



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.

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time *July 13, 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:

Deu 30:10-14; Ps 69:14,17,30-31,33-34,36,37; Col 1:15-20; Lk 10:25-37

Monday: St Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin

Exo 1:8-14,22; Ps 124:1b-3,4-6,7-8; Mt 10:34-11:1

Tuesday: St Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor of The Church

Exo 2:1-15a; Ps 69:3,14,30-31,33-34; Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday:

Exo 3:1-6,9-12; Ps 103:1b-2,3-4,6-7; Mt 11:25-27

Thursday:

Exo 3:13-20; Ps 105:1 & 5,8-9,24-25,26-27; My 11:28-30

Friday:

Exo 11:10-12:14; Ps 116:12-13,15 & 16bc,17-18; Mt 12:1-8

Saturday:

Exo 12:37-42; Ps 136:1 & 23-24,10-12,13-15 Mt 12:14_21

Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 12

4:00 PM - For our Parish

Sunday, July 13

8:00 AM - For our Parish

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, July 15 - For our Parish

Thursday, July 17 - For our Parish

Friday, July 18 - For our Parish

Ministers

July 19	July 20	July 20
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Diane Begic	Denise Gelinas	Pat Hayes
Cindy McHale	Kelly Stanley	Karen Uhle
Joan Hesik	Mike Solenberger	

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.

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.

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

Bible Study

There are no Bible Study classes during the summer months. Classes will resume on September 5.

New FY 25-26 Weekly Collection 7/5-7/6/25

Budget	\$3,162.00
Collected	\$6,268.00
Short/Over	+\$3,106.00
YTD+-	+\$3,106.00

Second Collection July 20

Retired and infirm priests

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 July candle is for Ada White, Matt & Kyndall Solenberger Birthdays

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.

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 this weekend of July 19-20 is: Cookies!!

A Night Prayer

Jesus Christ, my God, I adore You and thank You for all the graces You have given me this day. I offer You my sleep and all the moments of this night. I place myself and all my loved ones, wherever they may be, in Your sacred side and under the mantle of Our Blessed Mother. Let Your holy angels stand watch and keep us in peace. Amen.

The Pope's intention for July: For formation in discernment

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

Reflection: The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37

Today's gospel is perhaps one of the most moving parables in Scripture. Why? Because it cuts to the roots of the world's wayward prejudices. The parable of the good Samaritan sounds as relevant today as it was in the times of Jesus. Remember, in Jesus' time, the Jews and the Samaritans despised each other; much like today we experience the divisions in our country and world about racism, religion, and social injustice. Modern urban life trains us to walk on by, to be like the priest or Levite in the parable. Today, our neighbor can be anybody we encounter, especially those in need of help. The opportunities are boundless to give care and to act in a spirit of love and mercy. How might I change my attitude to those in need and how might I be more merciful to them.

Pope Francis, preaching on this reading, said: "The priest and the Levite see but ignore; they look but they do not offer to help. Yet there is no true worship if it is not translated into service to neighbor. Let us never forget this: before the suffering of so many people exhausted by hunger, violence and injustice, we cannot remain spectators."

It challenges us on many levels - especially the inclusiveness of everyone as our neighbor regardless of their ethnicity, color of skin, religion, or social standing. We need to be asking ourselves constantly - what makes us go to the other side? What makes us avoid some type of people in need?

Prayer: God, please help me to preserve the compassion to which Jesus calls us. Forgive me when I pass by on the other side. Help me overcome my selfishness and fears that get in the way of my standing for justice. Make me a good Samaritan in my time and place. Amen.

Let us be renewed by God's mercy...and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation, and make justice and peace flourish.

Pope Francis

St. Kateri Tekakwitha is the first Native American to be recognized as a saint by the Catholic Church. She was born in 1656 in the Mohawk village of Ossernenon. Her mother was an Algonquin who was captured by the Mohawks and who took a Mohawk chief for her husband.

She contracted smallpox as a four-year-old child, which scarred her skin. The scars were a source of humiliation in her youth. She was commonly seen wearing a blanket to hide her face. Her entire family died during the outbreak. Kateri Tekakwitha was subsequently raised by her uncle, who was the chief of a Mohawk clan.



Kateri was known as a skilled worker who was diligent and patient. However, she refused to marry. When her adoptive parents proposed a suitor to her, she refused to entertain the proposal. They punished her by giving her more work to do, but she did not give in. Instead, she remained quiet and diligent. Eventually, they were forced to relent and accept that she had no interest in marriage.

At age 19, Kateri Tekakwitha converted to Catholicism, taking a vow of chastity and pledging to marry only Jesus Christ. Her decision was very unpopular with her adoptive parents and their neighbors. Some of her neighbors started rumors of sorcery. To avoid persecution, she traveled to a Christian native community south of Montreal.

Kateri was very devout and was known for her steadfast devotion. She was also very sickly. Her practices of self-mortification and denial may not have helped her health. Sadly, just five years after her conversion to Catholicism, she became ill and passed away at age 24, on April 17, 1680.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on Oct. 21, 2012. She is the patroness of ecology and the environment, people in exile, and Native Americans.

POPE LEO XIV
GENERAL AUDIENCE
*Wednesday, 28 May 2025***

Dear brothers and sisters,

We will continue to meditate on the parables of the Gospel, which offer an opportunity to change our perspective and open ourselves to hope. The lack of hope, at times, is because we fixate on a certain rigid and closed way of seeing things, and the parables help us to look at them from another point of view.

Today, I would like to talk to you about an expert, knowledgeable person, a doctor of the Law, who needs to change his perspective because he is concentrated on himself and does not notice others. He questions Jesus on how eternal life is “inherited”, using an expression that intends it as an unequivocal right. But behind this question, perhaps it is precisely the need for attention that is concealed: the only word he asks Jesus to explain is the term “neighbor”, which means *he who is near*.

Jesus, therefore, tells a parable that is a path for transforming that question, to pass from *Who loves me?* to *Who has loved?* The first is an immature question, the second is the question of an adult who has understood the meaning of his life. The first question is the one we ask when we sit in the corner and wait, the second is the one that drives us to set out on the path.

The parable that Jesus tells has, in fact, a road as its setting, and it is a difficult and impervious road, like life. It is the road traveled by a man going down from Jerusalem, the city on the mountain, to Jericho, the city below sea level. It is an image that already foreshadows what might happen: it happens that the man is attacked, beaten, robbed, and left half dead. It is the experience that happens when situations, people, sometimes even those we have trusted, take everything from us and leave us in the middle of the road.

Life is made up of encounters, and in these encounters, we emerge for what we are. We find ourselves in front of others, faced with their fragility and weakness, and we can decide what to do: to take care of them or pretend nothing is wrong. A priest and a Levite go down that same road. They are people who serve in the Temple of Jerusalem, who live in the sacred space. And yet, the practice of worship does not automatically lead to being compassionate. Indeed, before being a religious matter, compassion is a question of humanity! Before being believers, we are called to be human.

We can imagine that, after staying a long time in Jerusalem, the priest and the Levite are in a hurry to return home. It is indeed haste, so present in our lives, that very often prevents us from feeling compassion. Those who think that their journey must take precedence are not willing to stop for another.

But here comes someone who can stop: he is a Samaritan, a person belonging to a despised people. In his case, the text does not specify the direction, but only says that he was traveling. Religiosity does not enter into this. This Samaritan simply stops because he is a man faced with another man in need of help.

Compassion is expressed through practical gestures. The Evangelist Luke ponders the actions of the Samaritan, whom we call “good”, but in the text he is simply a person: a Samaritan approaches, because if you want to help someone, you cannot think of keeping your distance, you have to get involved, get dirty, perhaps be contaminated; he binds the wounds after cleaning them with oil and wine; he loads him onto his horse, taking on the burden, because one who truly helps if one is willing to feel the weight of the other’s pain; he takes him to an inn where he spends money, “two silver coins”, more or less two days of work; and he undertakes to return and eventually pay more, because the other is not a package to deliver, but someone to care for.

Dear brothers and sisters, when will we too be capable of interrupting our journey and having compassion? When we understand that the wounded man in the street represents each one of us. And then the memory of all the times that Jesus stopped to take care of us will make us more capable of compassion.

Let us pray, then, that we can grow in humanity, so that our relationships may be truer and richer in compassion. Let us ask the Heart of Jesus for the grace to have the same feelings as him.