



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 27, 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

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:

Eze 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-5,6-7,8-9; Phi 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32

Monday:

Job 1:6-22; Ps 17:1bcd,2-3,6-7; Lk 9:46-50

Tuesday: Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels

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

Wednesday: St. Jerome, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Job 9:1-12,14-16; Ps 89:10bc-11,12-13,14-15; Lk 9:57-62

Thursday: St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church

Job 19:21-27; Ps 27:7-8a,8b-9abc;13-14; Lk 10:1-12

Friday: Holy Guardian Angels

Job 38:1,12-21;40:3-5; Ps 139: 1-3,7-8,9-10,13-14ab; Mt 18:1-5,10

Saturday:

Jib 42:1-3,5-6,12-17; Ps 119:66,71,75,91,125,130; Lk 10:17-24

Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil September 26

4:00 PM - For our Parish

Sunday, September 27

8:00 AM - For our Parish

10:00 AM - Dorothy Andreassen Birthday

Tuesday, September 29

8:15 Mass - For our Parish

Thursday - October 1

15 AM - For our Parish

First Friday, October 2

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Benediction and Chaplet of The Divine Mercy

Following Mass

	Ministers	
October 3	October 4	October 4
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
	Peter Srednicki	Rosa DiStephano
Joel Southwick	Jack Kline	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.

Weekly Collection 9/19-9/20/26

Budget	\$4,325.00
Collected	\$3,477.21
Short/Over	-\$847.79
YTD+/-	-\$5,730.19

Second Collection

October 18 - World Mission Sunday

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.

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 17-18 is Cold Cereal.

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.

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

October 4th is the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment. To honor St. Francis, we invite you to bring your pets to the Blessing of the Animals at St. Gerard on Sunday, October 4, at 4:00 p.m.

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection: Authenticity Matthew 21:28-32

What appears to be a simple parable presented to us in today's Gospel speaks volumes about authenticity. The tax collectors and prostitutes who were the very people rejected by society at the time were in fact destined for the kingdom of God ahead of those who believed they were entitled because of their position in society.

Jesus is really challenging us in this gospel. Many of us have said yes to God by our baptism and membership of the Church, but can we say that we always carry out what God is asking us to do? Jesus speaks this parable to me, asking me, 'What do you think? Taking a few moments of silence to read over the gospel text again, I meditate on what Jesus is calling me to do. After some honest reflection I could pray for help to be more honest in speaking of my intentions. Jesus is reminding us that words can be meaningless, and promises are empty when not followed by action. So, am I like the Jewish leaders who sound good but perform poorly? Or am I like the tax collectors and prostitutes who know their need of God? Do I despise such people?

I pray that Jesus sees how I have served and am encouraged by His trust in me that is expressed in the call to serve others. I continue to listen for his invitation as he shows me where I hold back. I realize that to live in Jesus' kingdom, I must be ready to rub shoulders with all kinds - God's love is given freely and is accepted by many. I pray for a heart that is open to those who are not like me.

Prayer: Lord, you continually invite me to fullness of life. I pray that my faith in you may grow ever deeper so that it may be expressed by my desire to serve others, especially those who are not like me and in most need of your mercy. 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

Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

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 is invoked for protection against Satan and all evil.

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: announcing the birth of John the Baptist to his father Zacharias, and announcing the Incarnation of the Word in the womb of Mary. Christian tradition suggests that he appeared to St. Joseph and to the shepherds, and that he "strengthened" Jesus during his agony in the garden of Gethsemane.

St. Raphael's name means "God has healed," because he healed Tobias' blindness in the Book of Tobit. His office is generally regarded as one of healing and acts of mercy.

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

As we continue our series of catechesis on the Second Vatican Council, today we consider the meaning and value of human activity as presented by the Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*. Revolutionary advances in science and technology in the past century have led some to assume that belief in God is now obsolete, and that true human autonomy can be affirmed only by emancipation from God. The Council Fathers emphasized, by contrast, that "the achievements of the human race are a sign of God's greatness and the fulfillment of his mysterious design". Indeed, far from inhibiting believers from being engaged in human activity, the Gospel message compels us to contribute to authentic human flourishing through our involvement in society. Let us carry out our daily activities with true charity, offering our work to the Lord both as a means of personal sanctification and as an expression of our desire, ever more fully, to bring about God's kingdom, especially by pursuing the common good, caring for the needy, and defending human dignity.

LEO XIV
Wednesday, 23 September 2026
Catechesis. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council.
IV. Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*
4. The meaning of man's activity throughout the world

Brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

As we continue our journey through the Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, we come to the third chapter of the first part, titled: "Man's Activity Throughout the World". The fundamental question is this: what is the value of human activity in the world, and therefore of technical, social and scientific progress? We may recall that, less than four years after the Council closed, on the night of 20–21 July 1969, man set foot on the Moon for the first time.

Created in the image and likeness of God, the human being is the agent of progress. With freedom and intelligence, he increases his knowledge, thereby advancing society as a whole. We can see this in the improvements in living conditions over successive generations. Indeed, the Document states, "many benefits once looked for, especially from heavenly powers, man has now enterprisingly procured for himself".

For this reason, some thinkers have portrayed scientific and technical progress as something that weakens man's relationship with God, to the point of making it seem superfluous, or even as antagonistic to the Christian faith. This interpretation has changed how contemporary man views the world compared with previous ages. Such a prejudice is particularly prevalent in that part of Western culture which has lost its reference to Christian Revelation. In post-Christian humanisms, the human being and God are mistakenly presented as rivals: to assert his knowledge, his freedom, and his progress, man would have to emancipate himself from God. By denying the relationship with God, one also loses the possibility of affirming the transcendent value of the human person. This is the "tragedy of atheistic humanism".

The Council wishes to provide a clear answer: Christians, states *Gaudium et Spes*, "can justly consider that by their labor they are unfolding the Creator's work, consulting the advantages of their brother men, and are contributing by their personal industry to the realization in history of the divine plan". Indeed, the Constitution continues, "far from thinking that works produced by man's own talent and energy are in opposition to God's power, and that the rational creature exists as a kind of rival to the Creator, Christians are convinced that the triumphs of the human race are a sign of God's grace and the flowering of His own mysterious design". In essence, God has placed in the hands of men and women a creation that is still *in statu viae* – that is, on a journey, in the process of growth – so that they may bring it to fulfillment through their wise activity.

Here there is an important reference to the mystery of the Incarnation. Humanity – and with it work, progress and the autonomy of created realities – is not absorbed or nullified by the encounter with God, but rather taken up in its entirety, continuing to be, in Christ, free and active: indeed, it is in Him that it finds full truth and freedom. Furthermore, in the Eucharistic celebration, the fruit of human labor, represented by bread and wine, is placed upon the altar every day to be transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ.

From this perspective, an important truth emerges: to encounter God, the human being must not abandon his earthly occupations, but can live his vocation fully, carrying out his daily work well and sanctifying it. Christians, like everyone else, are involved in building the city of man, striving towards the end of all things and the encounter with God, and reminding those with whom they share the adventure of progress, science and life of this ultimate purpose.

Earthly progress must certainly be clearly distinguished from the development of the Kingdom of Christ; however, the Council affirms that "to the extent that the former can contribute to the better ordering of human society, it is of vital concern to the Kingdom of God. ... All the good fruits of our nature and enterprise, we will find them again, but freed of stain, burnished and transfigured".

Finally, let us recall that in order to become authentic human progress – that is, progress for the whole person and for all people – technical and scientific progress must be inspired and guided by charity. Only in this way can it always be placed in the service of human dignity and promote the living conditions of all, especially the most disadvantaged. The Second Vatican Council invites us to share the bread of knowledge and know-how, so that every person and every people may develop their potential, and together, with God's help, we may build a better future.