

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 Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time November 8, 2026

Weekly 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

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:
Wis 6:12-16; Ps 63:2,3-4,5-6,7-8; 1 The 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13

Monday: The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Eze 47:1-2,8-9,12; Ps 46:2-3,5-6,8-9; 1 Cor 3:9c-11,16-17; Jn 2:13-22

Tuesday: St. Leo The Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church
Tit 2:1-8,11-14; Ps 37:3-4,18 & 23,27 & 29; Lk 17:7-10

Wednesday: St. Martin of Tours, Bishop
Tit 3:1-7; Ps 23:1b-3a,3bc-4,5,6; Lk 17:11-19

Thursday: St. Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr
Phi 7:20; Ps 146:7,8-9a,9bc-10; Lk 17:20-25

Friday: St. Frances Xavier Cabrinr, Virgin
2 Jon 4-9; Ps 119:1,2,10,11,17,18; Lk 17:26-37

Saturday:
3 Jon 5:8; Ps 112:1-2,3-4,5-6; Lk 18:1-8

Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil November 7
4:00 PM - Carmine DeMeo Sr.
Sunday, November 8
8:00 AM - For our Parish
10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, November 10
8:15 AM - For our Parish
Thursday, November 12
8:15 AM - For our Parish
Friday, November 13
8:15 AM - For our Parish

Ministers

November 14	November 15	November 15
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Tony DaVino	Peter Srednicki	Chioma Nwoga
Joel Southwick	Jack Kline	Gregg Wright
Joan Hesik	Betsy Kenney	Gregg Wright

Pray for our Sick

Rosa Johnson, Rich Borst, John Burke, Krystal Ortiz, Michell Novotny, Casey Bay, Jeff Hesik, Dennis HooChung, Joe Monahon, Michele Bullington, Janet Menefee, Joan Lacombe

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.

Tabernacle Candle

The candle for November: The Carriero & George Families, living and deceased, and Jake Beckert's 17th birthday.

Weekly Collection 10/31-11/1/26

Budget	$4,325.00
Collected	$3,388.00
Short/Over	-$937.00
YTD+-	-$5,179.19

Second Collections

November 15 - Catholic Campaign for Human Development
November 22 - International Ministries & Missions

Our Lady of the Valley Food Pantry

Our collection for the OLV food pantry is the third weekend of the month. The focus food for the weekend of November 21-22: Thanksgiving items.

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.

Monthly After Mass Social

The Monthly After Mass Social is the first Saturday of the month after the 4:00 p.m Mass. The hosts for November 7th are the Beckerts and Welshes.

Bible Study

Bible Study classes are held on Fridays at 10:00 AM in the church hall. If you can't attend in person, you can participate by teleconference. The phone number is 1-978-990-5273, and the Access Code is 236101#.

New Missals

The Missals for 2027 will be available in the entrance to the Social Hall the weekends of November 14 &15, and November 21 & 22. The cost is $8/missal. Please put your money in the box for the votive lights.

Feed 5K Ministry

We are aski volunteers to help make 100 lunches for the people at the Salvation Army Shelter during the week of Thanksgiving. We need 100 sandwiches, 100 bottles of water, 100 bags of chips, 100 nutrition/fruit bars and 100 bananas. If you are interested in helping with this charitable project, please contact Tony DaVino at: doctony.47@gmail.com

Secular Franciscans

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at 6:15 p.m., St. Michael Hall, 138 Fairfield St. SE.

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection: The Wise Bridesmaids
Matthew 25:1-13

Today's Gospel helps us to focus on the here and now. It helps us learn to live fully in the present and seek God there. If we can do that, then all the rest will take care of itself. Whether the Groom arrives early or late, it will not matter, because he has been part of our everyday life all along.

Today, we celebrate the feast day of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity, a French Carmelite whom Pope St. John Paul II considered one of the most influential mystics of his time. St. Elizabeth of the Trinity was born as Elizabeth Catez, "Sabeth," in 1880. She was given the name Elizabeth of the Trinity and lived only five years after entering the Carmel Convent. Elizabeth lived her life with constant awareness of the life of the Trinity within her. She was just twenty-six when she died of Addison's Disease on November 9, 1906.

"No one has to hover on the outside of the Lord's love, no matter how busy and noisy life is, no matter how every clamorous thing seems to push us further away from Him. We can all live as contemplatives in our approach to life. In other words, holiness, which is really just extraordinary love, the flowering of baptismal grace, is for anyone." – St. Elizabeth of the Trinity
Jesus tells us there is a time for everything, and a time when it will be too late.

Prayer: Let each of us ask for God's help with our daily readiness and to realize what it is we can do now. Thank you God for being present in my own everyday life. Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity show us how we might recognize the approaching bridegroom and welcome him into our lives.

Prayer of St. Gertrude the Great

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen



November 11
Today we celebrate an American holiday
Honoring all our citizen soldiers
who served and sacrificed
that we might live free.
For those here today who stand beside us,
Let us thank them for the freedoms
That we enjoy today.
Let not our memories grow dim.

Let us light that spark of love
that glows deep from within
the hearts of all who remember
those veterans who walk with us today,
who bear the wounds and the horrors of war
as well as those so long now dead.

Lives given to dedication and sacrifice
Our living memory now
unifying and recognizing
the dedication and sacrifice
of those who paid the ultimate price.

Even the youngest veterans
of that terrible World War
Are nearing their 100th birthday—sadly haunted
by the memory of comrades who did not return.
The number of survivors is dwindling,
As each day some join the ranks of those
to be honored and remembered today.
A steady stream of obituaries tells the story
As the Greatest Generation becomes
The Vanishing Generation!

As for us who remain,
all we have left is the grateful act of
Honoring and remembering.
May we never forget!

Joan M. Lacombe
Aiken's Poet Laureate
November, 2022

LEO XIV

Wednesday, 4 November 2026

Catechesis. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council.

IV. Constitution *Gaudium et Spes.*

8. Faith and social, political, and economic life

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

The social dimension is an integral part not only of human nature, but also of our faith in Christ Jesus, as the precious legacy we receive from the Incarnation of the Son of God. The Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* recalls this in Chapters III and IV of Part II, dedicated to economic and social life and to the life of the political community. In these areas too, the Christian faith offers criteria for discernment.

The Council Fathers highlight the threat to world peace arising from imbalances linked to economic development that is neither equitable nor respectful of creation. This far-sighted vision was borne out towards the end of the last century and is even clearer today. To correct this course, the Document warns, technical progress alone is not enough: "many reforms in the socioeconomic realm and a change of mentality and attitude are required of all".

Therefore, *Gaudium et Spes* summarizes the Christian vision of economic development, which must always serve humankind and remain under human control. The concept of integral development is already clear here, a concept Saint Paul VI would later place at the heart of his Encyclical *Populorum Progressio* (1967). More relevant than ever are the appeals to commit to eliminating discrimination against the most vulnerable social groups and migrants.

Work is at the heart of the economy. Through it, one develops as a person, provides for family needs, expresses one's own talent, participates in social life and builds a better world by collaborating in God's creative work. Work must never be distorted to the detriment of people, the common good, or creation. The challenge is to offer everyone opportunities to make the most of their abilities: unemployment, exploitation and working conditions that endanger health and life itself are unacceptable. Workers have the right and duty to participate in decisions affecting their work, including through trade unions, and to resolve conflicts through dialogue and non-violent action.

In this context, the Council recalls one of the fundamental principles of social teaching, namely the universal destination of earthly goods and applies it to the financial sphere, stating that "whoever makes decisions concerning these investments and the planning of the economy – whether they be individuals or groups of public authorities – are bound … to recognize their serious obligation of watching, on the one hand, that provision be made for the necessities required for a decent life both of individuals and of the whole community and, on the other, of looking out for the future and of establishing a right balance between the needs of present-day consumption, both individual and collective, and the demands of investing for the generation to come".

Gaudium et Spes then goes on to discuss the political community, noting several positive developments in the contemporary era, above all the fact that "the present keener sense of human dignity has given rise in many parts of the world to attempts to bring about a politico-juridical order which will give better protection to the rights of the person in public life".

The political community exists for the sake of the common good, which consists of "the sum of those conditions of the social life whereby men, families and associations more adequately and readily may attain their own perfection". Political authority must always be directed toward the common good, structured and operated according to local and historical circumstances, but always with the good of the entire human family at heart.

Gaudium et Spes reiterates that "the Church and the political community in their own fields are autonomous and independent from each other. Yet both, under different titles, are devoted to the personal and social vocation of the same men. The more that both foster sounder cooperation between themselves with due consideration for the circumstances of time and place, the more effective will their service be exercised for the good of all".

Engaging in economic and political life in accordance with these criteria is a way of building peace. As Pope Francis recalled, "war is a failure of politics and of humanity, a shameful capitulation, a stinging defeat before the forces of evil". By contrast, politics that tends to the wounds of peoples and those who suffer injustice offers grounds for hope for humanity's future. For this reason, I encourage young people to follow the example of those men and women who have borne faithful witness in these fields. I also renew my call to Christian communities to revive formation in the Church's social doctrine.