



## *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 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time* *September 28, 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](http://www.stgerardinaiken.org)

### **Readings for The Week**

#### **Sunday:**

Amos 6:1a,4-7; Ps 146:7,8-9,9-10; 1 Tim 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

#### **Monday: Sts Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels**

Dan 7:9-10,13-14; Ps 138:1-2ab,2cde-3,4-5; Jn 1:47-51

#### **Tuesday: St Jerome, Priest & Doctor of The Church**

Zec 8:20-23; Ps 87:1b-3,4-5,6-7; Lk 9:51-56

#### **Wednesday: St Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of The Church**

Neh 2:1-8; Ps 111:1-2,3-4,5-6; Lk 9:57-62

#### **Thursday: The Holy Guardian Angels**

Neh 8:1-4a,5-6,7b-12; Ps 19:8,9,10,11; Mt 18:1-5,10

#### **Friday:**

Bar 1:15-22; Ps 79:1b-2,3-5,8; Lk 10:13-16

#### **Saturday: St Francis of Assisi**

Bar 4:5-12,27-29; 69: 33-35,36-37; Lk 10:17-24

### Mass Intentions

#### **Saturday, September 27**

4:00 PM - Anne Santek

#### **Sunday, September 28**

8:00 AM - For Our Parish

10:00 AM - For our Parish

**Tuesday, September 30** - For our Parish

**Thursday, October 2** - For our Parish

**First Friday, October 3** - For our Parish

**Benediction & Divine Chaplet of Mercy following Mass**

### Ministers

<b>October 4</b>	<b>October 5</b>	<b>October 5</b>
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Diane Begic	Peter Srednicki	Chioma Nwoga
Joe Begic	Kelly Stanley	Wayman Johnson
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 9/20-9/21/25

Budget \$3,162.00

Collected \$2,248.00

Short/Over -\$914.00

YTD+- +\$1,777.40

### Second Collection

October 19<sup>th</sup> World mission Sunday

### 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 offering is for one month. The candle for October is for Stephanie Matousek Child Birth & Nowell Solenberger 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday .

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 October 18-19 is Cold Cereal.



## Deacon Chuck's Corner

### Reflection on Loving Our Neighbor Luke 16:19-31

In today's gospel, Jesus is asking his listeners to open their eyes to what is around them and to open their ears to the simple commands of the Gospel: love your neighbor. As we listen to the parable, we need to ask for the grace to hear it afresh. This is a parable of startling contrasts, but its central message is simple: be alert to the needs of others around you. Without an eye for the needy around us, our life becomes self-centered and callous.

Saint Ignatius wrote each day, 'Who will I help today?'

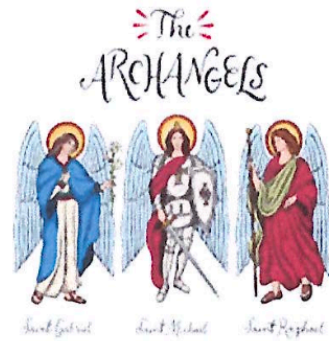
This story reminds us of the huge inequality of people in Jesus' time and still today. It applies to each of us, especially those who have been blessed with privilege, money, talent, education. The parable invites us to see ourselves as richer in the goods of the world than many millions. We have an obligation as Christians to feed the hungry. Every hungry man and woman in the world should be on our conscience. Although we did not create the problem, we can be part of the solution.

Let us pray today to expand our compassion for the hungry and challenge our desire to do what we can to feed them, for in feeding them, we feed Jesus.

**Prayer:** God, open my heart and my eyes to let me look with compassion on the poor so that I become more like Jesus. I also pray for the rich that they be converted, and I ask to be shown how to share my own possessions with the needy. Amen.

#### Prayer to St. Michael

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen



#### Feast Day: September 29

The Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael are the only angels named in Sacred Scripture, and all three have important roles in the history of salvation.

**St. Michael** is the "Prince of the Heavenly Host," the leader of all the angels. His name is Hebrew for "Who is like God?" and was the battle cry of the good angels against Lucifer and his followers when they rebelled against God. St. Michael, whose forces cast down Lucifer and the evil spirits into Hell, is invoked for protection against Satan and all evil.

Christian tradition recognizes four offices of St. Michael: (1) to fight against Satan, (2) to rescue the souls of the faithful from the power of the enemy, especially at the hour of death, (3) to be the champion of God's people, and (4) to call away from earth and bring men's souls to judgment.

**St. Gabriel**, whose name means "God's strength," is mentioned four times in the Bible. Most significant are Gabriel's two mentions in the New Testament: to announce the birth of John the Baptist to his father Zacharias, and at the Incarnation of the Word in the womb of Mary. Christian tradition suggests that it is he who appeared to St. Joseph and to the shepherds, and that it was he who "strengthened" Jesus during his agony in the garden of Gethsemane.

**St. Raphael**'s name means "God has healed" because of his healing of Tobias' blindness in the Book of Tobit. Tobit is the only book in which he is mentioned. His office is generally regarded as one of healing and acts of mercy. St. Raphael is also identified with the angel in John 5:1-4 who descended upon the pond and bestowed healing powers upon it so that the first to enter it after it moved would be healed of whatever infirmity he was suffering.



LEO XIV  
**GENERAL AUDIENCE**

*Wednesday, 24 September 2025*

**Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope. III. The Passover of Jesus.**

**8. The Descent. In the Spirit "he also went to preach to the spirits in prison" (1 Pt 3:19)**

*Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!*

Today, we will explore the mystery of Holy Saturday. It is the day of the Paschal Mystery in which everything seems immobile and silent. An invisible action of salvation is being fulfilled: Christ descends into the realm of the dead to bring the news of the Resurrection to all those who were in the darkness and in the shadow of death. This event represents the most profound and radical gesture of God's love for humanity. It is not enough to say or believe that Jesus died for us; it is necessary to recognize that the fidelity of His love sought us out where we ourselves were lost, where only the power of a light capable of penetrating the realm of darkness can reach.

The underworld, in the biblical conception, is not so much a place as an existential condition: a state in which life is depleted, and pain, solitude, guilt, and separation from God and others prevail. Christ reaches us even in this abyss, passing through the gates of this realm of darkness. He enters in the very house of death, to empty it, to free its inhabitants, taking them by the hand one by one. It is the humility of a God who does not stop in front of our sin, who is not afraid when faced with the human being's extreme rejection.

The apostle Peter tells us that Jesus, made alive in the Holy Spirit, went to take the news of salvation even "to the spirits in prison". It is one of the most moving images, which is expressed not in the canonical Gospels, but in an apocryphal text entitled the Gospel of Nicodemus. According to this tradition, the Son of God entered the deepest darkness to reach even the last of his brothers and sisters, to bring his light down there too. In this gesture, there is all the strength and tenderness of the Paschal message: death is never the last word.

This descent of Christ does not relate only to the past, but touches the life of every one of us. The underworld is not only the condition of the dead, but also of those who live death because of evil and sin. It is also the daily hell of loneliness, shame, abandonment, and the struggle of life. Christ enters all these dark realities to bear witness to the love of the Father. Not to judge, but to set free. Not to blame, but to save. He does so quietly, on tiptoe, like one who enters a hospital room to offer comfort and help.

The Fathers of the Church, in pages of extraordinary beauty, described this moment as a meeting: that between Christ and Adam. An encounter that is the symbol of all the possible encounters between God and man. The Lord descends where man has hidden out of fear, and calls him by name, takes him by the hand, raises him, and brings him back to the light. He does so with full authority, but also with infinite gentleness, like a father with the son who fears that he is no longer loved.

In the eastern icons of the Resurrection, Christ is depicted breaking down the doors of the underworld, stretching out his arms, and grasping Adam and Eve by the wrists. He does not save only himself; he does not return to life alone, but carries all of humanity with him. This is the true glory of the Risen One: it is the power of love, it is solidarity with a God who does not want to save himself without us, but only with us. A God who does not rise again unless he embraces our miseries and lifts us to a new life.

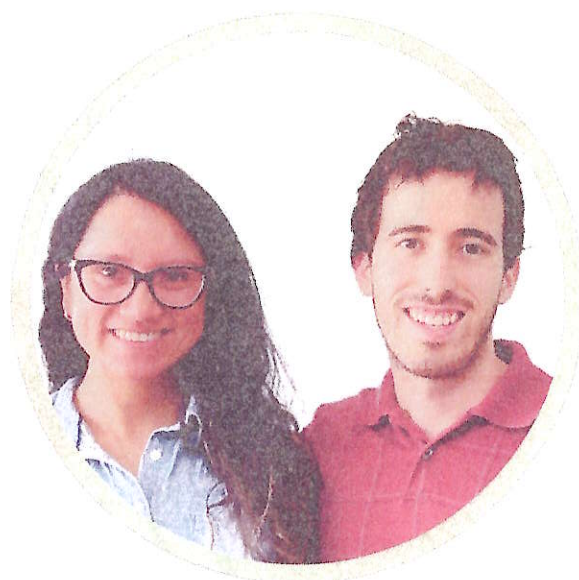
Holy Saturday, then, is the day in which heaven visits earth most deeply. It is the time in which the light of Easter touches every corner of human history. And if Christ was able to descend all the way down there, nothing can be excluded from his redemption. Not even our nights, not even our oldest faults, not even our broken bonds. There is no past so ruined, no history so compromised that it cannot be touched by mercy.

To descend, for God, is not a defeat, but the fulfillment of his love. It is not a failure, but the way by which he shows that no place is too far away, no heart is too closed, no tomb too tightly sealed for his love. This consoles us, this sustains us. And if at times we seem to have hit rock bottom, let us remember that is the place from which God can begin a new creation. A creation made of people lifted, hearts forgiven, tears dried. Holy Saturday is the silent embrace with which Christ presents all creation to the Father to restore it to his plan of salvation.



PRAY FOR & CELEBRATE WITH

NICK &  
ISABEL



Nick and Isabel have been members of St. Gerard's for over a year. Nick is in OCIA currently and will be receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at 4PM Mass on Saturday, October 4. Then, on Sunday, October 5, Nick and Isabel will have their marriage blessed at 10AM Mass. After both Masses, we will celebrate with them in the church hall.

# FAMILY FRIDAY

OCTOBER 17, 2025 @ 5:30PM

## BABY SHOWER FOR NICK & ISABEL

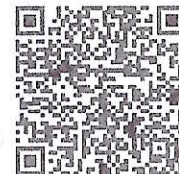
and donation drive for  
Life Choices Pregnancy Care Center  
in honor of St. Gerard's feast day!

Hosted by the St. Clare of Assisi Fraternity  
of the Secular Franciscan Order



RSVP & sign-up

Join Nick & Isabel's registry

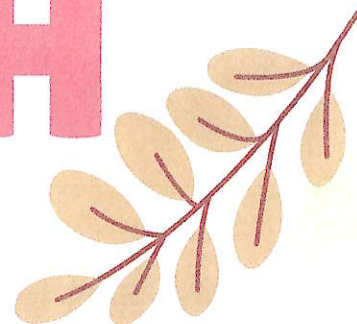


Lovingly used items are also welcome!





# *St. Gerard* **PARISH** *picnic*



*Join us for food and fellowship as we  
honor our patron saint's feast day and  
celebrate our parish family!*

**OCTOBER 19, 2025**

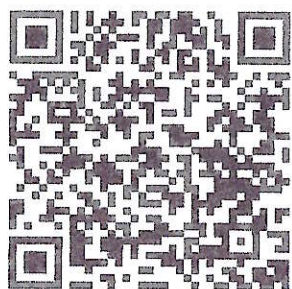
in the garden

Outdoor Mass at 9:00AM

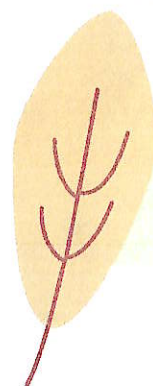
Picnic at 11:00AM



Thanks to the Knights of Columbus for providing  
and preparing hot dogs & hamburgers.



RSVP by text to 803.262.8934  
Scan the QR code to RSVP online  
and sign up to bring a side.  
OR use the paper sign up near  
the bookshelves in the church.



Watch your email and follow us on Facebook  
for changes due to inclement weather.