



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 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary *Time October 25, 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

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:

Exo 22:20-26; Ps 18:2-3,3-4,47,51;1 The 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40

Monday:

Eph 4:32-5:8; Ps 1:1-2,3,4 & 6; Lk 13:10-17

Tuesday:

Eph 5:21-33; Ps 128: 1-2,3,4-5; Lk 13:18-21

Wednesday: Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles

Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-3,4-5; Lk 6:12-16

Thursday:

Eph 6:10-20; Ps 144:1b,2,9-10; Lk 13:31-35

Friday:

Phi 1:1-11; Ps 111:1-2,3-4,5-6; Lk 14:1-6

Saturday:

Phi 1:18b-26; Ps 42:2,3,5cdef; Lk 14:1,7-11

Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil October 24

4:00 PM - For our Parish

Sunday, October 25

8:00 AM - Vince Ingrassiotta

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, October 27 - No Mass

Thursday, October 29 - No Mass

Friday, October 30 - No Mass

<u>October 31</u>	<u>Ministers</u> <u>November 1</u>	<u>November 1</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, Michele 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.

Weekly Collection 10/17-10/18/26

Budget	\$4,325.00
Collected	\$5,192.00
Short/Over	+ \$ 867.00
YTD+/-	- \$2,828.19

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 October: Nowell Solenberger 4th Birthday.

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 21-22: Thanksgiving items.

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. Mass. The hosts for November 7th are the Beckerts and Welshes. If you would like to host a social, contact the parish office: 803-649-3203.

Priest Retreat

Father will be on retreat from Monday, October 26, through Friday, October 30. **There will be NO morning Mass that week and NO Bible Study on Friday.**

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#. **There is NO Bible Study on Friday, October 30.**

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection: Being a Good Neighbor Matthew 22:34-40

In today's gospel we see Jesus being put to the test again. There were more than six hundred commandments in the Jewish Law and it was often asked which of these had priority over the others.

Here in this brief reading, we realize the immense challenge of the first and greatest commandment and that Jesus cleverly answers with not one, but two commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind;" and the second: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus views the two commandments as inseparable – and he expands the meaning of neighbor to include everyone in need.

Let's ponder these two exceedingly difficult and very demanding commandments that Jesus places before us today – what are my attitudes towards every stranger around the world who Jesus wants us to consider as our sisters and brothers. What are my actions on behalf of "my neighbor?" Who is my neighbor?

We currently live in an environment full of political and social tension, but Jesus is calling us to practice tolerance and empathy, as well as to give and treat everyone with the fundamental dignity of the human person. We face the challenge of loving people who look and act differently and it is important to recognize that all of us are different as we encounter a wide diversity of people. Jesus is calling to leave aside our differences, implicit biases, and prejudices, and start replacing them with love. Jesus' message is all-embracing - we cannot love God and then refuse to love our neighbor, which includes more than just the people of one's own race, religion or family.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to be merciful to myself so that I can be merciful to others. Help me to love myself as much as you love me and my neighbors as myself! Amen.

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

Dear brothers and sisters, in our ongoing catechesis on *Gaudium et Spes*, today we consider the dignity of marriage and the family in the context of contemporary challenges. The Council Fathers recognized that the well-being of all in society is closely linked to the health of marriage and the family, and sought to present a renewed vision of conjugal love as an intimate partnership which reflects the life of the Trinity and is rooted in and enriched by the redemptive power of Christ. Let us therefore pray for God's blessing and protection over all families.

Prayer for the Holy Father

Almighty and everlasting God, have mercy upon Thy servant, Pope Leo XIV, our Supreme Pontiff, and direct him, according to Thy loving kindness, in the way of eternal salvation; that, of Thy gift, he may ever desire that which is pleasing unto Thee and may accomplish it with all his might. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Good News for our Parish Faith Formation!

We are excited to announce that St. Gerard has received a Growing the Gospel grant from the Catholic Community Foundation of South Carolina! This grant will support our Family Catechism initiative, strengthening family faith formation and sacramental preparation as we invest in the next generation of disciples. We are grateful for this investment in our parish's future!

The Unity Prayer

MY ADORABLE JESUS,

MAY OUR FEET JOURNEY TOGETHER.

MAY OUR HANDS GATHER IN UNITY.

MAY OUR HEARTS BEAT IN UNISON.

MAY OUR SOULS BE IN HARMONY.

MAY OUR THOUGHTS BE AS ONE.

MAY OUR EARS LISTEN TO
THE SILENCE TOGETHER.

MAY OUR GLANCES
PROFOUNDLY

PENETRATE EACH OTHER.

MAY OUR LIPS PRAY TOGETHER TO
GAIN MERCY FROM THE ETERNAL FATHER.

AMEN

LEO XIV
Wednesday, 21 October 2026
Catechesis. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council.
IV. Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*.
6. Commitment to the family in today's society (GS, 47–52)

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

First, thank you! Thank you for your support and prayers. Thanks be to God for His generosity. Let us all renew our trust in God's goodness and mercy.

The pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* of the Second Vatican Council, having illustrated in the first part the dignity of the person and his or her vocation in the world, goes on to consider, in the second part, "in the light of the Gospel and of human experience", some of the most pressing contemporary issues. It focuses primarily on marriage and the family, in the conviction that "the well-being of the individual and of human and Christian society is intimately linked with the healthy condition of that community produced by marriage and family".

To this end, it does not merely reaffirm their values and aims, but proposes a renewed conception of marriage as an "intimate partnership of married life and love". By incorporating the legal dimension of marriage as a contract, it recognizes the foundation of this union in the "conjugal covenant", understood as the "human act whereby spouses mutually bestow and accept each other". The mutual self-giving of man and woman, such that 'they are no longer two but one flesh', underlies the requirement for "total fidelity" and the "unbreakable oneness" of the spouses, finding vivid expression in the procreation and upbringing of children. As a reflection of the Divine Trinity, conjugal and parental love, through the Sacrament of Marriage, is "governed and enriched by Christ's redeeming power", so that spouses may love one another "just as He loved the Church and handed Himself over on her behalf".

Having shed light on the reality of marriage in the light of Christ's love, which is the truth of both human and divine love, *Gaudium et Spes* turns its attention to conjugal love and marital fruitfulness. Not limited to erotic attraction, which it nonetheless encompasses, conjugal love involves the entire will of the spouses, enlivening the affections of their hearts and expressing itself through sentiments and gestures of tenderness. Embracing the good of the whole person of both man and woman, who are equal in dignity, this love pervades the spouses' entire lives, finding expression in acts proper exclusively to marriage. While signifying integral love from person to person, the unique intimacy between spouses fosters mutual self-giving and enriches their shared joy.

The fruitfulness of conjugal love is expressed in the procreation of children, "the supreme gift of marriage". By transmitting and educating human life, spouses become "cooperators with the love of God the Creator, and are the interpreters of that love". Called to this human and Christian responsibility, they must allow themselves to be guided by sound judgment regarding their own good and that of their children, born or yet to be born. Such judgment requires that their conscience conform to divine law as interpreted by the Church's Magisterium in light of the Gospel.

The emphasis on loving communion and procreative fruitfulness within marriage leads the Council to rule out the possibility of there being "a true contradiction ... between the divine laws pertaining to the transmission of life, and those pertaining to authentic conjugal love" and to affirm that "when there is question of harmonizing conjugal love with the responsible transmission of life", one must "preserve the full sense of mutual self-giving and human procreation in the context of true love". From this it follows both that "from the moment of its conception life must be guarded with the greatest care", renouncing "abortion and infanticide"; and that "the acts themselves which are proper to conjugal love and which are exercised in accord with genuine human dignity must be honored with great reverence".

The teaching of *Gaudium et Spes* on the conjugal and family community thus goes on to highlight the social function of the family, defined as "a school of deeper humanity" and "the foundation of society", calling upon all those with social responsibilities, especially in the political and cultural spheres, to fulfill their duty to "work efficiently for the welfare of marriage and the family".

Dear friends, this task is more urgent than ever before. The Church is well aware of this, as shown by the pastoral concern of the Popes who have succeeded one another since the last Council, right up to the two Synodal Assemblies convened by Pope Francis, which were addressed again in recent days by the Heads of the Eastern Catholic Churches and the Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences. May the Holy Family of Nazareth enlighten us on our journey and protect families throughout the world.

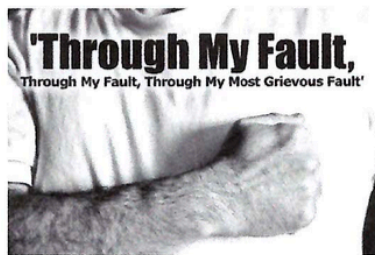


What's Rite?

Are you liturgically quizzical? Confused by conflicting answers?

As a professional liturgist, I've been asked so many questions about the liturgy over the years that I started a liturgical advice column called **What's Rite?** that ran in two diocesan newspapers for several years. Since there's nothing I like better than a good liturgical challenge, I'm delighted to respond to it in our church bulletin with **What's Rite?** If you've got a question, please don't hesitate to email me at c.combier.donovan@gmail.com. Depending on the question, I'll respond via email, and will place it in the bulletin if of interest to everyone.

*Catherine Combier-Donovan, MLS,
Parish Liturgist for St. Gerard Catholic Church*



What's Rite?

1. Why is it that during the recitation of the *Confiteor* (I Confess), some people strike their breast three times with a closed fist, and others don't?

"Older" Catholics remember well a time before the Second Vatican Council in the mid-1960's when one had been taught to strike one's breast three times during the words "*mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa.*" In the English missal that was published after the Council in 1975, the text of the *Confiteor* was translated "...that I have sinned *through my own fault.*" Though the rubrics, or directions, stated that this was accompanied by a striking of the breast, rarely was this done.

The revised Roman Missal of 2010, however, recovered the older language of: "*through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault,*" accompanied by the instruction to strike one's breast. It must be noted that it does not specify that one should do so three times, nor does it say that one should do it with a closed fist. An alternative – offered by the Director of the Bishops' Committee for Divine Worship – is to place one's palm on the breast (in a way similar to the Pledge of Allegiance), a particularly significant gesture for Americans.