



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 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary time February 15, 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:
Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37

Monday:
Jam 1:1-11; Ps 119:67,68,71,72,75,76;Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday:
Jam 1:12-18; Ps 94: 12-13a,14-15,18-19; Mk 8:14-21

Ash Wednesday:
Joe 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-4,5-6ab,12-13,14 & 17; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6,16-18

Thursday:
Deu 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-2,3,4 & 6; Lk ;22-25

Friday:
Isa 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-4,5-6ab,18-19; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday:
Isa 58:9b-14;Ps 86:1-2,3-4,5-6; Lk 5:27-32

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 14

4:00 PM - Ray Sheets Sr. (D)

Sunday, February 15

8:00 AM - For our Parish

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, February 17

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Ash Wednesday February 18

8:15 AM - For our Parish

5:00 PM - For our Parish

Thursday, February 19

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Friday, February 20

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Weekly Collection 2/7-2/8/26

Budget	\$3,799.00
Collected	\$4,736.00
Short/Over	+\$937.00
YTD+-	+\$54.16

Second Collections

February 18 - Church in Central & Eastern Europe

February 22 - Black and Indian Missions

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. If you would like to donate in honor or memory of a loved one, call the church office. The donation is \$25. The candle for February: John J Cassidy, birthday memorial, and in memory of Terry Keane Stack.

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 February 21-22 is hot cereal.

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.

Sunday After Mass Social

The Sunday After Mass social is February 15, after the 10 a.m. Mass. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the back entrance to the social hall.

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 host for March 7 is the McHale family.

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.

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection on Jesus' New Era – Matthew 5:17-37

In today's gospel, we hear Jesus warning his disciples about the danger of impure thoughts, adultery, divorce or making false oaths or pledges. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

The heart of the Law was and is: "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind... and your neighbor as yourself." Jesus wants listening hearts, courageous hearts, generous hearts and discerning hearts - hearts like his. Jesus is proclaiming a new era.

Jesus wants his disciples to be people of integrity, people who are faithful to their promises, people who honor their commitments in marriage and who respect the commitments of others. The women in their midst are not people to be used and abandoned at will, but fellow disciples.

The influential leaders met Jesus' saving message with hostility and were resistant to his preaching of a kingdom which demanded a higher standard of human conduct than that called for by Moses. God, however, never commands what He does not empower us to do. Help is offered to us through grace, strengthening us to carry out what He asks of us in His very challenging sermon.

Prayer: "Make me know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation." Amen.

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Embracing the Joy of Giving

Holy Father, we come before You with grateful hearts, embracing the joy of giving. Teach us to share our blessings with others, reflecting Your love and grace. May our acts of kindness bring hope and light to those in need. Help us to find joy in selflessness, and may our generosity inspire others to do the same. In Your holy name, we pray.

Amen.

Ash Wednesday February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season—a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal in the Catholic faith. Its origins trace back to early Christian traditions when the faithful expressed sorrow for sin by wearing ashes. Today, the imposition of ashes on the forehead reminds us of our mortality and the need for spiritual renewal. This holy day invites us to return to God with humble hearts.

- **Repentance:** It is a call to self-examination and turning away from sin.
- **Mortality:** The ashes symbolize the reminder that we come from dust and will return to dust.
- **Renewal:** It marks the start of a 40-day journey toward Easter, where we prepare for the celebration of Christ's resurrection.

Ash Wednesday is both a sacred and transformative day. It serves as a powerful reminder of the Church's ancient traditions and the ever-relevant call to conversion and renewal in our daily lives.

**Masses are at 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
on Ash Wednesday**

Summary of the Holy Father's words*

Dear brothers and sisters, in our catechesis on the Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum*, we considered the profound and vital connection between the Word of God and the Church. Sacred Scripture, which has been entrusted to the Church and is guarded by her, reveals its meaning and manifests its strength in the life and faith of the Church, above all in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. For this reason, the Church continually meditates on and interprets Scripture, as this is how we come to know the incarnate, living Word of God, Jesus Christ. Indeed, praying with Scripture opens the door for an intimate relationship with God, who, through these sacred writings, invites us into conversation with him. As Saint Jerome rightly points out, ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of God. I encourage you to read and contemplate the inspired word of God daily. May the Word of God nourish our hearts and minds and lead us to the fullness of life.

*The full text of the Pope's Audience is on the last page of the bulletin.

LEO XIV
GENERAL AUDIENCE
Wednesday, 11 February 2026
Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II.
I. Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum*.
5. The Word of God in the life of the Church

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

In today's catechesis, we will look at the profound and vital link that exists between the Word of God and the Church, a bond expressed by the Conciliar Constitution *Dei Verbum*, in the sixth chapter. The Church is the rightful home of Sacred Scripture. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Bible arose from the people of God and is destined for the people of God. In the Christian community, it has its habitat: indeed, in the life and the faith of the Church, it finds the space where it can reveal its meaning and manifest its power.

Vatican Council II reminds us that "the Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord, since especially in the sacred liturgy, she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table both of God's word and of Christ's body". Furthermore, "she has always maintained them, and continues to do so, together with sacred tradition, as the supreme rule of faith".

The Church never ceases to reflect on the value of the Sacred Scriptures. After the Council, a very important moment in this regard was the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme "The Word of God in the life and mission of the Church". Pope Benedict XVI gathered its fruit in the post-Synodal Exhortation *Verbum Domini*, in which he affirms: "The intrinsic link between the word and faith makes clear that authentic biblical hermeneutics can only be had within the faith of the Church, which has its paradigm in Mary's *fiat*... the primary setting for scriptural interpretation is the life of the Church".

In the ecclesial community, Scripture therefore finds the sphere in which to carry out its task and achieve its purpose: to make Christ known and to open dialogue with God. Indeed, "ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ". This well-known expression of Saint Jerome reminds us of the ultimate purpose of reading and meditating on the Scriptures: to get to know Christ and, through Him, to enter a relationship with God, a relationship that can be understood as a conversation, a dialogue. And the Constitution *Dei Verbum* presented the Revelation to us precisely as a dialogue, in which God speaks to humans as though to friends. This occurs when we read the Bible with an inner attitude of prayer: God then comes towards us and enters into conversation with us.

The Sacred Scripture, entrusted to the Church and preserved and explained by her, performs an active role: indeed, with its efficacy and power, it sustains and invigorates the Christian community. All the faithful are called to drink from this wellspring, first and foremost in the celebration of the Eucharist and the other Sacraments. Love for the Sacred Scriptures and familiarity with them must guide those who carry out the ministry of the Word: bishops, priests, deacons, catechists. The work of exegetes and those who practice biblical sciences is invaluable, and Scriptures have a central place in theology, which finds its foundation and soul in the Word of God.

The Church ardently desires that the Word of God may reach every one of her members and nurture their journey of faith. But the Word of God also propels the Church beyond herself; it opens her continually to the mission towards everyone. Indeed, we live surrounded by so many words, but how many of these are empty! At times we even listen to wise words, which do not however affect our ultimate destiny. On the contrary, the Word of God responds to our thirst for meaning, for the truth about our life. It is the only Word that is always new: revealing the mystery of God to us, it is inexhaustible, it never ceases to offer its riches.

Living in the Church one learns that the Sacred Scripture is totally relative to Jesus Christ, and one experiences that this is the deep reason for its value and its power. Christ is the living Word of the Father, the Word of God made man. All the Scriptures proclaim his Person and his saving presence, for each one of us and for all humanity. Let us therefore open our hearts and minds to receive this gift, following the example of Mary, Mother of the Church.