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АЛЕΞΑΝΔΡ
ΝΕΒΣΚΙΗ

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

AUGUST 30TH, 2026 - TONE 4 - 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / ST. ALEXANDER NEVSKY

Troparion - Tone 4 - Christ revealed you, O Blessed Alexander / as a new and glorious worker of wonders; / a man and a prince well pleasing to God / and a divine treasure of the Russian Land. / Today we assemble in faith and love / to glorify the Lord by joyously remembering you. / He granted you the grace of healing, / therefore entreat Him to strengthen your suffering spiritual children, / and to save all Orthodox Christians.

Kontakion - Tone 8 - We honor you as a most radiant, spiritual star, / rising up from the east; going down in the west! / As you enriched the Russian people with good works and miracles, / so now enlighten us who remember you in faith, O Blessed Alexander. / Today as we celebrate your falling asleep, we ask you to beseech the Lord / that He may strengthen his suffering servants and save all Orthodox Christians!

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Corinthians 16:13-24 (Epistle): Brethren, watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren, you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints, that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand, Paul's. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Matthew 21:33-42 (Gospel): The Lord said this parable: "There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. When vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'"

LIVING ORTHODOXY: WHAT IS SAINTLY INTERCESSION?

Orthodox Christians regularly ask the saints to pray for us. This can be as simple as saying, "St. Nicholas, pray for me," "St. Panteleimon, pray for my healing," or "Most Holy Theotokos, help me." We are not treating the saints as lesser gods with powers of their own. We are asking members of the Church who are alive in Christ to pray with us and for us. Scripture tells us that "the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16). We pray directly to God, but Christianity was never meant to be lived or prayed alone. We ask family, friends, and our priest to pray for us, and death does not end that communion within the Body of Christ. Certain saints are associated with particular needs because Christians have repeatedly experienced their intercession in those circumstances. St. Panteleimon is often asked to pray for the sick, St. Nicholas for travelers and those in danger, and the Theotokos for countless needs. The saints do not possess independent powers. They freely intercede for us, while God determines what is granted according to His will and for our salvation. To begin living this out, learn about the saint whose name you bear, keep his or her icon in your prayer corner, and include that saint in your daily prayers. Simply say, "St. N., pray to God for me." As you learn about other saints, begin asking for their prayers too.

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
26th - Rdr. Jason Lambros
30th - Alex Dita (Name's Day)

SCHEDULE

September 3rd - Thursday
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329) (10:00 AM) Father Won't Be There

September 4th - Friday
Online Bible Study (6:30 PM)

September 5th - Saturday
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

September 6th - Sunday
Hours (9:00 AM)
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Coffee Hour (After Liturgy)

ALMOST CHRISTIAN

The Greatest Showman:

The Almost Christian

The Greatest Showman begins with the pursuit of dreams, success, and recognition, but its story eventually reveals how little those things can satisfy the human heart. Barnum must lose much of what he built before he discovers that love, repentance, sacrifice, communion, and returning home are worth far more than the applause of the world.

Read: <https://savannahorthodox.com/the-greatest-showman-the-almost-christian/>

WISDOM

"God is not in power, but in truth. Some trust in weapons and others in horses, but we will call upon the name of the Lord our God."

St. Alexander Nevsky

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

Parish Financial Report (August 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 Collections: \$118,812
August 2026 Collections: \$12,637
August 2026 Goal: \$17,100
2026 Year-to-Date Goal: \$115,437
YTD Variance: +\$3,375
August Goal Progress: 73.9%

After a strong week of giving, we are once again a little behind pace for August, with \$12,637 of our \$17,100 goal received and one Sunday remaining. We are grateful that our year-to-date giving remains ahead of goal, but we also want to finish the summer strong. If you have fallen behind in your giving or are able to give a little extra, please consider helping us close the remaining \$4,463 this month. As our parish continues to grow, so do the needs before us. In addition to supporting the daily life, worship, and ministries of the parish, we need to begin preparing financially for the expansion of our church and a future parish hall. Faithful stewardship helps us care for what Christ has given us today while making room for the people He continues to bring to our parish.

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

Greeters: Aug 30th - Jacob, Chandler | Sept 6th - Anthony, Josh | Sept 13th - Chastity, Chandler
Team Coffee Hour Schedule: Aug 30th - Kamaka | Sept 6th - Nate | Sept 13th - Mat. Lindsey

Help Take Care of YOUR Parish: Caring for our parish is a responsibility we all share. In addition to our Maintenance & Projects sign-up, we now have a Tuesday Hall Cleaning Team that meets at 9:30 AM each Tuesday. While our Sunday cooking teams remain responsible for cleaning up after Fellowship, Tuesdays will provide an opportunity for general cleaning as well as more detailed cleaning projects throughout the hall.

Whether you have an hour to help clean or would like to assist with a larger maintenance project, there are plenty of ways to serve. 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.

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: Our Young Adult Group continues to meet regularly for fellowship, activities, discussion, and opportunities to grow together in the life of the parish. Catechumens in the young adult age range are also welcome and encouraged to participate. If you would like to get involved or learn about upcoming gatherings, please 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>

A Small Reminder About Calls & Texts

As a general courtesy, please keep non-emergency calls and texts between 9:00 AM and 8:00 PM. Because I need to remain reachable in case someone in our parish has a genuine emergency, I cannot silence my phone overnight. Messages sent very early in the morning or late at night may therefore wake me or my family, even when they can easily wait. If someone is sick, hospitalized, dying, or there is another genuine pastoral emergency, please contact me regardless of the hour. Thank you for helping me remain available when I am truly needed while also respecting necessary family and rest time.

Blessing for the New School Year (Today)

Following Divine Liturgy today, we will offer a special blessing for all students, including our college students, as well as teachers, educators, and school staff as they begin the new school year. May the Lord bless and strengthen them in their studies, teaching, and work throughout the year ahead.

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.

Savannah Ghost Pirates Game (October 17th)

We are planning a parish outing to the Savannah Ghost Pirates game on Saturday, October 17! Tickets will be \$28 per person, with our entire group seated together and no additional taxes or fees. This is also the Walk of Fame Game, when the Junior Ghost Pirates and Savannah Sirens will walk out onto the ice, which should make it an especially fun night for our parish families. I will be speaking with our Ghost Pirates representative on September 8th and since this game is expected to sell out, I would like to have a good estimate of our group size by then. If you are interested in attending, please let me know how many tickets your family asap. We should be able to add some tickets afterward if space remains, but an early headcount will help us secure a block of seats together. Let's Go Pirates!

Prayer List

Departed

Fr. John, Rdr. John, Barbara, Peter, Tim, Dolly, Hayden, Nova, Maroulla, Adam, Josh, Greg, Adam, Carl, Joe, 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, Fr. Jason, 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, Andrew, child Lily, Karen, Svetlana, Chris, Joy, Bethany, infant Deacon, Jay, Tristan, Pamela, 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, Tamar, Saiah

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, Katlyn, 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, Julie-Ann, Ryan, and Kelly

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 lately?

Weekly Jokes:

Studies say 1 out of 5 people who are afraid of hurdles never get over them.

Have poorly fitted windows left you feeling damp and disgruntled? You may be entitled to financial condensation.

CLERGY: Fr. Stephen Osburn 702-521-6988 / frsteve@savannahorthodox.com | Pdn. Vassily Kocher 912-756-5178 | Fr. Michael Matsko

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