



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 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time September 6, 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:

Eze 33:7-9; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7,8-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

Monday:

1 Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5:5-6,7,12; Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday: The Nativity of The Blessed Virgin

Mic 5:1-4a; Ps 13:6ab,6c; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 1:1-16,18-23

Wednesday: St. Peter claver, Priest

1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45:11-12,14-15,16-17; Lk 6:20-26

Thursday:

1 Cor 8:01b-7,11-13; Ps 139:1b-3,13-14ab,23-24; Lk 6:27-38

Friday:

1 Cor 9:16-19,22b-27; Ps 84:3,4,5-6,12; Lk 6:39-42

Saturday:

1 Cor 10:14-22; Ps 116:12-13,17-18; Lk 6:43-49

Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil September 5

4:00 PM - Matthew Tomenec

Sunday, September 6

8:00 AM - Jimmy Boles, Roger Gelinas, Richard Smoot

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, September 8

8:15 Mass - Krista Ragan (D)

Thursday - September 10

15 AM - Anthony Snyder (BDAY)

Friday, September 11

8:15 AM - The Lockemerrs (anniversary)

Ministers

<u>September 12</u>	<u>September 13</u>	<u>September 13</u>
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Tony DaVino	Peter Srednicki	Erin Kramer
Cindy McHale	Jack Kline	Gregg Wright
Joan Hesik	Betsy Kenney	Gregg Wright

Pray for our Sick

Rosa Johnson, Rich Borst, John Burke, Krystal Ortiz, Michell Novotny, Casey Bay, Dennis HooChung, Joe Monahan, Michelle 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.

Weekly Collection 8/29-8/30/26

Budget	\$4,325.00
Collected	\$2,217.70
Short/Over	-\$2,107.30
YTD+/-	-\$4,076.40

Second Collection

September 13th The Catholic University of America

Tabernacle Candle

In accordance with traditional custom, a special lamp fueled by oil or wax should be kept alight near the tabernacle to indicate and honor the presence of Christ. The candle for September is for Howard Hadlock, birthday memorial, and Jack Holder, birthday memorial.

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 September 19-20 is Fruit Cups or Canned Fruit.

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.

Monthly After Mass Social

The Monthly After Mass Social is the first Saturday of the month after the 4:00 p.m. The hosts for September 5th are the McHales. If you would like to host a social, contact the parish office: 803-649-3203.

Sunday After Mass Social

The Sunday After Mass social is September 20 after the 10 a.m. Mass. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the back entrance to the social hall.

Bible Study

Bible Study classes resume on Friday, September 11th. 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#.

Deacon Chuck's Corner
Reflection: Being Community
Matthew 18:15-20

In today's Gospel, Jesus is gently reminding us that by being members of the church community, we are responsible for one another. This passage makes us uncomfortable, because it deals with conflict within the church. This is never an easy task and our advice risks being rejected. It helps to remember that the goal is reconciliation and forgiveness.

When we approach God in community, even a community of two or three, he is already there with us. Jesus is Emmanuel, "God is with us". He too is with us in our Church community.

We have a responsibility for each other and for the common good of our church and communities. Jesus' message is one of reconciliation, not retribution. It emphasizes the role of dialogue and that we should at all times seek consensus.

To what extent do I seek consensus, or do I rather work to make sure that my will prevails?

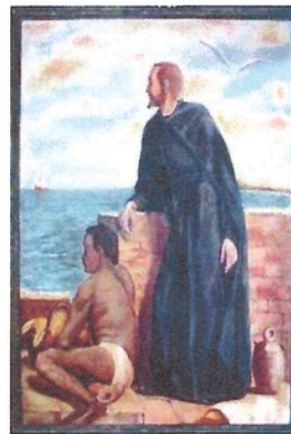
Prayer: Jesus you tell us that where two or three are gathered in your name you are there with us, Let us trust and believe in what you say and seek your wisdom in resolving difficult situations. Amen.

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

Dear brothers and sisters, in our continuing series of catecheses on the documents of the Second Vatican Council, today we begin our reflection on the Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*. This Document focuses on the Church's pastoral responsibility to engage with the contemporary world, sharing in its joys and sorrows, and calls for a commitment to conversion, bearing witness to Christ's work, and advocating for the poor and marginalized. The Church is also to be attentive to the signs of the times, interpreting them in the light of the Gospel, thereby addressing pressing issues such as the technological progress that benefits only some and the persistence of widespread poverty. In our own day, marked by profound change and much injustice, each of us, then, is called to play our part in welcoming and listening to the deepest questions and longings of the human heart, making present to all the merciful love of Christ our Savior.

St. Peter Claver
Feast day: September 9

St. Peter Claver was born at Verdu, Catalonia, Spain, in 1580, of impoverished parents descended from ancient and distinguished families. He studied at the Jesuit college of Barcelona, entered the Jesuit novitiate at Tarragona in 1602 and took his final vows on August 8th, 1604. While studying philosophy at Majorca, the young religious was influenced by St. Alphonsus Rodriguez to go to the Indies and save "millions of perishing souls."



In 1610, he landed at Cartagena (modern Colombia), the principle slave market of the New World, where a thousand slaves were landed every month. After his ordination in 1616, he dedicated himself by special vow to the service of the Negro slaves—a work that was to last for thirty-three years. He labored unceasingly for the salvation of the African

slaves and the abolition of the Negro slave trade, and the love he lavished on them was something that transcended the natural order.

Boarding the slave ships as they entered the harbor, he would hurry to the revolting inferno of the hold, and offer whatever poor refreshments he could afford; he would care for the sick and dying, and instruct the slaves through Negro catechists before administering the Sacraments. Through his efforts three hundred thousand souls entered the Church. Furthermore, he did not lose sight of his converts when they left the ships, but followed them to the plantations to which they were sent, encouraged them to live as Christians, and prevailed on their masters to treat them humanely. He died in 1654.

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The Pope's Intention for September
For the care of water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

LEO XIV
Wednesday, 2 September 2026
Catechesis. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council.
IV. Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et spes* (GS 1–10)
1. *The Church: Listening to and Serving the World*

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

In today's meeting, we will begin reflecting on the Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, which the Second Vatican Council intended to focus on a fundamental theme: the relationship between the Church and the contemporary world. Saint John XXIII, as early as his inaugural address of 11 October 1962, had sought to take issue with the "prophets of doom" who, "though burning with zeal for religion, go about saying that our times, when compared with past centuries, are entirely worse; and go so far as to behave as if they had nothing to learn from history." Hence the task entrusted to the Council Fathers: "In the present state of human events, in which humanity appears to be entering a new order of things, one must rather see the mysterious plans of Divine Providence, which are brought to fulfillment in due course through the work of men, and often beyond their expectations, and which, with wisdom, arrange everything, even adverse human affairs, for the good of the Church

Three years later, the promulgation of *Gaudium et Spes* recognized in this discernment an essential element of the nature of the Church, describing her pastoral character as constitutive; hence the definition of "pastoral Constitution". It is not a question of naïve optimism, but rather a renewed fidelity to the Mystery of Christ who, by becoming incarnate, chooses to share our life: He made Himself "like His brethren in every respect" and took upon Himself the consequences of sin, dying "as a ransom for all." This sharing in our humanity is the path that Christ calls the Church to follow; hence, the Conciliar Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* begins by declaring that the Church makes her own "the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted."

This sharing calls us to leave behind passivity and indifference in the face of current events, history, and people's lives, especially amid the rapid and profound changes we are experiencing today. We cannot remain as unengaged spectators; rather, we must listen with our hearts, allow ourselves to be challenged, and become involved. With Christ and sustained by the power of His Spirit, believers are called to take on the burdens of their brothers and sisters, especially those who are crushed by injustice, discrimination, and violence. Indeed, only in sharing and commitment is it possible to arrive at adequate responses, always supported by the certainty that "the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

In this regard, proximity towards humanity opens the way to a deeper understanding of events and of Revelation itself; and, in the same vein, *Gaudium et Spes* recalls that "the Church has always had the duty of scrutinizing the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel." This Conciliar Constitution therefore recalled the Church to an ongoing commitment to conversion, to bear witness that she is not motivated by "earthly ambition", but seeks "a solitary goal: to carry forward the work of Christ under the lead of the befriending Spirit. And Christ entered this world to give witness to the truth, to rescue and not to sit in judgment, to serve and not be served."

This is not, in fact, merely a moral imperative. Pope Francis reminded us that for the Church, "the option for the poor is primarily a theological category rather than a cultural, sociological, political or philosophical one... We are called to find Christ in them, to lend our voice to their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through them."

Christian solidarity commits us to engaging with reality and also to unmasking the contradictions that characterize personal and social life in the contemporary world: for example, scientific and technological progress, which constantly offers new possibilities, but only to some, and which human beings do not always succeed in "subjecting to [their] own welfare"; or a clearer understanding of the "laws of society", accompanied, however, by uncertainties "about the direction to give" them; or, again, a greater abundance of "wealth, resources and economic power", which, unfortunately, today as in the days of the Council, leaves "a huge proportion of the world's citizens still tormented by hunger and poverty"; or a shared awareness that the future of the planet is at stake, coupled with an inability to renounce selfish consumption and the illusion that war is an effective means of building peace.

In a time marked by profound changes, giving rise to worrying imbalances, the Church is called to serve the human person, listening to and welcoming the deepest questions of their heart and the longings that dwell within them, pointing to Christ as "the key, the focal point and the goal of ... all human history". Therefore, in the Church, at every level and in every age, it is necessary to achieve the merciful *kenosis* of Christ, who "did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant ... and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross".

Dear brothers and sisters, may joy and hope – *gaudium et spes* – be the distinctive features of a Church that proclaims and bears witness to the Gospel, drawing close to the women and men of our time.