



ST MARY MAGDALENE AUGUST 16TH, 2026

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN
RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

AFTERFEAST DORMITION

11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture Readings

1 Corinthians 9:2-12 (Epistle)

Brethren, if I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless, we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

Matthew 18:23-35 (Gospel)

At that time, Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

Feast Day: Afterfeast of the Dormition

The Afterfeast of the Dormition reminds us that the Church does not hurry past the falling asleep of the Mother of God. We remain with this mystery because her Dormition shows us what Christ has done to death itself. The Theotokos truly dies, and those who love her truly mourn, but their sorrow is filled with hope because death is no longer the end. Through the death and Resurrection of her Son, the grave has become a place from which we await resurrection and eternal life. In the Mother of God we see what it means to belong completely to Christ, not only throughout this earthly life, but even in death. She who carried the Lord of Life in her womb is received by Him into life, and her Dormition becomes a proclamation of the victory of her Son. This is why the Church surrounds her falling asleep not simply with mourning, but with hymns of joy and expectation. During these days of the Afterfeast, we are reminded that the Christian hope is not that we will somehow avoid death, but that Christ has entered death before us and conquered it. The grave remains real, separation remains painful, and we still grieve those whom we love, but we do not grieve as those who have no hope. The Dormition points us toward our own end and teaches us how to face it: with repentance, faith, and trust in Christ, knowing that neither death nor the grave can separate those who belong to Him from the life He has promised.

Troparion - Tone 1 - In giving birth you preserved your virginity, / in falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. / You were translated to life, O Mother of Life, / and by your prayers, you deliver our souls from death.

Kontakion - Tone 2 - Neither the tomb, nor death could hold the Theotokos, / who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions. / For being the Mother of Life, / she was translated to life by the One who dwelt in her virginal womb.

AUG Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

4th - Christina Hanna
4th - Garrett Clark
5th - Joshua Gimik
6th - Andrew Galloway
7th - Mat. Lindsey Osburn
7th - Saiah Nyantakyi
9th - Luke Rigato
11th - Connor Roberts
14th - Nate Hall
14th - Mark Guyer
15th - Theodore Harrod
15th - Mary Ann Welsh (Name's Day)
15th - Maria Guyer (Name's Day)
17th - Melissa Hajduk
19th - Rachel Woodthorp
20th - Bently Carver
21st - Marcel Maghiar
21st - Rdr. Ron Somich
22nd - Kwasi and Saiah Nyantakyi
24th - Andrew Rigato Jr.
24th - Dan Léger
25th - Felix Galindez
25th - Maria Guyer
30th - Alex Dita (Name's Day)

SCHEDULE

August 20th - Thursday
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329) (10:00 AM)

August 22nd - Saturday
Made in the Image Recordings (10:00 AM - 4:00 PM)
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

August 23rd - Sunday
Hours (9:00 AM)
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Coffee Hour (After Liturgy)

WISDOM

"Finally when blessed Mary having completed the course of this life, and was to be called from the world, all the Apostles gathered to her house from their different regions. And when they had heard that she was to be taken from the world, together they kept watch with her; and lo, the Lord Jesus came with His angels. Taking her soul, He gave it to the Archangel Michael and withdrew. At dawn the Apostles raised her body with a pallet and they placed it in a vault and they guarded it awaiting the coming of the Lord. And lo, a second time the Lord stood by them and he ordered the holy body to be taken and borne to Paradise; there having rejoined the soul exultant with His elect, it enjoys the good things of eternity which shall know no end."
- St. Gregory of Tours

WEEKLY JOKES

Mick Jagger once tried to become a math teacher, but he didn't last very long. Apparently, he couldn't get no stats or fractions.

I never should've taken that job as a dragon tamer. I got fired almost immediately.

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

Parish Financial Report (August 14th, 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 Collections: \$109,900

August 2026 Collections: \$5,905

August 2026 Goal: \$17,100

2026 Year-to-Date Goal: \$115,437

YTD Variance: -\$5,537 (Collections are \$5,537 below the YTD goal.)

August Goal Progress: 34.5% (\$5,905 of \$17,100)

As we move through August, we are currently at \$5,905 of our \$17,100 monthly goal, which means we have \$11,195 remaining to reach our August goal. Thank you to everyone who continues to support the parish through regular stewardship and additional offerings. We give not simply to meet a budget, but because stewardship is part of our life in Christ. Our offerings help sustain the worship, ministries, outreach, and day-to-day life of the parish, while also helping us prepare for the continued growth God is sending us and the future expansion of our church and parish hall.

If you have not yet made your August offering or if you are able to give a little extra this month, please consider doing so. You can also donate online if that is easier, with no fee, and the parish receives 100% of your donation. Every gift helps us continue the work Christ has entrusted to us and helps ensure that we are ready to welcome those He brings through our doors.

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

Give Securely Online: <https://savannahorthodox.com/help-us-grow/>

Greeters: Aug 16th - Josh, Jacob | Aug 23rd - Heath, Chandler | Aug 30th - Jacob, Chandler

Team Coffee Hour Schedule: Aug 16th - Maria | Aug 23rd - Craig | Aug 30th - Kamaka

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. We are still looking for a teacher for our Ages 11-17 Church School class. However, due to the small number of students currently in that age group (we have only three, one of whom serves as Ms. Jeanie's assistant), we will be placing the class on hold until more teenagers join the parish.

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: We are currently working on plans for a weekly evening Bible Study in Statesboro beginning in September, with Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday evenings currently under consideration. This will provide our college students and young adults another opportunity for fellowship and growth in the Church. We will also continue our regular meetups with Rdr. Ron and Kristin Somich, who are helping coordinate our outreach and fellowship in the Statesboro area. If you are interested in participating, please speak with myself, Rdr. Ron or Kristin and let them know which of those evenings would work best for you.

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.

Housekeeping: Please Avoid Leaning on the Walls

A friendly reminder to please avoid leaning against the church walls. Over time, oils from our hands, hair, and clothing can damage the painted surfaces and icons, making them difficult and costly to clean and restore. Thank you for helping us care for and preserve the beauty of our parish for years to come.

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

Over the next two Saturdays, August 22 and 29, we'll be recording the first eight episodes of our new Made in the Image podcast, produced by UOJ. We plan to launch in September, with new episodes releasing every two weeks, and then record the next batch of eight episodes in late September or early October. Everyone is welcome to come and watch the recordings, but we do need complete silence while we're recording since the microphones pick up just about everything. Because of that, please no children in the church during the recording sessions. If you haven't been approached about being interviewed yet, rest assured, you probably will be! If you're interested but aren't sure whether you're on my list, just reach out and let me know. Nobody is being pressured or expected to participate. This is completely voluntary, and not everyone wants to be on camera or feels comfortable being interviewed, which is perfectly okay. Our hope with Made in the Image is to share the Gospel by letting people hear the stories of Orthodox Christians, see what the life of the Church actually looks like, and understand how important community is to a healthy parish. The podcast isn't intended only for our parish or for future visitors, inquirers, and catechumens, but hopefully as something useful to the broader life of the Orthodox Church in America. Interviewees should have been Orthodox for at least four months, and at this time we will not be interviewing catechumens. While many episodes will include conversion stories, we also want to hear from cradle Orthodox Christians and people with all kinds of experiences in the Church.

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. John, Fr. Andrew, Rdr. John, Maroulla, Adam, Josh, Greg, Adam, Carl, Joe, Drew, David, Holly, Boris, Nicholas, all children killed through the evil act of abortion, and all the fallen soldiers who defend our nation.

Living

Clergy: Bp. Gerasim (of Fort Worth, Locum Tenens of the Diocese of the South), Abp. Melchisedek, Abp. Benjamin, Abp. Nathaniel, Abp. Alexander, Met. Isaiah, Fr. Matthew, Fr. Michael, Fr. Stephen, Pdn. Vassily

Community: Mother Cassiana, Tammy, Litsa, child Lilliana, child Ciana Rose, Jaimie, Paisios, Ray, Polly, Pina, Vic, Owen, Attiat, Harry, Maegan, Lara, Nicholas, Kathy, Sam, Jerry (Gerasimos), Kate, Jeff, Abby, Jeanie, Andrew, child Lily, Karen, Svetlana, Joe, and especially all children suffering or those who are in need throughout the world.

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

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, Aaron

Catechumens: Aaron, Audra, Austin, Kasey, Bently, Raelynn, Emma, Oakleigh, Tyler, Nick, Melissa, Astrid, Freyja, Devin, Courtney, Kaden, Leo, Tyler, Shannon, Evan, Eric, Lia, Wyatt, Renata, Katylin, James, Joshua, Kris, Ruth, Breanne, Samuel, Wyatt, Cody, Michaela, Anna, Aidan, Tim, Anthony, Evan, Kirsten, Jackson, Connor, Zen, Eleia, Carson, Christopher, Sarah, Tristan, Chesney, Lily, Grayson, Freyja, Zachary, Chandler, Angelina, Sidney, Billy, Tom, Kayla, Henry, Kristine, Jacob, Sean, Cody, Mckenzie, Ryker, Saylor, Raymond, Grant, Jonathan

Prisoners: Stefan, Daron (Basil), Mark, Austin

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:

Final Fantasy VI's Broken World Is Our World

This week we're delving into something a little new in the "Almost Christian" series: a video game. Final Fantasy VI takes us into a broken world where suffering seems to have won, yet love, friendship, family, duty, and hope answer the temptation to believe that nothing matters. It gets surprisingly close to a Christian truth: even a wounded world is still worth loving and saving.

<https://savannahorthodox.com/final-fantasy-6-broken-world-is-our-world/>

Please read and share this on your social media accounts.

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