



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 Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time October 12, 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 Kng 5:14-17; Ps 98:1,2-3,3-4; 2 Tim 2:8-13; Lk 17:11-19

Monday:

Rom 1:1-7; Ps 98:1bcde,2-3ab,3cd-4; Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday:

Rom 1:16-25; Ps 19:2-3,4-5; Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday: St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church

Rom 2:1-11; Ps 62:2-3,6-7,9; Lk 11:42-46

Thursday:

Rom 3:21-30; Ps 130:1b-2,3-4,5-6ab; Lk 11:47-54

Friday: St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & martyr

Rom 4:1-8; Ps 12:1b-2,5,11; Lk 12:13-21

Saturday: St. Luke, Evangelist

2 Tim 4:10-17b; Ps 145:10-11,12-13,17-18; Lk 10:1-9

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 11

4:00 PM - Charles Bonn

Sunday, October 12

8:00 AM - For Our Parish

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, October 14 - For our Parish

Thursday, October 16 - Jim Patrick, Joe Monahan

Friday, October 17 - For our Parish

Ministers

October 18	October 19	October 19
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Joel Southwick	Peter Srednicki	The Youth
Cindy McHale	Kelly Stanley	Jackie Brown
Joan Hesik	Betsy Kenney	

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

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

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#.

Weekly Collection 10/4-10/5/25

Budget	\$3,162.00
Collected	\$5,386.15
Short/Over	+\$2,224.15
YTD+-	+\$4,168.55

Second Collection

October 19th World mission Sunday

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 October is for Stephanie Matousek Child Birth & Nowell Solenberger 3rd Birthday .

Monthly After Mass Social

The Monthly After Mass Social is the first Saturday of the month after the 4:00 p.m. Mass. The hosts for November 1st are the McHales. 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 the weekend of October 18-19 is Cold Cereal.

Faith, Fun & Fellowship

The St Clare of Assisi Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order gathers together on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 PM at St Michael Hall, 138 Fairfield St., Aiken. Following in the footsteps of Francis; The Gospel to Life and Life to the Gospel: For information contact Tony, Email Doctony.47@gmail.com

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection on Gratitude – Luke 17:11-19

Jews and Samaritans didn't mix - they avoided each other. Notice that the lepers kept their distance. They were regarded as unclean and forced to live outside of towns and villages.

In today's gospel we hear of ten lepers calling from a distance for healing and Jesus hears their call - they all receive healing on their way to the priests. But only the Samaritan (doubly outcast) returns to Jesus and thanks him.

Brother David Steindl-Rast, founder of the global 'Gratefulness' movement, writes that 'The root of joy is gratefulness...It is not joy that makes us grateful; it is gratitude that makes us joyful.'

St. Ignatius Loyola prized gratitude highly; it is an attitude that keeps us aware of how we are blessed and of who blesses us. He told Jesuits never to omit from their day a recalling with thankfulness of every good thing that happened during the day.

How much do we take God's many blessings for granted, or worse still, as our entitlement? The ten ordinary miracles of my life: health, my senses, family, love, friendship, meaning, nature, beauty, music, laughter. Let me thank God daily for them.

Prayer: I thank you, Lord, for your forgiveness when I am ungrateful. Jesus, let me never take you for granted, but recognize and be thankful for all your gifts and blessings you bestow on me daily. Amen.

For Respect of Life

St. Gerard Majella, women the world over have adopted you as their patron in the joys and fears of childbearing. Today, we invoke your intercession on behalf of the pro-life movement. Pray that all will look upon human life as a gift from God, not as an unwanted burden to be destroyed. Assist the efforts of those on earth who are enlisted in the crusade of promoting the dignity and the value of all human life, particularly the unborn. This we ask through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Mothers' Saint

Gerard Majella is known popularly today as "The Mothers' Saint." It may seem odd that a male religious should be the saint for mothers, mothers-to-be, and those wanting to become mothers. The origin comes from an incident that happened in the last months of his short life.



Once, as St. Gerard was leaving the home of his friends, one of the daughters called after him because he had forgotten his handkerchief. In a moment of prophetic insight, Gerard said, "Keep it. It will be useful to you someday." The handkerchief was treasured as a precious souvenir of Gerard. Years later,

the girl to whom he had given it was in danger of death during childbirth. She remembered the words of Gerard and called for the handkerchief. Almost immediately, the danger passed, and she delivered a healthy child.

This wonderful story was the beginning of devotion to and belief in the miraculous powers of St. Gerard in favor of women who are soon to become mothers, who long to be mothers, or who already are mothers. The Redemptorists were not the first to encourage devotion to St. Gerard. The popularity of this devotion is due to the many Italian women and mothers who believed in and promoted their confidence and trust in the intercession of St. Gerard. It was Italian mothers who spread this devotion throughout Italy and Italian immigrant women who took the devotion with them to many parts of the world.

Gerard Majella was born on April 6, 1726, in Muro, Italy. He was the son of a tailor who died when Gerard was 12, leaving the family in poverty. Gerard attempted to join the Capuchin order but was denied due to his poor health. He was later accepted as a Redemptorist brother.

He was a man of great depth and insight, prayer, and kindness. He was a mystic and a reader of hearts, ever seeking to be perfectly obedient to the will of God. He died from tuberculosis on October 16, 1755, at 29 years of age. Gerard was canonized on December 11, 1904, by Pope Saint Pius X. His feast day is October 16.

LEO XIV
GENERAL AUDIENCE
St Peter's Square
Wednesday, 8 October 2025

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope
10. Rekindling. “Were not our hearts burning within us?” (Lk 24:32)

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today I would like to reflect on a surprising aspect of Christ's Resurrection: his humility. If we reflect on the Gospel accounts, we realize that the risen Lord does nothing spectacular to impose Himself on the faith of His disciples. He does not appear surrounded by hosts of angels, he does not perform spectacular feats, he does not deliver solemn speeches to reveal the secrets of the universe. On the contrary, he approaches discreetly, like any other wayfarer, like a hungry man asking to share some bread.

Mary Magdalene mistakes him for a gardener. The disciples of Emmaus believe him to be a stranger. Peter and the other fishermen think he is just a passerby. We would have expected special effects, signs of power, overwhelming evidence. But the Lord does not seek this: he prefers the language of proximity, of normality, of sharing a meal.

There is a valuable message in this: the Resurrection is not a theatrical coup; it is a silent transformation that fills every human gesture with meaning. The risen Jesus eats a piece of fish in front of his disciples; this is not a marginal detail, but rather confirmation that our bodies, our history, and our relationships are not to be taken lightly. They are destined for the fullness of life. Resurrection does not mean becoming evanescent spirits, but entering into a deeper communion with God and with our brothers and sisters, in a humanity transfigured by love.

In the Pasch of Christ, everything can become grace. Even the most ordinary things: eating, working, waiting, taking care of the house, supporting a friend. The Resurrection does not remove life from time and effort, but changes its meaning and “flavor”. Every gesture performed in gratitude and communion anticipates the Kingdom of God.

However, there is an obstacle that often prevents us from recognizing Christ's presence in our daily lives: the assumption that joy must be free from suffering. The disciples of Emmaus walk sadly because they hoped for a different ending, for a Messiah who did not know the cross. Although they have heard that the tomb is empty, they cannot bring themselves to smile. But Jesus walks alongside them and patiently helps them understand that pain is not the denial of the promise, but the way through which God has manifested the measure of his love. When they are finally seated at the table with him and break bread, their eyes are opened. They realized that their hearts were already burning, even though they did not know it. This is the greatest surprise: to discover that beneath the ashes of disenchantment and weariness there is always a living ember, waiting only to be rekindled.

Christ's resurrection teaches us that no history is so marked by disappointment or sin that it cannot be visited by hope. No fall is definitive, no night is eternal, no wound is destined to remain open forever. However distant, lost, or unworthy we may feel, no distance can extinguish the unfailing power of God's love. Sometimes we think that the Lord comes to visit us only in moments of contemplation or spiritual fervor, when we feel worthy, when our lives appear orderly and bright. Instead, the Risen One is close to us precisely in the darkest places: in our failures, in our frayed relationships, in the daily struggles that weigh on our shoulders, in the doubts that discourage us. Nothing that we are, no fragment of our existence, is foreign to him.

Today, the risen Lord walks alongside each of us, as we travel our paths – those of work and commitment, but also those of suffering and loneliness – and with infinite delicacy asks us to let him warm our hearts. He does not impose himself loudly; he does not demand immediate recognition. He waits patiently for the moment when our eyes will open to see his friendly face, capable of transforming disappointment into hopeful expectation, sadness into gratitude, resignation into hope.

The Risen One desires only to manifest his presence, to become our companion on the road, and to kindle in us the certainty that his life is stronger than any death. Let us ask for the grace to recognize his humble and discreet presence, not to expect a life without trials, to discover that every pain, if inhabited by love, can become a place of communion.

And so, like the disciples of Emmaus, we too return to our homes with hearts burning with joy. A simple joy that does not erase wounds, but illuminates them. A joy that comes from the certainty that the Lord is alive, walks with us, and gives us the possibility to start again at every moment.