



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 Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 5, 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:

Zec 9:9-10; Ps 145:1-2,8-9,10-11,13-14; Rom 8:9,11-13; Mt 11:25-30

Monday:

Hos 2:16,17c-18,21-22; Ps 145:2-3,4-5,6-7,8-9; Mt 9:18-26

Tuesday:

Hos 10:1-3,7-8,12; Ps 115:3-4,5-6,7ab-8,12; Ps 105:2-3,4-5,6-7; Mt 9:32-38

Wednesday:

Hos 10:1-3,7-8,12; Ps 105:2-3,4-5,6-7; Mt 10:1-7

Thursday:

Hos 11:1-4,8e-9; Ps 80:2acm & 3b,15-16; Mt 10:7-15

Friday:

Hos 14:2-10; Ps 51:3-4,8-9,12-13, 14 & 17; Mt 10:16-23

Saturday: St. Benedict, Abbot

Isa 6:1-8; Ps 93:1ab,1cd-2,5; Mt 10:24-33

Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil July 4

4:00 PM - Penny Bessire (D)

Sunday, July 5

8:00 AM - The Srednicki Family

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, July 7

8:15 Mass - For our Parish

Thursday - July 9

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Friday, June 10

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Ministers

July 11

4:00 PM Vigil

Tony DaVino

Cindy McHale

Joan Hesik

July 12

8:00 AM

Chuck Kenney

Betsy Kenney

Betsy Kenney

July 12

10:00 AM

Pat Hayes

Gregg Wright

Gregg Wright

Pray for our Sick

Rosa Johnson, Rich Borst, Jeffrey Hesik, John Burke, Krystal Ortiz, Michell Novotny, Casey Bay, Dennis HooChung, Joe Monahan, Michelle Bullington, Janet Menefee

St. Gerard Prayer Line Prayer

Watch, O Lord, with those who wake or watch or weep and give your angels charge over all those who sleep. Tend to your sick ones, give rest to your weary ones, bless your dying ones, soothe your suffering ones, pity your afflicted ones, shield your joyous ones. We place our sick under your care and humbly ask that you restore them to health again. Grant us the grace to acknowledge your will and know that whatever you do, you do for the love of us. May all who suffer know that they are joined to Christ in His suffering for the salvation of the world. Amen

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.

Weekly Collection 6/27-6/28/26

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| Budget | \$3,799.00 |
| Collected | \$2,717.00 |
| Short/Over | -\$ 1,080.00 |
| YTD+- | +\$15,062.41 |

Second Collection:

July 18-19 - Retired and Infirm Priests of the Diocese

Tabernacle Candle

A special candle should burn continuously near the tabernacle to indicate the presence of Christ. The candle for July: Matt Solenberger and Ada White birthdays. If you would like to donate in honor or memory of a loved one, please call the Parish Office. The donation is \$25. The candle offering is for one month.

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 July 18-19 : 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.

Monthly After Mass Social

The Monthly After Mass Social is the first Saturday of the month after the 4:00 p.m. Mass. Because the first Saturday in July is the Fourth of July, the social will be on July 11. The hosts are the Holder and Rose families.

Sunday After Mass Social

The Sunday After Mass social is July 19th after the 10 a.m. Mass. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the back entrance to the social hall.

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.

Pilgrim Virgin Statue

The Pilgrim Virgin is waiting to visit your home. The Legion of Mary will bring the statue to your home and pick it up after one week. If interested, contact the church office.

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection : Resting in Jesus - Matthew 11:25-30

In today's reading, Jesus bares his soul: he speaks of his unique relationship to the Father and of his deep desire to embrace us in our weakness and weariness. Jesus, the miracle worker, invites us to learn from him for he is gentle and humble of heart.

The people who were listening to Jesus' words seem weary. Jesus' words sound like a stream of living water. These people are not powerful, they are not educated, however they are able to understand Jesus' message. I pause and think about the fact that I have been entrusted with this message too and I give thanks! I don't have to wait for God's message to be explained to me, but trust that God's spirit is already present and active in me. I pray I will recognize the mysteries and truth God offers me daily.

The last lines today have been a huge help and consolation to millions of people over the years. We all know the times of carrying heavy burdens of failure, pain, loss, shame, guilt, depression, hopelessness. It is easy to feel weighed down when I struggle on my own. Sometimes life's burdens can overwhelm us and we live with uncertainty and the fear that we will be swallowed up in despair and lack of hope. Here in this passage of Scripture, Jesus offers us a lifeline:

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." I let this gentle yet powerful invitation touch my heart. I reconsider what it is like to carry my burdens with Jesus' help. He promises that his attitudes of humility and gentleness will make a difference. As I listen to its echoes, I try to get in touch with my own weariness and the heavy burdens I am carrying - and respond with trust that I will find rest.

Prayer: I thank God for all he has revealed to me particularly through scripture, through the Church, and through prayer. I pray, Sacred Heart of Jesus, make my heart like unto yours! Amen.

The Pope's Intention for July For respect of human life

Let us pray for the respect of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

St. Benedict of Nursia

St. Benedict of Nursia, born in central Italy, is one of the most influential figures in Christian history. He is widely regarded as the father of Western monasticism. Benedict was raised in a noble Roman family and received a classical education in Rome. Disillusioned by the city's moral decay, he chose to leave behind worldly life and pursue solitude and holiness.

He first lived as a hermit in a cave at Subiaco, where he practiced intense prayer and asceticism. Over time, his reputation for wisdom and holiness attracted disciples. Eventually, he organized them into monastic communities and laid the foundation for a new form of religious life. Around 529, Benedict established the monastery of Monte Cassino, located between Rome and Naples. It became a model of monastic life. It was here that he wrote the Rule of St. Benedict, a document that would become the cornerstone of Western monasticism. The Rule emphasizes a balanced life of prayer, work, and study, and it promotes values such as humility, obedience, community living, and moderation. Considered the Patriarch of Western monasticism, he was proclaimed Patron of Europe in 1964. His feast day is July 11.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

Thinking about becoming catholic or know someone else thinking about it? Looking to explore Christianity or come back to your Catholic roots? We'd love to walk this journey of faith with you. Please contact Deacon Chuck Cooper 815-985-3636 or Linda Cooper 815-985-3637 for more information.

St. Mary Help of Christians Parish Gift Shop

You are invited to visit our Gift Shop and browse our selection of Catholic gifts and devotional items! Discover holy water bottles, rosaries, rosary bracelets, Bibles, children's books, prayer cards, greeting cards, statues, fonts, icons, and sacramental gifts for Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, and other special occasions.

July Gift Shop Hours:

- Wednesdays: 9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- Saturdays: 4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. & after the 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
- Sundays: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Gift Shop will be closed for the month of August, reopening after Labor Day.

HOLY MASS ON THE SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

HOMILY OF POPE LEO XIV

St Peter's Basilica, Monday, 29 June 2026

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today, we commemorate Saints Peter and Paul, the patron saints of the city and Diocese of Rome. One was chosen by Jesus as shepherd of his flock, the other as apostle to the Gentiles. In them, we venerate two pillars of the Church.

Peter, guardian of the People of God, is often portrayed in the New Testament as striving to preserve communion among the brothers. It is he who, after a night of seemingly fruitless labor on the Sea of Galilee, says to the Master, "We caught nothing. But on your word, I will release the net". He then sets sail, taking the others with him. Again, while many are turning away from the Lord after the difficult discourse on the Bread of Life, it is he who says to the Messiah, "To whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life", and remains together with the other eleven. It is he who recognizes Jesus as the Son of God and speaks for all in professing the one faith. Even after the Resurrection, on the shore of the lake, Peter is the first to reach Christ, jumping into the water and swimming ahead of the others to humbly renew his love and receive confirmation of his mission.

Peter remains faithful to this mission even when, in Jerusalem, the question of admitting uncircumcised Gentiles to Baptism threatens to divide the community. He gathers the brothers together, listens to them and, guided by the Holy Spirit, makes a decision that preserves communion and ushers in a new era for the entire People of God. Indeed, he declares, "We believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

This magnanimity does not mean that Peter is perfect. During the Passion, he denies the Master, only later to shed sincere tears of repentance; and Paul himself, in different circumstances, rebukes him for the inconsistency of some of his actions. Yet Peter knows how to acknowledge his mistakes and repent, without becoming discouraged and without failing in his mission to proclaim the Gospel and gather Christ's flock, even unto martyrdom — a fate which he suffered here in Rome, not far from where we are gathered.

This faithful and patient concern for unity is expressed by the symbol of the keys, which we often associate with Peter. A key does not break down doors; rather, it opens and closes them by finding the proper levers within and guiding their movements, so that locks may release, and doors turn freely on their hinges, thereby joining rooms together and transforming many isolated spaces into one welcoming home. In the same way, communion within the Church is not built by clinging rigidly to one's own position, but by seeking, in all hearts, points of encounter in the Truth, in whose light alone each person becomes a means of growth for another.

In this light, we can interpret the mission entrusted by the Lord to Peter and his Successors for the benefit of the entire holy People of God. It is a mission to listen to the voice of each person; to discern inspirations; to guide the way; to correct errors; to instruct, encourage, exhort and accompany our brothers and sisters so that, docile to the action of the same Spirit, they may cooperate in the salvation of one another and of all humanity. Moreover, Peter's example is an invitation to every Christian to become a builder of unity, placing God at the center of one's life and drawing close to one's brothers and sisters, attentive to their circumstances and needs. In this way, we learn to live with one another in charity, so that the message might be fully proclaimed.

This is also the teaching of Paul, the other great apostle we celebrate today and the tireless herald of the Good News. He, too, has distinctive symbols: the book and the sword, which are closely linked. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews explains this when he writes, "the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword," capable of penetrating "until it divides soul from spirit" and of discerning "the thoughts and intentions of the heart".

This is what God accomplished in the heart of the young Saul, winning him over, bringing him first to conversion to the Gospel and giving him a new name, and then sending him to proclaim it throughout the world. Finally, like Peter, he was to bear witness to the Gospel even to the point of giving his life in this very city. The apostle to the Gentiles allowed himself to be transformed by the power of God's word, which rescued him from the way of violence and led him onto the path of love.

Saint Augustine, commenting on Paul's conversion and mission, said, "As he was traveling [to Damascus] with a heart filled with threats and murder, he was called by name and thrown to the ground by the heavenly voice, that is, by the Word who was calling him". "God took the persecutor of the Church and made him a messenger of peace. He forgave him all his sins and placed him in a ministry where he could forgive the sins of others".

Let us pray to Saints Peter and Paul that they may sustain us on our journey of communion in the Savior's footsteps. This is the path he has laid out for us, the very thing for which he prayed to the Father at the Last Supper, and the goal toward which he has taught us to aspire with confident hope.