



ST MARY MAGDALENE

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN
RINCON/SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

AUGUST 9TH, 2026

AFTERFEAST TRANSFIGURATION
10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture Readings

1 Corinthians 4:9-16 (Epistle)

Brethren, I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

Matthew 17:14-23 (Gospel)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

Feast Day: Afterfeast of the Transfiguration of our Lord

As we continue the Afterfeast of the Transfiguration, the Church keeps our eyes fixed on the glory revealed on Mount Tabor. The light that shone from Christ was not a passing miracle or a created light, but the eternal glory of His divinity made visible to the disciples as much as they were able to bear it. Before they would witness His suffering and Crucifixion, Christ strengthened them by revealing the glory that lay beyond the Cross. In doing so, He reminded them, and us, that the path of sacrifice always leads to resurrection. The Transfiguration also reveals something profound about our own salvation. Christ did not become man simply to forgive sins, but to restore our fallen human nature and unite us to Himself. In His radiant glory, we see humanity as it was created to be and as it is being renewed through Him. This is the hope of every Christian: not merely to become better people, but to be transformed by the grace of God and to become partakers of the divine nature. As the Afterfeast continues, let us ask ourselves whether we are ascending the mountain with Christ through prayer, repentance, and the life of the Church. Every confession, every Divine Liturgy, every act of love and obedience is another step toward the light of Tabor. The same Lord who was transfigured before His disciples is still at work transfiguring His people today. May His uncreated light shine ever more brightly in our hearts, so that the beauty of Christ may become visible in the way we live, speak, and love.

Troparion - Tone 7 - You were Transfigured on the Mount, O Christ God, / revealing Your glory to Your disciples as far as they could bear it. / Let Your everlasting Light shine upon us sinners! / Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, glory to You!

Kontakion - Tone 7 - On the Mountain You were Transfigured, O Christ God, / and Your disciples beheld Your glory as far as they could see it; / so that when they would behold You crucified, / they would understand that Your suffering was voluntary, / and would proclaim to the world, / that You are truly the Radiance of the Father!

AUG Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

4th - Christina Hanna
4th - Garrett Clark
5th - Joshua Gimik
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 Woodthorpe
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 13th - Thursday
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329) (10:00 AM)

August 14th - Friday
Online Bible Study (6:30 PM) <https://savannahorthodox.com/zoom/>

August 15th - Saturday
Dormition Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Made in the Image Test Run (10:45 AM)
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

August 16th - Sunday
Hours (9:00 AM)
Baptismal Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Blessing Herbs, Flowers, and Spices (End of Liturgy)
Coffee Hour (After Liturgy)
Parish Council (After Coffee Hour)

WISDOM

"In all our efforts we will fail. But, of course, Christians know no success but Christ's. We know no victory but His. We know no glory but Christ himself."
- From the farewell address of Archbishop Alexander, Retired Bishop of the Diocese of the South

WEEKLY JOKES

Did you hear that SpaceX launched a bunch of cows into orbit around the Earth? It was the herd shot around the world.

Lost my job as a mime. Must've been something I said.

I retired from the human cloning laboratory and now I don't know what to do with myself.

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

Parish Financial Report (August 6th, 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: \$107,111

August 2026 Collections: \$3,116

August 2026 Goal: \$17,100

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

YTD Variance: -\$8,326 (Collections are \$8,326 below the YTD goal.)

August Goal Progress: 18.2% (\$3,116 of \$17,100)

Through the first week of August, our parish has received \$107,111 in offerings toward our \$115,437 year-to-date goal. While we are grateful for every gift that has been made, we are currently \$8,326 behind where we had hoped to be. As we continue developing plans to expand our church and build a new parish hall, every donation helps move us closer to preparing for the growth God is sending us. Christ commanded His Church to “go and make disciples of all nations,” and that mission requires us to be ready to welcome those He brings. If you are able, please consider increasing your stewardship or making an additional offering this month so that, together, we can continue building for the future of our parish.

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

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

Greeters: Aug 9th - Anthony, Chastity | Aug 16th - Josh, Jacob | Aug 23rd - Heath, Chandler

Coffee Hour Schedule: Aug 9th - Team Josh | Aug 16th - Team Maria | Aug 23rd - Team Craig

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 include 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.

What Should I Do with Blessed Fruit Peels and Seeds?

Whenever food or other items are blessed by the Church, like we do this Dormition Fast, we should treat what has been sanctified with reverence. If you have fruit peels, seeds, stems, herbs, flowers, or other blessed items that would normally be thrown away, the traditional practice is to either burn them or bury them rather than place them in the trash. At our house, I usually save them and burn them in my grill the next time I'm getting it ready to cook. It's a simple way to show gratitude and respect for the blessings God has given us.

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.

Dormition Flowers Donations (August 15th)

If you are donating flowers for the Feast of the Dormition, please bring them to the church by 9:00 AM so we can begin decorating the Tomb of the Theotokos before the Divine Liturgy. Blue flowers, especially hydrangeas, are greatly appreciated, but any fresh flowers are welcome. If you would like to help decorate or have any questions, please see Nika or Mat. Lindsey.

Splash in the Boro Postponed Until Next Summer and Made in the Image Scheduling...

I sincerely apologize, but I've made the difficult decision to postpone our Splash in the Boro outing until next summer. Unfortunately, we did not have enough families sign up to qualify for the group rate. At the same time, a unique opportunity has come up for our parish. Rdr. Ben Dixon from UOJ will be visiting us on August 15th to help prepare for the launch of our new Made in the Image podcast, which is scheduled to go live in mid-September. We will be recording our first eight episodes on August 22nd and 29th, with additional recording sessions planned for September and October as we continue building out the first season. For those being interviewed, I will be reaching out to you soon, if I have not already. That said, I believe this is a wonderful opportunity for our parish and an important step in establishing a new outreach ministry that has the potential to share the Orthodox faith with many people beyond our local community. We will still celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition at our normal time for Liturgy at 9:30 AM, not 9:00 AM per request of many in the parish on August 15th. Thank you for your understanding, and I apologize again to everyone who was looking forward to our day at the water park. I'll make it up to y'all.

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, 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, Ray, Polly, Paisios, Pina, Vic, Owen, Attiat, Harry, Maegan, Lara, Nicholas, Kathy, Sam, Jerry (Gerasimos), Kate, Jeff, Abby, Gregory, Gabby, Benny, Troy, Jeanie, Andrew, child Lily, Karen, Svetlana, Joe, and especially all children suffering or 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

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:

Moana's Spiritual Themes and the Orthodox Faith

This week's "Almost Christian" article looks at Disney's Moana through the lens of Orthodox Christianity. While the film beautifully reflects themes like courage, vocation, sacrificial love, and restoration, it also presents a worldview shaped by Polynesian mythology rather than the Gospel. The article explores both where the movie echoes Christian truth and where it ultimately falls short of the fullness of the Orthodox faith.

<https://savannahorthodox.com/moanas-spiritual-themes-and-the-orthodox-faith/>

Please read and share this on your social media accounts.

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