SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Galatians 6:11-18 (Epistle): Brethren, see with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Luke 8:26-39 (Gospel): At that time, Jesus and His disciples sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. He wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. It had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned. When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then the people went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them by what means the man who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned. Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you." And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

LIVING ORTHODOXY: STANDING ATTENTIVELY DURING PRAYER

During our services, there are certain moments when we should stop what we're doing, remain standing, and give our full attention to prayer. These include the reading of the Holy Gospel, the Nicene Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. This applies not only during the Divine Liturgy, but also during the Hours and Great Vespers whenever these prayers or readings occur. We've had quite a bit of movement during these portions of our services lately, and it can become distracting for those around us. Please avoid walking around, entering or leaving the church, or venerating icons during these moments unless there is a genuine need. If you're in the middle of venerating icons when one of these prayers begins, simply stop where you are, participate in the prayer, and then continue venerating once it concludes. Likewise, if you arrive during one of these moments, please wait quietly in the narthex before entering the nave. Parents should help their children understand this as well, recognizing that young children sometimes have needs that cannot wait. This isn't about making unnecessary rules, but about showing reverence for our worship and being considerate of everyone gathered together in prayer.

WEEKLY TROPARIA

Troparion - Tone 8 - Holy unmercenaries and wonderworkers, Cosmas and Damian, / heal our infirmities. / Freely you have received; freely you give to us.

Kontakion - Tone 4 - Having received the grace of healing, / you grant healing to those in need. / Glorious wonder workers and healers, Cosmas and Damian, / visit us and put down the insolence of our enemies, / and bring healing to the world through your miracles.

WEEKLY JOKES

I told me wife: There's only one thing that scares me during Halloween... My wife: "Which is?" Me: "Exactly"

I was gonna dress up in a straight jacket for Halloween, but I'm afraid it might be a little difficult to pull off.

NOV BIRTHDAYS, NAMES DAY, & ANNIVERSARIES

2nd - Josh (Gabriel) Takacs (Name's Day)
2nd - Gabriel Savasir (Name's Day)
5th - Henry Archambault
7th - Lia Hares
7th - Connor Clark
11th - Anastasia Collins
16th - Landan Withers
16th - Matthew Somich (Name's Day)
16th - Wyatt (Matthew) Roberts (Name's Day)
21st - Nathan Corrales
24th - Oakleigh Carver
25th - Patrick Welsh
27th - Ray Givan
28th - Eric Hares
30th - Andreas Savasir (Name's Day)
30th - Dan (Andre) Condratov (Name's Day)

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

SCHEDULE

November 3rd - Tuesday
OCF at Georgia Southern (6:00 PM) (Russel Union: 85 Georgia Ave, Statesboro, GA 30458)

November 5th - Thursday
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329) (10:00 AM)

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

November 7th - Saturday
Altar Server Training (1-3:30 PM)
Panakhida (4:15 PM)
Great Vespers (5:00 PM)
St. Brendan the Navigator Questing Group (After Vespers)

November 8th - Sunday
Hours (9:00 AM)
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Coffee Hour (After Liturgy)
Church School (11:45 AM)

ALMOST CHRISTIAN

The Almost Christmas Before Halloween

The Nightmare Before Christmas offers a surprising lesson about gratitude, pride, and repentance as Jack Skellington discovers that fulfillment isn't found in chasing someone else's purpose.
Read here: https://savannahorthodox.com/nightmare-before-christmas/

Why We Need a Little Escapism

This week's bonus Almost Christian article explores why movies, video games, sports, and other hobbies can provide healthy rest and recreation while maintaining balance in our spiritual lives.
Read here: https://savannahorthodox.com/why-we-need-a-little-escapism/

WISDOM

"We must not, therefore, like a torrent, indiscriminately sweep along everything that comes in our way; but rather, like bees, we must gather what is useful."
- St. Basil the Great

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

FINANCES 10/29/2026: 2026 GOAL: $175,000 | YTD: $144,247 | OCT GOAL: $13,944 | OCT COLL: $12,942 | NOV GOAL: $17,595
Although we fell just short of our October goal, we remain slightly ahead of our annual giving pace. Thank you to everyone who continues to faithfully support our parish! As our community grows, so do our responsibilities and the opportunities Christ has placed before us. With plans for a new church and parish hall on the horizon, now is the time to begin preparing financially for that future. Please prayerfully consider increasing your regular tithing so that we can not only meet our annual goal but continue building a strong foundation for the generations who will worship here after us.

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

GREETERS: NOV 1ST - CHASTITY, JACOB | NOV 8TH - HEATH, CHANDLER | NOV 15TH - ANTHONY, CHANDLER
COFFEE HOUR: NOV 1ST - CHILI COOK OFF | NOV 8TH - JOSH | NOV 15TH - MARIA

Help Take Care of YOUR Parish: Help care for our Church and parish grounds! The Tuesday Cleaning Team meets every Tuesday at 9:30 AM. We clean the Church first, then other areas of the parish, both indoors and outdoors. Sunday coffee hour teams are responsible for cleaning up after Fellowship. Volunteers are also needed for ongoing maintenance projects. Whether you have an hour to help clean or can take on a maintenance project, we welcome your help! 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://savannahorthdoox.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 NOW LIVE

Have you had a chance to watch the first episode of our new parish podcast, Made in the Image? Our first episode, Episode 0: Why Are We Orthodox?, introduces the podcast and gives us an opportunity to talk about why we're Orthodox Christians, what brought us to the Church, and why our faith matters to us. The goal of this podcast is to share the stories and experiences of people right here in our parish, exploring what it means to live as Orthodox Christians and how our faith shapes our everyday lives. I'd encourage everyone to give it a watch and share it with your friends and family, especially those who might be curious about Orthodoxy! Watch "Episode 0: Why Are We Orthodox?" at https://www.youtube.com/@UOJ_America and sub here: https://linktr.ee/MadeintheImage

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, Patrick, Leroy, Ron, Brady, Mike, Vickie, child Waylon, Dennis, Philip, Rohit, Beverly, Jamileh, 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, Synod of the Orthodox Church in America, 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, Kassidy, Carlisle, Gary, Kathryn Ann, Harry, Maegan, Lara, Nicholas, Kathy, Sam, Jerry (Gerasimos), Kate, Jeff, Benny, Joy, infant Kayson, Greg, Karissa, Anna, Linda, Angela, Marlin, Sam, Megan (Martha), child Emmit (John), child Rosenda (Esther), infant Arthur-Ray (Ignatius), Jason, Lea, Lane, Mickyia, Tonya, 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), Grace

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, 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?