



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

OCT. 4TH, 2026 - TONE 1 - 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / HIEROMARTYR HIEROTHEUS OF ATHENS

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (Epistle): Brethren, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

Luke 6:31-36 (Gospel): The Lord said, "Just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful."

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: REVERENCE IN CHURCH

Reverence in church does not begin with the opening blessing of a service, whether we hear "Blessed is the Kingdom" at the Divine Liturgy or "Blessed is our God" at Vespers and other services. It begins when we walk through the front doors, and it continues even after the service has ended. The church is not simply a building where we gather with friends; it is a sacred place set apart for the worship of God, and our behavior should reflect that whenever we are inside it. Christ Himself showed how seriously sacred space should be treated when He entered the Temple and drove out the merchants and money changers, overturning their tables because they had turned His Father's house, a house of prayer, into a place of commerce. A place dedicated to God should be treated according to its purpose. Our church is where the Holy Mysteries are celebrated, the Gospel is proclaimed, our prayers are offered, and the Holy Eucharist is kept upon the altar. That reality does not disappear simply because a service has not started yet or has just ended. Someone may still be praying quietly even while the rest of us are ready for conversation and fellowship. Reverence does not mean being cold toward one another or being afraid to greet someone. It means remembering that there is a proper time and place for everything, and the church is first and foremost a place of prayer. Children will make noise, visitors need help, and sometimes things simply need to be handled. But ordinary conversations, catching up with friends, joking around, checking phones, and longer discussions should be taken outside, both before and after Divine Liturgy, Vespers, and our other services. Reverence should also be reflected in how we present ourselves. Men should remove baseball caps and other hats when they enter the narthex and leave them off until they have exited the church building. The end of the service or stepping back into the narthex is not the time to put them back on. Women have traditionally had greater freedom regarding head coverings and hats worn as part of their attire. These may seem like small things, but outward acts of reverence remind us inwardly that we have entered a sacred place. I am guilty of losing sight of this too, especially when someone catches me after a service with a question and I end up talking in the church longer than I should. This is something all of us, myself included, need to be more mindful about. Fellowship is an important part of parish life, but that is why we have Coffee Hour, the parish hall, the pavilion, and plenty of space outside to talk. From the moment we walk through the doors until the moment we walk back out of them, we should remember where we are: in a place dedicated to the worship of God.

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

SCHEDULE

October 6th - Thursday
OCF at Georgia Southern (6:00 PM)
(Russel Union: 85 Georgia Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458)

October 8th - Thursday
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329) (10:00 AM)

October 9th - Friday
Online Bible Study (6:30 PM)

October 10th - Saturday
No Vespers. Go Support the Greek Festival at St. Paul's

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

ALMOST CHRISTIAN

Kingdom of Heaven Gets Christianity Wrong, Sorta...

The 2005 Ridley Scott film, "Kingdom of Heaven" gets Christianity wrong throughout, yet King Baldwin's warning that "your soul is in your keeping alone" comes remarkably close to an important Christian truth. Kings, governments, families, and circumstances may influence us, but each of us will ultimately give an account before God, especially when doing what is right is no longer convenient. Read here: <https://savannahorthodox.com/kingdom-of-heaven-film/>

WISDOM

"The Lord taught me to love my enemies. Without the grace of God we cannot love our enemies, but the Holy Spirit teaches love. If anyone insults you or dishonors you, or takes what is yours, pray to the Lord, saying: 'O Lord, we are all Thy creatures. Have pity on Thy servants, and turn them to repentance.' Then you will perceptibly bear grace in your soul." - St. Silouan the Athonite

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

Parish Financial Report (September 28th, 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: \$118,119
September 2026 Collections: \$13,794
October 2026 Goal: \$13,812
2026 Year-to-Date Goal: \$115,437
YTD Variance: +\$2,682 (+2.3%)
October Goal Progress: 0%

Glory to Jesus Christ! We finished September just \$18 short of our \$13,812 goal, while remaining more than \$2,600 ahead of our year-to-date goal. Thank you for your continued faithfulness in supporting the parish. As we continue to grow, please keep regular tithing at the center of your stewardship as we prepare for the new church and parish hall needed to serve the work Christ has placed before us.

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

Greeters: Oct 4th - Josh, Chastity | Oct 11th - Heath, Jacob | Oct 18th - Chandler, Jesse
Team Coffee Hour Schedule: Oct 4th - Craig | Oct 11th - Kamaka | Oct 18th - Mat. Lindsey

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/>

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

Connie reached out to me last week and said that so far no one from our parish has volunteered for the Greek Food Festival except for one person who always steps up and needs no reminding. I really want to encourage all of us who can to especially to help out. This is bigger than jurisdictions. We talk a lot about Orthodox unity and wanting to see a truly united American Orthodox Church someday, but that starts with actually showing up for one another now. St. Paul's is our sister Orthodox parish and regardless of any differences some of us may have, this is a very simple way for us to support them and build up those relationships. Frankly, it is not a great reflection on us if they ask for help and we have plenty of people perfectly capable of helping and no one steps forward. There is no Vespers next Saturday specifically so that everyone has the opportunity to participate in the festival as well as enjoy it. Please reach out to Connie at 912-484-3438, volunteer for a shift, and go help. This is one of those times when we need to do more than talk about Orthodox unity. We need to actually practice it.

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 tickets around our group while seats 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 get them paid for as soon as possible. The parish has already paid for the full group reservation, and I will begin releasing tickets next week to those who have paid. 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 payment to Rdr. Ron, our treasurer. If you have already paid, please let me know so I can make sure I have you marked down correctly. We also have 5 tickets being donated for anyone who would like to attend but cannot afford the cost, so please speak with me privately if you need one. 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, Philip, 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, 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, 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, Debbie

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 one of those "smart" light switches, but it was too clever for me. So I replaced it with a dimmer switch.

To the person who keeps stealing my brake fluid, can you just stop?

blocked someone for correcting my grammar and it feeded good

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