



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 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time November 16, 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:

Mal 3:19-20a; Ps 98:5-6,7-8,9; 2 The 3:7-12; Lk 21:5-19

Monday St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious:

1 Mac 1:10-15,41-43,54-57,62-63;
Ps 119:53,61,134,150,155,158; Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday:

2 Mac 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-3,4-5,6-7; Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday:

2 Mac 7:1,20-31; Ps 17:1bcd,5-6,8b & 15; Lk 19:11-28

Thursday:

1 Mac 2:15-29; Ps 50:1b-2,5-6,14-15; Lk 19:41-44

Friday: The Presentation of The Blessed Virgin Mary

1 Mac 4:36-37,52-59; 1 Cho 29:10bcd,11abc,11d-12a,12bcd; Lk 19:45-48

Saturday: St. Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr

1 Mac 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-3,4 & 6, 16 & 19; Lk 20:27-40

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 15

4:00 PM - Krista Ragan

Sunday, November 16

8:00 AM - For our Parish

10:00 AM - Toni Jerome

Tuesday, November 18

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Thursday November 20

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Friday November 21

8:15 AM - For Our Parish

Ministers

<u>November 22</u>	<u>November 23</u>	<u>November 23</u>
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Tony DaVino	Denise Gelinas	Anita Brown
Cindy McHale	Jack Kline	Karen Uhle
Joan Hesik	Kelly Stanley	

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, Joan Lacombe, 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.

New Missals

The New Missals are available for purchase in the entrance to the Social Hall. The cost is \$6.00 per missal and \$2.00 per cover. Please put your money in the box for the votive lights.

The correct budget needed figure was not changed at start of fiscal year, these numbers are correct

Weekly Collection 11/8-11/9/25

Budget	\$3,799.00
Collected	\$3,247.00
Short/Over	- \$552.00
YTD+/-	-\$6,613.84

Second Collection - November 16

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Second Collection - November 23

International Ministries & 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 be kept alight near the tabernacle to indicate and honor the presence of Christ. 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 November is for Jake Beckert-16th birthday and Dan Solenberger 71st Birthday

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 December 6th is Kari Dawson-Ekeland.

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 foods for the weekends of November 15-16: and 22-23: Thanksgiving dinner items. This food will be delivered to the OLV pantry on November 24

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection on Being People of Hope Luke 21:5-19

It is remarkable that Jesus' prophecy in today's gospel is being fulfilled even in our own time. The amount of unrest among people, and even in nature itself is frightening.

Scholars refer to today's message as Apocalyptic literature which uses unsettling language and imagery as a means to assure the faithful that they should keep their trust in God, even when facing the most challenging of circumstances. Jesus tells his listeners not to be afraid. The point is that when bad things happen — and they will — we should “not be terrified”; instead, we should trust that God remains present in our lives. Anyone who follows Jesus can expect the same hostility that Jesus endured. Jesus tells us that persecution is “an opportunity to testify”, not to blame someone or a group for immorality or secularism when calamities and persecutions befall them. And he also states that he will “give us words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.”

Today's passage warns us about becoming too fixated on temporary human institutions, perhaps with the implication that we should attend to the poor in our communities instead; it also calls us to be firm in our trust in God when calamity and persecution strikes; and encourages us to be grounded on the rock of Jesus Christ and in the hope that God is always present no matter how bad things seem.

Prayer: Lord, open our hearts to your grace. Light your flame in us that we might endure to the end free of fear and be a people of hope in times of trouble. Amen.

Prayer of St. Gertrude the Great

(Our Lord dictated the following prayer to St. Gertrude to release numerous Souls from Purgatory each time it is said.)

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

St. Rose Philippine Duchesne Feast day: November 18

Rose Philippine Duchesne was born August 29, 1769, in Grenoble, France. She was educated at the Convent of the Visitation of Ste. Marie d'en Haut, and became a novice at 18.



At the time of the Revolution in France, the community was dispersed, and Philippine returned to her family home. In 1804, she learned of a new congregation, the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and offered herself and the

monastery to the Foundress, Mother Madeleine Sophie Barat. Mother Barat visited Ste. Marie in 1804 and received Rose and several companions as novices in the Society.

As Rose's desire deepened for the contemplative life, her call to the missions became more urgent. In a letter to Mother Barat, she confided a spiritual experience she had during adoration before the Eucharist on Holy Thursday: "I spent the entire night in the new World carrying the Blessed Sacrament to all parts of the land. When you say to me 'now I send you', I will respond quickly 'I'll go'". She waited, however, another 12 years.

In 1818, Rose's dream was realized. She was sent to respond to the bishop of the Louisiana Territory, who was seeking a group of educators to help evangelize the Indian and French children of his diocese. At St. Charles, Missouri, she founded the first house of the Society outside France.

By 1828, she had founded six houses. These schools were for women of Missouri and Louisiana., but she always yearned to serve the American Indians. When she was 72 a school for the Potawatomi was opened at Sugar Creek, Kansas. Many thought Rose too sick to go, but the head of the mission insisted: "She must come; she may not be able to do much work, but she will assure success by praying for us. Her very presence will draw down all manner of heavenly favors on the work".

She was with the Potawatomi for a year. Her pioneer courage did not weaken, but Philippine's health could not sustain the regime of village life. In July 1842, she returned to St. Charles. Philippine died at St. Charles, Missouri, on November 18, 1852, at the age of 83. Pope John Paul II canonized her on July 3, 1988.

LEO XIV

Wednesday, 12 November 2025

Catechesis Cycle – Jubilee 2025: Jesus Christ Our Hope.

4. The Resurrection of Christ and the Challenges of today's world.

4. Easter spirituality animates fraternity. “Love One Another As I Have Loved You” (Cf. Jn 15:12)

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Belief in the death and resurrection of Christ, and in living a paschal spirituality, imbues life with hope and encourages us to invest in goodness. It helps us to love and nurture *fraternity*, which, without doubt, is one of the significant challenges for contemporary humanity, as Pope Francis saw clearly.

Fraternity stems from something deeply human. We can form relationships and build authentic bonds. Without relationships, which support and enrich us from the very beginning of our lives, we would not be able to survive, grow, or learn. They are manifold, varied in form and depth. Our humanity is best fulfilled when we live together and succeed in forming authentic bonds with the people around us. If we turn in on ourselves, we risk falling ill with loneliness, and even a narcissism that is concerned with others only out of self-interest. The other is then reduced to someone from whom we can take, without ever being truly willing to give, to offer ourselves.

We understand that even today, fraternity cannot be taken for granted; it is not immediate. Many conflicts, many wars all over the world, social tensions, and feelings of hatred would seem to prove the opposite. However, fraternity is not a beautiful but impossible dream; it is not the desire of a deluded few. But to overcome the shadows that threaten it, we need to go to the source, and above all to draw light and strength from Him who alone frees us from the poison of enmity.

The word “fraternity” derives from a very ancient root that means to care for, to have at heart, to support, and to sustain. Applied to every human person, it becomes an appeal, an invitation. Often, we think of the role of a brother or sister as kinship, as being related, as being part of the same family. In truth, we know well how disagreement, division, and sometimes hatred can devastate even relationships between relatives, not only between strangers.

This shows the need, more urgent today than ever, to reflect on the greeting with which Saint Francis of Assisi addressed everyone, regardless of their geographical, cultural, religious, and doctrinal origins: *omnes fratres* was the inclusive way in which the Saint placed all human beings on the same level, precisely because he recognized them in their common destiny of dignity, dialogue, welcome and salvation. Pope Francis reposed this approach of the *Poverello* of Assisi, emphasizing its relevance after eight hundred years, in the Encyclical *Fratelli tutti*.

That “*tutti*,” everyone, which meant for Saint Francis the welcoming sign of a universal fraternity, expresses an essential feature of Christianity, which ever since the beginning has been the proclamation of the Good News destined for the salvation of all, never in an exclusive or private form. This fraternity is based on Jesus’ commandment, which is new insofar as He accomplished it Himself, the superabundant fulfilment of the will of the Father: thanks to Him, who loved us and gave Himself for us, we can in turn love one another and give our lives for others, as children of the one Father and faithful brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

Jesus loved us up to the very end, says the Gospel of John. As the passion draws near, the Master knows well that his historical time is coming to an end. He fears what is about to happen; He experiences the most terrible torment and abandonment. His Resurrection on the third day marks the beginning of a new history. And the disciples become fully brothers and sisters, after so much time of life spent together, not only when they live through the pain of the death of Jesus, but above all, when they recognize Him as the Risen One, receive the gift of the Spirit, and become witnesses to Him.

Brothers and sisters support each other in hardship; they do not turn their backs on those in need, and they weep and rejoice together in the active pursuit of unity, trust, and mutual reliance. The dynamic is that which Jesus Himself gives us: “Love one another as I have loved you.” The fraternity given by Christ, who died and rose again, frees us from the negative logic of selfishness, division, and arrogance, and restores to us our original vocation, in the name of a love and a hope that are renewed every day. The Risen One has shown us the way to journey with Him, to feel and to be “brothers and sisters all.”