righteous. Some preached the Gospel throughout the world. Some shed their blood for Christ. Some taught and shepherded the faithful. Some withdrew into monasteries and deserts for prayer and repentance. Others lived holy lives in the world as husbands, wives, parents, workers, rulers, servants, and faithful members of the Church.

The feast likely began as a commemoration of all martyrs and later expanded to honor all who bore witness to Christ by a holy and faithful life. It became especially prominent in the ninth century under Emperor Leo VI, who dedicated the Sunday after Pentecost to All Saints. This feast reminds us that holiness is not reserved for only one kind of person or one path in life. Whether in the world, in the monastery, in suffering, or in service to the Church, every Christian is called to become a saint through the life of the Holy Spirit.

Troparion — Tone 4 - Adorned in the blood of Your Martyrs throughout all the world, / as if clothed in purple and linen, / through them Your Church cries out to You, O Christ God: / "Bestow Your bounties upon Your people, / grant peace to Your habitation, and great mercy to our souls."

Kontakion — Tone 8 - As the first fruits of nature offered to the Planter of all creation, O Lord, / the inhabited earth brings the God-bearing Martyrs. / By their supplications, and the intercession of the Theotokos, / preserve Your Church in profound peace, O greatly Merciful One.

JUNE Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

- 1st - Philip Savaris
- 4th - Dn. Vassily and Dia. Janice Kocher
- 4th - Tahir and Savannah Savaris
- 7th - Bobby Drevitson Jr.
- 7th - Ken Gimik
- 9th - Ethan Carter
- 12th - David Reynolds
- 12th - Mark and Maria Guyer
- 15th - Daisy Sarver
- 16th - Jerry Welsh
- 18th - Kris Hughes
- 21st - Kristin Somich
- 22nd - Dia. Janice Kocher
- 25th - Mark Cartwright
- 26th - Josh Takacs
- 27th - Audra Mccullum
- 27th - Freyja Hajduk
- 28th - Michelle Reynolds
- 29th - Fr. Michael Matsko (Priesthood Anniversary)
- 30th - Van Roberts
- 30th - Sharrell Love
- 30th - Caleb Odem

SCHEDULE

June 11th - Thursday
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329)
(10:00 AM) - Father Will Not Be At Paddles This Week

June 12th - Friday
Online Bible Study (6:30 PM) <https://savannahorthodox.com/zoom/>

June 13th - Saturday
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)
Firepit Dinner (After Vespers)

June 14th - Sunday
Hours (9:00 AM)
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Coffee Hour (After Liturgy)
Chanting Class (After Coffee Hour)

WISDOM

I beg and beseech you, Lord: grant to all who have gone astray a true knowledge of you, so that each and every one may come to know your glory.

- St. Isaac the Syrian, from *The Prayers of St. Isaac the Syrian*

WEEKLY JOKES

I went to a silent auction. I won a dog whistle and two mimes.

What color is the wind? Blew.

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

Parish Financial Report (June 5th, 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: \$15,704
June 2026 Goal: \$13,420
2026 Year to Date: \$80,311

We slightly missed our goal in May, but are still in great shape on YTD. With summer here, please try / keep up with your tithing / pledges.

Full Report here: <https://savannahorthodox.com/reports/>
Give Securely Online: <https://savannahorthodox.com/help-us-grow/>

Greeters: June 7th: Heath, Chandler | June 14th: Anthony, Josh | June 21st: Anthony, Dr. Chastity

Coffee Hour Schedule: June 14th: Team Mat. Lindsey | June 21st: Team Josh | June 28th: Team Maria

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: Off for the Summer. Classes Resume September 13th.

Online Weekly Bible Studies: Fridays at 6:30 PM at <https://savannahorthodox.com/zoom/> All classes recorded and posted on all major podcast platforms. Catechumens are encouraged to attend the Class.

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.

Father Out of Country (June 8th-11th)

Due to the loss of my uncle and godfather, George, I will be flying to Toronto this week to serve his funeral. I will have full cell service while I am away, so please text or call me if there is an emergency. I have already put things in place to make sure any urgent needs are handled while I am gone. May George's memory be eternal.

Coffee Hour Teams Start Next Week (June 14th)

Due to the blessed growth of our parish, we are moving Coffee Hour from weekly potluck sign-ups to designated Coffee Hour teams beginning June 14th. Mat. Lindsey's team will be up first. The teams have now been formed and each team will be contacted by its team leader. Each team will help provide food, prepare coffee, and make sure water and lemonade are placed on the tables. Not everyone on a team has to cook. Most people will simply help serve, set up, or clean up. The team leaders will talk with their teams and work out who is able to cook and who can help in other ways. The goal is simple: to share the work, welcome visitors well, and continue building parish life together as one family in Christ. This is not a Food Network competition. Meals should be simple, stress-free, and enjoyable for the whole team. Theme weekends are welcome, but the point is fellowship, not competition. Team leaders will help show everyone how to use the kitchen, where supplies are kept, and how each Coffee Hour should run. Suzanne and Garrett will continue helping maintain kitchen supplies, so please reach out to them if anything is needed. Matushka Lindsey and Fr. Stephen will continue providing oversight and guidance for the teams. Going forward, each month's Coffee Hour teams will be listed in the bulletin under the greeter schedule.

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.

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

After Coffee Hour starting next week on June 14st, June 21st, and June 28th, 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.

4th of July Weekend BBQ Potluck (July 5th)

On Sunday, July 5th, we will have an Independence Day BBQ Potluck for Coffee Hour. There will be no Coffee Hour teams assigned that day, so everyone is invited to bring a favorite Fourth of July BBQ dish to share. This is not a competition, just a fun parish potluck and a chance to enjoy time together. We need at least 4 meats, 4 sides, and 4 desserts, along with volunteers to help clean up afterward and someone to make coffee that day. Please sign up on our website and let us know what you plan to bring or how you can help: <https://savannahorthodox.com/events/bbq-potluck/>. Please remember that if you bring food, you are responsible for serving that food. This will not be a free-for-all setup. You bring it, you serve it. There will also be a water slide set up on the lawn by the hall, so families are welcome to plan accordingly.

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

George, Jerry, Larry, Aaron, Betty, Cindy, Dillion, Dylan, 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, Carl, Olga, Rita, Rena, 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, Andrew, Terri, Kate, Ruth, Wanda, Vicki, Carlisle, Kathy, Gavin, Sam, Wesley, Lily, Holly, Barry, Jerry (Gerasimos), Dale, Marvin, and especially all children suffering or in need throughout the world.

Expecting Mothers: Meagan, 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, Angelina, Sidney

Prisoners: Stefan, Daron (Basil), Mark

Orthodox Missions: St. James (Beaufort), St. Basil (Marietta), St. John the Merciful (Kissimnee), 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:

The Prince of Egypt and the God Who Hears

This week's Almost Christian article looks at The Prince of Egypt through the lens of Orthodox Christianity. The film's story of Moses, the Exodus, and the Red Sea gives us a powerful way to reflect on providence, repentance, baptism, and the true freedom God gives His people.

<https://savannahorthodox.com/the-prince-of-egypt-and-the-god-who-hears/>

Please read and share this on your social media accounts.

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