



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

OCT. 11TH, 2026 - TONE 2 - 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / FATHERS OF 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9 (Epistle): Brethren, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Luke 7:11-16 (Gospel): At that time, the Lord went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has risen up among us”; and, “God has visited His people.”

Troparion - Tone 1 - We the faithful all praise Hierótheus, the disciple of Paul, / Hierarch of Athens, / the world's teacher and a preacher of the Faith, / who revealed to us Christ's Mysteries / and poured forth streams of godly doctrine. / His life was well-pleasing to God, who is greatly merciful.

Kontakion - Tone 8 - Hierarch of Athens, we praise you for you have instructed us in awesome and ineffable things, / and you were revealed to be a divinely-inspired writer of hymns. / Pray that we be delivered from every kind of sin, so that we may cry to you: / “Rejoice, divinely-wise Father Hierótheus.”

LIVING ORTHODOXY: WHY REGULAR ATTENDANCE MATTERS

C.S. Lewis once wrote, “I didn’t go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don’t recommend Christianity.” That gets at why regular attendance matters. Christianity is not something we fit into our lives when we have time. The Church is our life, and everything else should find its place around it. A few weeks ago, we heard the Parable of the Wedding Feast. The King prepared the feast and invited people to come, but other things became more important. Work, sports, hobbies, travel, and family activities can all be good things. The problem comes when they become the fixed points of our schedule and worship is moved around them. The Church cannot simply be something we add to the life we already have. Our life is supposed to become the life of the Church. That means more than Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. Come to Vespers and feast-day services when you can. Go to confession, pray at home, fast, read Scripture, and celebrate the feasts. The more we do this, the more natural it becomes to put the Church first. Fr. Anthony Karbo of blessed memory used to say, “Give them something to do each day and they will never get in trouble.” Consume your life with the life of the Church. I would love for us to have more opportunities throughout the week, but we need more people involved to make that possible. The more people participate, the more we can do together. If you see a way to help, do it. We always need people willing to sing, chant, read, and assist with services, so speak with Tammy if you are interested. Of course, sickness, work, travel, and family responsibilities will sometimes keep us away. This is not about checking an attendance box. It is about what our lives are centered around. We should learn to schedule our lives around the Church rather than constantly scheduling the Church around our lives. Christianity is not meant simply to improve our life. Its meant to be our life.

OCT Birthdays, Names Day, & Anniversaries

4th - Chandler and Angelina Lott
5th - Rdr. Tahir Savasir
6th - Anthony Depeyster
7th - Liam Loomis
7th - Nancy Nessim
8th - Nika Matsko
11th - Fr. Stephen Osburn
11th - Phillip Savasir (Name's Day)
12th - Tammy Collins
12th - Jaimie Collins
17th - Savannah Savasir
18th - Michael Florio
22nd - Rdr. Alex Vlachos
29th - Ruth Florio
31st - Chad Weeks

SCHEDULE

October 15th - Thursday
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329) (10:00 AM)

October 16th - Friday
Online Bible Study (6:30 PM)

October 17th - Saturday
No Vespers. Parish Outing at Ghost Pirates Game

October 18th - Sunday
Hours (9:00 AM)
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Coffee Hour (After Liturgy)
Church School (11:45 AM)
Parish Council (After Coffee Hour)

ALMOST CHRISTIAN

Lukas Graham's 7 Years and the Passing of Time

Lukas Graham's “7 Years” captures how quickly life passes as childhood becomes adulthood and the future becomes the past. Scripture tells us to “number our days” so that we gain wisdom, reminding us that the question is not simply what we accomplish with our years, but what we are becoming with the time God has given us.

Read here:

<https://savannahorthodox.com/7-years/>

WISDOM

“You cannot pray at home as at church, where there is a great multitude, where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: the union of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of love, the prayers of the priests. For this is why the priests preside, so that the prayers of the multitude, which are weaker, may be joined to their stronger prayers and thus all together may ascend to heaven.”

- St. John Chrysostom

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

Parish Financial Report (October 9th, 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: \$124,444
October 2026 Collections: \$6,325
October 2026 Goal: \$13,944
2026 Year-to-Date Goal: \$129,381
YTD Variance: -\$4,937 (-3.8%)
October Goal Progress: 45.4%

Big week this week, rather a MONSTER Week! Thank you to everyone who continues to faithfully support our parish. While we're still slightly behind our year-to-date goal, we're making good progress toward October's goal, and there's plenty of time to close that gap. As our parish continues to grow, so do our responsibilities, especially as we begin preparing financially for a new church and parish hall. I encourage everyone to make regular tithing a priority, not simply to meet a financial goal, but because our stewardship directly supports the ministry of the Church and the work Christ has entrusted to us.

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

Greeters: Oct 11th - Heath, Jacob | Oct 18th - Chandler, Jesse | Oct 25th - Anthony, Chandler

Team Coffee Hour Schedule: Oct 11th - Kamaka | Oct 18th - Mat. Lindsey | Oct 25th - Nate

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 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 in weekly schedule. 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: Our Statesboro Bible Study is now meeting every other Tuesday evening at 6:00 PM at the Russell Union (85 Georgia Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458). This gives our college students and young adults an opportunity to study the faith together and build an Orthodox community in the Statesboro area. Rdr. Ron and Kristin Somich will also continue hosting fellowship opportunities between Bible Study meetings, so please coordinate with them for those gatherings. If you are at Georgia Southern or live in the Statesboro area and would like to get involved, please speak with me, Rdr. Ron, or Kristin.

Supporting Our Growing Parish Families

We are blessed to have several expectant mothers in our parish! As these families prepare to welcome their little ones, we will keep a list of their baby registries here for anyone who would like to help support them. Please keep all of our expectant mothers, their children, and their families in your prayers. (All URLs are redirects to their respective registries to make it easier to find).

Garrett & Meagan Clark: <https://savannahorthodox.com/clark-target/> and/or <https://savannahorthodox.com/clark-amazon/>

Savannah Ghost Pirates Game (October 17th)

Our parish outing to the Savannah Ghost Pirates is officially full, with all of our current tickets claimed! We can still add more seats around our group while they are available, so if you would still like to join us, please let me know as soon as possible. Tickets are \$28 each. If you have already claimed tickets, please make sure you have paid for them. The parish has already covered the full group reservation, and I will be contacting everyone this week to begin transferring tickets to those who have paid. You can pay with cash or check made out to St. Mary's Orthodox Church, with "Ghost Pirates Game" and the number of tickets in the memo line. Please give payment to Rdr. Ron, our treasurer. If you have already paid, please let me know so I can verify everything. We also had a very generous parishioner donate FOUR additional tickets specifically for anyone who would like to attend but may not be able to afford it! These tickets are completely free and I really want to encourage anyone who might otherwise miss out because of the cost to take advantage of this generosity. Please don't hesitate or feel embarrassed to ask. We want everyone to have the opportunity to enjoy this evening of fellowship together. If you would like one of these four tickets, please see me privately. 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. 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!

Sponsoring a Kids Activity at the Chili Cookoff (November 1st)

We're looking for at least two parents or parishioners to sponsor and run a game for the kids at our Chili Cook-Off. Come up with a fun, simple game, bring the supplies you need, and run the game during the event! For example, you could hang donuts from strings and have the kids race to see who can eat theirs first without using their hands. We'll already have face painting, s'mores, a piñata, and other activities under the pavilion, so your game can join the fun nearby. If you have a fun idea and would like to help, please speak with Mat. Lindsey or Nika.

Prayer List

Departed

Fr. Christos, Mike, Vickie, child Waylon, Dennis, Philip, Rohit, Linda, Bill, Barry, 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, Dn. David

Community: Mother Cassiana, Tammy, Litsa, child Lilliana, child Ciana Rose, Jaimie, Rena, Paisios, Ray, Polly, Pina, Vic, Owen, Katlyn, Cassidy and infant son, Carlisle, Gary, Kathryn Ann, Harry, Maegan, Lara, Nicholas, Kathy, Sam, Jerry (Gerasimos), Kate, Jeff, Abby, Joy, Ryan, infant Kayson, Joseph, Madeleine, George, Greg, Karissa, Anna, 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, Debbie, Landon

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:

What do you get when you cross a Jehovah Witness with an atheist? Someone who rings your doorbell for no apparent reason.

My wife and I share the same sense of humor. We have to...she doesn't have one.

I've learned so much from my mistakes that I'm thinking of making a few more.