



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 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 9, 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:

1 Kng 19:9a,11-13a; Ps 85:9,10,11-12,13-14; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33

Monday: St. Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr

2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2,5-6,7-8,9; Jn 12:24-26

Tuesday: St. Clare, Virgin

Eze 2:8-3:4; Ps 119:14,24,72,103,111,131; Mt 18:1-5,10,12-14

Wednesday:

Eze 9:1-7;10:18-22; Ps 113:1-2,3-4,5-6; Mt 18:15-20

Thursday:

Eze 12:1-12; Ps 78:56-57,58-59,61-62; Mt 18:21-19:1

Friday: St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr

Eze 16:1-15,60,63; Isa 12:2-3,4bcd,5-6; Mt 19:3-12

Saturday: The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary

1 Cro 15:3-4,15-16;16:1-2; Ps 13:2,6-7,9-10,13-14; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28

Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil August 8

4:00 PM - For our Parish

Sunday, August 9

8:00 AM - Richard Masiello

10:00 AM - Paula Thurston

Tuesday, August 11

8:15 Mass - For our Parish

Thursday - August 13

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Friday, August 14

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Ministers

<u>August 15</u>	<u>August 16</u>	<u>August 16</u>
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Joel Southwick	Chuck Kenney	Pat Hayes
Cindy McHale	Betsy Kenney	Gregg Wright
Joan Hesik	Betsy Kenney	Gregg Wright

Pray for our Sick

Rosa Johnson, Rich Borst, Jeffrey Hesik, John Burke, Krystal Ortiz, Michell Novotny, Casey Bay, Dennis HooChung, Joe Monahon, Michelle Bullington, Janet Menefee

Please note: To protect the privacy of people on the prayer list, only names requested by a family member will be added.

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 8/1-8/2/26

Budget	\$4,325.00
Collected	\$3,757.00
Short/Over	-\$568.00
YTD+-	- \$2,548.40

Second Collection:

August 9 - Disaster Assistance

Tabernacle Candle

A special candle should burn continuously near the tabernacle to indicate the presence of Christ. The candle for August is for Connor Brady's 8th birthday.

Lady of the Valley Food Pantry

Our collection for the OLV food pantry is the third weekend of the month. The focus food for the weekend of August 15-16 is Peanut Butter.

Feed the Hungry

We are forming a committee to develop a "Feed 5K Ministry" to feed the needy in Aiken. Seven families from St. Gerard have already been making sandwiches. If this is for you, contact Tony: doctony.47@gmail.com

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.

Sunday After Mass Social

The Sunday After Mass social is August 16 after the 10 a.m. Mass. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the back entrance to the social hall.

Thinking About Becoming Catholic or Know Someone Else Thinking About It?

Are you wondering how to become Catholic? Whether you're feeling a spiritual pull, exploring the beauty of Catholic teaching, or simply curious about the process, you're not alone. Every year, thousands of people begin the journey into the Catholic Church through a process called OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults). We would welcome hearing from you and walking with you through the process. Contact Deacon Chuck Cooper at 815-985-3636 or Linda Cooper at 815-985-3637.

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection: Faith In Chaos Matthew 14:22-33

Today's Gospel serves up food for thought about the nature of faith and what it means to walk faithfully in fearful circumstances. Does faith mean staying in the boat, trusting Jesus to keep you secure there or does the story implicitly commend Peter's desire to walk where his "Lord" walks, even though he doesn't manage to achieve his goal?

This is what history's most faithful people have demonstrated. Not all of them were great believers, but they knew that if God might be encountered anywhere, God will be found in places where the regular delineations and predictable endings don't apply as before. Sometimes incredibly turbulent times are also "thin places" where God breaks through. These heroes of faith find and illuminate God in settings where "the way things are" are reconfigured: where the poor receive support, the sick find comfort, and the oppressed enjoy dignity and freedom.

Isn't the nature of faith — humble, active faith — to be willing to throw oneself into a disorderly world and expect to encounter Jesus there? Shouldn't the nature of faith, even "little faith," want to transcend the normal "rules" and see what possibilities might be brought into being? Shouldn't the nature of faith wonder what other supposedly unalterable outcomes Jesus might want us to take part in? Shouldn't the nature of faith waiver from time to time, when it steps into stressful, unfamiliar terrain?

Like Peter discovered, we need to have faith that Jesus is there where the boundaries are being redrawn, extending life-giving stability when chaos sometimes gets the upper hand.

Prayer: Like the disciples in the boat, let us always worship Jesus saying, "Truly you are the Son of God". Amen.

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The Pope's Intention for August Evangelization in the city

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

St. Clare

Feast day: August 11



At age eighteen, she heard Francis of Assisi preach. Inspired by his message, Clare left her home and went to Francis's community, where she received the habit from him and lived in a nearby Benedictine convent. She was later made superior of a community in San Damiano. The Poor Clares practiced radical poverty like the Franciscans, sleeping on the ground and going without shoes. Greatly revered and respected as a "new leader of women" and credited with many miracles, she was canonized two years after her death.

Meditation

"Always give good heed to the Word of God, whether you hear or read it in private, or hearken to it when publicly preached: listen with attention and reverence; seek to profit by it, and do not let the precious words fall unheeded; receive them into your heart as a costly balsam; imitate the Blessed Virgin who 'kept all the sayings' concerning her Son, 'in her heart.' And remember that as we hearken to and receive God's words, so will He hearken and receive our supplications." —St. Francis de Sales

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

In our continuing series of catechesis on the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, today we turn our attention to the ecclesial dimension of the Church's liturgical prayer. Far from avoiding the world and its needs, all prayer, especially in the entire liturgy, is the essential dimension of our humanity. In our prayer we unite ourselves with Jesus to offer praise and thanksgiving to God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit. In a particular way, Saint Paul VI expressed a longing that the Liturgy of the Hours, the daily public prayer of the Church, would be prayed by all the members of Christ's Body. In this way, we will allow the Holy Spirit to breathe into each thought and action, inspiring a deeper experience of the Paschal Mystery. My brothers and sisters, may we find the spiritual nourishment necessary on our earthly pilgrimage by joining with the whole Church in her liturgical prayer as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

LEO XIV
Wednesday, 5 August 2026
Catechesis. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council.
III. Constitution *Sacrosanctum Concilium*.
5. *The prayer of the Church*

Brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

In this catechesis, we will resume our reflection on the Conciliar Constitution on the liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (SC). Today we will look at the ecclesial dimension of liturgical prayer.

As the Apostle Paul suggests, it is the Holy Spirit who teaches us to pray. From the day of Pentecost, the Spirit dwells in the Church, inspiring every one of her activities and, in particular, prayer. The life of the first community, born in Jerusalem after the Pasch of Jesus, is life in the Spirit given by the risen Lord. "From that time onwards, the Church has never failed to come together to celebrate the paschal mystery: reading those things 'which were in all the scriptures concerning him', celebrating the Eucharist in which 'the victory and triumph of his death are again made present', and at the same time giving thanks 'to God for his unspeakable gift' in Christ Jesus, 'in praise of his glory', through the power of the Holy Spirit".

In our time, in contexts dominated by an efficiency-driven and consumerist mindset, prayer may seem pointless and trivial. In a world where science and technology claim to provide all the answers, praying may seem like a form of escapism. Furthermore, even in many Christian families, the tradition of prayer is no longer passed on, whilst many people risk confusing it with just another technique of a psychological nature aimed at personal well-being. Prayer, however, as a fundamental dimension of our humanity, is worth rediscovering in its true form.

The Constitution *Sacrosanctum Concilium* took this need seriously. This greatly pleased Pope Saint Paul VI, who, on promulgating this first document approved by the Second Vatican Council, stated: "God comes first; prayer is our primary duty; the liturgy is the primary source of the divine life communicated to us, the primary school of our spiritual life".

Indeed, in the Constitution, the term "prayer" designates the liturgy as a whole. This perspective is decisive, for it guided the liturgical reform, making the active participation of the faithful its central pillar. The liturgy is presented first and foremost as the place of encounter, of God's initiative in drawing near to humanity in his Son, "the Word made flesh, anointed by the Holy Spirit", to whom we may respond "through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit", that is to say, thanks to "the very prayer which Christ Himself, together with His Body, addresses to the Father".

For this reason, Saint Paul VI ardently desired that the Liturgy of the Hours, the Church's daily public prayer, inseparable from the Eucharist, might deeply permeate, enliven, guide and express all Christian prayer, and effectively nourish the spiritual life of the People of God.

For this desire to be fulfilled, the Liturgy of the Hours needs to be more fully embraced and lived out in the daily lives of the baptized and of the communities. To the many people who wish to learn to pray, especially catechumens, it can offer the path and the school of Christian prayer.

Every week and every day, the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours are the breath of the life of the Church, which makes the Holy Spirit circulate through her Body. In this prayer, Christ "joins the entire community of mankind to Himself, associating it with His own singing of this canticle of divine praise". In this way, day by day, we are ever more united with the Paschal Mystery and conformed to him.

Saint Augustine affirms that "When we speak to God in prayer for mercy, we do not separate the Son from Him; and when the Body of the Son prays, it separates not its Head from itself: and it is one Savior of His Body, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who both prays for us, and prays in us, and is prayed to by us. He prays for us, as our Priest; He prays in us, as our Head; He is prayed to by us, as our God. Let us therefore recognize in Him our words, and His words in us".

Bound to the Eucharist, whose light it prolongs, the Liturgy of the Hours sanctifies the time of our daily lives: in the morning, we begin the day with faith and gratitude; at midday, we ask for the strength to remain faithful amidst our labors; in the evening, once our work is done, Vespers accompany the moment of sunset; at night, we fall asleep entrusting ourselves to God's peace. Each Hour is an act of hope: during our earthly pilgrimage, we keep watch, awaiting with the whole Church the glorious return of the Lord.

