



ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN
RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Scripture Readings

Romans 15:1-7 (Epistle)

Brethren, having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Matthew 9:27-35 (Gospel)

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

7th Sunday After Pentecost: Fathers of the 1st Six Ecumenical Councils

The Church commemorates the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils because they defended the Orthodox faith and clearly expressed the teachings handed down from the Apostles. These councils were called during times of serious confusion, when false teachings threatened the unity and life of the Church. The Fathers did not invent new beliefs. They carefully explained what the Church had always believed and protected the faithful from errors about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Theotokos, and salvation. The First and Second Ecumenical Councils defended the truth that the Son and the Holy Spirit are fully divine, equal with the Father, and worshiped together as one God. The Third Council proclaimed that the Virgin Mary is truly the Theotokos because the One born from her is truly God in the flesh. The Fourth Council taught that Jesus Christ is one Person in two natures, fully divine and fully human. The Fifth Council rejected teachings that distorted the mystery of Christ and the resurrection. The Sixth Council affirmed that Christ possesses both a divine will and a human will, perfectly united in His one Person. The Church honors these Fathers as lights because their teaching continues to guide Orthodox Christians today. Their decisions carry the highest authority because they were made by the Church in council, guided by the Holy Spirit, and received by the whole body of the faithful. They also established important canons to preserve order, discipline, and unity in the life of the Church. Their work reminds us that the Orthodox faith is not something each generation reinvents, but a living inheritance that must be received, guarded, and faithfully passed on.

Troparion - Tone 8 - You are most glorious, O Christ our God, / You have established the Fathers as lights upon the earth, / and through them, You have guided all of us to the true Faith! / O greatly compassionate one, glory to You.

Kontakion - Tone 8 - The preaching of the Apostles and the dogmas of the Fathers have confirmed one faith for the Church; / and She, clad in the garment of truth woven from heavenly theology, / teaches aright and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

JULY 19TH, 2026

FATHERS OF 1ST 6 COUNCILS
7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

8th - Jeff and Kate Bright
11th - Carson Hendrix
14th - Leo Bass
15th - Bridgette Harrod
16th - Fr. Michael and Mat. Yvonne Matsko
17th - Charlene Griffin
20th - Dan and Kamaka Legers
22nd - Nadia Holley
23rd - David Sullivan
24th - Bree Hall
24th - Josh and Akira Takacs
26th - Chesney Cowart
27th - Litsa Osburn (Name's Day)
27th - Mat. Lindsey Osburn (Name's Day)
29th - Courtney Bass
30th - Zen Roberts
31st - Charis Ally
31st - Sam and Nancy Nessim

SCHEDULE

July 20th - Monday
Funeral for Boris Cvetkovski (10:00 AM)

July 22nd - Wednesday
Hierarchal Liturgy at Annunciation Orthodox Church, 9795 Old St. Augustine Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257 - Deacon Vassily's Elevation to Protodeacon - (9:00 AM)

July 23rd - Thursday
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329) (10:00 AM)
Father will not be there

July 25th - Saturday
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

July 26th - Sunday
Hours (9:00 AM)
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Coffee Hour (After Liturgy)

July 21st-24th - Diocesan Assembly - Father Away

WISDOM

"What God has spoken through the Council of Nicaea endures forever."
- St. Athanasius the Great

"In no wise am I expounding my own opinion, but that which I have been taught by the Fathers, without changing anything in their teaching."
- St. Maximus the Confessor

WEEKLY JOKES

Why did the man run around his bed? He was trying to catch some sleep.

What clothing does a programmer wear? Whatever is in the dress code.

Do you think Pavlov thought about feeding his dog every time he heard a bell ring?

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

Parish Financial Report (July 17th, 2026) | 2026 Goal/Budget: \$175,000

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

2026 Year to Date: \$91,744
July 2026 Collections: \$6,066
July 2026 Goal: \$13,552

May and June were challenging months financially, and while July is off to a better start, we still need to strengthen our giving if we hope to meet our goals. The Lord is bringing real growth to our parish, and with that growth comes the need to prepare for the new church and parish hall. Even during the summer months, please remain faithful in your tithes and offerings so we can continue serving Christ, caring for our parish, and building for the future.

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

Greeters: July 19th - Anthony, Chastity | July 26th - Josh, Chastity | Aug 2nd - Anthony, Jacob
Coffee Hour Schedule: July 19th - Team Nate | July 26th - Team Kamaka | Aug 2nd - Team Mat Lindsey

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: Every other Friday 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): This is a food ministry for our community. Items needed for donation to local food pantry includes any canned goods, including peanut butter. This is a good time to clean out your pantry, and restock! We are also looking for volunteers to deliver food to God's Mission House this summer. Please see Ruth: (814) 227-7632

St. Ambrose Ministry (Narthex): This is a ministry for babies is also in the narthex; please donate, it can include open packages of diapers. Anything helps. Please see the shelves in the back of the narthex, if in need or to donate!

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.

Parish Library Inventory and Book Return

If you have checked out or borrowed a book from the parish library, please return it to the church. We are currently redoing the library and would like to get a full inventory of what we have. We are happy to lend books out again, but first we need to know what is currently in the collection. Please see Dn. Vassily if you have any questions.

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.

Baby Registry for Samson & Rachel Woodthorp

Samson and Rachel Woodthorp, former parishioners of St. Mary Magdalene, are preparing to welcome their little one. If you would like to bless and support them during this joyful season, their baby registry is available here: <https://savannahorthodox.com/woodthorp> Please keep them all in your prayers as they prepare for this beautiful gift of new life.

Church School Teacher Needed for Ages 11-17 Class

We are looking for a second Church School teacher for our older youth class, ages 11 to 17. Classes resume September 13. If you are faithful, dependable, and willing to help our young people grow in Christ, please see Fr. Stephen.

Greeter Team Expanding

We are looking for a few more people to help with our parish Greeter Team. This is a simple but important ministry of hospitality, helping welcome visitors, answer basic questions, and make sure people feel at home when they come to church. You do not need to know everything, only to be friendly, dependable, and willing to help. If you are interested in serving in this way, please see me.

Deacon Vassily's Elevation to Protodeacon (July 22nd)

On Wednesday, July 22nd, Dn. Vassily will be elevated to the rank of Protodeacon during the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Annunciation Orthodox Church, 9795 Old St. Augustine Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257. The Liturgy will begin at 9:00 AM. This is a great honor and joy for our parish and I encourage everyone who is able to make the drive down to attend and support him. It would be a blessing to have many from our parish present for this important day in Dn. Vassily's ministry and in the life of our community.

Splash in the Boro (August 15th)

We will celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the Dormition at 9:00 AM, then head to Splash in the Boro in Statesboro. Admission is \$20 per person and the Church will cover the cost for our youth (under 18). Garrett Clark has offered to get us a pavilion for the day. Please let us know as soon as possible if you plan to attend so we can confirm the group rate.

Made in the Image Podcast Interviews (August 22nd & 29th)

We will begin recording episodes of our new Made in the Image podcast on August 22 and 29. The show, produced by UOJ, will feature Orthodox Christians sharing their lives, faith, and conversion stories. Guests must have been Orthodox for at least four months and catechumens will not be interviewed at this time. We will interview cradle Orthodox as well. If you are interested in participating, please speak with Fr. Stephen.

Daily Reminder:

Have you brought someone NEW this month or reached out to someone to come back?

Are you praying the Jesus Prayer at least 40 times a day?

Are you giving your first offering of 10% to God/tithing regularly?

Prayer List

Departed

David, Holly, Boris, Infant McIntyre, Maria, Elias, Carmela, Butch, Jay, Oisín, 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, child Ciana Rose, Jaimie, Ray, Polly, Pina, Vic, Owen, Attiat, Chastity, Harry, Maegan, Lara, Nicholas, Kathy, Sam, Jerry (Gerasimos), Kate, Jeff, Ayu, Vanessa, James, Abby, John, Kathleen, Gregory, Gabby, Benny, Troy, and especially all children suffering or in need throughout the world.

Expecting Mothers: Meagan, Ori, Rachel, Erin, Michaela, Kara, Noel, Taylee

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, Ignatius

Catechumens: Audra, Austin, Kasey, Bently, Raelynn, Emma, Oakleigh, Tyler, 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, Aidan, Aaron, Tim, Anthony, Evan, Tristan, Kirsten, Jackson, Connor, Zen, Eleia, Carson, Christopher, Sarah, Chesney, Lily, Grayson, Freyja, Zachary, Chandler, Angelina, Sidney, Billy, Tom, Kayla, Henry, Kristine, Jacob, Sean, Cody, McKenzie, Ryker, Saylor, Raymond

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, OCA, USA, Canada, and Mexico.

And for all of those who are suffering in our community and in the world who are in need of prayers.

Latest Reflection:

The Nights And The Saints

Our newest "Almost Christian" article reflects on Avicii's The Nights and its message about living a life worth remembering. From an Orthodox Christian perspective, the deepest answer is not fame, adventure, or nostalgia, but holiness and the hope of being remembered in the Kingdom of God.

<https://savannahorthodox.com/the-nights-and-the-saints/>

Please read and share this on your social media accounts.

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