



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 Dedication of The Lateran Basilica *November 9, 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:

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

Monday St. Leo The Great Pope & Doctor of The Church:

Wis 1:1-7; Ps 139:1b-3,4-6,7-8,9-10; Lk 17:1-6

Tuesday: St. Martin of Tours, Bishop

Wis 2:23-3:9; Ps 34:2-3,16-17,18-19; Lk 17:7-10

Wednesday: St. Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr

Wis 6:1-11; Ps 82:3-4,6-7; Lk 17:11-19

Thursday: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin

Wis 7:22b-8:1; Ps 119:89,90,91,130,135,175; Lk 17:20-25

Friday:

Wis 13:1-9; Ps 19:2-3,4-5ab; Lk 17:26-37

Saturday:

Wis 18:14-16;19:6-9; Ps 105:2-3,36-37,42-43; Lk 18:1-8

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 8

4:00 PM - Carmine DeMeo

Sunday, November 9

8:00 AM - Nora O'Shea

10:00 AM - For Our Parish

Tuesday, November 11

8:15 AM - Kevin Hewitt

Thursday November 13

8:15 AM - Jeremy Rector

Friday November 14

8:15 AM - For Our Parish

Ministers

November 15	November 16	November 16
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Michele Bullington	Peter Srednicki	Youth
Joel Southwick	Kelly Stanley	Wayman Johnson
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.

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 12, 10:00 a.m.

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

Weekly Collection 11/1-11/2/25

Budget	\$3,799.00
Collected	\$4,473.10
Short/Over	+\$1,311.10
YTD+-	-\$6,061.84

Second Collection - November 9

Archdiocese for the Military Services

Second Collection - November 16

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

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 Jake Beckert-16th birthday, 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.

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 November 15-16: Thanksgiving dinner items.

Deacon Chuck's Corner - Reflection
Jesus is the New Temple - John 2:13-22

Today's gospel demonstrates Jesus' fury and startles even his disciples. Passover is the holiest of the pilgrimage feasts to which Jews come to make sacrifices at the temple. Jerusalem is the holy city, so a pilgrim would have a sense of going up into the presence of God. The population of Jerusalem would swell from 50,000 to 180,000 for Passover, and the strain on local resources to house and feed that many people would be enormous. The crowding at the temple would be near gridlock. The atmosphere would be like a crowded street fair with dozens or hundreds of vendors. The danger would always exist that a crazed animal might break loose and desecrate the holiest parts of the temple. The noise and smell would be overwhelming and could not be walled off totally from the sanctuary. In fairness, we must acknowledge that the sacrificial system as prescribed by Torah is a messy, bloody, smelly business. Still, the presence of these vendors in the temple adds overcrowding and a commercial emphasis.

Jesus has no credentials to validate his actions. The priests wouldn't acknowledge him as a priest, nor would the scribes or Pharisees count him as one of their own. Nevertheless, he takes it on himself to do what is needed, and in the process turns everything upside down on one of the temple's busiest days of the year. He acknowledges the temple as his Father's house, and insists that it be treated with the reverence due the house of the Lord. **"Take these things out of here! Don't make my Father's house a marketplace!"**

The Second Temple of Jerusalem, which had been under construction for 46 years, was destroyed by the Roman Empire when the Gospel of John was written. In the aftermath of the destruction of the Temple, the Gospel of John offers solace to its community by reminding them that Jesus is the new Temple—the Son of God, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Jesus symbolically *destroys* the corrupted temple system, and his body would eventually replace it as God's true Temple.

Today's Gospel reading reminds us that we are each a unique spiritual temple for Jesus. We are responsible for doing our part to keep our temple free from vices and disruptions to holiness. In this way, there is less to get in the way of His influence guiding us on our faith journey.



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 tell 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
GENERAL AUDIENCE

Wednesday, 5 November 2025

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025: Jesus Christ our hope.

4. The Resurrection of Christ and the challenges of the contemporary world

3. Easter gives hope to everyday life

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning, and welcome to you all!

The Pasch of Jesus is an event that does not belong to a distant past, now settled into tradition like so many other episodes in human history. The Church teaches us to make a living remembrance of the Resurrection every year on Easter Sunday and every day in the Eucharistic celebration, during which the promise of the risen Lord is most fully realized: “Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” For this reason, the Paschal Mystery is the cornerstone of Christian life, around which all other events revolve. We can say, then, without any irenicism or sentimentality, that every day is Easter. In what way?

Hour by hour, we have so many different experiences: pain, suffering, sadness, intertwined with joy, wonder, serenity. But through every situation, the human heart longs for fullness, a profound happiness. A great twentieth-century philosopher, Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, born Edith Stein, who delved deeply into the mystery of the human person, reminds us of this dynamism of the constant search for fulfilment. “The human being, she writes, “always longs to have being given to him anew, so that he can draw on what the moment gives him and at the same time takes away from him.” We are immersed in limitation, but we also strive to surpass it.

The Paschal proclamation is the most beautiful, joyful, and overwhelming news ever to have resounded throughout history. It is the quintessential “Gospel”, which attests to the victory of love over sin and of life over death, and this is why it is the only thing capable of satisfying the demand for meaning that troubles our minds and our hearts. Human beings are inspired by an inner movement, striving towards a beyond that continually attracts them. No contingent reality satisfies us. We tend towards the infinite and the eternal. This contrasts with the experience of death, anticipated by suffering, loss, and failure.

Everything changed that morning when the women went to the tomb to anoint the body of the Lord and found it empty. The question posed by the Magi who came from the East to Jerusalem: “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?” finds its definitive answer in the words of the mysterious youth dressed in white, who speaks to the women at Easter dawn: “You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here.”

From that morning until today, every day, Jesus will also have this title: the Living One, as He presents himself in *Revelation*: “I am the First and the Last, and the Living One: I died, and behold I am alive for evermore.” And in Him, we have the assurance of always being able to find the lodestar towards which we can direct our seemingly chaotic lives, marked by events that often appear confusing, unacceptable, incomprehensible —evil in its many forms, suffering, death —events that affect every one of us. Meditating on the mystery of the Resurrection, we find an answer to our thirst for meaning.

Faced with our fragile humanity, the Paschal proclamation becomes care and healing, nourishing hope in the face of the frightening challenges that life presents us with every day, on both personal and global levels. From the perspective of Easter, the *Via Crucis*, the Way of the Cross, is transfigured into the *Via Lucis*, the Way of Light. We need to savor and meditate on the joy after the pain, to retrace in the new light all the stages that preceded the Resurrection.

Easter does not eliminate the cross, but defeats it in the miraculous duel that changed human history. Even our time, marked by so many crosses, invokes the dawn of Paschal hope. Christ’s Resurrection is not an idea, a theory, but the Event that is the foundation of faith. He, the Risen One, through the Holy Spirit, continues to remind us of this, so that we can be His witnesses even where human history does not see light on the horizon. Paschal hope does not disappoint. To truly believe in the Pasch through our daily journey means revolutionizing our lives, being transformed so we can transform the world with the gentle and courageous power of Christian hope.

