



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.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 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 2:14a,236-41; Ps 23:1-3a,3b-4,5,6; 1 Ptr 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

Monday:

Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3;43:3,4; Jn 10:11-18

Tuesday:

Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-3,4-5,6-7; Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday:

Acts 12:24-13:5a; Ps 67:2-3,5,6 & 8; Jn 12:44-50

Thursday:

Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3,21-22,25 & 27; Jn 13:16-20

Friday:

Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-7,8-9,10-11ab; Jn 14:1-6

Saturday

Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1,2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 14:7-14

Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil April 25

4:00 PM - Sheila & John Ames (L)

Sunday, April 26

8:00 AM - For our Parish

10:00 AM - For our Parish - Pauls Thurston

Tuesday, April 28

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Thursday, April 30

8:15 AM - For our Parish

First Friday, May 1

8:15 AM - For our Parish **Benediction & Divine
Chaplet of Mercy following Mass**

Ministers

May 2	May 3	May 3
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Michelle Bullington	Peter Srednicki	Chioma Nwaga
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, Michele 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 4/18-4/19/26

Budget	\$3,799.00
Collected	\$4,440.00
Short/Over	+\$641.00
YTD+/-	+\$13,028.16

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

The candle for April: Viola E Beckert, Jimmy Cooper, & Edith M. Cassidy, birthday memorials, George Heim, Eddie Lopez. If you would like to donate in honor or in memory of a loved one, please call the Parish Office. The donation is \$25.

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 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.

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 May 2 is Dawson-Ekeland. If you would like to host a social, contact the office:803-649-3203.

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.

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection: The Good Shepherd John 10:1-10

In today's gospel, John presents Jesus as the good shepherd who knows his sheep, cares for them and lays down his life for them. The good shepherd keeps the sheep in view, watching them and seeing beyond them. Do I listen for the voice of the Good Shepherd and allow him to lead me, trusting that he is leading others too - even if in ways I don't understand?

Again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

We know leaders who want influence and power, who value their own reputation and life above that of their followers. However, Jesus values the life of his followers above himself and seeks only their lasting good.

I have the freedom to listen to what gives me life. What is life-giving for me? What lifts your spirit, satisfies your soul, gives you lasting peace and fills you with life? Are these moments that come from the presence of Christ in you? Then I also look at what is not life-giving for me. Is there something toxic in my life that I can avoid, or give up?

How do I recognize Jesus' voice as opposed to all the other voices clamoring for my attention? Our prayer trains us to recognize the voice of our good shepherd and distinguish it from the other voices. Truth can be offered in a way which invites or can be heard as being harsh and unwelcome. I consider how Jesus speaks to me, calling me to growth and life. Is this how I speak to others, especially those I am called to shepherd? Have I ever seen myself as a shepherd? In what ways have I given my life for others?

Prayer: Lord, let me hear your voice, so that I may open the gate of my heart for you. Draw me to the pathways of life. May others then see me as a safe gateway leading to abundant life. Amen.



St. Pius V, Pope Feast day: April 30

St. Pius V (original name Antonio Ghislieri) was the pope, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, from 1566 to 1572. During his papacy, Saint Pius V was faced with the almost overwhelming responsibility of

getting a shattered and scattered Church back on its feet. The family of God had been shaken by corruption, by the Reformation, by the constant threat of Turkish invasion, and by the bloody bickering of the young nation-states. In 1545, a previous pope convened the Council of Trent in an attempt to deal with all these pressing problems. Off and on over 18 years, the Fathers of the Church discussed, condemned, affirmed, and decided upon a course of action. The Council closed in 1563.

Saint Pius V was elected in 1566 and charged with the task of implementing the sweeping reforms called for by the Council. He ordered the founding of seminaries for the proper training of priests. He published a new missal, a new breviary, a new catechism, and established the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine classes for the young. Saint Pius V zealously enforced legislation against abuses in the Church. He patiently served the sick and the poor by building hospitals, providing food for the hungry, and giving money customarily used for the papal banquets to poor Roman converts.

In striving to reform both Church and state, Saint Pius V encountered vehement opposition from England's Queen Elizabeth and the Roman Emperor Maximilian II. Problems in France and in the Netherlands also hindered Pius's hopes for a Europe united against the Turks. Only at the last minute was he able to organize a fleet which won a decisive victory in the Gulf of Lepanto, off Greece, on October 7, 1571.

Saint Pius V's ceaseless papal quest for a renewal of the Church was grounded in his personal life as a Dominican friar. He spent long hours with his God in prayer, fasted rigorously, deprived himself of many customary papal luxuries, and faithfully observed the spirit of the Dominican Rule that he had professed.

Pius V died on 1 May 1572. He was beatified by Pope Clement X in 1672, and canonized by Pope Clement XI in 1712.

APOSTOLIC JOURNEY TO ANGOLA
HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV
Holy Mass in the Saurimo esplanade -Monday, 20 April 2026

Dear brothers and sisters,

In every part of the world, the Church lives as a people who walk as disciples of Christ. He illumines for us the path to the Father, and with the strength of the Spirit, he sanctifies us so that we may transform our way of life in conformity with his love. This is the Good News that courses through our veins like blood, sustaining us on the journey

When the Son of God became man, he performed miracles to manifest the will of the Father. Anyone who heard about these works set out in search of Jesus. The Lord looks into our hearts and asks whether we seek him out of gratitude or for our own self-interest. In fact, he said to those who were following him: “You are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves”. His words reveal the designs of those who do not want to encounter a person but want to consume things. The crowd sees Jesus as a means to an end, a provider of services. This happens when genuine faith is replaced with superstitious practices, in which God becomes an idol that is sought only when it is advantageous and only for as long as it is. The Gospel account helps us to understand that there are erroneous motives for seeking Christ, particularly when he is considered to be a *guru* or a good luck charm. Even the crowd's motivation is inadequate: they were not seeking a teacher whom they love, but a leader to applaud for their own advantage.

How different is Jesus' attitude toward us. He does not reject this insincere search; he encourages its conversion. He does not dismiss the crowd, but invites everyone to examine what stirs in our hearts. Christ calls us to freedom: he does not want servants or clients, rather he seeks brothers and sisters to whom he can totally dedicate himself. To respond with faith to this love, one must accept the meaning of his words. Neither is it enough to see what Jesus does: one must follow and imitate him. When in the sign of shared bread, we see the will of the Savior only then do we draw closer to a true encounter with Jesus, which becomes discipleship, mission, and service. The admonition that the Lord directs to the crowd is thus transformed into an invitation: “Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life”. He teaches us the correct way to search for the bread of life, food that sustains us forever, for it is the food of eternal life.

His gift sheds light on our current situation. We can see today how the hope of many people is frustrated by violence, exploited by the overbearing, and defrauded by the rich. In the face of these evils, Christ hears the cry of the people and renews our history by lifting us up from every fall, comforting us in suffering, and encouraging us in our mission. Just as the Eucharist is the living bread that he never ceases to give us, his history knows no end. The Risen One opens our lives through the power of his Spirit and removes the end of our history, that is, death. Christ lives! He is our Redeemer. This is the Gospel that we share, making all the people of the earth our brothers and sisters.

The Easter witness certainly pertains to Christ, the crucified one who is risen, but it also pertains to us because in him the proclamation of our resurrection finds its voice. We did not come into the world to die. We were not born to become slaves to the corruption of the flesh or that of the soul: every form of oppression, violence, exploitation, and dishonesty negates the resurrection of Christ, the supreme gift of our freedom. This liberation from death does not happen only at the end of our days, but every day of our lives. What must we do to welcome such a gift? The Gospel itself teaches us: “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent”. Yes, let us believe!

“Happy are those who walk in the law of the Lord”. It is the Lord who marks for us the path of this journey. For this reason, in light of our discipleship, the ecclesial journey is a “synod of resurrection and hope.” Let us proceed in this wise direction! With the Gospel in your heart, you will have courage in the face of difficulties and disappointments. The Lord always walks with us, so that we may continue on his path. Christ himself guides and strengthens our journey, a journey that we want to learn to live more and more as it should be, that is, in a synodal manner.

The Church proclaims the Good News of Christ not only by the proclamation of the Word which she has received from the Lord, but also by the witness of life, thanks to which Christ's disciples bear witness to the faith, hope, and love which dwell in them. Sharing the Eucharist, the bread of eternal life, we are called to serve our people with a dedication that lifts up all who have fallen, rebuilds whenever violence destroys, and shares with joy our fraternal bonds. Through us, the initiatives of divine grace bear good fruit, especially in adversity. Thanks to the Bread of Life, we can continue on the journey of the whole Church, whose destination is the Kingdom of God, whose light is faith, and whose lifeblood is charity.