



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 Exaltation of The Holy Cross *September 14, 2025*

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:

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

Monday: Our Lady of Sorrows

1 Tim 2:1-8; Ps 28:2,7,8-9; Jn 19:25-27

Tuesday: St Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

1 Tim 3:1-13; Ps 101:1b-2ab,2cd-3ab,5,6; Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday:

1 Tim 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-2,3-4,5-6; Lk 7:31-35

Thursday:

1 Tim 4:12-16; Ps 111:7-8,9,10; Lk 7:36-50

Friday:

1 Tim 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-7,8-10,17-18,19-20; Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: Sts Andrew KimTae-gon, Priest, & Paul Chong Ha-sang, & Companions, Martyrs

1 Tim 6:13-16; Ps 100:1b-2,3,4,5; Lk 8:4-15

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 13

4:00 PM - George Heim & Joseph Bonn

Sunday, September 14

8:00 AM - For Our Parish

10:00 AM - Dottie Andreassen

Tuesday, September 16 - No Mass

Thursday, September 18 - No Mass

Friday, September 19 - No Mass

Ministers

<u>September 20</u>	<u>September 21</u>	<u>September 21</u>
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Tony DaVino	Peter Srednicki	Cathy Ciani
Joel Southwick	Betsy Kenney	Karen Uhle
Joan Hesik	Betsy Kenney	

Pray for our sick

Rosa Johnson, Paula Thurston, Ellen Heim, Rich Borst, Betty Hyslop, Jeffrey Hesik, Angelo Perrino, John Burke, Krystal Ortiz, Mary Rose, Michell Novotny, Nancy Gardzina, Jean Schodowski, Joan Lacombe, Casey Bay, Dennis HooChung

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 9/6-9/7/25

Budget	\$3,162.00
Collected	\$2,640.00
Short/Over	-\$522.00
YTD+/-	+\$2,287.40

Second Collection September 14

The Catholic University of America

Bible Study

There is no Bible Study Class on Friday, September 19. The next class will be on Friday, September 26.

Tabernacle Candle

A special candle should be kept alight near the tabernacle to indicate and honor the presence of Christ. If you would loved one, please call the church office. The donation is \$25. The candle offering is for one month. The candle for September is for Jack Holder birthday & Howard Hadlock-heavenly birthday, and the Lacombe & McColla Families.

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 October 4th are the Coopers. If you would like to host a social, contact the office:803-649-3203.

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.

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 September 20-21 is Fruit Cups or Canned Fruit.

A Sign of How Much Jesus Loves You Now

When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then. When you look at the sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now.

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection on John 3:13-17 Mercy of Jesus

Despite the disruptive world surrounding us, we believe Jesus has and continues to save us from worldliness. This is partially because God has a history of doing so. Consider the effect of Moses's Bronze snake on a pole in the desert. One had to look at it to be saved from death after being bitten (sins). Our transgressions work the same way with the saving grace of Jesus. We have to keep metaphorically looking for and at the **mercy of Jesus**. Our sins may have grown smaller by God's Grace over time. However, being bitten is a long-term continuum. Verbalizing that "Jesus is my Savior" and being saved is not something said and forgotten. To be saved by Jesus means we must continue to be connected to, use graces, and be Christ-like, all while mercifully giving and accepting forgiveness.

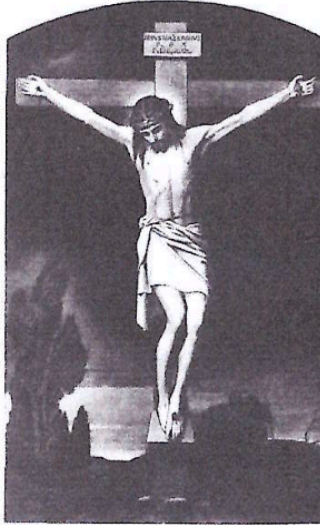
This week we are invited by the Church's celebration of the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross** to focus our attention on the work of Our Savior on that hill outside of Jerusalem. We are invited to renew our love for Christ and our gratitude for subjecting Himself to the agony of the cross. On the cross, Jesus revealed a love so powerful that that it embraced even those who brought about his death and continues to flow into all our lives 2,000 years later.

The depth of love and truth found in this saving mystery goes beyond our comprehension, yet love demands that, aided by the light of faith, we try to penetrate its depth and rejoice in the beauty that we find there. Not only did Jesus choose to suffer with us, He chose to suffer for us. God so loves the world that he continues to give us his Son in the Eucharist. Let us pray on this feast that the triumph of the cross would continue to take flesh in all of our lives.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the holy body and blood of life. Bring the glory of the resurrection to the people you have redeemed by the wood of the cross. We ask this through Christ our Lord," Amen

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



September 14th is the feast day of the **Exaltation of the Holy Cross**, also known as the **Triumph of the Cross** or the **Elevation of the Cross**. This is the day the Church celebrates both the discovery and the recovery of the True Cross of Jesus Christ.

The Roman Emperor Constantine's mother, St. Helena, a convert to Christianity, went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to locate where the important events in the life of Jesus Christ occurred, and to preserve the relics of the Christian faith that remained there. One of her goals was to find the place of Jesus' crucifixion and the very Cross on which he was hung.

Through interviewing many locals, and with the assistance of the Bishop of Jerusalem, St. Macarius, she discovered the spot and found the True Cross which had been previously hidden by the Jews. According to the historian Rufinus, the identity of the True Cross was confirmed by a miraculous healing after St. Macarius recited this prayer:

"O Lord, who by the Passion of Thine only Son on the cross, didst deign to restore salvation to mankind, and who even now hast inspired thy handmaid Helena to seek for the blessed wood to which the author of our salvation was nailed, show clearly which it was, among the three crosses, that was raised for Thy glory. Distinguish it from those which only served for a common execution. Let this woman who is now expiring return from death's door as soon as she is touched by the wood of salvation."

The date of this discovery and miracle, according to tradition, was May 3rd, 326 A.D. St. Helena had a church built on the original site of Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection, known as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Her son Constantine dedicated this church on September 13-14 in the year 335 A.D. Even today, the Stations of the Cross in Jerusalem, or the Via Dolorosa, end at this very spot.

LEO XIV
GENERAL AUDIENCE
Wednesday, 10 September 2025
Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope. III. The Passover of Jesus.
6. Death. "Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last" (Mk 15:37).

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today, we will contemplate the culmination of Jesus' life in this world: his death on the cross. The Gospels attest to a very precious detail, which is worthy of contemplation with the intelligence of faith. On the cross, Jesus does not die in silence. He does not fade away gradually, like a light that burns out, but instead he leaves life with a cry: "*Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last*". That cry contains everything: pain, abandonment, faith, and offering. It is not only the voice of a body giving way, but the final sign of a life being surrendered.

The cry of Jesus is preceded by a question, one of the most heart-rending that could be uttered: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" It is the first verse of Psalm 22, but on Jesus' lips it assumes a singular weight. The Son, who always lived in intimate communion with the Father, now experiences silence, absence, the abyss. It is not a crisis of faith, but the final stage of a love that is given up to the very end. Jesus' cry is not desperation, but sincerity, truth taken to the limit, trust that endures even when all is silent.

At that moment, the sky darkens, and the veil of the temple is torn as if creation itself were participating in that pain, and at the same time, revealing something new. God no longer dwells behind a veil – his face is now fully visible in the Crucified One. It is there, in that broken man, that the greatest love manifests itself. It is there that we can recognize a God who does not remain distant, but who traverses our pain to the very end.

The centurion, a pagan, understands this. Not because he had listened to a speech, but because he saw Jesus die in that way: "Truly this man was the Son of God." It is the first confession of faith after Jesus' death. It is the fruit of a cry that did not vanish in the wind, but touched a heart. At times, what we are unable to say in words, we express with the voice. When the heart is full, it cries. And this is not always a sign of weakness; it can be a profound act of humanity.

We are accustomed to thinking of crying out as something disorderly, to be repressed. The Gospel confers an immense value to our cry, reminding us that it can be an invocation, a protest, a desire, or a surrender. It can even be the extreme form of prayer, when there are no words left. In that cry, Jesus gave all that he had left: all his love, all his hope.

Yes, because there is this too, in crying out: a hope that is not resigned. One cries out when one believes that someone can still hear. One cries not out of desperation, but out of desire. Jesus did not cry out *against* the Father, but *to* him. Even in silence, he was convinced that the Father was there. And, in this way, he showed us that our hope can cry out, even when all seems lost. To cry out becomes a spiritual gesture. It is not only the first act of our birth, when we come into the world crying, but it is also a way of staying alive. One cries when one suffers, but also when one loves, one calls, one invokes. To cry out is saying who we are, that we do not want to fade away in silence, that we still have something to offer.

In the journey of life, there are moments when holding something inside can slowly consume us. Jesus teaches us not to be afraid to cry out if it is sincere, humble, and addressed to the Father. A cry is never pointless if it is born of love. And it is never ignored if it is delivered to God. It is a way to resist giving in to cynicism, to continue believing that another world is possible.

Let us learn this too from the Lord Jesus: let us know the cry of hope when the hour of extreme trial comes. Not to hurt, but to entrust ourselves. Not to shout at someone, but to open our hearts. If our cry is genuine, it can be the threshold of a new light, of a new birth. As with Jesus, when everything seemed to be over, in reality, salvation was about to begin. If it is made manifest with the trust and freedom of the children of God, the suffering voice of our humanity, united with the voice of Christ, can become a source of hope for us and for those around us.