



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

SEPT. 27TH, 2026 - TONE 8 - 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / MARTYR CALLISTRATUS & COMPANY

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 (Epistle): Brethren, what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore, "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Luke 5:1-11 (Gospel): At that time, as the multitude pressed about Jesus to hear the word of God, He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

Troparion - Tone 3 - In contest you were strengthened by the Holy Spirit, Martyr Callistratus, / and were glorious in casting down the Enemy. / You offered a noble army of athletes / as sweet-smelling incense to Christ. / With them pray for us who praise you with hymns.

Kontakion - Tone 4 - Like stars you have shone upon the world / shedding the light of your contests and miracles upon all who cry to you: / "Rejoice, Martyr Callistratus and fellow company of martyrs."

LIVING ORTHODOXY: WHY GOING TO VESPERS MATTERS

In the Orthodox Church, our preparation for Sunday does not begin when we walk through the doors for Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. It begins the evening before with Great Vespers. Within the cycle of the Church's daily offices, Vespers is one of our most important services because it begins the new liturgical day and turns our hearts toward what the Church is about to celebrate. Following the biblical pattern of "evening and morning," the Lord's Day begins Saturday evening with psalms, prayers, hymns of the Resurrection, and the theology of the feast or saints being commemorated. Vespers gives us the opportunity to enter Sunday gradually rather than arriving at Liturgy spiritually cold and expecting our minds immediately to turn toward God. Years ago, Fr. David Lowell, a retired priest in the Diocese of the West, gave a retreat in Colorado in which he made an interesting observation about parish life: rather than looking only at Sunday attendance to understand the spiritual life of a parish, pay attention to Vespers attendance. His point was not that those unable to attend Vespers are somehow lesser Orthodox Christians, but that Vespers often reveals those who are intentionally arranging their lives around the worship of the Church rather than simply fitting church into Sunday morning. It is worth asking ourselves which of those patterns describes our own lives. Too often we treat Vespers as an optional extra, something nice to attend when nothing else is happening. Yet the Church gives us Vespers because we need it. It pulls us away from the noise, entertainment, work, and distractions of the week and begins preparing our souls to encounter Christ in the Holy Eucharist. Circumstances will sometimes prevent us from attending, but inconvenience alone should not make Vespers disposable. Orthodoxy is not meant to occupy only a small portion of Sunday morning. The more we allow the services of the Church to order our time, the more our lives themselves begin to be ordered toward Christ. When possible, make Great Vespers part of your regular preparation for the Lord's Day. Come Saturday evening, return Sunday morning, and allow the rhythm of the Church's prayer to shape the rhythm of your life. What a beautiful thing it would be to see our church just as full on Saturday evening as it is on Sunday morning. It can be done, but it begins with each of us choosing to make Vespers a priority.

SEPT Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

3rd - Pdn. Vassily Kocher
3rd - Teresa Sarver
3rd - Ryan Wiggins
4th - Sadie Sherry
4th - Samuel Hanks
5th - Kate Bright
8th - Eliana Nyantakyi
8th - Suzanne Upchurch
9th - Samson Woodthorp
10th - Billy Wommack
11th - Mary Ann Rigato
12th - Nate and Bree Hall
13th - Dakota Harrod
14th - Lily Tillman/Tillman
14th - Jerry and Mary Anne Welsh
14th - Braden Hoover
15th - Alison Somich
16th - Charlene Griffin
18th - Devin Bass
20th - Ozias Gabriel White
24th - David (Silouan) Sullivan (Name's Day)
27th - Chastity Williams-Lasley
29th - Anthony and Susan Ally
30th - Jackson Grossman

SCHEDULE

October 1st - Thursday
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329) (10:00 AM)
Pankahida (6:00 PM)

October 2nd - Friday
Online Bible Study (6:30 PM)

October 3rd - Saturday
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)
St. Brendan the Navigator Questing Group (After Vespers)

October 4th - Sunday
Hours (9:00 AM)
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Coffee Hour (After Liturgy)
Church School (11:45 AM)

ALMOST CHRISTIAN

Young Sheldon: Science Orthodox

Young Sheldon follows a brilliant boy who trusts reason to explain the world, only to discover that family, love, sacrifice, grief, and faith cannot fit neatly into an equation. From an Orthodox perspective, knowledge is a gift, but without humility, wisdom, and love, it remains incomplete.

Read: <https://savannahorthodox.com/young-sheldon/>

WISDOM

"You threaten me with fire which burns for an hour, and after a little is extinguished, but are ignorant of the fire of the coming judgment."

- St. Polycarp of Smyrna

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

Parish Financial Report (September 25th, 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: \$128,967
September 2026 Collections: \$10,951
September 2026 Goal: \$13,812
2026 Year-to-Date Goal: \$129,249
YTD Variance: -\$282 (-0.2%)
September Goal Progress: 79.3%

We are ahead of pace for September, with \$10,951 received toward our \$13,812 goal. Thank you for your continued faithfulness in supporting the parish. As we continue to grow and prepare for a new church and parish hall, please consider making regular tithing part of your stewardship and helping us build for the work Christ has placed before us.

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

Greeters: Sept 27th - Heath, Josh | Oct 4th - Josh, Chastity | Oct 11th - Chandler, Jesse

Team Coffee Hour Schedule: Sept 27th - Maria | Oct 4th - Craig | Oct 11th - Kamaka

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 has resumed. Registration forms are 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)

St. Brendan the Navigator Questing Group: Every other Saturday after Vespers, unless noted. Please see David Reynolds to join: (706) 224-2721

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 (Ages 18-30): Our Young Adult Group meets regularly for fellowship, activities, discussion, and growth in the life of the parish. Catechumens in this age group are also warmly encouraged to participate. 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.

Panakhida (October 1st at 6:00 PM)

Each year on October 1st, I serve a Panakhida in remembrance of those killed in the 2017 Las Vegas shooting. While I know that tragedy may not personally affect many here at St. Mary Magdalene, it affected me and remains close to my heart. We will also remember all those who have been killed through shootings, violence, and other acts of evil. I invite everyone to join me as we pray for their rest and proclaim, Memory eternal!

St. Brendan the Navigator Questing Group (October 3rd after Vespers)

The St. Brendan the Navigator Questing Group will return on Saturday, October 3rd after Great Vespers! After our first session, we will take a short break and resume on October 24th, meeting every other Saturday after Vespers unless otherwise noted. There will be no sessions on October 10th, 17th, or 31st. Everyone is welcome, and this is certainly not just a group for young people! If you enjoy great stories and adventures like The Lord of the Rings, you will probably have quite a bit of fun with us. Regular players are asked to commit to attending consistently, as David puts a great deal of time into crafting the campaign, developing the story, and weaving Orthodox Christian theology and themes into the adventure, much in the same way C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien used storytelling to communicate deeper Christian truths in their own works. If you are interested but unsure whether you can commit, special NPCs will be available so you can join the adventure before committing to a regular character. Whether you are an experienced player or completely new, you are welcome to join us! Please see David Reynolds to join: (706) 224-2721.

Volunteers Needed for the Savannah Greek Festival (October 8th-10th)

Our sister parish, St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Downtown Savannah, will be holding their annual Greek Food Festival October 8-10, 2026, and they could use our help! It would be wonderful to have a strong group from St. Mary Magdalene come out and support our brothers and sisters at St. Paul. If you are able to volunteer for a shift or help during the festival, please contact Connie Preston at 912-484-3438 to sign up. Let's have a great showing from our parish!

Savannah Ghost Pirates Game (October 17th)

Our parish outing to the Savannah Ghost Pirates is almost full, with 33 of our 35 tickets claimed! Tickets are \$28 each. If you have claimed tickets, please get those paid for as soon as possible. So far, only two families have paid, and the parish has already paid for the full group reservation. You can pay with cash or write a check to St. Mary's Orthodox Church with "Ghost Pirates Game" and the number of tickets in the memo line. Please give the money to Rdr. Ron, our treasurer. Please let me know once you have paid so I can keep track. We currently have 2 tickets remaining and someone has committed to donating 5 tickets for anyone who wants to go but can't afford to. So if you would still like to go, please see me. If we exceed our original 35 tickets, we can get additional seats around our group while they are still available. Looking forward to a great parish night together. Let's Go Pirates!

Chili Cook-Off (November 1st)

Our annual Chili Cook-Off is coming up! Bring your best recipe and compete for Best Chili, Best Side, or Best Dessert, or simply come enjoy an afternoon of food and fellowship. We'll also have plenty for the kids, including a piñata, crafts, face painting, a caramel apple bar, s'mores, and more! We need your help to make it happen! Sign up to compete at: <https://savannahorthodox.com/events/fall-fest/> This is a great opportunity to invite friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers to spend the afternoon with our parish family. Everyone is welcome!

Prayer List

Departed

Fr. Christos, Rohit, Linda, Bill, Barry, Raul, Christine, Barbara, Peter, Tim, Dolly, 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, Rena, Paisios, Ray, Polly, Pina, Vic, Owen, Katlyn, Kassidy and infant son, Carlisle, Gary, Kathryn Ann, Harry, Maegan, Lara, Nicholas, Kathy, Sam, Jerry (Gerasimos), Kate, Jeff, Abby, Joy, Bethany, infant Deacon, Jay, Tristan, Pamela, Shelby, Linda, Mike, Justin, Sammy, Ryan, infant Kayson, Joseph, Madeleine, George, and especially all children suffering or those who are in need throughout the world.

Expecting Mothers: Meagan, Ori, Erin, Michaela, Kara, Noel, Taylee, Kirsten, Karis, Grace, Tamar, Saiah (Olga)

Military and First Responders: Rdr. Alex, Van, Nick, Tyler, Shannon, Landan, Austin, Chad, Vladimir, Andrew, Justin, Mark, Tammy, Nika, 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, Kris, Ruth, Breanne, Samuel, Wyatt, Cody, Michaela, Anna, Aidan, Tim, Anthony, Kirsten, Jackson, Connor, Zen, Eleia, Carson, Christopher, Sarah, Tristan, Chesney, Lily, Grayson, Zachary, Chandler, Angelina, Sidney, Billy, Tom, Kayla, Henry, Kristine, Jacob, Raymond, Grant, Jonathan, Jon, Adrian, Julie-Ann, Ryan, Kelly, Haddon, Andrew, Naly, Argo, Michael, Ruth, Delfina, Amelia, Selena, Colton, Anna, Maggie, Jaycee

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:

I bought a used car that was once owned by Bonnie Tyler. Every now and then it falls apart.

What should you say to a British person who has just injured himself? "UK?"

Quitting caffeine is the best decision I will never make.

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

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