



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 Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time October 19, 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:

Exo 17:8-13; Ps 121:1-2,3-4,5-6,7-8; 2 Tim 3:14-4:2;
Lk 18:1-8

Monday:

Rom 4:20-25; Lk 1:69-70,71-72,73-75; Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday:

Rom 5:12,15b17-19,20b-21; Ps 40:7-8a,8b-9,10,17;
Lk 12:35-38

Wednesday:

Rom 6:12-18; Ps 124:1b-3,4-6,7-8; Lk 12:39-48

Thursday:

Rom 6:19-23; Ps1:1-2,3,4 & 6; Lk 12:49-53

Friday: St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & martyr

Rom 7:18-25a; Ps 119:66,68,76,77,93,94; Lk 12:54-59

Saturday:

Rom 8:1-11; Ps 24:1b-2,3-4ab,5-6; Lk 13:1-9

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 18

4:00 PM - Carol Cecile Bonn

Sunday, October 19

8:00 AM - For Our Parish

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, October 21 - Jim Patrick

Thursday, October 23 - Jim Patrick

Friday, October 24 - Jim Patrick

Weekly Collection 10/11-10/12/25

Budget	\$3,162.00
Collected	\$2,901.00
Short/Over	-\$261.00
YTD+-	+\$3,907.55

Second Collection

This Week World Mission Sunday

Ministers

October 25	October 26	October 26
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Tony DaVino	Denise Gelinas	Pat Hayes
Joe Begic	Betsy Kenney	Wayman Johnson
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, Joe Monahon

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.

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 like to donate in honor or memory of a loved one, please call the church office. The donation is \$25. The candle for October is for Stephanie Matousek Child Birth & Nowell Solenberger 3rd Birthday .

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 November 1st are the McHales. 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 October 18-19 is Cold Cereal.

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection on Persevering Prayer - Luke 18:1-8

In today's gospel, Jesus gently reminds us of the need to pray and not lose heart - this is certainly one of the bigger challenges for our faith.

Persevering in prayer teaches me that God does not need to be informed of my needs or timing. It also calls me to be patient if I feel that God is not hearing me or answering immediately. In a world of instant gratification this can be a difficult task. It is rather "I" who needs to notice that "I" am learning to trust God more, as I become more open to whatever he asks of me and my loved ones, for he always wants what is beneficial for me, but also in his perfect timing.

Although God may not answer our prayers exactly and as quickly as we would like, he tells us to persevere in our requests. As I reflect back on my own life and the difficulties I have faced, I realize that God has never failed me and mysteriously answers in a way that is best for me. I would like to believe that in my advanced years, I am learning to trust a little more in God's provision rather than worrying needlessly or losing hope.

Prayer: I thank you God for your loving care and generosity and ask for the gift of persevering prayer. Renew my failing confidence when your answer is "Wait.... wait... wait a little longer." Amen.

St. Pope John Paul II Quotes

"Remember that you are never alone, Christ is with you on your journey every day of your lives! He has called you and chosen you to live in the freedom of the children of God. Turn to Him in prayer and in love. Ask Him to grant you the courage and strength to live in this freedom always. Walk with Him who is 'the Way, the Truth and the Life.'"

"Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought."

"The future starts today, not tomorrow."

St. John Paul II Feast day: October 22

Pope John Paul II (born **Karol Józef Wojtyła** on May 18, 1920) was head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican City State from October 1978 until his death in 2005. He was the first non-Italian pope since Adrian VI in the 16th century and the third-longest-serving pope in history, after Pius IX and St. Peter.



In his youth, Wojtyła dabbled in stage acting. He graduated from an all-boys high school in Wadowice, Poland, in 1938. In 1942, aware of his call to the priesthood, he began courses in the clandestine seminary of Krakow, run by Cardinal

Adam Stefan Sapieha, archbishop of Krakow. Eventually, Wojtyła rose to the position of Archbishop of Kraków and then a cardinal.

Wojtyła was elected pope on the third day of the October 1978 conclave, becoming one of the youngest popes in history. The conclave was called after the death of John Paul I, who served only 33 days as pope. Wojtyła adopted the name of his predecessor in tribute to him.

John Paul II attempted to improve the catholic Church's relations with Judaism, Islam, and the Eastern Orthodox Church in the spirit of ecumenism, holding atheism as the greatest threat. He maintained the Church's previous positions on such matters as abortion, artificial contraception, the ordination of women, and a celibate clergy. Although he supported the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, he was seen as generally conservative in their interpretation. He emphasized family and identity, while questioning consumerism, hedonism, and the pursuit of wealth. He was one of the most-traveled world leaders in history, visiting 129 countries during his pontificate.

John Paul II died on April 2, 2005, and was succeeded by Benedict XVI. On December 19, 2009, he was proclaimed venerable by Benedict XVI, and on May 1, 2011 (Divine Mercy Sunday), he was beatified. On April 27, 2014, John Paul II was canonized by Francis, alongside John XXIII.

LEO XIV
GENERAL AUDIENCE
Wednesday, 15 October 2025
Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope
IV. The Resurrection of Christ and the Challenges of the Contemporary World
1. The Risen One, the Living Source of Human Hope

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

In the Jubilee Year catechesis, we have retraced the life of Jesus, following the Gospels, from his birth to his death and resurrection. In so doing, our pilgrimage of hope has found its solid foundation, its sure way. In the last part of the journey, we will allow the mystery of Christ, which culminates in the Resurrection, to radiate its light of salvation in contact with the current human and historical reality, with its questions and challenges.

Countless events, full of different nuances and experiences, mark our lives. At times we feel joyful, other times sad, other times fulfilled or stressed, gratified or demotivated. We live busy lives, concentrate on achieving results, and even attain lofty, prestigious goals. Conversely, we remain suspended, precarious, awaiting success and recognition that are delayed or do not arrive at all. In short, we find ourselves experiencing a paradoxical situation: we would like to be happy, yet it is tough to maintain happiness continuously, without any shadows. We come to terms with our limitations and, at the same time, with the irrepressible urge to try to overcome them. Deep down, we feel that we are always missing something.

In truth, we were not created for *lack*, but for *fullness*, to rejoice in life, and life in abundance, according to Jesus' expression in the Gospel of John. This deep desire in our hearts can find its ultimate answer not in roles, not in power, not in having, but in the certainty that there is someone who guarantees this constitutive impulse of our humanity; in the awareness that this expectation will not be disappointed or thwarted. This certainty coincides with hope. This does not mean thinking optimistically: often optimism lets us down, causing our expectations to implode, whereas hope promises and fulfills. The Risen Jesus is the guarantee of this deliverance! He is the wellspring that satisfies our thirst, the infinite thirst for fullness that the Holy Spirit imbues into our hearts. Indeed, the Resurrection of Christ is not a simple event of human history, but the event that transformed it from within.

Let us think about a source of water. What are its characteristics? It quenches thirst and refreshes creatures, irrigates the land, renders fertile and living what would otherwise remain barren. It gives refreshment to the weary traveler, offering him the joy of an oasis of freshness. A wellspring appears as a freely-given gift for nature, for creatures, for human beings. Without water, it is not possible to live.

The Risen One is the living wellspring that does not dry up and does not change. It always stays pure and ready for anyone thirsty. And the more we taste the mystery of God, the more we are attracted to it, without ever becoming completely satiated. Jesus, with his Resurrection, has guaranteed for us a permanent source of life: he is the living one, the lover of life, the victor over all death. Therefore, he can offer us refreshment in our earthly journey and assure us of perfect peace in eternity. Only Jesus, who died and rose again, responds to the most profound questions of our hearts: Is there really a destination for us? Does our existence have any meaning? And the suffering of so many innocents, how can it be redeemed? The Risen Jesus does not bestow upon us an answer "from above" but becomes our companion on this often arduous, painful, and mysterious journey. Only He can fill our empty flask when our thirst becomes unbearable.

He is the destination of our journey. Without his love, the voyage of life would become wandering without a goal, a tragic mistake with a missed destination. We are fragile creatures. Mistakes are part of our humanity; it is the wound of sin that makes us fall, give up, despair. To rise again instead means to get up and stand on our feet. The Risen One guarantees our arrival, leading us home, where we are awaited, loved, and saved. To journey with him means to experience being sustained despite everything, to have our thirst quenched, and to be refreshed in the hardships and struggles that, like heavy stones, threaten to block or divert our history. From Christ's Resurrection springs the hope that gives us a foretaste, despite the fatigue of living, of a deep and joyful calm: that peace the only he can give us in the end. without end.