



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 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 20, 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 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:

Isa 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3,8-9,17-18; Phi 1:20c-24,27a; My 20:1-15a

Monday: St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

Eph 4:1-7,11-13; Ps 19:2-3,4-5; Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday:

Pro 21:1-6,10-13; Ps 119:1,27,30,34,35,44; Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday: St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

Pro 30:5-9; Ps 119:29,72,89,101,104,163; Lk 9:1-6

Thursday:

Ecc 1:2-11; Ps 90:3-4,5-6,12-13,14 & 17bc; Lk 9:7-9

Friday:

Ecc 3:1-11; Ps 144:1b & 2abc,3-4; Lk 9:1b-22

Saturday:

Ecc 11:9-12:8; Ps 90:3-4,5-6,12-13,14 & 17; Lk 9:43b-45

Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil September 19

4:00 PM - For our Parish

Sunday, September 20

8:00 AM - For our Parish

10:00 AM - Harvey Lacombe

Tuesday, September 22

8:15 Mass - For our Parish

Thursday - September 24

15 AM - For our Parish

Friday, September 25

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Ministers

<u>September 26</u>	<u>September 27</u>	<u>September 27</u>
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Joel Southwick	Chuck Kenney	Anita Brown
Cindy McHale	Betsy Kenney	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, Michelle 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.

Secular Franciscans

The Secular Franciscans meet the third Monday of each month at 6:15 p.m. in St. Michael Hall, 138 Fairfield St. SE.

Weekly Collection 9/12-9/13/26

Budget	\$4,325.00
Collected	\$3,419.00
Short/Over	-\$906.00
YTD+-	-\$4,882.40

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 September is for Howard Hadlock, birthday memorial, and Jack Holder, birthday memorial.

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 19-20 is Fruit Cups or Canned Fruit.

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. The hosts for October 3rd are the Mayorgas. If you would like to host a social, contact the parish office: 803-649-3203.

Sunday After Mass Social

The Sunday After Mass social is September 20 after the 10 a.m. Mass. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the back entrance to the social hall.

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#.

Blessing of Animals

The annual Blessing of Animals will be on Saturday, September 26 at 9:00 am. in front of St. Mary's rectory at the corner of Park Ave. and York St. For info contact Tony: doctony.47@gmail.com

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection: The Common Good - Matthew 20:1-16

Today's Gospel presents a very difficult parable – God gives his love, all of his love, to every person without exception. It does not matter whether they open themselves to God's love early or late in life because this love can never be earned, only accepted. The needs for the latecomers at the last hour are not any less than those who chose to come earlier. How big is my need for God today?

The landowner introduces a new style: people work hard, but the work has dignity – even those who did not manage to find work for the whole day receive enough to safeguard the latecomer's dignity. The landowner went beyond justice, motivated by compassion and generosity. "Are you envious because I am generous?" Let this question linger in our hearts, and ask ourselves: Are there times when I selfishly consider myself more deserving than others?

God's love is inexhaustible and it is for sharing. We are meant to be generous with His love and not hoard it. Can we see an application in our own lives?

Prayer: Lord, may your kingdom come into our world so full of injustice and tension and create a new style of respect, solidarity and generosity. Fill us with persevering determination to recommit ourselves to the common good – so that every person has sufficient access to the goods and resources of society so that they can completely and easily live fulfilling lives. Amen.

Welcome to St. Gerard Catholic Church

We welcome all who are visiting. If you attend regularly and consider St. Gerard Church your parish, we encourage you to register as a member. You can scan the QR code using your mobile device and register. If you have any questions, or need assistance please contact the office at 803-649-3203.



St. Cleopas

Feast day: September 25

Cleopas is known to us only from Luke's Gospel. He was one of two disciples of Christ who were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a town seven miles to the northwest, on the day of the Lord's Resurrection.

The two travelers have heard that the tomb of Jesus was found empty earlier that day, but have not yet believed the women's testimony.



They discuss the events of the past few days when a stranger asks what they are discussing. "Their eyes were kept from recognizing him." He rebukes them for their

unbelief and offers them an interpretation of scriptural prophecies concerning the Messiah. They ask the stranger to join them for the evening meal. When he breaks the bread, "their eyes were opened," and they recognize him as the resurrected Jesus. Jesus immediately vanishes. Their encounter with the risen Christ was profound and deepened their faith, and they immediately returned to Jerusalem to share the news with the apostles.

Although significant gaps remain in our understanding of Saint Cleopas' life and martyrdom, his faithfulness and willingness to journey with Christ serve as an inspiration for all believers. We can look to him as a model of steadfastness in following Jesus, and as a reminder of the transformative power of encountering Christ in our own lives.

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

Dear brothers and sisters, in our continuing catechesis on the Second Vatican Council's document, *Gaudium et Spes*, today we focus on the importance of human relationships. Our understanding of human community is grounded in the dignity of the human person. Rather than seeing differences as a danger or threat, seeing humanity as a community of persons enables us to work together to seek the common good. When we move beyond an individualistic mindset and adopt an attitude of responsibility and participation in building a more humane and just world, social relationships are enriched with real substance and personal depth. They also contribute to each person's fulfillment and to society's development. Let us renew our commitment to realizing, in Christ, the precious gift of our humanity.

LEO XIV

Wednesday, 16 September 2026

Catechesis. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council.

IV. Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* (GS 1–10) 3. *The human community*

Brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

The second chapter, "The Human Community," of the Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* invites us to consider "the growing interdependence of men" as "one of the salient features of the modern world." This reality must, however, find fulfillment "on the deeper level ... of this communion between persons," for which "a mutual respect for the full spiritual dignity of the person" is essential.

These are statements which, in our times, have taken on even greater urgency. On the one hand, technological development, the spread of the mass media and social media, and the ever-increasing use of artificial intelligence are opening up new possibilities, breaking down barriers and bridging distances; on the other hand, relationships are tending to become less and less personal, more virtual, and there is a risk of becoming accustomed to delegating to algorithms decisions that are the sole preserve of the human conscience. Ensuring that social relationships have real substance and personal depth is, in this regard, the contribution that the Christian community seeks to offer.

The Council invites us to draw criteria and strength from God's creative plan, in which He willed "all men should constitute one family and treat one another in a spirit of brotherhood", which is why "love for God and neighbor is the first and greatest commandment," which found its full revelation and complete fulfillment in Christ.

The perfection of the human person and the development of society must be regarded as closely interdependent: to set them against one another or separate them would be to render them meaningless. History clearly confirms this truth; we must therefore never tire of reiterating, in the words of the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council, that "the subject and goal of all social institutions is and must be the human person which for its part and by its very nature stands completely in need of social life".

From this perspective, *Gaudium et Spes* affirms that the diversity of people and peoples in the world must not be considered as a danger or a threat, but rather as a resource for enrichment and growth. Conflict, which at times degenerates into violence, is the result of the power of sin and the way it conditions mindsets and actions at every level, causing destruction and death. We must be ever more open to the logic of reciprocity, sharing and care, as is also the case amongst the various members of the human body.

On this point, the Pastoral Constitution offers a concise definition of the "common good", recalling that it consists of "the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfillment". Acknowledging the interdependence among peoples, it also states that "every social group must take account of the needs and legitimate aspirations of other groups, and the general welfare of the entire human family".

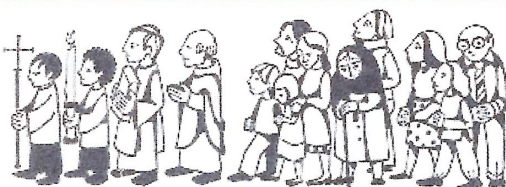
The Council Fathers set out some "practical and particularly urgent consequences". First, respect for the human person. *Gaudium et Spes* states: "Whatever is opposed to life itself, such as any type of murder, genocide, abortion, euthanasia or willful self-destruction, whatever violates the integrity of the human person, such as mutilation, torments inflicted on body or mind, attempts to coerce the will itself; whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed".

Second consequence: respect and love for adversaries, or those who think and act differently from us.

Thirdly: the fundamental equality of all human beings, which demands social justice. The Document states: "Every type of discrimination, whether social or cultural, whether based on sex, race, color, social condition, language or religion, is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God's intent".

Finally, the Council Fathers exhort us to overcome the individualistic mindset and to adopt an attitude of responsibility and participation.

This vision of humanity as a "community of people" is a valuable legacy that the Second Vatican Council has left us. It helps us engage in personal and communal discernment so we may responsibly evaluate today's social and political projects based on the dignity of the human person, social justice, and free participation in constructing the common good. The future of humanity depends on each person's commitment to collaborate with God and with their brothers and sisters in building a more humane world.



A Walk through the Mass

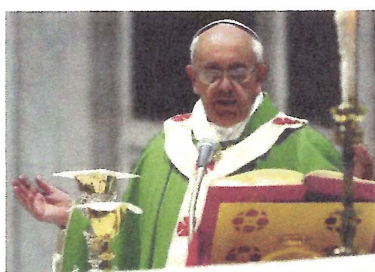
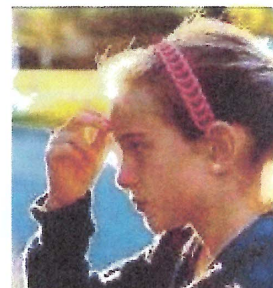
led by Catherine Combiér-Donovan, MLS

Wednesday, September 30 - Part 1

Wednesday, October 14 - Part 2

10 am – 11:30 am OR 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Come spend 2 mornings or evenings renewing
your understanding of how we celebrate
Eucharist, and why we do what we do.



Part 1:

I. The Gathering - Come!

- The Introductory Rite

II. The Storytelling - Listen!

- The Liturgy of the Word

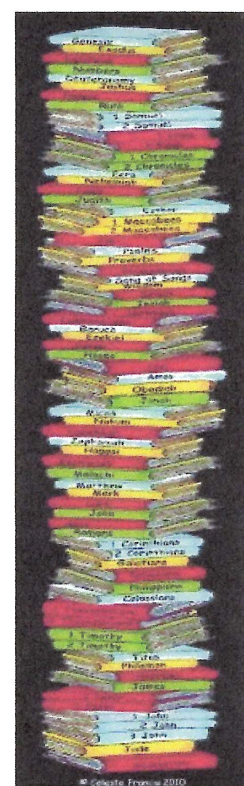
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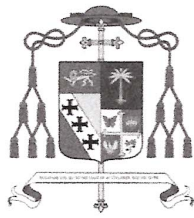
III. The Meal Sharing - Do!

- The Liturgy of the Eucharist

IV. The Commissioning - Go!

- The Concluding Rites





ROMAN CATHOLIC
**DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON**
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Sept. 1, 2026

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On Sunday, Oct. 18, our diocese will join the universal Church in celebrating World Mission Sunday, a joyful and historic occasion as it marks the 100th anniversary of its establishment by Pope Pius XI.

This year, Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme *One in Christ, United in Mission*. This theme echoes the motto Pope Leo chose for his own pontificate, *In Illo uno unum* (in the One we are one), which points us to the unity of believers in faith and the shared mission of evangelization that flows from it.

In his message, Pope Leo reminds us that being Christian means living in union with Christ, sharing in his relationship with the Father through the Holy Spirit. He notes that this unity is never an end in itself but exists so that the world may come to believe. He offers special thanks to today's missionaries who leave home and security behind to carry that love to places still in need of it. And, he is talking about your neighborhood, city, state and place of work.

Your generous donations on World Mission Sunday are used solely for evangelization efforts, including the support of seminaries, religious sisters, catechists, Catholic education and healthcare centers that serve those most in need.

I am deeply grateful for your faithfulness to Christ and his Church, and I ask once more for your continued support. Above all, I ask for your prayers for the missionaries who give their lives so that all people may hear the Gospel and know they belong to one family, one in Christ and united in mission.

In Christ's love,

Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS
Bishop of Charleston