



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 Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 13, 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 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 27:30-28;7; Ps 103:3-4,9-10,11-12; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

Monday: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Num 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2,34-35,36-37,38; Phi 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

Tuesday: Our Lady of Sorrows

1 Cor 12:12-14, m27-31a; Ps 100:1b-2,3,4,5; Jn 19:25-27

Wednesday: Sts. Cornelius, Pope, & Cyprian Bishop, Martyrs

1 Cor 12:31-13:13; Ps 33:2-3,4-5,12 722; Lk 7:31-35

Thursday:

1 Cor 15th:1-11; Ps 118:1b-2,16ab-17,28; Lk 7:36-50

Friday:

1 Cor 15:12-20; Ps 17:1bcd,6-7,8b & 15; Lk 8:1-3

Saturday:

1 Cor 15:35-37,42-49; Ps 56:10c-12,13-14; Lk 8:4-15

Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil September 12

4:00 PM - For our Parish

Sunday, September 13

8:00 AM - Matthew Parisi

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, September 15

8:15 Mass - For our Parish

Thursday - September 17

15 AM - For our Parish

Friday, September 18

8:15 AM - Jack Holder

Ministers

<u>September 19</u>	<u>September 20</u>	<u>September 20</u>
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Diane Begic	Perry Stanley	Cathy Ciani
Joel Southwick	Kelly Stanley	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 Monahan, Michelle 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.

Secular Franciscans

The Secular Franciscans meet the third Monday of each month at 6:15 p.m. in St. Michael Hall, 138 Fairfield St. SE.

Weekly Collection 9/5-9/6/26

Budget	\$4,325.00
Collected	\$4,425.00
Short/Over	+\$100.00
YTD+-	-\$3,976.40

Second Collection

September 13th The Catholic University of America

Tabernacle Candle

In accordance with tradition, a special lamp fueled by oil or wax should be kept alight near the tabernacle to indicate and honor the presence of Christ. The candle for September is for Howard Hadlock, birthday memorial, and Jack Holder, birthday memorial.

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 September 19-20 is Fruit Cups or Canned Fruit.

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. The hosts for October 3rd are the Mayorgas. If you would like to host a social, contact the parish office: 803-649-3203.

Sunday After Mass Social

The Sunday After Mass social is September 20 after the 10 a.m. Mass. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the back entrance to the social hall.

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#.

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection: Mercy and Forgiveness Matthew 18:21-35

In today's Gospel, we see Peter has a problem about forgiveness just like all of us. Peter makes what he thinks is a generous suggestion of forgiving a person seven times, only to get an astounding response from Jesus that he should forgive a person seventy-seven times.

We need to read this familiar story two or three times to see if anything new strikes a chord with us.

Are we prepared to forgive seventy-seven times - meaning with no limit, endless and ongoing? There is no limit to the number of times we are called to forgive - to be merciful. This is one of the most demanding aspects of Christ's teaching.

Forgiveness can be very hard. C.S. Lewis wrote: "Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive". But when we fail to forgive, we become shackled to the evil which has been done to us. We cannot move forward.

How free am I, or am I tied to resentments? Is there someone that desperately needs my forgiveness?

Prayer: Thank you Lord for forgiving me seventy-seven times and more. Give me the grace to forgive someone today. Amen.

Welcome to St. Gerard Catholic Church

We welcome all who are visiting. If you attend regularly and consider St. Gerard Church your parish, we encourage you to register as a member. You can scan the QR code using your mobile device and register. If you have any questions, or need assistance please contact the office at 803-649-3203.



The Catholic feast of Our Lady of Sorrows is celebrated annually on September 15th. This day holds great significance for Catholics worldwide, as it commemorates the seven sorrows the Virgin Mary experienced throughout her life. These sorrows include the prophecy of Simeon, the flight into Egypt, the loss of the child Jesus in the temple, the meeting of Jesus and Mary on the way to Calvary, the crucifixion, the taking down of the body of Jesus from the cross, and the burial of Jesus.

Prayer to Our Lady of Sorrows

O Most Sorrowful Mother Mary, who stood by your Son as He suffered on the Cross, I come before you with a heavy heart. You know pain and sorrow as no other human does, and you offer your motherly comfort to all who are burdened. I bring you my sufferings, my fears, and my wounds. Wrap me in your mantle of compassion and lead me ever closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Help me to carry my own cross with faith, hope, and love, and to unite my sufferings with His. Our Lady of Sorrows, be with me in times of grief, in trials, and in moments of despair. Pray for me, that I may grow stronger through suffering and become more deeply united to Christ. Amen.

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

Dear brothers and sisters, in our series of catecheses on the Second Vatican Council, we continue our reflection on *Gaudium et Spes*, focusing on the dignity of the human person. Human dignity flows from our identity as children made in the image and likeness of God. We are endowed with the gifts of intelligence, for seeking truth; conscience, for recognizing our ultimate calling; and freedom, for choosing the good. Only through Christ do we understand that our personhood implies relationship and the call to give ourselves as a gift to God and others. May we therefore help each other to guard and defend our God-given dignity and journey together toward our heavenly homeland.

LEO XIV
Wednesday, 9 September 2026
Catechesis. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council.
IV. Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* (GS 1–10)
2. Human dignity: gift and responsibility.

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

The Conciliar Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, by dedicating the first chapter to the dignity of the human person, emphasizes that it is the foundation and condition for “those values which are most highly prized today,” but these must not lose sight of their “divine source,” in order to avoid possible distortions arising from the “taint in man’s human heart.”

The journey that made it possible to highlight the fundamental characteristics and rights of human dignity certainly represents one of the most significant chapters in human history. However, the path ahead is not yet complete and must address the contradictions, both old and new, which prevent its full realization.

The Church clearly offers her contribution, reminding us that human dignity arises from the very being of the person. I had the opportunity to reiterate this also in my recent Encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*: “Every human person is planned and willed by God to enter into communion with Him, with others and with creation. Human dignity does not depend on a person’s abilities, wealth or position in life, nor on the right or wrong choices made; instead, it is a gift that precedes and transcends each person, endowed by God as an expression of His unfailing love”. The infinite dignity of the human being, then, is rooted in his identity as a creature made “to God’s image” ... capable of knowing and loving his Creator”, a plan and gift of love that transcends other created realities, which are entrusted to his care to “subdue them and use them to God’s glory”.

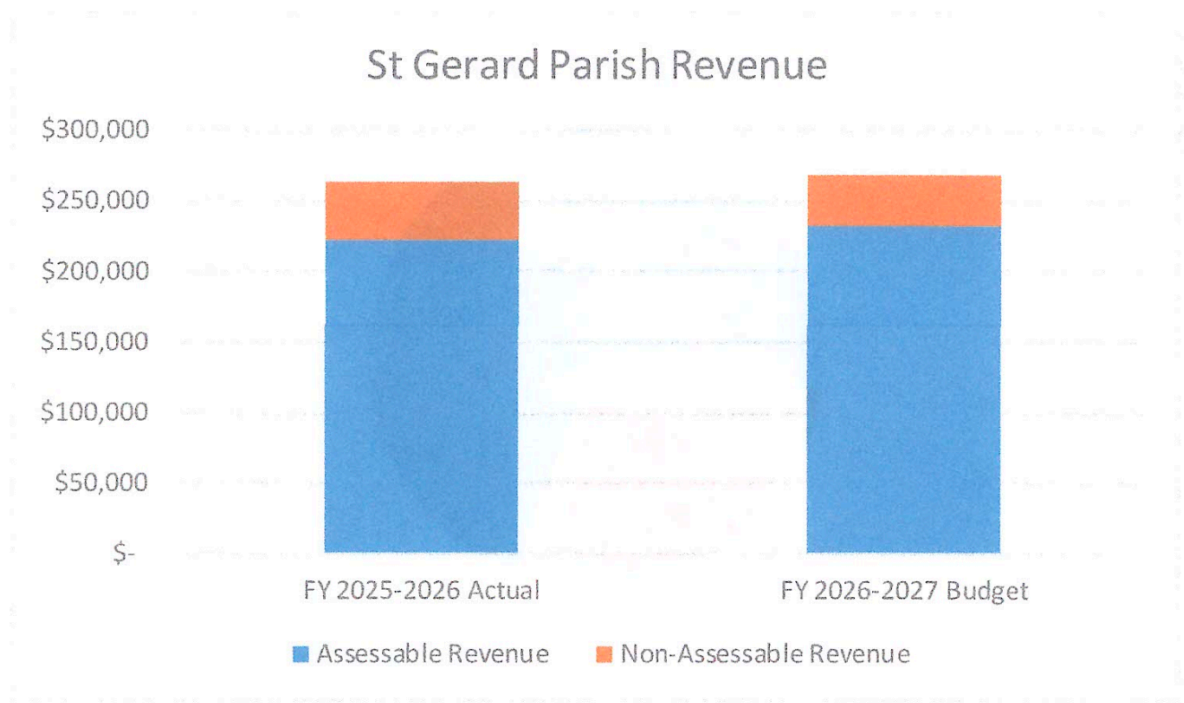
In faith we can understand the ultimate foundation for the dignity of the person, inasmuch as the Son, “by the revelation of the mystery of the Father and His love, fully reveals man to man himself and makes his supreme calling clear.” The person always implies relationship, communion and participation in relation to God and to others; hence, a filial relationship with God the Father and a fraternal relationship with Christ and with all humankind. It excludes self-centered isolation. To be a person means to perceive oneself as a gift to be shared, growing and maturing through acceptance, reciprocity and service.

This dignity is entrusted to each person's responsibility; at the same time, it also demands solidarity and mutual care, overcoming the many falsifications and manipulations that still disfigure our perception of it and hinder its realization. Indeed, as a result of the choices made throughout history that have run counter to this dignity, even today “man is split within himself”, and “all of human life, whether individual or collective, shows itself to be a dramatic struggle between good and evil between light and darkness”. This fragile and limited condition, however, can be regarded with hope, because “the Lord Himself came to free and strengthen man, renewing him inwardly and casting out that ‘prince of this world’ who held him in the bondage of sin”.

Furthermore, the Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* affirms that human dignity concerns the whole person and, therefore, dualistic views must be overcome: the human being “though made of body and soul, is one”. Reducing the body to an “object” to be disposed of arbitrarily is always a denial of the dignity of the person: “man is not allowed to despise his bodily life” and “is obliged to regard his body as good and honorable since God has created it and will raise it up on the last day”, while ensuring that it does not become enslaved by “the evil inclinations of his heart”, since we are all wounded by sin.

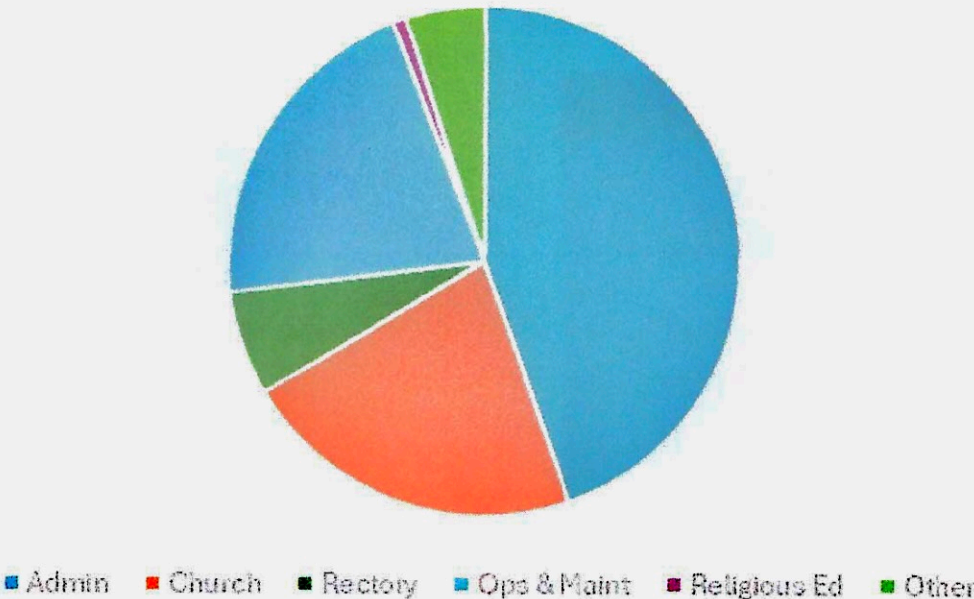
Finally, *Gaudium et Spes* recalls the three most significant expressions of the dignity of the person: intelligence, which makes the human being an insatiable seeker of the truth; conscience, through which he gives unity and meaning to his life, and freedom, which makes him the responsible agent of his own decisions. These dimensions are closely connected to one another: it is in conscience that truth is recognized as such, and freedom can experience it as its foundation and possibility. The Holy Spirit, who gives life in Christ, makes us free and constantly assures us of our dignity as children of God, delivering us from fear and guiding us towards the ultimate goal, that life in its fullness beyond death which Christ has promised us. It is only in Him that the mystery of the human person finds true light; from Him we receive light on the enigma of suffering and death; and with Him we journey towards the Resurrection.

Dear brothers and sisters, created in God’s image, through Christ and for His sake, we have received a unique and indelible dignity. Let us commit ourselves to promoting and defending it always, with the light and strength of the Gospel.



	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	Variance -	Variance -
	Actual	Budget	\$	%
Assessable Revenue	\$ 223,287	\$ 232,920	\$ 9,633	4.3%
Non-Assessable Revenue	\$ 40,032	\$ 35,935	\$ (4,097)	-10.2%
TOTAL	\$ 263,319	\$ 268,855	\$ 5,536	2.1%

FY 2026-2027 Budget Expenses



FY 2025-2026 Actual Expenses

