



ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN
RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Scripture Readings

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (Epistle)

Brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Matthew 14:14-22 (Gospel)

At that time Jesus went and saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

Short Reflection: Elevations/Nominations/Assemblies? What does it all mean?

This past week, Pdn. Vassily, Michele, and I represented St. Mary Magdalene at the Diocese of the South's 49th Hierarchal Divine Liturgy, Deacon Vassily was elevated to the rank of Protodeacon, recognizing his decades of faithful service to Christ, the Church, and our parish. While we should never seek titles or honors for their own sake, the Church has always recognized those who have faithfully borne the burden of ministry over many years. These recognitions are not about status or prestige. Rather, they are an opportunity to thank God for the gifts He has given His servants, to encourage continued faithfulness, and to remind all of us that a life spent serving Christ and His Church is something worth honoring. In a culture that celebrates success, influence, and personal achievement, the Church instead honors humility, sacrifice, perseverance, and quiet faithfulness. The Assembly also marked an important moment in the life of our diocese as we gave thanks to God for the ministry of our retiring Archbishop and nominated Bishop Gerasim to serve as Locum Tenens until the Holy Synod formally elects the next diocesan bishop in November. This is far more than an administrative process. From the time of the Apostles, bishops have been entrusted with preserving the faith, maintaining unity, and shepherding the local Church. The diocesan assembly participates in this process by prayerfully discerning and recommending a candidate, while the Holy Synod, made up of all the bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, makes the final election. This careful process helps ensure continuity, accountability, and faithfulness to the apostolic tradition. Their selection is carried out prayerfully and in good order because the Church belongs to Christ, not to any one individual. If you've ever wondered why the Orthodox Church in America is organized the way it is, or why there are multiple Orthodox jurisdictions in America, I encourage you to listen to my Bible study, "Why So Many Jurisdictions in America?" at <https://savannahorthodox.com/bible-study/why-so-many-jurisdictions-in-america/>. Through all of these moments, we are reminded that Christ continues to guide His Church, just as He has for nearly two thousand years.

JULY 26th, 2026

ST. JACOB (NETSVETOV)

8TH 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 30th - Thursday
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329) (10:00 AM)

July 31st - Friday
Help Rdr. Tahir and Savannah Move (4:00 PM)
Online Bible Study (6:30 PM) - <https://savannahorthodox.com/zoom/>

August 1st - Saturday
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

August 2nd - Sunday
Hours (9:00 AM)
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Blessing Honey (After Liturgy)
Coffee Hour (After Liturgy)

WISDOM

"The greater a man's rank, the greater should be his humility."
- St. John Climacus

"Where the bishop is, there let the multitude of believers be; even as where Jesus Christ is, there is the Church."
- St. Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to the Smyrnaeans 8

WEEKLY JOKES

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

Can't believe they canceled Vivaldi after four seasons.

Two pieces of advice for you:
1. Always use metaphors correctly.
2. Never judge a cook by his brother.

I have a DMV joke but I will share it in 3-4 hours. Have a seat, sir.

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

Parish Financial Report (July 24th, 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: \$92,624
July 2026 Collections: \$7,884
July 2026 Goal: \$13,552

As we continue through the summer months, giving has slowed, which is common this time of year. As we close out the month, let's finish strong together. If you've been meaning to begin tithing, this is a wonderful time to start. If you already give faithfully, consider whether you might be able to offer a little extra as we prepare for the future of our parish, including our church expansion and parish hall. Remember, we give God our first offering and then live off the rest, trusting Him to provide. Thank you for your generosity and for helping our parish continue to grow in service to Christ.

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

Greeters: July 26th - Josh, Chastity | Aug 2nd - Anthony, Jacob | Aug 9th - Anthony, Chastity

Coffee Hour Schedule: July 26th - Team Kamaka | Aug 2nd - Team Mat Lindsey | Aug 9th - Team Josh

Serve Our Parish Through Maintenance & Projects: Caring for our parish is a responsibility we all share. If you notice something that needs attention, please let Tom Maty know, or check the Maintenance & Projects sign-up list to see if it's already being addressed. We've also added current projects to the parish Google Calendar and will continue including them in the weekly newsletter so everyone can easily stay informed. Whether you have an hour or a few days to offer, there are tasks for every skill level and schedule. To view available projects and sign up, visit <https://savannahorthodox.com/serve/> AND speak with Tom for more information.

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.

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.

Upcoming Blessings During the Dormition Fast (August 2nd, 5th, and 15th)

With so many people who are new to the Orthodox faith, many may not be familiar with the beautiful traditions surrounding these feasts. Throughout the Dormition Fast, we will be observing several traditional blessings. On Sunday, August 2, we will bless honey following the Divine Liturgy. At the Transfiguration Vigil on Wednesday, August 5, we will bless grapes and other first fruits. Finally, on Saturday, August 15, the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, we will bless herbs and flowers. We invite everyone to participate and bring these items on the appropriate day.

Help Needed: Moving Day for Rdr. Tahir & Savannah (July 31st at 4 PM)

Tahir and Savannah are moving into a new home closer to our parish and have asked for help from anyone who is available. This is a wonderful opportunity to put our Christian faith into action by serving and supporting members of our parish family. If you can help, please join them on Friday, July 31, at 4:00 PM. For the address or directions, call or text Savannah at (912) 223-4580.

Dormition Flowers Donations (August 15th)

We are looking for flower donations, especially blue flowers or hydrangeas to decorate the Tomb of the Theotokos for Dormition. We will be decorating the evening before the feast. If you would like to donate flowers, help decorate, or have any questions, please see Nika or Mat. Lindsey.

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

Fr. Andrew, Fr. John, Carl, Joe, Drew, David, Holly, Boris, Infant McIntyre, Maria, Elias, Carmela, Butch, Jay, all children killed through the evil act of abortion, and all the fallen soldiers who defend our nation.

Living

Clergy: Bp. Gerasim (Locum Tenens of the Diocese of the South), Abp. Melchisedek, Abp. Benjamin, Abp. Nathaniel, Abp. Alexander, 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, Abby, John, Kathleen, Gregory, Gabby, Benny, Troy, Jeanie, Andrew, and especially all children suffering or in need throughout the world.

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

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, Frejya, 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), 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:

Black Sabbath: Secretly Orthodox?

This week's Almost Christian article explores the surprising Christian themes found in several of Black Sabbath's best-known songs. Written by catechumen Cody Bubenheimer, it examines how songs like "After Forever" and "Lord of This World" wrestle with sin, evil, and humanity's need for God in ways many listeners have overlooked.

<https://savannahorthodox.com/black-sabbath-secretly-orthodox/>

Please read and share this on your social media accounts.

PRIEST: Fr. Stephen Osburn 702-521-6988 / frsteve@savannahorthodox.com | DEACON: Dn. Vassily Kocher 912-756-5178

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