



St. Gerard Catholic Church

640 Edrie Street, NE
Aiken, SC 29801
803 649-3203

Rev. Emmanuel O. Andinam, Pastor
Deacon Dr. Charles Cooper, Retired

Mission Statement

Anchored by faith, hope and love in Jesus Christ, we strive to be active disciples, serving each other and all God's people by welcoming and embracing the enriching diversity of our community of faith.

The Baptism of The Lord *January 11, 2026*

Mass Schedule

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – 8:15 AM

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 PM

Sunday - 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

First Friday: Benediction & Divine Mercy Chaplet following 8:15 AM Mass.

Confessions: Tuesday & Thursday after Mass and by appointment

Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals: By appointment

Religious Education: Contact office for information

OCIA: Contact office 803-649-3203

Bible Study: Fridays 10:00 AM in the church hall

Website: www.stgerardinaiken.org

Readings for The Week

Sunday:

Isa 42:1-4,6-7; Ps 29:1-2,3-4,9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17

Monday:

1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-13,14-17,18-19; Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday:

1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm2:1,4-5,6-7,8abcd; Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday:

1 Sm 3:1-10,19-20; Ps 40:2 & 5,7-8a,8b-9,10; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday:

1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11,14-15,24-25; Mk 1:40-45

Friday:

1 Sm 8:4-7,10-22a; Ps 89:16-17,18-19; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: St. Anthony, Abbot

1 Sm9:1-4,17-19;10:1; Ps 21:2-3,4-5,6-7; Mk 2:13-17

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 10

4:00 PM - For our Parish

Sunday, January 11

8:00 AM - Brian Karahalios

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, January 13

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Thursday, January 15

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Friday, January 16

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Ministers

January 17	January 18	January 18
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Tony DaVino	Peter Srednicki	Janet Menefee
Joel Southwick	Jack Kline	Karen Uhle
Joan Hesik	Betsy Kenney	Greg Wright

Pray for our sick

Rosa Johnson, Paula Thurston, Ellen Heim, Rich Borst, Betty Hyslop, Jeffrey Hesik, Angelo Perrino, John Burke, Krystal Ortiz, Michell Novotny, Nancy Gardzina, Casey Bay, Dennis HooChung, Joe Monahon

Anointing of the Sick

The Rite of Anointing tells us there is no need to wait until a person is at the point of death to receive the Sacrament. In this Sacrament, the Holy Spirit gives us peace and courage to deal with the difficulties that accompany serious illness and our frailty. To receive the Sacrament of Anointing, contact the church office.

Communion for Hospital/Homebound

If you would like Holy Communion brought to someone in the hospital or confined to home, please contact the church office: 803-649-3203

Legion of Mary

Active members meet Tuesdays at 2:00 PM in the church Conference Room. Auxiliary members can pray at home. If you are interested in becoming an active or auxiliary member of the Legion of Mary, contact the church office.

Weekly Collection 1/1-1/3-1/4/26

Budget	\$3,799.00
Collected	\$6,551.00
Short/Over	+\$2,752.00
YTD+-	+\$3,423.66

Second Collection

January 25 - Church in Latin America

Bible Study

Classes are held on Fridays at 10:00 AM in the church hall. If you are unable to attend in person, you can participate by teleconference. The phone number is: 1-978-990-5273 and the Access Code is 236101#.

Tabernacle Candle

A special candle should burn continuously near the tabernacle to indicate the presence of Christ and honor it. If you would like to donate in honor or memory of a loved one, please call the church office. The donation is \$25. The candle for January: Lisa Solenberger birthday.

Our Lady of the Valley Food Pantry

Our collection for the OLV food pantry is the third weekend of the month. Food donations are welcome at any time during the month; however, our focused collection is the third weekend of the month. The focus food for the weekend of January 17-18 is Peanut Butter.

Monthly After Mass Social

The Monthly After Mass Social is the first Saturday of the month after the 4:00 p.m. Mass. If you would like to host a social, contact the office: 803-649-3203. The hosts for February 7 are the Holder and Rose families.

Men's Prayer Group

Meetings are on Tuesdays in the parish social hall at 7:30 a.m. for prayer and discussion. Following the meeting, the group will attend the 8:15 a.m. Mass. For more information contact Bill Collins at 803-998-7191. All men of the parish are welcome to the meetings.

Meal Donations Requested

Available to prepare and deliver a meal to a parishioner who is in the middle of a life event? In this case, the family's first baby was recently born. Contact Michele Bullington to schedule a specific date. 803-599-8302 (call or text) or email mfbull@bellsouth.net.

A Reflection on Matthew 3:13-17

Feast Day: January 17

Today's gospel marks a pivotal moment in the New Testament, where Jesus's baptism signifies the beginning of His public ministry and the affirmation of His divine identity as the Son of God.

Matthew's account is the only one of the four gospels that has Jesus speak to John prior to the baptism. In this passage, Jesus approaches John the Baptist at the Jordan River to be baptized. John initially hesitates, recognizing Jesus' superiority and expressing his unworthiness to baptize Him. In verse 15 Jesus says, "it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." In essence, Jesus says to John, "This is the way that God would have it," and this convinces John to agree.

This moment is significant as it symbolizes Jesus' identification with humanity and His commitment to God's plan of salvation. This is also one of the three times that the Father speaks to us in the Gospel story. Here it is to acknowledge that Jesus is his beloved, the one he loves with a passion. Jesus's baptism is theologically understood as his anointing to ministry and here we are invited to reflect on our own baptism and commitment to following Christ.

It serves as a reminder of the transformative power of God's grace and the call to live in accordance with His will. Just as Jesus was affirmed by the Father, believers are called to embrace their identity as children of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfill their purpose in life. The Holy Spirit continues to descend upon us, continues to fill us, continues to call us to paths of righteousness through peace. Will we humbly consent to the humble Spirit who guides us in the way of Christ?

Today's reading challenges us to consider the significance of our own baptism and the call to live out our faith actively. As we reflect on this passage, we are reminded of the importance of humility, obedience, and the transformative power of God's love in our lives. Through Jesus' example, we are encouraged to embrace our identity as beloved children of God, called to share His love with the world.



Anthony was born in Egypt in 251. When his parents died when he was about 20 years old, he assumed responsibility for the family's 300 acres and for the care of his sister.

One day at Mass, he heard the words of Jesus proclaimed from this Gospel passage: "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me" (Mt 19:21). The passage moved him to action, and he walked out of the Church at that moment and gave away all his property except what he and his sister needed for sustenance.

Later, he heard Jesus' words from this passage: "Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil" (Mt 6:34). He immediately gave away the rest of their property and entrusted his sister to the care of a convent. He began a simple life on the outskirts of town, embracing only prayer, fasting, and manual labor.

He decided to follow the tradition of the hermits, and headed out into the Alkaline Nitrian Desert region and remained there for thirteen years. When he was thirty-five, he moved even further out of town to live alone in an abandoned fort. He received rations of bread only a few times a year and spoke to people through a crack in the wall. By this time, he was becoming well-known for his faithfulness and wisdom and people sought him out for counsel and healing. Feeling disturbed by the crowds who were seeking him out, he went deep into the desert, where he lived by a small spring of water. His life took on a rhythm of prayer and work, a pattern that continues to sustain monastic communities today.

Anthony died at the age of one hundred and five. St. Athanasius, who knew Anthony and wrote his story, said, "Anthony was not known for his writings nor for his worldly wisdom, nor for any art, but simply for his reverence toward God."

LEO XIV
GENERAL AUDIENCE
Audience Hall
Wednesday, 7 January 2026

I extend a warm welcome this morning to all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's Audience, especially those from England, Ireland, Australia, Canada, and the United States of America. To all of you and your families, I offer my prayerful good wishes for a blessed Christmas season and a new year filled with joy and peace. God bless you all!

Dear brothers and sisters, we begin today a new series of catechesis dedicated to the Second Vatican Council and to reflecting on its documents. The work of the Council Fathers paved the way for a new ecclesial season, placing at its center the mystery of salvation and the unity between God and his people. At the same time, it opened the Church to seek dialogue with the people of goodwill for a more just and fraternal world. We see that the documents have lost none of their relevance and are pertinent to the demands and challenges of today. Closely studying the Council documents will help us be attentive interpreters of the signs of the times and proclaim the Gospel to all. As we make our journey of rediscovering the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, let us welcome the past with its rich tradition; let us consider the present with its joys and sorrows; and let us look towards the future with an urgent appeal for greater justice, love, and peace.

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Pope's Intention for January
For Prayer with the Word of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment
for our lives and a source of hope in our communities,
helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

