



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.

Easter Sunday

April 5, 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

Easter Sunday:

Acts 10:34a,37-43; Ps 118:1-2,16-17,22-23; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9

Monday:

Acts 2:14,22-33; Ps 16:1-2a & 5,7-8,9-10,11; Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday:

Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5,18-19,20 & 22; Jn 20:3-4

Wednesday:

Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-2,3-4,6-7,8-9; Lk 24:13-35

Thursday:

Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab & 5,6-7,8-9; Lk 24:35-48

Friday:

Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2 & 4,22-24,25-27a; Jn 21:1-14

Saturday

Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1 & 14-15ab. 16-18,19-21; Mk 16:9-15

Mass Intentions

Easter Vigil April 4

8:00 PM - Souls in Purgatory

Easter Sunday, April 5

8:00 AM - Soul in Purgatory

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, April 7

8:15 AM-Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, April 9

8:15 AM-Souls in Purgatory

Friday Service, April 10

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Ministers

<u>April 11</u>	<u>April 12</u>	<u>April 12</u>
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Diane Begic	Chuck Kenney	Pat Hayes
Joel Southwick	Betsy Kenney	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

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

Bishop's Sunday Lunch

Thanks to Payson Borst, Jackie Brown, Nancy Durden, Richarddean Paige-Toole, and Sharon Smoot for their work in putting together and serving the lunch, and for cleaning up afterward. Great job!

Weekly Collection 3/28-3/29/26

Budget	\$3,799.00
Collected	\$3,419.00
Short/Over	-\$380.00
YTD+/-	+\$11,380.16

Second Collection

April 26 - Catholic Home Mission Appeal

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. If you would like to donate in honor or memory of a loved one, call the church office. The candle for April: Viola E Beckert, Jimmy Cooper, & Edith M Cassidy, birthday memorials, George Heim, Eddie Lopez

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 April 18-19 is Granola Bars.

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 host for April 11th is The Coopers. If you would like to host a social, contact the office:803-649-3203.

Sunday After Mass Social

The Sunday After Mass social is April 19, after the 10 a.m. Mass. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the back entrance to the social hall.

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection: Christ's Resurrection – John 20:1-9

As we listen to the Easter Sunday Gospel, we might wonder how Mary Magdalene and the others who went to the Tomb had forgotten what Jesus had said about being put to death and rising from the dead. Christ is risen! Alleluia! Rejoice and be glad!

The great gifts of Easter are hope and faith. Hope: which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake. Faith: the belief that Christ has triumphed over evil despite appearances and that the Resurrection is the definitive act in human history. We celebrate the mystery of the Resurrection, proclaim our faith and hope, and give thanks for these gifts.

The empty tomb can only mean that Jesus is truly alive – raised up and transformed by the Father. Jesus is truly risen, so are we. As we were one with him in his suffering, so are we now one with him in his risen joy. Alleluia!

As described by Benedict XVI, the resurrection was like an explosion of light, a cosmic event linking heaven and earth. But above all, it was an explosion of love. It ushered in a new dimension of being, through which a new world emerges.

Prayer: Dear Lord, we are all in the birth-pangs of becoming resurrected people. I am one of them. I ask the risen Lord that my life may be an instance of the resurrection, living in the present, transformative power of Jesus' victory over death, and not treating it just as a future event but as a daily, lived reality. Gerard Manley Hopkins speaks of the comfort of the resurrection. Lord, may it be truly a comfort for me when life is hard or when death draws near to me or those I love. We shall all rise in Christ. Amen.

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The Pope's Intention for April

For priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

Easter Flower Memorials

Jack Holder
Herbert & Evelyn Houser
Paul & Louise Kenney
The Heim Family
June Mcgee
The Ellis Family
The Wright Family
Mary Ann & Jerry Goebel
Gloria Ressler, Ruth, Kenneth
& Mary Lou Noah
The Hadlock, Beckert, Early, Cassidy
& Norton Families
Kris Heath, Betty Hyslop
Anne Marie Key, Paula Thurston & Joan Lacombe

Prayer for Easter Joy

Risen Lord,
on this bright morning of victory,
let the stone be rolled away from our hearts
as it was from Your tomb.
Fill our breath with the fragrance of new life,
our eyes with the light that no darkness can dim,
our hands with the warmth of mercy,
our steps with the courage of hope.
Teach us to sing with the dawn,
to rejoice with the lilies,
to embrace each soul as a brother or sister
in the kingdom You have opened.
May the joy of Your resurrection
root itself deep within us,
so that even in shadowed valleys
we carry the sunrise of Your love.
Amen.

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

In our ongoing catechesis on the Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium*, we turn today to consider the laity. Rather than limiting itself to defining the laity for what they are not, the Second Vatican Council sought to shed light on their innate dignity as members of the People of God and underline the peculiarity of their role in the mission of the Church. Having been incorporated into Christ through Baptism, the laity are made, in their own way, sharers in his priestly, prophetic, and kingly office. The Church is present wherever her children profess the Gospel and bear witness to Christ. For this reason, laymen and women are particularly called to carry Christ's presence to all spheres of life and so transform them from within by bearing witness to the beauty of a life in Christ and the elevating power of his grace.

LEO XIV

Wednesday, 1st April 2026

Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II.

II. Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen gentium*

6. Living stones in the Church and witnesses in the world: the laity in the People of God

Brothers and sisters, good morning!

Let us continue on our path of reflection on the Church as she is presented to us in the Conciliar Constitution *Lumen gentium*. Today, we will look at the fourth chapter, which deals with the laity. Let us all remember what Pope Francis liked to repeat: “Lay people are, put simply, the vast majority of the people of God. The minority – ordained ministers – are at their service.”

This section of the Document seeks to explain, *in positive terms*, the nature and mission of the laity, after centuries during which they were defined simply as those who were not part of the clergy or the consecrated life. For this reason, I would like to revisit with you a very beautiful passage that speaks to the greatness of the Christian condition: “Therefore, the chosen People of God is one: ‘one Lord, one faith, one baptism’; sharing a common dignity as members from their regeneration in Christ, having the same filial grace and the same vocation to perfection; possessing in common one salvation, one hope and one undivided charity”.

Before any distinction of ministry or state of life, the Council affirms the equality of all the baptized. The Constitution does not want us to forget what it had already affirmed in the chapter on the People of God, namely that the condition of the messianic people is the dignity and freedom of the children of God.

Naturally, the greater the gift, the greater the commitment. For this reason, the Council, along with dignity, also emphasizes the mission of the laity in the Church and in the world. But on what is this mission founded, and in what does it consist? The very description of the laity offered by the Council tells us: “The term laity is here understood to mean all the faithful... [who] are by baptism made one body with Christ and are constituted among the People of God; they are in their own way made sharers in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly functions of Christ; and they carry out for their own part the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the world”.

The holy People of God, therefore, is never a formless mass, but the body of Christ or, as Saint Augustine said, the *Christus totus*; it is a community organically structured by means of the fruitful relationship between the two forms of participation in the priesthood of Christ: the common priesthood of the faithful and the ministerial priesthood. By virtue of Baptism, the lay faithful participate in the very priesthood of Christ. Indeed, “the supreme and eternal Priest, Christ Jesus, since He wills to continue His witness and service also through the laity, vivifies them in this Spirit and increasingly urges them on to every good and perfect work”.

In this regard, how can we fail to recall Saint John Paul II and his Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles laici* (30 December 1988)? In it, he emphasized that “the Council, with its rich doctrinal, spiritual and pastoral patrimony, has written as never before on the nature, dignity, spirituality, mission and responsibility of the lay faithful. And the Council Fathers, re-echoing the call of Christ, have summoned all the lay faithful, both women and men, to labor in the vineyard”. In this way, my venerable Predecessor relaunched the apostolate of the laity, to which the Council dedicated a specific Document, which we will talk about later.

The vast field of the lay apostolate is not confined to the Church but extends to the world. Indeed, the Church is present wherever her children profess and bear witness to the Gospel: in the workplace, in civil society, and in all human relationships, wherever they, through their choices, show the beauty of Christian life, which foretells here and now the justice and peace that will be accomplished in the Kingdom of God. The world needs to “be permeated by the spirit of Christ, and more effectively fulfill its purpose in justice, charity and peace”. And this is possible only through the contribution, service, and witness of the laity!

It is an invitation to be the “outgoing” Church that Pope Francis spoke to us about: a Church embodied in history, always open to mission, in which we are all called to be missionary disciples, apostles of the Gospel, witnesses of the Kingdom of God, bearers of the joy of Christ whom we have encountered!

Brothers and sisters, may the Easter we are preparing to celebrate renew in us the grace to be, like Mary Magdalene, like Peter and John, witnesses of the Risen One!