



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.

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time *July 20, 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:

Gen 18:1-10 Ps 15:2-3,3-74,5; Col 1:24-28; Lk 10:38-42

Monday:

Exo 14:5-18; Exo 15:1bc-2,3-4,5-6; Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday: St Mary Magdalene

Song of Songs 3:1-4b; Ps 63:2,3-4,5-6,8-9; Jn 20:1-2,11-18

Wednesday:

Exo 16:1-5,9-15; Ps 78:18-19,23-24,25-26,27-28; Mt 13:1-9

Thursday:

Exo 19:1-2,9-11,16-20b; Dan 3:52,53,54,55,56; Mt 13:10-17

Friday: St James, Apostle

2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-2ab,2cd-3,4-5,6; Mt 20:20-28

Saturday: Sts Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Exo 24:3-8; Ps 50:1b-2,5-6,14-15; Mt 13:24-30

Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 19

4:00 PM - For our Parish

Sunday, July 20

8:00 AM - For our Parish

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, July 22 - For our Parish

Thursday, July 24 - For our Parish

Friday, July 25 - For our Parish

Ministers

<u>July 26</u>	<u>July 27</u>	<u>July 27</u>
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Michele Bullington	Peter Srednicki	Janet Menefee
Joe Begic	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, 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.

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

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

Weekly Collection 7/12-7/13/25

Budget	\$3,162.00
Collected	\$2,243.00
Short/Over	-\$919.00
YTD+/-	+\$2,187.00

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 & Kyndal 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 is: Cookies!!

Welcome to St. Gerard Catholic Church

We welcome all who are visiting. If you attend regularly and consider St. Gerard Church your parish, we encourage you to register as a member. You can fill out a registration form, located in the back of the church, and return the form to the parish office. If you have any questions, please contact the office: 803-649-3203.

Flat Roof

The Flat roof of the building has been repaired thanks to the generosity of the parishioners of St. Gerard!!

July 20, 2025
Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection: Sitting At Jesus' Feet
Luke 10:38-42

It is easy to be distracted and fragmented when so many things call for our attention. Jesus today reminds us that spending some time listening to his Word is the one thing that is necessary to help put our lives into proper perspective. Notice that Jesus does not condemn Martha for trying to be a good hostess. Rather, he tells her that she has become anxious and troubled over many things and had lost her perspective of why she was serving in the first place.

In this reading we see Jesus acting contrary once again to acceptable Jewish practice. He is alone, perhaps, in the home of two women who are not his relatives. Furthermore, he is teaching them! Some scripture scholars remark that this gospel is less about work versus prayer and more about breaking boundaries. Most significant in this story is the attitude taken by Mary, sitting attentively at the feet of Jesus listening to what he was saying. Sitting at Jesus' feet or, listening to any rabbi was reserved for men only and they in turn would become teachers of faith. Here, we see Mary stepping out of the traditional role when she should be in the women's quarters and Jesus fully approves, inviting Martha to do the same. Through Mary's example, we learn that both the active and contemplative dimensions of Christian life are necessary.

When there are many things to be done and time seems short, I pray that I might remember what Jesus says; that I might think like Mary even when I have to act like Martha. "There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part." Jesus is highlighting here one of the fundamental requirements for being his follower: namely, to listen to the Word of God, to reflect upon it, and to put it into practice.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me not be so 'worried and distracted by many things' as to neglect giving sufficient time to listening to your Word, prayer and other opportunities for spiritual nourishment. Amen.

St. Mary Magdalene
Feast Day: July 22



St. Mary Magdalene is one of the greatest saints of the Bible and a legendary example of God's mercy and grace.

Mary Magdalene has long been regarded as a prostitute or sexually immoral in Western Christianity, but this is not supported in the scriptures. It is believed she was a Jewish woman who lived among Gentiles, living as they did. The Gospels agree that Mary was originally a great sinner. Jesus cast seven demons out of her when he met her.

There is also debate whether Mary Magdalene is the same woman, a sinner, who weeps and washes Jesus' feet with her hair in the Gospel of John. Scholars are skeptical that this is the same person. Despite the scholarly dispute over her background, what she did in her life after meeting Jesus is much more significant. She was undoubtedly a sinner whom Jesus saved, giving us an example of how no person is beyond the saving grace of God.

Mary Magdalene was a woman who, according to the gospels, traveled with Jesus as one of his followers and helped support his ministry "out of their resources", indicating that she was probably wealthy. She was a witness to his crucifixion and resurrection and mentioned by name twelve times in the canonical gospels, more than most of the apostles and more than any other woman in the gospels, other than Jesus's family.

In 2016, Pope Francis raised the level of liturgical memory on July 22 from memorial to feast, and for her to be referred to as the "Apostle of the Apostles".

She is the patroness of converts, repentant sinners, sexual temptation, pharmacists, tanners, and women, and many other places and causes.

HOMILY OF POPE LEO XIV

Sunday, 13 July 2025

Brothers and sisters,

In today's Gospel, we have heard one of Jesus' most beautiful and moving parables. The parable of the Good Samaritan challenges us to think about our own lives. It troubles our dormant or distracted consciences and warns us about the risk of a complacent faith that is satisfied with the outward observance of the law but incapable of feeling and acting with the same merciful compassion as God. The Gospel story speaks of the compassion that moved the Samaritan to act, but it first speaks of how others regarded the wounded man lying on the roadside after being attacked by robbers. We are told that a priest and a Levite "saw him and passed by". Of the Samaritan, the Gospel says, "he saw him and had compassion on him".

How we look at others is what counts, because it shows what is in our hearts. We can *look and walk by*, or we can *look and be moved with compassion*. There is a superficial seeing, a way of seeing while pretending not to notice. We can see without being touched by the sight. Then there is seeing with the eyes of the heart, looking more closely, empathizing with the other, sharing his or her experience, letting us be touched and challenged. This way of seeing calls into question the way we live our lives and the responsibility we feel towards others.

The parable speaks to us about God's way of seeing us, so that we can learn how to see situations and people with his eyes, full of love and compassion. The Good Samaritan is a figure of Jesus, the Son whom the Father sent, because he regarded humanity with compassion and did not walk by. Like the man in the Gospel who was going from Jerusalem to Jericho, humanity was descending to the depths of death; in our day, we must confront the darkness of evil, suffering, poverty, and death. Yet God has looked upon us with compassion; he wanted to walk our same path and come down among us. Jesus came to heal our wounds and to pour out upon us the balm of his love and mercy.

We can understand why this parable is so challenging. If Christ shows us the face of a compassionate God, then to believe in him and to be his disciples means allowing ourselves to be changed and take on his same feelings. It means learning to have a heart that is moved, eyes that see and do not look away, hands that help others and soothe their wounds, shoulders that bear the burden of those in need.

In today's first reading, we hear the words of Moses, who tells us that obeying the Lord's commandments and turning our minds and hearts to him does not involve multiplying outward acts, but looking to our hearts and discovering that there God has written his law of love. If we realize that Christ loves us and cares for us, we will be moved to love in the same way and to become compassionate as he is. Once we are healed and loved by Christ, we can become witnesses of his love and compassion in our world.

Today we need this "revolution of love." Today, the road that goes from Jerusalem to Jericho is the road traveled by those who descend into sin, suffering, and poverty. It is the road traveled by those weighed down by troubles or hurt by life. The road traveled by all who fall, lose their bearings, and hit rock bottom. The road traveled by those who are stripped, robbed, and victims of tyrannical political systems, of an economy that forces them into poverty, and of wars that kill their dreams and their very lives.

What do we do? Do we look and walk by, or do we open our hearts to others? Are we content to merely do our duty, or to regard our neighbors as only those who are part of our group, who think like us, who share our same nationality or religion? Jesus overturns this way of thinking by presenting us with a Samaritan, a foreigner or heretic, who acts as a neighbor to that wounded man. And he asks us to do the same.

The Samaritan wrote Benedict XVI, "does not ask how far his obligations of solidarity extend. Nor does he ask about the merits required for eternal life. Something else happens: his heart is wrenched open... If the question had been, "Is the Samaritan my neighbor, too?" the answer would have been a clear-cut no, given the situation at the time. But Jesus turns the whole matter on its head: the Samaritan, the foreigner, makes himself the neighbor and shows that I must learn to be a neighbor deep within and that I already have the answer in myself. I must become like someone in love; someone whose heart is open to being shaken up by another's need.

Looking without walking by, allowing the lives of others, whoever they may be, with their needs and troubles, to touch our hearts. That is what makes us neighbors to one another, what generates true fraternity and breaks down walls and barriers. In the end, love prevails and proves more powerful than evil and death. Let us look to Christ, the Good Samaritan. Let us listen again today to his voice. For he says to each of us, "Go and do likewise".