



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 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time October 5, 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:

Hab 1:2-3;2:2-4; Ps 95:1-2,6-7,8-9; 2 Tim 1:6-8,13-14; Lk 17:5-10

Monday:

Jona 1:1-2:2,11; Jona 2:3,4,5,8; Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday: Our Lady of The Rosary

Jona 3:1-10; Ps 130:1b-2,3-4ab,7-8; Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday:

Jona 4:1-11; Ps 86:3-4,5-6,9-10; Lk 11:1-4

Thursday:

Mal 3:13-20b; Ps 1:1-2,3,4 & 6; Lk 11:5-13

Friday:

Joel 1:13-15;2:1-2; Ps 9:2-3,6 & 16,8-9; Lk 11:15-26

Saturday:

Joel 4:12-21; Ps 97:1-2,5-6,11-12; Lk 11:27-28

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 4

4:00 PM - Loretta Bofeiovic

Sunday, October 5

8:00 AM - For Our Parish

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, October 7 - Jim Patrick

Thursday, October 9 - Jim Patrick

Friday, October 10 - Jim Patrick

Ministers

October 11	October 12	October 12
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Michele Bullington	Denise Galinas	Cathy Ciani
Joel Southwick	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, Joan Lacombe, Casey Bay, Dennis HooChung

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#.

Weekly Collection 9/27-9/28/25

Budget	\$3,162.00
Collected	\$3,329.00
Short/Over	+\$167.00
YTD+-	+\$1,944.40

Second Collection

October 19th World mission Sunday

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 October 4th are the Coopers. 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.

Faith, Fun & Fellowship

The St Clare of Assisi Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order gathers together on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 PM at St Michael Hall, 138 Fairfield St., Aiken. Following in the footsteps of Francis; The Gospel to Life and Life to the Gospel: For information contact Tony, Email Doctony.47@gmail.com

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection on Faith - Luke 17:5-10

In today's gospel, Jesus draws our attention to the greatness hidden in something so tiny – a mustard seed. So often I have worried about the state of my faith. The temptation to obsess over my faith also can become a distraction to the kind of faith that Jesus is teaching us today. Let us dwell in wonder of Jesus' words: if your faith is the size of a small seed, it is enough. Nothing that we do can be considered to be above and beyond the call of duty.

Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe. -
Saint Augustine

We grow in faith as we act in faith. Faith, even in small quantities, has great power, especially when a person of faith taps into God's power, which makes all things possible. God empowers those who truly follow him to do great things.

I think faith is the small mustard seed of opportunities every day.

It really is a daily thing where you seize those little mustard seed opportunities and then see what God does. - Mark Batterson

God can work through us too, beyond all our hopes and dreams.

Prayer: I pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal to me what I ought to do and I ask God to give me the strength and the courage to do it. Lord, fill me with your unlimited love so that I can share that love with a needy world. Amen.

Prayer of Cardinal Newman

May the Lord support us all the day long, Till the shades lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in his mercy may he give us a safe lodging, and holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

St. John Henry Newman Feast day: October 9

John Henry Newman was an English Catholic theologian, academic, philosopher, historian, writer, and poet. Originally an evangelical academic at the University of Oxford and a priest in the Church of England, Newman was drawn to the high church tradition of Anglicanism. He became one of the more notable leaders of the Oxford Movement, an influential grouping of Anglicans who wished to restore to the Church of England many Catholic beliefs and liturgical rituals from before the English Reformation.

In 1845, Newman resigned his teaching post at Oxford University, officially left the Church of England, and was received into the Catholic Church. He was ordained as a priest and continued as an influential religious leader. In 1879, he was created a cardinal by Pope Leo XIII in recognition of his services to the cause of the Catholic Church in England.



The path to sainthood for Saint John Henry Newman culminated in beatification and, later, canonization. His life, marked by miracles of faith and a strong connection with the divine, was recognized by the Church as worthy of eternal honor. The process embodied a celebration of his lasting witness to the faith and his ability to guide souls toward heaven.

In 2010, Pope Benedict XVI beatified Newman in London. Benedict noted Newman's emphasis on the vital place of revealed religion in civilized society, but also praised his pastoral zeal for the sick, the poor, the bereaved, and those in prison.

Pope Francis canonized Newman in October 2019. Saint John Henry Newman's liturgical feast is celebrated on October 9.. He was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIV, on July 31, 2025.

Pope's Intention for October For collaboration between different religious traditions

Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

LEO XIV
GENERAL AUDIENCE

Wednesday, 1st October 2025

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope. III. The Passover of Jesus.

9. The Resurrection. “Peace be with you!” (Jn 20:21)

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

The center of our faith and the heart of our hope are firmly rooted in the resurrection of Christ. When we read the Gospels carefully, we realize that this mystery is surprising not only because a man – the Son of God – rose from the dead, but also because of the way he decided to do so. Indeed, Jesus’ resurrection is not a bombastic triumph, nor is it revenge or retaliation against his enemies. It is a wonderful testimony to how love is capable of rising again after a great defeat to continue its unstoppable journey.

When we get up again after a trauma caused by others, often the first reaction is anger, the desire to make someone pay for what we have suffered. The Risen One does not react in this way. When he emerges from the underworld of death, Jesus does not take revenge. He does not return with gestures of power, but rather with meekness; he manifests the joy of a love greater than any wound and stronger than any betrayal.

The Risen One does not feel any need to reiterate or affirm his own superiority. He appears to his friends – the disciples – and he does so with extreme discretion, without forcing the pace of their capacity for acceptance. His only desire is to return to communion with them, helping them to overcome the sense of guilt. We see this very well in the Upper Room, where the Lord appears to his friends who are enclosed in fear. It is a moment that expresses extraordinary power: Jesus, after descending into the abysses of death to liberate those who were imprisoned there, enters the closed room of those who are paralyzed by fear, bringing them a gift that no one would have dared to hope for: peace.

His greeting is simple, almost ordinary: “*Peace be with you!*”. However, it is accompanied by a gesture so beautiful that it is virtually disconcerting: Jesus shows the disciples his hands and his side, bearing the marks of the Passion. Why show his wounds to those who, in those dramatic hours, had denied and abandoned him? Why not hide those signs of pain and avoid reopening the wound of shame?

Yet, the Gospel says that when they saw the Lord, the disciples rejoiced. The reason is profound: Jesus is now fully reconciled with everything he has suffered. There is not a shadow of resentment. The wounds serve not to reproach, but to confirm a love stronger than any infidelity. They are the proof that, even in the moment of our failure, God did not retreat. He did not give up on us. In this way, the Lord shows himself to be naked and defenseless. He does not demand, he does not hold us to ransom. His is a love that does not humiliate; it is the peace of one who has suffered for love and can now finally affirm that it was worthwhile.

Instead, we often mask our wounds out of pride or for fear of appearing weak. We say, “it doesn’t matter”, “it is all in the past”, but we are not truly at peace with the betrayals that have wounded us. At times, we prefer to hide our effort to forgive so as not to appear vulnerable and to risk suffering again. Jesus does not. He offers his wounds as a guarantee of forgiveness. And he shows that the Resurrection is not the erasure of the past, but its transfiguration into a hope of mercy.

Then, the Lord repeats: “*Peace be with you!*”. And he adds, “As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” With these words, he entrusts the apostles with a task that is not so much a power as a responsibility: to be instruments of reconciliation in the world. As if he said: “Who will be able to proclaim the merciful face of the Father, if not you, who have experienced failure and forgiveness?”.

Jesus breathes on them and gives them the Holy Spirit. It is the same Spirit who sustained him in obedience to the Father and in love even to the cross. From that moment, the apostles will no longer be able to remain silent about what they have seen and heard: that God forgives, lifts, and restores trust.

This is the heart of the mission of the Church: not to administer power over others, but to communicate the joy of those who are loved precisely when they did not deserve it. It is the strength that gave rise to the Christian communities and enabled them to grow: men and women who discovered the beauty of returning to life to provide it to others.

Dear brothers and sisters, we too are sent. The Lord shows us his wounds and says: *Peace be with you*. Do not be afraid to show your wounds healed by mercy. Do not be afraid to draw close to those who are trapped in fear or guilt. May the breath of the Spirit make us, too, witnesses of this peace and this love that is stronger than any defeat.

