SAINT MARY MAGDALENE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RINCON/SAVANNAH - NOV 29TH, 2026
TONE 1 - 26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / MARTYR PARAMON AND 370 MARTYRS IN BITHYNIA

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ephesians 5:9-19 (Epistle): Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. Find out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says, "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Luke 13:10-17 (Gospel): At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work. Therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound - think of it! - for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame, and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

LIVING ORTHODOXY: ST. NICHOLAS TRADITIONS

The feast of St. Nicholas falls on Sunday, December 6, this year, so I wanted to give families a few ideas as you prepare to celebrate at home next weekend. One tradition is for children to leave a shoe by the door on Saturday evening. When they wake up on Sunday, they find chocolate coins, an orange, or a few other small treats tucked inside. The chocolate coins give parents a chance to tell one of the best-known stories from the life of St. Nicholas. A father had fallen into poverty and had no way to provide for his three daughters. When St. Nicholas learned of their situation, he brought them gold in secret. He saw what the family needed and helped them quietly. That story is one reason giving small gifts has become part of the feast for so many families. Some children put out stockings instead of shoes, and some families bake special cookies or give each child a small gift. In our family, we give each of our children a new pair of shoes and a gift. If you're starting the tradition this year, you might read a story from the life of St. Nicholas together on Saturday night and ask for his prayers before the children set out their shoes. You could also help them think of someone they can give to. They might choose a toy for another child, set aside some of their own money to help a family in need, or leave a plate of cookies for a neighbor without signing their names. Then on Sunday morning, after the excitement of finding what's in their shoes, bring the children to Divine Liturgy to celebrate the feast with the parish. As we prepare for the Nativity of Christ, St. Nicholas gives us a practical example of how to love our neighbor. We can pay attention to what someone needs, give what we can, and leave the thanks to God.

WEEKLY TROPARIA

Troparion - Tone 4 - Your holy martyrs Paramon and Philoumenus and those with them, O Lord, / through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from You, our God. / For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. / Through their intercessions, save our souls!

Kontakion - Tone 4 - Urged on by the commandments of God, / with patience, you cleansed your souls from all defilement. / You reached perfection as spiritual athletes; / you renounced sacrifice to idols. / Imitating Christ, you were slain with a spear, / most blessed Paramon and Philoumenus. / Always fervently intercede with Christ on behalf of the world.

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
8th - Fr. Michael Matsko (Name's Day)
8th - Garrett (Michael) Clark (Name's Day)
8th - Van (Michael) Roberts (Name's Day)
8th - Michele Reynolds (Name's Day)
10th - 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

December 3rd - Thursday
Coffee Chat at Paddles (401 N Laurel St, Springfield, GA 31329) (10:00 AM)

December 4th - Friday
Online Bible Study (6:30 PM)

December 5th - Saturday
Vespers (5:00 PM)
St. Brendan the Navigator Questing Group (After Vespers)

December 6th - Sunday
Hours (9:00 AM)
Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)
Coffee Hour (After Liturgy)
St. Nicholas Visit (At Coffee Hour)

ALMOST CHRISTIAN

Catching Fire: The Capitol Is Full. So Why Does It Keep Eating?

Katniss comes from a district where families regularly go hungry, so the Capitol banquet in Catching Fire horrifies her. The guests have so much food that they deliberately make themselves sick simply so they can continue eating. Orthodox Christianity teaches that food and feasting are good, but good things become spiritually dangerous when our appetites begin controlling us. The Nativity Fast teaches us something the Capitol has forgotten: we can desire something, enjoy something, and still be free enough to say, "I have enough."
Read here: https://savannahorthodox.com/hunger-games-catching-fire

WISDOM

"Is the law then broken when God shows mercy even on the sabbath day? Whom did He command to desist from labor? Himself?"
- St. Cyril of Alexandria

WEEKLY JOKES

What do you call an industrial rock band that only plays on super small boats? Nine Inch Sails.

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

LORD IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE! AMEN!

FINANCES 11/24/2026: 2026 GOAL: $175,000 | YTD: $158,489 | NOV GOAL: $17,595 | COLLECTIONS: $13,039
Thank you to Rdr. Ron for getting our numbers to me early this week. We need another $4,556 to reach our November goal. As our parish grows and we prepare for a new church and hall, I encourage everyone to make regular tithing a priority. Together, we can continue supporting the work of Christ in our community.

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

GREETERS: NOV 29TH - JOSH, HEATH | DEC 6TH - JOSH, CHASTITY | DEC 13TH - JOSH, CHASTITY
COFFEE HOUR: NOV 29TH - KAMAKA | DEC 6TH - NATE | DEC 13TH - MARIA

Help Take Care of YOUR Parish and Hall: Caring for our parish is a responsibility we all share! Our Tuesday Cleaning Team meets at 9:30 AM each week for general and detailed cleaning of the Church first, and with time the Hall, 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! To view available projects and 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 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. Ambrose 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. 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 is on break and will resume in January when the next semester begins. During the semester, we meet 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 join us, please speak with me or the Somichs.

Made in the Image Podcast: Have you checked out Made in the Image yet? Produced in partnership with UOJ, our podcast features parishioners sharing their lives and journeys into Orthodox Christianity. Get to know our parish family, listen to the latest episodes, and share with others here: https://linktr.ee/MadeintheImage

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/

Questions about Fasting? Guide for Nativity Fast: https://savannahorthodox.com/a-guide-to-fasting/

FATHER AWAY (NOV 23RD-DEC 5TH)
I will be away on vacation beginning November 27th and returning December 5th. As always, I will have my phone and internet access, though cell service may be spotty. For urgent matters, please email me at frsteve@savannahorthodox.com. If there is a major emergency, Pdn. Vassily or Dan will handle it. Thank you to Fr. Michael for serving in my place. There will be no Church School today.

ST. NICK DAY (DEC 6TH AT COFFEE HOUR)
Join us after Divine Liturgy for a festive Coffee Hour celebrating St. Nicholas! Our scheduled Coffee Hour team will provide the food, and we'll have punch and a hot chocolate bar, weather permitting for an outdoor setup. St. Nicholas himself will stop by with bags of treats for the children, so there's no need to bring shoes this year. Dairy is welcome at Coffee Hour for the feast.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING PART 2 (DEC 12TH 1-3:30 PM)
Our second round of altar server training will cover the services and the responsibilities of serving in the altar. Each server will receive a booklet with instructions to help them follow along and review afterward. We'll finish with pizza together, just like last time!

PARISH COUNCIL OPENING / NOMINATIONS
One Parish Council position will open as Rdr. Ron steps down at end of 2026. The council has nominated Tom Maty, but our bylaws require that nominations also be opened to the parish. The new member must be qualified to serve as treasurer, as the parish elects the council member and the council then elects its treasurer. Please speak with me about nominations. Our annual meeting is tentatively January 17th after Coffee Hour. Mark your calendar now!

NATIVITY FAST SPECIAL COLLECTION: ST. NICHOLAS WISH LIST PROGRAM WITH FOCA
This is the last Sunday to donate for this special collection. We have been asked as a parish to support FOCA's St. Nicholas Wish List Program, which assists married seminarians and their families. 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
Met. Georges, Fr. Barnabas, Paul, Josh, Phyllis, Joanna, Helen, Chayo, Marcellus, Dana, Patrick, Leroy, Ron, 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 Dallas and 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, Sam, Megan (Martha), child Emmit (John), child Rosenda (Esther), infant Arthur-Ray (Ignatius), Jason, Lea, Lane, Mickyia, Tonya, Dana's Family, Allyn, Gordon, Basil, Nate, Ali, Mayson, Mathew, William, Mark, and especially all children suffering or those who are in need throughout the world.

Expecting Mothers: Meagan, Ori, Erin, Michaela, Kara, Noel, Kirsten, Karis, Grace, Tamar, Saiah (Olga), Alexa

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, Dawson, Mary, Reign, Landon, Kyle, Grace, Joe, Tricia, June

Prisoners: Basil, Mark, Stefan, Austin, Torry

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?