



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.

Our Lord Jesus Christ King of The Universe

November 23, 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:

2 Sam 5:1-3; Ps 122:1-2,3-4,4-5; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43

Monday St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest 7 Companions, Martyrs

Dan 1:1-6,8-20; Dan 3:52,53,54,55,56; Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday:

Dan 2:31-45; Dan 3:57,58,59,60,61; Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday:

Dan 5:1-6,13-14,16-17,23-28; Dan 3:62,63,64,65,66,67; Lk 21:12-19

Thursday:

Dan 6:12-28; Dan 3:68,69,70,71,72,73,74; Lk 21:20-28

Friday:

Dan 7:2-14; Da 3:75,76,77,78,79,80,81; Lk 21:29-33

Saturday:

Dan 7:15-27; Dan 3: 82,83,84,85,86,87; Lk 21:34-36

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 22

4:00 PM - Souls in Purgatory

Sunday, November 23

8:00 AM - Roger Gelinis

10:00 AM - Deceased Members of Legion of Mary

Tuesday, November 25

8:15 AM - Susan & Peter Chadbourn (L)

Thursday November 27

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Friday November 28

8:15 AM - For Our Parish

Ministers

<u>November 29</u>	<u>November 30</u>	<u>November 30</u>
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Diane Begic	Peter Srednicki	Rosa DiStefano
Joel Southwick	Kelly Stanley	Jackie Brown
Joan Hesik	Kelly Stanley	

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, Joan Lacombe, Casey Bay, Dennis HooChung, Joe Monahon

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.

New Missals

The New Missals are available for purchase in the entrance to the Social Hall. The cost is \$6.00 per missal and \$2.00 per cover. Please put your money in the box for the votive lights.

Weekly Collection 11/15-11/16/25

Budget	\$3,799.00
Collected	\$5,140.00
Short/Over	+\$1,341.00
YTD+-	-\$5,272.84

Second Collection - November 23

International Ministries & Missions

Bible Study

Acts of the Apostles study and discussion will begin on Friday, December 5th. If you've been wanting to visit our Bible Study or do something extra for Advent, this is a great opportunity. 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#.

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 November is for Jake Beckert-16th birthday and Dan Solenberger 71st Birthday

Monthly After Mass Social

The Monthly After Mass Social is the first Saturday of the month after the 4:00 p.m. Mass. If you would like to host a social, contact the office: 803-649-3203. The host for December 6th is Kari Dawson-Ekeland.

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 foods for the weekends of November 15-16; and 22-23: Thanksgiving dinner items. This food will be delivered to the OLV pantry on November 24.

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection on Christ the King – Luke 23:35-43

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. This day marks the end of one Liturgical calendar and moves us on to the next Liturgical year. In today's gospel, we are reminded of the mockery and suffering of Jesus on the Cross. His interaction with the criminal on the cross next to him challenges us to expand our notions of who deserves mercy.

Luke presents the second criminal who asks something of Jesus, but his earnest request contrasts the first criminal's selfish, impertinent demand. This second criminal accepts in utter sincerity the inscription's identification of Jesus as "King", asking that he be remembered when Jesus comes into his kingdom. He speaks to Jesus in a startlingly personal and intimate fashion, addressing Jesus directly by name and not with a sarcastic use of a title.

In response, Jesus grants him salvation. Jesus finds this criminal worthy of being in God's presence with all the righteous (including Jesus himself), despite the fact that by the Roman state and by his own admission he had been "justly" considered worthy of condemnation. Jesus offers direct access to salvation to persons worthy of the most extreme punishment for their sins. His reign is not a death-dealing system intent on punishment, but a "paradise" that "today" extends even to those whom we do not think deserve it.

Prayer: Jesus you show us that life is not about power or wealth, but LOVE, over and over again through your Life, Death, and Resurrection. We are reminded today that you are Lord, Savior and King. Through you, we can find strength and courage to live our lives as true Catholics not just within the Church's walls, but out in the world. Amen.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.
Amen.



To the Giver of all good gifts, We give thanks--
For the simple, everyday things
That make every day blessed and precious.

The birds, the trees, the honeybees
The sun, the moon, the stars of night.
The warmth of friends, the soft glow of candlelight.

The ability to love and be loved
Guided by heavenly direction from above.
To be welcomed by the stranger,
For companions at work
For children who fill us
with moments of delight.
For laughter that chases away
the darkness and gloom of night.
For family and friends, gifts without end.

For flowers that bloom
For grass so fresh and sweet
For all the things that we hear and see
Heavenly Father, we thank Thee.

Heavenly thoughts that give us cause
To ponder and give us thoughtful pause
To fight injustice, war and hate
Countless lives to rehabilitate.

For our young who offer hope for the future
The hope and courage of one more day
Another chance to "get it right."
For Your promise to be with us until the end of time
We wait in joyful hope for Your gift sublime.

The greatest gift one can give is Thanksgiving
From our abundance, we give gifts from what we
can spare
In giving "thanks," we give of ourselves to share.

Joan M. Lacombe
Aiken's Poet Laureate
November, 2023

LEO XIV
GENERAL AUDIENCE
Wednesday, 19 November 2025
Catechesis Cycle – Jubilee 2025: Jesus Christ Our Hope.
IV. The Resurrection of Christ and the Challenges of today's world.
5. Easter spirituality and integral ecology

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

We are reflecting, in this Jubilee Year dedicated to hope, on the relationship between the Resurrection of Christ and the challenges of the contemporary world, that is, our challenges. At times, Jesus, the Living One, wants to ask us too: “Why do you weep? Who do you seek?”. Indeed, challenges cannot be faced alone, and tears are a gift of life when they purify our eyes and liberate our gaze.

John the Evangelist draws our attention to a detail we do not find in the other Gospels: weeping near the empty tomb. Mary Magdalene did not immediately recognize the risen Jesus but thought he was the gardener. Indeed, already narrating the burial of Jesus, at sunset on Good Friday, the text was very precise: “Now in the place where he was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. Because of the Jewish day of Preparation, as the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there”.

Thus, in the peace of the Sabbath and the beauty of a garden, the dramatic struggle between darkness and light that began with the betrayal, arrest, abandonment, condemnation, humiliation, and killing of the Son, who “having loved his own who were in the world ... loved them to the end”, comes to a close. Cultivating and keeping the garden is the original task that Jesus brought to fulfillment. His last words on the cross – “It is finished” – invite each of us to rediscover the same task, our task. For this reason, “he bowed his head and gave up his spirit”.

Mary Magdalene was not entirely mistaken then, believing she had encountered the gardener! Indeed, she had to hear her own name again and understand her task from the new Man, the one who, in another text of John, says: “Behold, I make all things new.” Pope Francis, with the Encyclical *Laudato si'*, showed us the extreme need for a contemplative gaze. If he is not the custodian of the garden, the human being becomes its destroyer. Christian hope, therefore, responds to the challenges to which all humanity is exposed today by dwelling in the garden where the Crucified One was laid as a seed, to rise again and bear much fruit.

Paradise is not lost, but found again. In this way, the death and resurrection of Jesus are the foundation of a spirituality of integral ecology, without which the words of faith have no hold on reality, and the words of science remain outside the heart. “Ecological culture cannot be reduced to a series of urgent and partial responses to the immediate problems of pollution, environmental decay, and the depletion of natural resources. There needs to be a distinctive way of looking at things, a way of thinking, policies, an educational program, a lifestyle, and a spirituality which together generate resistance.”

For this reason, we speak of an ecological *conversion*, which Christians cannot separate from the reversal of course that Jesus asks of them. A sign of this is Mary’s turning around on that Easter morning: only by conversion after conversion do we pass through that vale of tears to the new Jerusalem. This passage, which begins in the heart and is spiritual, changes history, engages us publicly, and activates solidarity that now protects people and creatures from the longings of wolves, in the name and power of the Lamb-Shepherd.

In this way, the sons and daughters of the Church can now meet millions of young people and other men and women of goodwill who have heard the cry of the poor and the earth, letting it touch their hearts. Many people desire, through a more direct relationship with creation, a new harmony that will lead them beyond so many divisions. On the other hand, still “the heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world”.

May the Spirit give us the ability to listen to the voice of those who have no voice. We will see, then, what the eyes do not yet see: that garden, or Paradise, which we will only reach by welcoming and fulfilling our own task.