



## SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Galatians 2:16-20 (Epistle):** Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**Luke 16:19-31 (Gospel):** The Lord said this parable: "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

## LIVING ORTHODOXY: IT'S OKAY TO CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN

Every October, Christians debate whether celebrating Halloween is somehow participating in evil or glorifying the devil. Some even suggest that allowing children to dress up or go trick-or-treating opens the door to demonic influences. But dressing up in costumes, carving pumpkins, and taking your children trick-or-treating are not acts of devil worship. They are simply activities that families can enjoy together. As Orthodox Christians, we should certainly avoid anything that genuinely celebrates evil, the occult, or things contrary to our faith, but we also need to be careful not to turn harmless traditions into something they are not. Not everything in the world needs to be treated as a spiritual threat, and we should be careful about teaching our children to fear things that are not inherently sinful. Halloween can actually be a wonderful opportunity to practice Christian hospitality and charity. How often do we have an evening when our neighbors come knocking on our doors, giving us an opportunity to greet them, show kindness to their children, and build relationships with people we might otherwise never meet? It is also an opportunity to make memories with our children, who grow up far too quickly. Let them enjoy dressing up, walking around the neighborhood, and collecting more candy than they could possibly eat. Of course, parents should exercise good judgment about costumes, decorations, and activities, just as they should with anything else their children encounter. But exercising discernment is not the same thing as treating everything with suspicion. Our faith is not about being afraid of the world around us or finding evil in everything. Christ has conquered death and defeated the powers of darkness, and we should live with that confidence rather than allowing fear to shape how we approach ordinary life. Being Orthodox does not mean rejecting every cultural tradition simply because it did not originate within the Church. What matters is how we participate and whether our actions reflect the life we are called to live in Christ. So enjoy the costumes, carve some pumpkins, hand out some candy, spend time with your children, and remember that even something as simple as being kind to your neighbors can be an expression of Christian love. And for those wondering, I'll be having Skittles on Halloween. After all, according to the Internet, I am pro-Skittles.

## WEEKLY TROPARIA

**Troparion - Tone 3 -** In holy zeal you dispelled the error of Arius / and proclaimed the Trinity, one in essence. / Holy martyrs Marcan and Martyrius, / unshaken bulwarks of Orthodoxy, / entreat Christ our God to grant us His great mercy.

**Kontakion - Tone 4 -** From your youth you were good athletes, wise Marcan and Martyrius, / vanquishing the Arian heretics; / you kept the faith perfect by following in the footsteps of your bishop and teacher Paul, / therefore, you are worthy to be with him in eternal life, / as respected defenders of the Holy Trinity.

## 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

Name Missing? Please let me (Fr. Stephen) know.

## SCHEDULE

**October 29th - Thursday**  
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329) (10:00 AM)

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

**October 31st - Saturday**  
No Vespers

**November 1st - Sunday**  
Hours (9:00 AM)  
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)  
Chili Cook Off (After Liturgy)  
No Church School

## ALMOST CHRISTIAN

**Another Glorious Morning:**  
**Hocus Pocus and the Hope of Resurrection**

Hocus Pocus may be a silly Halloween movie, but underneath the witches, spells, and talking cat is a story about the fear of death and the difference between taking life and giving yourself for another. The Sanderson sisters will sacrifice anyone to keep themselves alive, while Christianity proclaims something radically different: sacrificial love, resurrection, and life in the One who conquered death.

Read here:

<https://savannahorthodox.com/hocus-pocus>

## WISDOM

"The bread which you do not use is the bread of the hungry; the garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of him who is naked; the shoes that you do not wear are the shoes of one who is barefoot."

- St. Basil the Great

## WEEKLY JOKES

I asked my friend why he gave up his career as a farmer. He said he chose the wrong field.

Today, I finally made my first bit of money as a photographer. I sold my camera.

It's 2026. We have AI that can write novels, but to make a PDF from a file I still have to gaslight my computer into thinking I'm going to print it.

# GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

**FINANCES 10/19/2026:** 2026 GOAL: \$175,000 | YTD: \$141,019 | OCT GOAL: \$13,944 | COLLECTIONS: \$10,717

We had a stronger week in giving and remain on pace to meet our October goal. Thank you for your continued support! As our parish grows and we prepare for a new church and parish hall, our financial needs continue to increase. Please prioritize regular tithing and prayerfully consider increasing your giving to support the growing needs of our parish.

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

**GREETERS:** OCT 18TH - ANTHONY, CHANDLER | NOV 1ST - TBA | NOV 8TH - TBA

**COFFEE HOUR:** OCT 25TH - NATE | NOV 1ST - CHILI COOK OFF | NOV 8TH - JOSH

**Help Take Care of YOUR Parish:** Caring for our parish is a responsibility we all share! Our Tuesday Hall Cleaning Team meets at 9:30 AM each week for general and detailed cleaning, while Sunday cooking teams remain responsible for cleaning up after Fellowship. We also have ongoing maintenance projects that need volunteers. Whether you can give an hour or help with a larger project, there's a way to serve! Sign up at <https://savannahorthodox.com/serve/> and speak with Tom for more information.

**Youth Church School:** Registration forms are available in the Narthex and must be completed for each child. Children must be at least three years old and potty trained. Please return 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 ministry for babies. Please Donate. We have a growing number of babies within the parish, so please take what you need. Narthex donations can include open packages of diapers. However, all baby food must be sealed and not expired. As the Fall and Winter season is here, if you would like to donate new or gently used clothes, blankets and toys please drop them off at the Narthex shelves. If they are bigger, do not fit, or have a large quantity coordinate their donation by contacting Ruth H: (814) 227-7632.

**St. Ambrose Ministry (Narthex):** This is a food ministry for our community. If you are in need, please help yourself to what is on the shelf, any can and dry food is accepted for donation. Look in the bottom drawer for other food ministries in the area. Items needed for God's Mission House pantry in November: dried mashed potatoes, sugar, spaghetti and pasta. Local food Pantries are looking for volunteers to help out, like God's Mission House, Springfield (M-W 8a-12p). Please see Ruth H.: (814) 227-7632 if you are interested.

**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.

**OCF at GSU:** Our Statesboro Bible Study meets every other Tuesday at 6:00 PM at the Russell Union (85 Georgia Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458). Rdr. Ron and Kristin Somich also organize fellowship gatherings on alternating weeks. If you attend Georgia Southern or live in the Statesboro area and would like to participate, please speak with me or the Somichs for more information.

**Supporting our Growing Parish Families:** We are blessed to have several expectant mothers in our parish! Please keep these growing families in your prayers and consider supporting them through their baby registries, which can be found here: <https://savannahorthodox.com/parish-families/>

## MADE IN THE IMAGE PODCAST (OCTOBER 28TH)

Our new podcast, Made in the Image, launches Wednesday, October 28th, sharing the stories and experiences of Orthodox Christians from all walks of life! Please follow UOJ-America and our parish on social media, and be sure to like and share the podcast with everyone you know!

## CHILI COOK-OFF (NOV 1ST)

Our annual Chili Cook-Off is coming up! Sign up to compete for Best Chili, Best Side, or Best Dessert at <https://savannahorthodox.com/events/fall-fest/> so we can plan accordingly! We'll also have plenty of activities for the kids, including face painting, s'mores, a piñata, and more! The firepit will be going, so anyone wishing to properly dispose of blessed palms from previous years or other blessed items may bring them to be burned. Even if you're not competing, come enjoy the food, fellowship, and activities! Invite your friends, family, and neighbors for a wonderful afternoon together! If you have questions, reach out to Mat. Lindsey: 702-521-6917 or speak with Nika at coffee hour.

## ALTAR SERVER TRAINING (NOV 7TH 1-3:30 PM)

On Saturday, November 7th from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM, we will be holding an Altar Server Training at the church, followed by pizza before a Panakhida for Tom's mother at 4:15 PM, and then Great Vespers at 5:00 PM. We will review the responsibilities of altar servers during both Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy, including proper procedures, expectations, and reverence in the altar. **ALL CURRENT ALTAR SERVERS, REGARDLESS OF AGE, ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND.** Orthodox men interested in serving are encouraged to attend. Women and catechumens are also welcome for educational purposes. Male catechumens may be eligible to serve after reception into the Church (4 month minimum) and with a blessing. This is an opportunity to better understand the Church's liturgical life.

## SECOND COLLECTION: THRIVING IN MINISTRY (NOV 8TH END OF LITURGY)

At the request of Fr. John Cox, our Dean, we will take a second collection on Sunday, November 8th, to support the Orthodox Church in America's Thriving in Ministry program. This initiative provides priests and their families with mutual support, encouragement, and guidance in parish ministry. Our deanery has been asked to help sustain this important program. Please give as you are able.

## NATIVITY FAST SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: ST. NICHOLAS WISH LIST PROGRAM WITH FOCA

During the Nativity Fast, our parish will support FOCA's St. Nicholas Wish List Program, which assists married seminarians and their families. Special collections will be held after Divine Liturgy on November 15th, 22nd, and 29th. All donations will be combined into a parish contribution to help support these families as they prepare to serve the Church. Please consider giving generously!

## PRAYER LIST

### Departed

Hieroschemamonk Silouan, Fr. Christos, Ron, Brady, Mike, Vickie, child Waylon, Dennis, Philip, Rohit, Linda, all children killed through the evil act of abortion, those killed at St. George's in Hamoud, Jordan, and all the fallen soldiers who defend our nation.

### Living

**Clergy:** Met. Tikhon (OCA), Bp. Gerasim (of Fort Worth, Locum Tenens of the Diocese of the South), Abp. Melchisedek, Abp. Benjamin, Abp. Nathaniel, Abp. Alexander, Met. Isaiah, OCA Synod, Fr. Marcus, Fr. John, Fr. Michael, Fr. Stephen, Fr. Matthew, Pdn. Vassily, Dn. David

**Community:** Mother Cassiana, Tammy, Litsa, child Lilliana, child Ciana, child Bella, 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, Benny, Abby, Joy, infant Kayson, George, Greg, Karissa, Anna, Linda, Angela, Marlin, Sam, Megan (Martha), child Emmit (John), child Rosenda (Esther), infant Arthur-Ray (Ignatius), Jason, newly born Miles (Arsenios) 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, Landon, 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, 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, Cary, Noah

**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?

**CLERGY:** FR. STEPHEN OSBURN 702-521-6988 / [FRSTEVE@SAVANNAHORTHODOX.COM](mailto:FRSTEVE@SAVANNAHORTHODOX.COM) | PDN. VASSILY KOCHER 912-756-5178 | FR. MICHAEL MATSKO [SAVANNAHORTHODOX.COM](https://savannahorthodox.com) | [FACEBOOK.COM/SAVANNAHORTHODOXCHURCH/](https://facebook.com/savannahorthodoxchurch/) | [INSTAGRAM.COM/SAVANNAHORTHODOX](https://instagram.com/savannahorthodox)