



ST. MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH, GA

AUGUST 23RD, 2026 - TONE 3 - 12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / LEAVETAKING OF THE DORMITION

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.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (Epistle): Brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Matthew 19:16-26 (Gospel): At that time, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.” He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

LIVING ORTHODOXY: WHAT IS ANTIDORON?

Antidoron is the blessed bread distributed at the end of the Divine Liturgy. Because it is given from the same loaf used in preparing the Eucharist, and because people often receive it near the chalice, visitors sometimes mistakenly think that antidoron is Holy Communion. It is not. The word antidoron means “instead of the Gifts.” Historically, it was especially given to those who did not receive the Holy Eucharist. This is why inquirers, catechumens, visitors, and Orthodox Christians who do not receive Communion that day may receive antidoron. For those who do receive the Eucharist, it also provides a little food following the Eucharistic fast, which traditionally begins at midnight. Although antidoron is not the Body and Blood of Christ, it is blessed bread and should still be treated reverently. We receive it respectfully and take care not to allow crumbs to fall on the floor. Most importantly, visitors should understand that receiving antidoron does not mean they have received Holy Communion or participated in the Eucharist.

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 27th - Thursday
Coffee Chat at Paddles (10:00 AM)

August 29th - Saturday
Made in the Image Recordings
(10:00 AM-4:00 PM)
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

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

ALMOST CHRISTIAN

The Darkest Idea in Solaris is Christian
This week's Almost Christian looks at the 2002 film Solaris and its haunting questions about guilt, grief, forgiveness, and our desire to undo the past. We cannot go backward and change what we have done, but the Christian answer is something greater: repentance, healing, forgiveness, and the hope that even death itself will finally be overcome in the Resurrection.

Read: <https://savannahorthodox.com/the-darkest-idea-in-solaris-is-christian/>

WISDOM

“Thus though art also the fountain of true light, the inexhaustible treasury of life itself, the most fruitful source of blessing, who has won for us and brought us all good things though for a while thou wast covered corporeally with death; nonetheless, thou dost pour out pure and inexhaustible streams of immense light, immortal life and true happiness, rivers of grace, fountains of healing and everlasting blessing.”

St. John of Damascus

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

Parish Financial Report (August 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 Collections: \$118,341
August 2026 Collections: \$12,168
August 2026 Goal: \$17,100
2026 Year-to-Date Goal: \$115,437
YTD Variance: +\$2,904
August Goal Progress: 71.2%

Glory to Jesus Christ! We had a monster week for collections, with August giving now at \$12,168 of our \$17,100 goal, putting us at about 71% for the month. Thank you to everyone who continues to faithfully support the parish, especially during the summer months. As our parish grows, our stewardship needs to grow with it. We are continuing to support the daily life and ministries of St. Mary Magdalene while also preparing to invest in the expansion of our church and the new parish hall. At the end of Divine Liturgy this Sunday, Rdr. Ron will give a brief financial report about where we stand and the needs ahead. If you have not yet made your August offering, please consider helping us finish the month strong. Every gift helps us serve Christ, care for His Church, and prepare for the people He continues to bring through our doors.

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

Greeters: Aug 23rd - Heath, Chandler | Aug 30th - Jacob, Chandler | Sept 6th - TBA

Team Coffee Hour Schedule: Aug 23rd - Craig | Aug 30th - Kamaka | Sept 6th - Nate

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. 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: Church School will resume on Sunday, September 13. Registration forms will be available in the Narthex and a new form must be completed for each child. Children must be at least three years old and potty trained. Please return completed registration forms to Ms. Jeanie. At this time, our Ages 11-17 class will remain on hold due to the small number of students in that age group. We currently have only three, including one who serves as Ms. Jeanie's assistant. As our parish grows and more teenagers join us, we hope to resume the class.

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's are preparing to welcome their little one. If you would like to bless / support them during this joyful season, their registry is available here: <https://savannahorthodox.com/woodthorp>

Bulletin Changes:

You may notice that this week's bulletin looks a little different! I've moved some things around, made certain sections larger and easier to read, and reorganized information to make the bulletin more useful for everyone. With so many new people coming into the parish, I've also added space for short explanations of Orthodox practices and church etiquette that can benefit everyone, young and old, cradle Orthodox and convert alike. The goal is to make our bulletin not only a place for announcements, but also a helpful resource for learning the life of the Church and staying connected to our parish. I hope you enjoy the changes!

Made in the Image Podcast (August 29th)

A huge thank you to everyone who recorded with us yesterday for the first episodes of our new Made in the Image podcast! I really appreciate everyone who took the time to sit down, share their story, and help us get this project underway. For those who are scheduled to record next Saturday, August 29, I will be contacting you this week with details and reminders. We plan to launch the podcast in September, with new episodes releasing every two weeks. Our next round of episodes will be filmed in October, so if you have not been approached yet, rest assured, you probably will be! Participation is completely voluntary, and there is never any pressure to be interviewed. Our hope with Made in the Image is to share the Gospel by allowing people to hear the stories of Orthodox Christians, see what the life of the Church actually looks like, and understand the importance of Christian community. We hope it will be useful not only to our parish and those exploring Orthodoxy, but to the broader life and mission of the Orthodox Church in America.

Second Online Adult Class Starting: The Worship of the Church (September 18th)

Beginning September 18, I will be teaching a new online adult class called The Worship of the Church, focused on understanding the liturgical services of Orthodox Christianity. The class will meet every other week, alternating with Anthony's bible study class. Our first series will take us through the Divine Liturgy from beginning to end. Over roughly 12 classes, we will explore its history and structure, why we do what we do, the theological significance of each part, and its many connections to Holy Scripture. After completing the Divine Liturgy, we will move into Vespers and the other services of the Church, gradually building a fuller understanding of Orthodox worship. Whether you are new to Orthodoxy or have worshiped in the Church your entire life, the goal is to help all of us understand more deeply what we pray and experience together. The class will meet entirely online via Zoom, using the same Zoom link as Anthony's class.

Prayer List

Departed

Fr. John, Fr. Andrew, Rdr. John, Nova, Maroulla, Adam, Josh, Greg, Adam, Carl, Joe, Drew, David, 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. Alexander, Abp. Melchisedek, Met. Isaiah, Abp. Benjamin, Abp. Nathaniel, Fr. Matthew, Fr. Michael, Fr. Stephen, Pdn. Vassily

Community: Mother Cassiana, Tammy, Litsa, child Lillian, 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, Chris, Joy, 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, Zachary, Chandler, Angelina, Sidney, Billy, Tom, Kayla, Henry, Kristine, Jacob, Sean, Cody, McKenzie, Ryker, Saylor, Raymond, Grant, Jonathan, Jon, Adrian, and Julie-Ann

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 throughout the world who are in need of prayers.

Daily Spiritual Reminder

- 1) Are you praying the Jesus Prayer at least 40 times a day?
- 2) Are you giving your first offering of 10% to God/tithing regularly?
- 3) Have you invited someone NEW or reached out to someone who hasn't been in a while?

Weekly Jokes:

What did the nuclear physicist have for lunch? Fission chips.

Just got a new job as a church bell ringer. It's my first day, so they're just showing me the ropes.

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