



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.

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time *August 3, 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:

Ecc 1:2;2:21-23;Ps 90:3-4,5-6,12-13,14 & 17; Col 3:1-5,9-11; Lk 12:13-21

Monday: St. John Vianney, Priest

Num 11:4b-15; Ps 81: 12-13,14-15,16-17; Mt 14:13-21

Tuesday:

Num 12:1-13; Ps 51:3-4,5-6ab, 6cd-7,12-13; Mt 14:22-36

Wednesday: Transfiguration of the Lord

Dan 7:9-10,13-14; Ps 97: 1-2,5-6,9; 2 Pet 1:16-19; Lk 9:28b-36

Thursday:

Num 20:1-13; Ps 95: 1-2,6-7,8-9; Mt 16:13-23

Friday: St. Dominic, Priest

Deu 4:32-40; Ps 77:12-13,14-15,16 & 21; Mt 16:24-28

Saturday:

Deu 6:4-13; Ps 18:2-3a,3bc-4, 47 & 51; Mt 17:14-20

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 2

4:00 PM - For our Parish

Sunday, August 3

8:00 AM - For our Parish

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, August 5 - For our Parish

Thursday, August 7 - For our Parish

Friday, August 8 - For our Parish

Ministers

August 9	August 10	August 10
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Tony DaVino	Peter Srednicki	Anita Brown
Joe Begic	Betsy Kenney	Karen Uhle
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

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 August candle is for the birthdays of Connor James Brady (7 yrs.), George Heim, and Kristine Heath.

Weekly Collection 7/26-7/27/25

Budget	\$3,162.00
Collected	\$2,496.15
Short/Over	-\$665.85
YTD+/-	+\$1,628.15

Second Collection August 10

Disaster Assistance

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 August 2nd is Holder & Rose. If you would like to host a social, contact the office: 803-649-3203.

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 August 16-17 is: Muffin Mixes.

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.

Pizza & Ice Cream Social for Altar Servers

The Knights of Columbus Council 3684 will host a Pizza & Ice Cream Social on Friday, August 8, 6:30 p.m. at the Columbus Club for all Altar Servers who serve in the parishes of St. Mary Help of Christians, Our Lady of the Valley and St Gerard and their families. This event is free for the servers and their families. Please RSVP to at GK3684@proton.me

“Receiving Communion means entering
into communion with Jesus Christ.

What is given us here is not a piece of a body,
not a thing, but him, the Resurrected one himself
The person who shares himself with us in love.

This means that receiving Communion
is always a personal act.”

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection on What Matters - Luke 12:13-21

In our Western society, we are driven to acquire more wealth, more possessions, more status. Today's gospel is the parable for our own times, where most of us seem obsessed with the idea of accumulating more and more possessions, as if the value of our life depends on how much we possess. Today, Jesus reminds us that, when we leave all this behind, we will be asked what spiritual riches we have accumulated. Our good deeds are the only thing that will outlive us.

This rich man does not come across as wicked or evil but as selfish, greedy, and preoccupied with himself to the exclusion of others – a rich man living for this world and this life only. He is thinking only of himself, with no awareness of the needs of others, despite his own abundance. Jesus is cautioning his listeners against any kind of greed. He tells them that their lives are not made secure by what they own.

Saint Ignatius, a mystic and theologian, saw that God gives us everything, even his very self to us, so far as he can. His motto was: "for the greater glory of God". Ignatius speaks to today's gospel message: "Let no man's place, or dignity, or riches, puff him up; and let no man's low condition or poverty abase him. For the chief points are faith towards God, hope towards Christ, the enjoyment of those good things for which we look, and love towards God and our neighbor."

Prayer: Jesus, how patient you are with us as we struggle with our earthly desires. We want more and look with envy on what others seem to have. Help us to be grateful for what we have, for your goodness to us, and for who we are as children of God. Lord, make us grounded enough to want only to love and humbly serve others as best we can, and help us to do everything for the greater glory of God. Amen.

The Pope's intention for August: For mutual coexistence

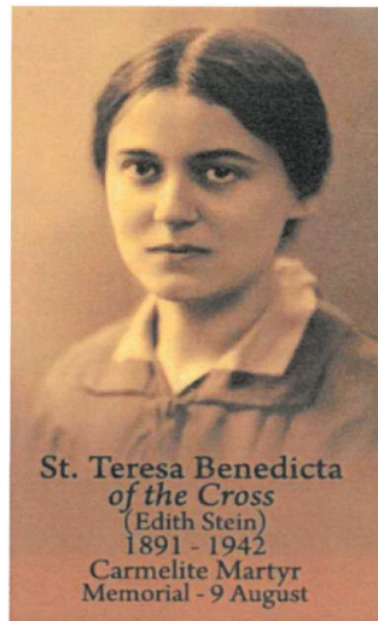
Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)

Feast day: August 9

Edith Stein was born in 1891 in Breslau, Poland, the youngest child of a large Jewish family. She was an outstanding student and was well versed in philosophy with a particular interest in phenomenology. Eventually she became interested in the Catholic Faith, and in 1922, she was baptized at the Cathedral Church in Cologne, Germany.

Eleven years later Edith entered the Cologne Carmel. Because of the ramifications of politics in Germany, Edith, whose name in religion was Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, was sent to the Carmel at Echt, Holland.



When the Nazis conquered Holland, Teresa was arrested, and, with her sister Rose, was sent to the concentration camp at Auschwitz. On August 7 early in the morning, 987 Jews were sent to Auschwitz. It was probably on August 9 that Sister Teresa Benedicta a Cruce, her sister, and many of her people were gassed.

When Edith Stein was beatified in Cologne on 1 May 1987, the Church honored "a daughter of Israel", as Pope John Paul II put it, who, as a Catholic during Nazi persecution, remained faithful to the crucified Lord Jesus Christ and, as a Jew, to her people in loving faithfulness.

Out of the unspeakable human suffering caused by the Nazis in western Europe in the 1930's and 1940's, there blossomed the beautiful life of dedication, consecration, prayer, fasting, and penance of Saint Teresa. Even though her life was snuffed out by the satanic evil of genocide, her memory stands as a light undimmed in the midst of evil, darkness, and suffering. She was canonized on October 11, 1998.

LEO XIV
GENERAL AUDIENCE
Wednesday, 30 July 2025

Cycle of Catechesis - Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our hope. II. The life of Jesus. 12. The healing of a deaf man with a speech impediment. They were exceedingly astonished and they said, "He has done all things well; he even makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak." (Mk 7:37)

Dear brothers and sisters,

With this catechesis, we conclude our journey through the public life of Jesus, marked by encounters, parables, and healings. This time in which we live also needs healing. Our world is marked by a climate of violence and hatred that demeans human dignity. We live in a society that is becoming ill due to a kind of "bulimia" of social media connections: we are hyperconnected, bombarded by images, sometimes false or distorted. We are overwhelmed by countless messages that stir within us a storm of contradictory emotions.

In this scenario, it is possible that within us arises the desire to turn everything off. We may come to prefer not to feel anything anymore. Even our words risk being misunderstood, and we may be tempted to close ourselves in silence, into a lack of communication where, despite our closeness, we are no longer able to say to one another the simplest and profound things.

In this regard, I would like to reflect on a passage from the Gospel of Mark that presents us with a man who cannot speak or hear. Just as it can sometimes happen to us, perhaps this man chose not to speak anymore because he did not feel understood; he chose to shut off every voice because he had been disappointed and wounded by what he had heard. It is not he who goes to Jesus to be healed, but others bring him. One may think that the people who take him to the Master are concerned about his isolation. The Christian community, however, has also seen in these people an image of the Church, which accompanies each person to Jesus so that they may listen to His word. The episode takes place in pagan territory, so we are in a context where other voices tend to drown out God's voice.

Jesus' behavior may initially seem strange because He takes this person aside. In this way, He seems to emphasize his isolation, but on closer look, it helps us to understand what lies behind the silence and closure of this man, as if Jesus had perceived his need for intimacy and closeness.

Before anything else, Jesus offers him silent closeness, through gestures that speak of a profound encounter: He touches this man's ears and tongue. Jesus does not use many words; He says only what is necessary in that moment: "Be opened!". Mark uses the word in Aramaic—*Eph'phatha*—as though to let us hear, almost "in person," its sound and breath. This beautiful and straightforward word contains the invitation that Jesus addresses to this man who had stopped listening and speaking. It is as if Jesus were saying to him: "Be opened to this world that frightens you! Be opened to the relationships that have disappointed you! Be opened to the life you have given up facing." Closing in on oneself is never a solution.

After the encounter with Jesus, that person not only begins to speak again, but he does so "plainly." This adverb, inserted by the Evangelist, seems to suggest something deeper about the reasons for his silence. Perhaps this man had stopped speaking because he felt he was saying things the wrong way, maybe he felt inadequate. All of us experience what it means to be misunderstood, to feel that we are not truly heard. All of us need to ask the Lord to heal our way of communicating, not only so that we may be more effective, but also so that we may avoid wounding others with our words.

To begin speaking correctly again is the start of a journey; it is not yet the destination. In fact, Jesus forbids that man from talking about what has happened to him. To truly know Jesus, one must complete a journey; one must remain with Him and pass through His Passion. When we have seen Him humiliated and suffering, when we have experienced the saving power of His Cross, then we can say that we have truly come to know Him. There are no shortcuts to becoming disciples of Jesus.

Let us ask the Lord that we may learn to communicate with honesty and prudence. Let us pray for all those who have been wounded by the words of others. Let us pray for the Church that she may never fail in her mission to lead people to Jesus, so that they may hear His Word, be healed by it, and in turn become bearers of His message of salvation.