



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 21, 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:

Amos 8:4-7; Ps 113: 1-2,4-6,7-8; 1 Tim 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13

Monday:

Ezra 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-2ab,2cd-3,4-5,6; Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday: St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

Ezra 6:7-8,12b,14-20;Ps 122:1-2,3-4ab,4cd-5;Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday:

Ezra 9:5-9, Tobit 13:2,3-4a,4befghn,7-8; Lk 9:1-6

Thursday:

Hag 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-2,3-4,5-6a & 9b; Lk 9:7-9

Friday:

Hag 2:1-9; Ps 43:1,2,3,4; Lk 9:18-22

Saturday: St Vincent de Paul, Priest

Zec 2:5-9,14-15a; Jer 31:10,11-12ab,13; Lk 9:43b-45

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 20

4:00 PM - Wanda Bonn

Sunday, September 21

8:00 AM - For Our Parish

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, September 23 - No Mass

Thursday, September 25 - No Mass

Friday, September 26 - For our Parish

Ministers

<u>September 27</u>	<u>September 28</u>	<u>September 28</u>
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Joel Southwick	Denise Gelinaz	Anita Brown
Cindy McHale	Jack Kline	Jackie Brown
Joan Hesik	Betsy Kenney	

Pray for our sick

Rosa Johnson, Paula Thurston, Ellen Heim, Rich Borst, Payson 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 9/13-9/14/25

Budget	\$3,162.00
Collected	\$3,566.00
Short/Over	+\$404.00
YTD+-	+\$2,691.40

Bible Study

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

A special candle should be kept alight near the tabernacle to indicate and honor the presence of Christ. If you would loved one, please call the church office. The donation is \$25. The candle offering is for one month. The candle for September is for Jack Holder birthday & Howard Hadlock-heavenly birthday, and the Lacombe & McColla Families.

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 October 4th are the Coopers. 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.

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 fill out a registration form, located in the back of the church, and return the form to the parish office. If you have any questions, please contact the office: 803-649-3203.

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection on Being a Shrewd Investor Luke 16:1-13

Today's gospel presents a difficult parable. The point of this passage is in the commendation of the dishonest steward, not for the moral quality of his behavior, but for his worldly prudence in using the things of this life to ensure his future in this life. In light of his ultimate dismissal, he does favors for his master's debtors by reducing his own commission in the debts owed; so the employer commends the manager for responding shrewdly to a difficult circumstance. The word for "shrewd" here can also be translated as "prudent" or "wise".

Here we see a connection between being faithful and prudent (or dishonest) with "very little" and "very much." How one deals with "dishonest wealth" and "what belongs to another" says much about how one will deal with "true riches" and "what is your own".

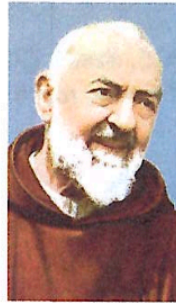
Likewise, we as believers should behave with the same prudence to ensure our eternal future by serving the Lord with even more energy and ingenuity than the dishonest employ in their business dealings; and secondly that we should use our resources to help the poor. The only things we take with us from our life on earth are those which we have given away.

Finally the reading ends with "no slave can serve two masters ... you cannot serve God and wealth". The reign of God reverses the status of the rich and the poor and entering the kingdom of God entails giving up all other commitments, including the commitment to economic security. The key to our ultimate security is in God's generosity and hospitality and the things we need are not anxious earning and saving, but trustworthy service and spending. If God can trust us to spend our money to meet the needs of others, then the money we ourselves need will also be provided.

Prayer:

Jesus, help me to be a really shrewd investor by investing in people's lives. Show me how to use my resources to do as much good as I can for the glory of God and the eternal good of others — others who will go before me and welcome me home. Amen.

St. Padre Pio Feast day: September 23



St. Padre Pio was born Francesco Forgione on May 25, 1887, in Pietrelcina, Italy. As a child, he was very religious, and by the age of five he reportedly decided to dedicate his life to God. At the age of fifteen, he entered the novitiate of the Capuchin Friars. When he was 31 years old, Father Pio received the stigmata (the five wounds of Christ's passion on his body).

Padre Pio received the stigmata on September 20, 1918, after a vision of Christ in his crucified form, during which he felt a deep compassion for the Lord's suffering. This experience led to the miraculous appearance of the wounds of Christ on his body, which he bore until he died in 1968.

By 1919, word began to spread about Padre Pio's stigmata, and people came from far away to examine him. His popularity became a source of concern for the Church, and the Vatican began to restrict his activities to minimize public interaction. Padre Pio himself was uncomfortable with his newfound popularity and the attention he received because of his stigmata. A Church investigation into his stigmata concluded that his condition was not faked.

By 1934, the Vatican began to change its attitude towards Padre Pio, and he was again allowed to perform public duties.

Pio of Pietrelcina was called to his eternal rest on September 23, 1968. A doctor examining the saint's body, who was present when he was dying, observed that the wounds of the stigmata were completely healed, without any trace or scar.

At an outdoor Mass in St. Peter's Square, Padre Pio was beatified and declared "Blessed" by Pope John Paul II on May 2, 1999. Three years later, on June 16, 2002, Padre Pio was canonized a Saint by Pope John Paul II, in St. Peter's Square, at the largest gathering ever recorded in the history of the city of Rome.

Prayer for Trust and Confidence

O Lord, grant me boundless confidence in Your divine mercy. Help me accept the crosses and sufferings that bring goodness to my soul. St. Padre Pio, pray for us!

LEO XIV
GENERAL AUDIENCE
Saint Peter's Square
Wednesday, 17 September 2025

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

7. Death. “In the garden was a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried.”

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our journey of catechesis on Jesus our hope, today we will contemplate the mystery of Holy Saturday. The Son of God lies in the tomb. But this “absence” of his is not emptiness: it is expectation, a restrained fullness, a promise kept in the dark. It is the day of the great silence, in which the sky seems mute and the earth immobile, but it is precisely there that the deepest mystery of the Christian faith is fulfilled. It is a silence laden with meaning, like the womb of a mother who carries her unborn but already living child.

The body of Jesus, taken down from the cross, is carefully wrapped, as one does with something precious. John the Evangelist tells us that he was buried in a garden, inside “a new tomb where no one had ever been laid.” Nothing is left to chance. That garden recalls the lost Eden, the place where God and man were united. And that tomb, never used, speaks of something that has still to happen: it is a threshold, not an end. At the beginning of creation, God planted a garden; now the new creation also begins in a garden: with a closed tomb that will soon be opened.

Holy Saturday is also a day of rest. According to the Jewish Law, no work is to be done on the seventh day: indeed, after the six days of creation, God rests. Now, the Son, too, after completing his work of salvation, rests. Not because he is tired, but because he loved up to the very end. There is nothing left to add. This rest is the seal on the completed task; it is the confirmation that what should have been done has truly been accomplished. It is a repose filled with the hidden presence of the Lord.

We struggle to stop and rest. We live as if life were never enough. We rush to produce, to prove ourselves, to keep up. But the Gospel teaches us that knowing how to stop is an act of trust that we must learn to perform. Holy Saturday invites us to discover that life does not always depend on what we do, but also on how we know how to take leave of what we have been able to do.

In the tomb, Jesus, the living Word of the Father, is silent. But it is precisely in that silence that the new life begins to ferment like a seed in the ground, like the darkness before dawn. God is not afraid of the passing time because he is also the God of waiting. Thus, even our “useless” time, that of pauses, emptiness, barren moments, can become the womb of resurrection. Every silence that is welcomed can be the premise of a new Word. Every suspended time can become a time of grace if we offer it to God.

Jesus, buried in the ground, is the meek face of a God who does not occupy all space. He is the God who lets things be done, who waits, who withdraws to leave us freedom. He is the God who trusts, even when everything seems to be over. And on that suspended Sabbath, we learn that we do not have to rush to rise again; first, we must stay and welcome the silence, letting ourselves be embraced by limitation. At times, we seek quick answers, immediate solutions. But God works in depth, in the slow time of trust. The Sabbath of the burial thus becomes the womb from which the strength of an invincible light, that of Easter, can spring forth.

Christian hope is not born in noise, but in the silence of an expectation filled with love. It is not the offspring of euphoria, but of trustful abandonment. The Virgin Mary teaches us this: she embodies this expectation, this trust, this hope. When it seems to us that everything is at a standstill, that life is a blocked road, let us remember Holy Saturday. Even in the tomb, God was preparing the greatest surprise of all. And if we know how to welcome with gratitude what has been, we will discover that, precisely in smallness and silence, God loves to transfigure reality, making all things new with the fidelity of his love. True joy is born of indwelt expectation, of patient faith, of the hope that what has been lived in love will surely rise to eternal life.