

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 Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time November 15 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:
Pro 31:10-13,19-20,30-31; Ps 128:1-2,3,4-5; 1 The 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30

Monday:
Rev 1:1-4;2:1-5; Ps 1:1-2,3,4 & 6; Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday: St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious
Rev 3:1-6, 14-22; Ps 15:2-3a,3bc-4ab,5; Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday:
Rev 4:1-11; Ps 150:1b-2,3-4,5-56;Lk 19:11-28

Thursday:
Rev 5:1-10; Ps 149:1b-2,3-4,5-6a & 9b;Lk 19:41-44

Friday:
Rev 10:8-11; Ps 119:14,24,72,103,111,131; Lk 19:45-48

Saturday: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Rev 11:4-12; Ps 144:1,2,9-10; Lk 20:27-40

Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil November 14
4:00 PM - For our Parish.
Sunday, November 15
8:00 AM - For our Parish
10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, November 17
8:15 AM - For our Parish
Thursday, November 19
8:15 AM - For our Parish
Friday, November 20
8:15 AM - For our Parish

Ministers

November 21	November 22	November 22
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Joel Southwisk	Perry Stanley	Rosa DiStefano
Cindy McHale	Kelly Stanley	Gergg 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 Monahon, Michele 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.

Tabernacle Candle

The candle for November: The Carriero & George Families, living and deceased, and Jake Beckert's 17th birthday.

Weekly Collection 11/7-11/8/26

Budget	$4,325.00
Collected	$2,815.00
Short/Over	-$1,510.00
YTD+-	-$6,6879.19

Second Collections

November 15 - Catholic Campaign for Human Development
November 22 - International Ministries & Missions

Our 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 November 21-22: Thanksgiving items.

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.

Monthly After Mass Social

The Monthly After Mass Social is the first Saturday of the month after the 4:00 p.m Mass.

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#.

New Missals

The Missals for 2027 will be available in the entrance to the Social Hall the weekends of November 14 &15, and November 21 & 22. The cost is $8/missal. Please put your money in the box for the votive lights.

Feed 5K Ministry

We are asking volunteers to help make 100 lunches for the people at the Salvation Army Shelter during the week of Thanksgiving. We need 100 sandwiches, 100 bottles of water, 100 bags of chips, 100 nutrition/fruit bars and 100 bananas. If you are interested in helping with this charitable project, please contact Tony DaVino at: doctony.47@gmail.com

Secular Franciscans

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at 6:15 p.m., St. Michael Hall, 138 Fairfield St. SE.

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection: Parable of Talents
Matthew 25:14-30

Today's parable of the talents is a fitting text to be applied to our everyday life. Like a family expecting each member to 'pull their weight' at home, so the idea of proper care requires each of us to have an awareness of how God has shared his creation with us, and asks for co-operation in looking after our shared inheritance.

It is about the Kingdom, which is entrusted to us as the Master leaves for a long journey. When he returns, he expects his servants to have put to work the riches he had entrusted to them.

Today's gospel makes it very clear that far more is expected of us. We are expected to make an active and positive contribution to the work of the Kingdom and to the Christian community as the Body of Christ. In practice, that might mean taking an active part in our Church, in our parish, volunteering for social justice initiatives etc. Do I risk the many things and qualities I have been given for the growth of the Kingdom? What will the Master tell me when he calls me to account?

As Pope Francis puts it in his Evangelii Gaudium I, 3; II, 83 which calls believers to radiate light and communicate life: "Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of the joy of evangelization!

Prayer: In thanksgiving, I dwell on my gifts, firstly looking at them in wonder – my life, my health, my faith, and especially the people who fill my life and who have made me who I am. Lord, give me the grace to express my gratitude through how I live, and the grace to know how to respect the talents of others. Amen.

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Prayer for the Souls in Purgatory

My Jesus, by the sorrows You suffered in Your agony in the Garden, in Your scourging and crowning with thorns, on the way to Calvary, in Your crucifixion and death, have mercy on the souls in Purgatory, and especially on those that are most forsaken; deliver them from the terrible torments they endure; call them and admit them to Your most sweet embrace in Paradise. Amen.

Black Saints and Holy People of God

St. Charles Lwanga

St. Charles Lwanga is a martyr and saint. He is one of 22 Ugandan martyrs. He defended his young adult companions against the homosexual demands of the Buganda king and instructed them in their Catholic faith. He is the patron saint of African Catholic Youth Action, converts, and torture victims.

Ven. Augustus Tolton

While not yet canonized, Ven. Augustus Tolton is on the path toward sainthood. He was the first-known black Catholic priest in the United States after his ordination in 1886. Born into slavery and baptized Catholic in the United States, Ven. Tolton studied for the priesthood and was ordained in Rome. He was sent to the United States to administer to the black community.

St. Josephine Bakhita

St. Josephine Bakhita was kidnapped and sold as a slave in Sudan at age 7. Her owner brought her to Italy, where she became a babysitter. She eventually felt drawn to the Catholic Church. Her owners wanted to take her back to Sudan, but she refused. Slavery was illegal in Italy, so a court ruled her free. She later joined the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa religious community.

St. Perpetua and St. Felicity

St. Perpetua was a young, well-educated noblewoman and mother living in Carthage in North Africa. Her mother was a Christian and her father was a pagan. Despite the pleas of her father to deny her faith, Perpetua fearlessly proclaimed it. At the age of 22, she was jailed for her faith. While in prison she continued to care for her infant child and put up with tortures to make her renounce her faith. St. Felicity was a pregnant slave girl who was imprisoned with her. After imprisonment and torture, Felicity was condemned to die. A few days before her execution, Felicity gave birth to a daughter, who was secretly taken away to be cared for by some of the faithful. Their names are forever mentioned together in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

Servant of God Mary Lange

Servant of God Mary Lange founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence. This religious community allowed African-American women to enter religious life. They educated black Catholic children as their primary mission.

HOLY MASS

HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV

Square in front of the Basilica of Our Lady of Luján (Luján)
Wednesday, 11 November 2026

Dear brothers and sisters,

The reading from the prophet Isaiah that we have just heard invites us to imagine different types of terrain: the desert, the steppe and the mountain. All of them are called to bloom and sing for joy as they reflect the glory of God. Isaiah goes on to say that just as God causes water to spring forth in the parched land, making it more fertile, so too he quenches the deep thirst of human beings and heals them of their illnesses, opening the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf. These images speak to us of a new era and a promise of liberation. Do not be afraid; God is with us. Rejoice and be strong with the strength that comes from the Lord. In the Magnificat, the Virgin Mary overflows with joy in the Lord and praises him for the wonders that he works in her.

With a heart full of gratitude for the many gifts God has poured out upon this country, I would like to propose a journey that mirrors the one we experience in the celebration of every Eucharist. It consists of four steps: reconciliation, enlightenment through the word of God, communion, and being sent forth on mission. Mary, standing at the foot of the Cross, unites herself to the Eucharistic Sacrifice and accompanies us on this journey.

Many of our brothers and sisters — or even we ourselves and our families — may currently be living through moments of Calvary, suffering from illness, poverty, unemployment, discrimination, or family breakdown, among other problems. In those dark moments, we understand Mary's experience at the foot of the Cross, with her mother's heart torn with grief. In that most terrible moment of her life, Mary received a new mission from her Son, embracing all humanity in her mother's heart. We are likewise called to receive God's grace and to undergo processes of forgiveness and reconciliation that renew peace, hope, and charity within us. Let us acknowledge our faults, and ask the Lord for forgiveness; forgiveness for that beggar, for that tear I caused to fall; forgiveness for those eyes that, when they met mine, I refused to look at. We also need to reconcile ourselves with our past and present to build a new future where love has the final word.

Let us recall the disciples' experience on the road to Emmaus. They were walking along with sad faces, and were discouraged and weighed down by the harsh reality of the Lord's death. At that moment, the risen Jesus appeared and explained the Scriptures to them. When they shared a meal together, they recognized his presence, which had set their hearts on fire. That is often our experience too, for we also can feel tired, disappointed, or disoriented. We need a compass, a guide, and we already have it in Sacred Scripture, for the word of God is a lamp for our steps and a light to our path.

After reconciliation and enlightenment through the word, we are called to communion. Christ himself invites us to his table, and at that table we are all welcome. There is a place for everyone, especially those most in need: the poor and the hungry, migrants, the sick and prisoners, whom the Lord identifies with. The Eucharist, which is the sacrament of unity, nurtures our belonging to the Body of Christ and teaches us how to share. The diverse sensibilities present in the Church and the strong convictions that animate each person are a source of richness if they remain anchored in the certainty that unity is a gift received and a responsibility to be fulfilled. Communion with Christ does not cause us to withdraw into our personal affairs, nor does it lead us to take advantage of others' needs or shirk our responsibilities. Rather, it impels us to be an active part of a community, to share the gifts we have received freely, and to offer what little we have for the good of many.

We are invited to demonstrate charity in the manner of Christ. Mary also teaches us that way at the foot of the Cross, for there on Calvary, both she and her Son loved to the end. Loving like Christ is not a matter of doing great things, but of remaining faithful at the Lord's side, just as his mother did, both in times of suffering and in times of joy, glory, and light. It is a matter of looking at life through heavenly eyes and painting each day with the color of hope. We know that there are many difficulties, but the Lord also inspires heroic acts of charity in our people.

The final step is the sending forth on mission, just as we are encouraged at the end of Holy Mass. Go and evangelize; proclaim the joy of the Gospel through words and good deeds. As Saint Augustine tells us: "Love and do whatever you please: if you are silent, be silent out of love; if you cry out, do so out of love; if you correct, correct out of love; if you forgive, forgive out of love. May the root of charity dwell within you; from that root, nothing but good can spring forth.