



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.

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time August 31, 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

Readings for The Week

Sunday:

Sir 3:17-18,20,28-29; Ps 68:4-5,6-7,10-11; Heb 12:18-19,22-24a; Lk 14:1,7-14

Monday:

1 The 4:13-18; Ps 96:1 & 3,4-5,11-12,13; Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday:

1 The 5:1-6,9-11; Ps 27:1,4,13-14; Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday: St Gregory the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church

Col 1:1-8; Ps 52:10,11; Lk 4:38-44

Thursday:

Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-3ab,3cd-4,5-6; Lk 5:1-11

Friday:

Col 1:15-20; Ps 100:1b-2,3,4,5; Lk 5:33-39

Saturday:

Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4,6 & 8; Lk 6:1-5

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 30

4:00 PM - Bernard Santek (D)

Sunday, August 31

8:00 AM - For Our Parish

10:00 AM - For our parish

Tuesday, September 2 - For Our Parish

Thursday, September 4 - For Our Parish

First Friday, September 5 - For Our Parish

Benediction & Divine Chaplet of Mercy following Mass

Ministers

| <u>September 6</u> | <u>September 7</u> | <u>September 7</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 4:00 PM Vigil | 8:00 AM | 10:00 AM |
| Joel Southwick | Peter Srednicki | Pat Hayes |
| Cindy McHale | Betsy Kenney | Jackie Brown |
| 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 8/23-8/24/25

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| Budget | \$3,162.00 |
| Collected | \$2,016.25 |
| Short/Over | -\$1,145.75 |
| YTD+- | +\$2,818.40 |

Second Collection September 14

The Catholic University of America

Bible Study

Bible Study Classes resume on September 5. 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

In accordance with traditional custom, a special lamp fueled by oil or wax should be kept alight near the tabernacle to indicate and honor the presence of Christ. The September: Jack Holder birthday & Howard Hadlock-heavenly birthday, Lacombe & McColla Families

If you would like to donate in honor or memory of a loved one, please call the Parish Office. The donation is \$25. The candle offering is for one month.

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 September 6 are the Beckert and Welsh families. 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 September 20-21 is Fruit Cups or Canned Fruit.

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection: Where Will You Sit?

Luke 14:1, 7-14

We live in a world that values competition and success – a world that has many honor lists, where positions of importance can be sought and cherished, where the temptation to popularity leaves little space for the weak and for those who are unable to push themselves forward. Pride and self-importance are underlying attitudes that Jesus is talking about in his parable today. Later on in this chapter, scripture refers to bringing down the powerful from their thrones and lifting up the lowly (Luke 1:52). Today Jesus is delivering another radical teaching and showing us once again how different the rules are in the Kingdom of God.

The kind of humility Jesus is talking about here was described well by a former Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple: "Humility does not mean thinking less of yourself than of other people, nor does it mean having a low opinion of your own gifts. It means freedom from thinking about yourself at all." St. Ignatius suggests we ask insistently for the grace to be able to make the same choices Jesus made: to ask to be like him in refusing honors, and to choose to be humble and even humiliated as he was. Jesus asks us to think of others, to be more aware of other's needs, and step back a bit to allow others to be center stage for a change.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, teach us how to follow in Jesus' footsteps, how to be compassionate, more understanding, more generous in our thinking and in our actions. I ask for the freedom to accept humiliations calmly and gracefully when they come. Help me to remember how appreciation or recognition have encouraged me and consider how I might raise someone up with my words.

The Essential Teachings of Mother Teresa

At the end of our lives, we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made or how many great things we have done. We will be judged by: I was hungry and you gave me to eat. I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless and you took me in.

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Feast day: September 5

Mother Teresa was born on August 26, 1910, in Skopje. Moved to pursue missionary work, she left home at the age of 18 to join the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ireland. She received the name Sister Mary Teresa. In December of 1929, she departed for India, arriving in Calcutta. She was assigned to the Loreto community and taught at St. Mary's School for girls.



On September 10, 1946, during a train ride from Calcutta to Darjeeling, Mother Teresa had a vision in which Jesus revealed to her His pain at the neglect of the poor, His sorrow at their ignorance of Him, and His longing for their love. He asked Mother Teresa to establish a religious community dedicated to the service of the poorest of the poor.

On August 17, 1948, she dressed for the first time in a white, blue-bordered sari and passed through the gates of her beloved Loreto convent to enter the world of the poor. On October 7, 1950, the new congregation of the Missionaries of Charity was officially established in the Archdiocese of Calcutta.

There was a heroic side to this great woman that was revealed only after her death. Hidden from all eyes was her interior life marked by an experience of a deep, painful, and abiding feeling of being separated from God. She called her inner experience, the darkness, the "painful night" of her soul, which began around the time she started her work for the poor and continued to the end of her life. Through the darkness, she mystically participated in the thirst of Jesus, in His painful and burning longing for love, and she shared in the interior desolation of the poor.

Mother Teresa died on September 5, 1997. She left a testament of unshakable faith, invincible hope, and extraordinary charity. Her response to Jesus' plea, "Come be My light," made her a Missionary of Charity, a "mother to the poor," a symbol of compassion to the world, and a living witness to the thirsting love of God. Mother Teresa was beatified by Pope John Paul II on October 19, 2003, and canonized by Pope Francis on September 4, 2016.

LEO XIV
GENERAL AUDIENCE
Wednesday, 27 August 2025

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

4. The surrender. ‘Whom are you looking for?’ (Jn 18:4)

Summary of Catechesis:

Dear brothers and sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on the Jubilee theme of “Christ our Hope,” today we consider the freedom and determination shown by Jesus at the moment of his arrest in the Garden of Olives. Our Lord approaches his coming passion freely and consciously, in obedience to the will of the Father and as an act of redemptive love. In this way, he reveals the essence of true hope: the firm conviction that even in the midst of violence, injustice and suffering, God’s love is ever present as a source of spiritual fruitfulness and the promise of eternal life. The way that Jesus exercised his freedom in the face of death teaches us not to fear suffering, but to persevere in confident trust in God’s providential care. May our lives always be marked by this hope, born of the knowledge that if we surrender to God’s will and freely give our lives in love for others, the Father’s grace will sustain us in every trial and enable us to bear abundant fruit for the salvation of our brothers and sisters.

* * * * *

Trusting God’s Plan

O Father, in moments of uncertainty, help us to trust in Your divine plan.
Grant us the faith to surrender our worries and embrace Your guidance.
May we find peace in knowing that You are always working for our good.
Strengthen our hearts to follow Your path, and illuminate our way with
Your love and wisdom. Amen.