



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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 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:

Acts 8:5-8,14-17; Ps 66:1-3,4-5,6-7,16,20; 1 Ptr 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

Monday:

Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-2,3-4,5-6a&9b; Jn 15:26-16:4a

Tuesday:

Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-2ab,2cde-3,7c-8; Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday:

Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; Ps 148:1-2,11-12,13,14; Jn 16:12-15

Thursday:

Acts 1:15-17,20-26; Ps 113:1-2,3-4,5-6,7-8; Jn 15:9-17

Friday:

Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-3,4-5,6-7; Jn 16:20-23

Saturday

Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3,8-9,10; Jn 16:23b-28

Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil May 9

8:00 PM - For our Parish

Sunday, May 10

8:00 AM - Eduardo Morales Ortiz (D)

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, May 12

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Thursday - May 14

8:15 AM - Christopher Solenberger (L)

Friday, May 15

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Ministers

May 16	May 17	May 17
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Diane Begic	Denise Gelinaz	Cathy Ciani
Cindy McHale	Jack Kline	Gregg Wright
Joan Hesik	Betsy Kenney	Gregg Wright

Pray for our Sick

Rosa Johnson, Ellen Heim, Rich Borst, Jeffrey Hesik, Angelo Perrino, John Burke, Krystal Ortiz, Michell Novotny, Casey Bay, Dennis HooChung, Joe Monahon, Michelle Bullington

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 5/2-5/3/26

Budget	\$3,799.00
Collected	Not Available
Short/Over	
YTD+-	

Second Collection

May 17 Catholic Communications Campaign

Bible Study

Classes are held on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Center. 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 burn continuously near the tabernacle to indicate the presence of Christ. The candle for May: Margaret & Howard Hadlock, Wedding Anniversary memorial; In honor of Cayla Beckert's 13th birthday

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 May 16-17 is Peanut Butter .

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.

Sunday After Mass Social

The Sunday After Mass social is May 17, after the 10 a.m. Mass. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the back entrance to the social hall.

Baby Bottle Campaign

On Mother's Day weekend, we will honor our mothers and our patron, St. Gerard, with the start of this year's Baby Bottle Campaign. Take a baby bottle from the back of the church, fill it with your spare change or other donations, (checks should be made payable to Life Choices) and return it on Father's Day. Your donation will help to provide the necessary support to the Life Choices Pregnancy Center.

Deacon Chuck's Reflection
The Spirit of Truth is Coming
John 14:15-21

The Gospel reading today is very timely and powerful. In this time of division, God, through his word, is teaching us to see the world differently; without church fellowship and the Holy Eucharist, we must remember that the Counselor, the Spirit of Truth, dwells within each of us. The same Holy Spirit who joins each of us is also joined to Jesus and his Father.

Hopefully, we can receive some reassurance in Jesus' statement: "I will not leave you orphaned... The Father will give you another Advocate to be with you forever." In our changing world and the difficulties facing us, one can easily feel alone and abandoned. But we need to remember that the Holy Spirit continues to guide and inspire us into new and creative forms of living out the Good News to others. We do not need to rely on our own resources but can turn to God, who promises to help and send us the Holy Spirit.

Now more than ever, we need an abundance of the Holy Spirit of Truth flowing into our lives to reveal the truth of who we are – children of God within whom God lives. We each hold within ourselves a spark of the Divine!

Prayer: God, teach me to see my world differently in its time of need and remind me that I do not act alone but am accompanied by Your ever-present Spirit. Amen.

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Summary of the Holy Father's words:

In our ongoing catechesis on *Lumen Gentium*, we focus on the Church's eschatological dimension. As the "universal sacrament of salvation," the Church is a sign and instrument of the fullness of God's promises. As the pilgrim People of God, the Church interprets history through the lens of the Gospel and speaks decisively against all evil. At the same time, the Church acknowledges the need for continual conversion so she may properly fulfill her mission. As members of the same Body, we too are called to renewal. We do this by remaining in communion with Christ and one another. The entire Church is most closely united in our praise of God in the liturgy. There we pray for the faithful departed and ask the Saints to intercede for us so that we may all receive the fullness of God's promises in the Kingdom of Heaven.



Mother's Day

As we grow older, we ponder
Things our mothers taught us.
We find ourselves with total recall,
Speaking and acting
Just like our mothers after all.

A father may be the foundation of the home,
But a mother is definitely the heart!
Parents working together, not separately,
In a meaningful partnership.

For a child with a bruised knee
Mother is the "go to person."
For comfort and consolation.
Mother is the one who cleanses the wound
Applies a bandage and seals the deal
With a warm embrace and a soothing word.

Children do not come with an instruction booklet
It's an inherent skill to care for a child.
One may recall how we were raised and review
The relationship you had with your own mother.
And act accordingly.

As difficult situations arise,
You call your mother to ask for advice.
Surely she will know the way to go.
Blessed to have your mother even in her old age!

A mother's task is to love, teach, guide, and mold
A task, if performed well, yields a crown of gold.
Mothers teach their children to pray and love the
Lord
And with the world and all people to live in peaceful
accord.

Now that's something to celebrate!
Love, partnership, respect, and memories.
Happy Mother's Day!

--Joan M. Lacombe May 2024

LEO XIV
GENERAL AUDIENCE - Wednesday, 6 May 2026
Catechesis. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council. II.
II. Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen gentium*.
8. *The Church, pilgrim in history towards the heavenly homeland*

Brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

As we focus today on a section of Chapter VII of the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Church, let us reflect on one of its defining characteristics: its *eschatological dimension*. The Church, in fact, journeys through this earthly history always looking towards her final destination, which is the heavenly homeland. This is an essential dimension that we often overlook or downplay because we are too focused on what is immediately visible and on the more concrete dynamics of the life of the Christian community.

The Church is God's people, journeying through history, with the Kingdom of God as the purpose of all her actions. Jesus initiated the Church precisely by proclaiming this Kingdom of love, justice, and peace. We are therefore called to consider the community and cosmic dimensions of salvation in Christ and to turn our eyes to this final horizon, measuring and evaluating everything from this perspective.

The Church lives in history in the service of the coming of the Kingdom of God in the world. She proclaims the words of this promise to all and always; she receives a pledge of it in the celebration of the Sacraments, particularly the Eucharist; she puts its logic into practice and experiences it in relationships of love and service. Furthermore, she knows that she is the place and means through which union with Christ is realized "more closely", whilst at the same time recognizing that salvation can be bestowed by God in the Holy Spirit even beyond her visible boundaries.

In this regard, the Constitution *Lumen gentium* makes an important statement: the Church is the "universal sacrament of salvation, that is, the sign and instrument of that fullness of life and peace promoted by God. This means that she does not identify perfectly with the Kingdom of God, but is its seed and beginning, for its fulfillment will be granted to humanity and the cosmos only at the end. Believers in Christ, therefore, walk through this earthly history, marked by the maturation of good but also by injustices and sufferings, without being either deluded or despairing; they live guided by the promise received from the One who will "make all things new". Therefore, the Church realizes her mission between the "already" of the beginning of the Kingdom of God in Jesus, and the "not yet" of the promised and anticipated fulfillment. As the guardian of a hope that enlightens the path, she is also invested with the mission of speaking clearly to reject everything that mortifies life and prevents its development, and to take a position in favor of the poor, the exploited, the victims of violence and war, and all those who suffer in body and in spirit.

As the sign and sacrament of the Kingdom, the Church is the pilgrim people of God on earth who, drawing precisely on the final promise, reads and interprets the dynamics of history through the Gospel, denouncing evil in all its forms and proclaiming, in word and deed, the salvation that Christ wishes to bring about for all humanity and His Kingdom of justice, love, and peace. The Church, therefore, does not proclaim herself; on the contrary, everything within her must point to salvation in Christ.

From this perspective, the Church is called to recognize humbly the human fragility and transience of her own institutions, which, despite being at the service of the Kingdom of God, bear the fleeting image of this world. No ecclesial institution can be treated as absolute; indeed, since they exist within history and time, they are called to continual conversion, to the renewal of forms and the reform of structures, to the continual regeneration of relationships, so that they may truly fulfill their mission.

Within the horizon of the Kingdom of God, we must also understand the relationship between Christians carrying out their mission today and those who have already completed their earthly existence and are in a state of purification or beatitude. *Lumen gentium*, in fact, affirms that all Christians form a single Church, that there is communion and sharing of spiritual goods founded on the union with Christ of all believers, a *fraterna sollicitudo* between the earthly Church and the heavenly Church: that communion of saints that is experienced in particular in the liturgy. By praying for the departed and following in the footsteps of those who have already lived as disciples of Jesus, we too are sustained on our journey and strengthen our worship of God: marked by the one Spirit and united in the one liturgy, together with those who have gone before us in faith, we praise and give glory to the Most Holy Trinity.

Let us be grateful to the Council Fathers for reminding us of this most important and beautiful aspect of being Christian, and may we strive to cultivate it in our lives.