

ST. MART

MAXIM



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

September 6th, 2026 - TONE 5 - 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / HIEROMARTYR MAXIM

Troparion - Tone 4 - By God's Providence you were sent to the Mountain of Pochaev / for the knowledge of the truth of the Orthodox Faith, / and after receiving true teaching in the city of Zhitomir, / you came to our land as a soldier of Christ. / For Orthodoxy and for your own people you received a martyr's crown. / Therefore, you confirmed your native land in Orthodoxy. / O Hieromartyr Maxim, entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion - Tone 2 - Your Martyrdom, O Father Maxim, / enlightened and encouraged our people in the Orthodox Faith. / Giving up your own life to Christ God, / you endured torments and suffered imprisonment. / Pray for us and for your land before Christ our God.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4 (Epistle): Brethren, He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand. But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

Matthew 22:1-14 (Gospel): The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."' But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

LIVING ORTHODOXY: SUBMITTING NAMES FOR COMMEMORATION

Before the Divine Liturgy, Orthodox Christians submit the names of living and departed loved ones so that the priest may remember them in prayer during the preparation of the Holy Gifts, called the Proskomedia. The priest takes small particles from the prosphora for those being commemorated and places them on the diskos near the Lamb, which will become the Body of Christ. In this way, we bring the people we love before God and entrust them to His mercy.

You may include both Orthodox and non-Orthodox people on your commemoration list, both living and departed. Near the end of the Liturgy, the particles are placed into the Holy Chalice as the priest prays, "Wash away, O Lord, the sins of those here commemorated by Thy precious Blood, through the prayers of Thy saints." Submitting names is much more than putting someone on a prayer list. It is a concrete act of love and prayer for our family, friends, neighbors, and others who need God's mercy. You can submit the names of those you would like commemorated to Pdn. Vassily, who will make sure that I receive them before the Divine Liturgy.

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 - Jerry and Mary Anne Welsh
 14th - Braden Hoover
 15th - Alison Somich
 18th - Devin Bass
 20th - Ozias Gabriel White
 27th - Chastity Williams-Lasley
 29th - Anthony and Susan Ally
 30th - Jackson Grossman

SCHEDULE

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

September 11th - Friday
 Online Bible Study (6:30 PM)

September 12th - Saturday
 Great Vespers (5:00 PM)

September 13th - Sunday
 Hours (9:00 AM)
 Baptismal Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
 Coffee Hour (After Liturgy)

ALMOST CHRISTIAN

My Friends Are My Power: Kingdom Hearts

Kingdom Hearts repeatedly returns to the struggle between light and darkness within the human heart, while showing that repentance, sacrifice, and love can restore what seems lost. From Riku's "road to dawn" to Sora's insistence that "my friends are my power," the series offers a reminder that darkness does not have to define us and that we were never meant to walk alone in Christ.

Read: <https://savannahorthodox.com/kingdom-hearts/>

WISDOM

"He calls him 'friend,' because he was invited to the wedding; he accuses him of shamelessness because he had soiled the purity of the wedding garment with filthy works. But he was speechless. For at that time there will be no opportunity for repentance, nor any ability to deny the charge, when all the world itself bear witness to our sins." - *St. Gregory the Great*

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

Parish Financial Report (September 1st, 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: \$116,684

August 2026 Collections: \$18,616

September 2026 Goal: \$17,500

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

YTD Variance: +\$1,247, or +1.1%

Thanks to a strong finish in August, we met our monthly giving goal and remain slightly ahead of our year-to-date goal. We are grateful for the faithful stewardship that makes the worship, ministries, and daily life of our parish possible. As we enter the fall, however, we cannot simply maintain where we are. Our parish continues to grow, and with that growth comes the need to begin setting aside funds for the expansion of our church and a future parish hall. If you are not currently tithing, please prayerfully consider taking that step, and if you have fallen behind over the summer, now is a good time to catch up. Our giving is ultimately not about meeting a number on a financial report, but faithfully offering back to Christ what He has entrusted to us so that His Church can continue to grow and serve those He sends to us.

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

Greeters: Sept 6th - Anthony, Josh | Sept 13th - Chastity, Chandler | Sept 20th - Anthony, Jacob

Team Coffee Hour Schedule: Sept 6th - Nate | Sept 13th - Mat. Lindsey | Sept 20th - Josh

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 (Ages 18-30): Our Young Adult Group, for ages 18-30, continues to meet regularly for fellowship, activities, discussion, and opportunities to grow together in the life of the parish. We know there are others who would gladly be part of the conversation, but we also want to make sure our young adults have a space of their own to connect, build friendships, and grow together with others in the same stage of life. Catechumens in those ages are also warmly welcome and encouraged to participate as well. If you would like to get involved or learn about upcoming gatherings, please see Anastasia Collins.

Tentative Parish GroupMe Chat: We are considering starting a second GroupMe chat that would be open to the entire parish, with no age range attached. This would give everyone a place for general conversation, fellowship, sharing parish-related information, theological discussions, and staying connected throughout the week, while still allowing our Young Adult Group to have its own dedicated space. If you would be interested in joining a parish-wide GroupMe chat, please let me know.

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>

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 are \$28 per person, with our 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. I need to know this weekend who is planning to attend and how many tickets your family will need. I will be speaking with our Ghost Pirates representative on September 8, and this game is expected to sell out. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are coming. Let's Go Pirates!

Prayer List

Departed

Rdr. John, Raul, Christine, Barbara, Peter, Tim, Dolly, Hayden, Nova, Maroulla, Adam, Josh, Greg, Adam, Joe, 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, child Lily, Karen, Svetlana, Chris, Joy, Bethany, infant Deacon, Jay, Tristan, Pamela, Shelby, Linda, Mike, Justin, Sammy, Ryan, and especially all children suffering or those who are in need throughout the world.

Expecting Mothers: Meagan, Ori, Rachel, 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, 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, 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:

Scientists have discovered what is believed to be the world's largest bedsheet. More on this story as it unfolds.

Big fire at the shoe factory. So many lost soles. They suspect that two heels started it.

If a drummer comes out of retirement will there be repercussions?

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

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