



## *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.

# *Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time* *August 10, 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](http://www.stgerardinaiken.org)

### **Readings for The Week**

#### **Sunday:**

Wis 18:6-9; Ps 33:1,12,18-19,20-22; Heb 11:1-2,8-19; Lk 12:32-48

#### **Monday: St. Clare, Virgin**

Deu 10:12-22; Ps 147:12-13,14-15,19-20; Mt 17:22-27

#### **Tuesday:**

Deu 31:1-8; Deu 32:3-4ab,7,8,9 & 12; Mt 18:1-5,10,12-14

#### **Wednesday:**

Deu 34:1-12; Ps 66:1-3a,5 & 8,16-17; Mt 18:15-20

#### **Thursday: St Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr**

Jos 3:7-10a,11,13-17; Ps 114:1-2,3-4,5-6; Mt 18:21-19:1

#### **Friday: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Rev 11:19a;12:1-6a; Ps 45:10,11,12,16; Deu 4:32-40; Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56

#### **Saturday:**

Jos 24:14-29; Ps 16:1-2a, & 5,7-8,11; Mt 19:13-15

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, August 9

4:00 PM - Nancy Schick, George Heim, Rozalie Heim

### Sunday, August 10

8:00 AM - For our Parish

10:00 AM -LaVerne Oatman

Tuesday, August 12 - For our Parish

Thursday, August 14 - Jack Fitzgerald

Friday, August 15 - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
(Mass is at 8:15 a.m.)

### Ministers

August 16	August 17	August 17
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Karen Southwick	Denise Gelinas	Pat Hayes
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

### 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.

## Weekly Collection 8/2-8/3/25

Budget	\$3,162.00
Collected	\$3,696.00
Short/Over	+\$534.00
YTD+/-	+\$2,162.15

## Second Collection August 10

Disaster Assistance

## Tabernacle Candle

The August candle is for the birthdays of Connor James Brady (7 yrs.), George Heim, and Kristine Heath.

## 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 September 6 are the Beckert and Welsh families. If you would like to host a social, contact the office:803-649-3203.

## 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 August 16-17 is: 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.

## 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 of Life and Lite to the Gospel: For information contact Tony, Email [Doctony.47@gmail.com](mailto:Doctony.47@gmail.com)

## Liturgy Committee Meeting

10:00 AM Friday , August 22



**Reflection on Being God's Servant  
Luke 12:32-48**

Today the parable is of the Lord coming at an hour we do not expect. Often we think it means the Lord's second coming, but it could also be taken for the surprise time of our own death. While we are still alive, we can say that every hour is the hour of Jesus, and the parable encourages me to be ready for him and able to recognize him in different guises and ways.

When I was on an airplane to Illinois to visit my kids, I met a woman passenger sitting next to me who was from Arizona. She started telling me about her son transitioning into another gender and cried about her father's recent passing. I was delighted to be a listener for God and to share in someone's personal life even if it was for a short time and likely never see her again. But I hope she sensed a loving God present in her life after we departed. She even hugged my daughter who was picking me up at the airport and told her what a wonderful Dad she had. People all around us are hurting and lonely and sometimes to our surprise or shock they pick us as their temporary confidant and share their struggles. That is what I call "holy ground".

For me a favorite way of praying is to look back on a day or a week and see when and where the Lord was near - in moments of prayer, in times of love, a call to help others or a chance meeting with someone on a plane to give hope and love to another person.

We can find the feelings of gratitude in our lives and recognize them, and allow ourselves to believe that all good gifts come from him. The Lord knocks on our door to be welcomed into our lives, and knocks on the door of our heart to get out and through each of us, bring his love to the world.

**Prayer:** Help me be sensitive to your presence and how I can be your agent of love storing up treasures for heaven. Lord, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, here and in eternity. Amen.

**St. Clare of Assisi  
Feast day: August 11**

Clare was born in Assisi, Italy, in 1193 to wealthy parents. As a young girl, Clare dedicated herself to prayer. When she was 18, she heard St. Francis of Assisi preach during a Lenten service in the church of San Giorgio and asked him to help her live according



to the Gospel, and he vowed to do so. On Palm Sunday in 1212, Clare left her father's home and went to the chapel of the Porziuncula to meet with Francis. While there, Clare's hair was cut off and she was given a plain robe and veil in exchange for her rich gown.

Francis placed Clare in the convent of the Benedictine nuns of San Paulo, near Bastia. Her father and members of her family attempted to convince her to return home. When they tried to use force, she clung to the altar of the church and threw aside her veil to show her cropped hair. It was only after seeing her cropped hair that her family relented and left her in peace. To provide the greater solitude Clare desired, Francis sent her to another monastery of the Benedictine nuns on one of the flanks of Subasio.

Clare's sister joined her at this monastery. Over time, other women joined them, wanting to be brides of Jesus and live with no money. They became known as the "Poor Ladies of San Damiano." They lived a simple life of austerity, seclusion from the world, and poverty, according to a Rule which Francis gave them as a Second Order. St. Clare and her sisters wore no shoes, ate no meat, lived in a poor house, and kept silent most of the time. Their lives consisted of manual labor and prayer.

Following Francis' death, Clare continued to promote her order, fighting off every attempt from each pope trying to impose a rule on her order that would water down their "radical commitment to corporate poverty." On August 9, 1253, Pope Innocent IV declared Clare's rule would serve as the governing rule for Clare's Order of Poor Ladies. Two days later, Clare died at 59. At Pope Innocent's request, the canonization process for Clare began immediately, and two years later, in 1255, Pope Alexander IV canonized Clare as Saint Clare of Assisi.



LEO XIV  
**GENERAL AUDIENCE**  
*Wednesday, 6 August 2025*

**Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope. III. The Passover of Jesus.**

***1. The preparation of the supper. “Make the preparations for us there” (Mk 14:15)***

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

Let us continue our Jubilee journey in the discovery of the face of Christ, in whom our hope takes shape and consistency. Today, we will start to reflect on the mystery of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Let us begin by meditating on a word that seems simple but holds a precious secret of Christian life: *prepare*.

In the Gospel of Mark, it is told that “on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, ‘Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?’”. It is a practical question, but also filled with anticipation. The disciples perceive that something important is about to happen, but they do not know the details. Jesus’ answer seems almost to be a riddle: “Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water.” The details become symbolic: a man carrying a jar, a typically feminine gesture at that time; an upstairs room already prepared; an unknown host. It is as if everything has been arranged in advance. This is precisely the case. In this episode, the Gospel shows that love is not the result of chance, but of a conscious choice. It is not a simple reaction, but a decision that requires preparation. Jesus does not face his passion out of fatalism, but out of fidelity to a path freely and carefully accepted and followed. This is what comforts us: knowing that the gift of his life stems from conscious intention, not an impulse.

That “upstairs room already prepared” tells us that God always precedes us. Even before we realize we need to be welcomed, the Lord has already prepared a space for us where we can recognize ourselves and feel we are his friends. This place is, fundamentally, our heart: a “room” that may seem empty, but which awaits only to be recognized, filled, and cherished. The Passover, which the disciples must prepare, is already present in Jesus’ heart. He has already thought of everything, arranged everything, and decided everything. However, he asks his friends to do their part. This teaches us something essential for our spiritual life: Grace does not eliminate our freedom, but instead awakens it. God’s gift does not eliminate our responsibility, but makes it fruitful.

Today, too, like then, there is a supper to prepare. It is not only a matter of the liturgy, but of our readiness to enter a gesture that transcends us. The Eucharist is not celebrated only at the altar, but also in daily life, where it is possible to experience everything as an offering and giving of thanks. To prepare to celebrate this thanksgiving does not mean doing more, but leaving room. It means removing what encumbers us, reducing our demands, and ceasing to hold unrealistic expectations. Indeed, too often we confuse preparations with illusions. Illusions distract us; preparations guide us. Illusions seek a result; preparations make an encounter possible. True love, the Gospel reminds us, is given before it is reciprocated. It is an anticipatory gift. It is not based on what is received, but on what one wishes to offer. It is what Jesus lived with his disciples: while they still did not understand, while one of them was about to betray him and another to deny him, he was *preparing* a communion supper for them all.

Dear brothers and sisters, we too are invited to “prepare the Passover” of the Lord. Not only the liturgical one, but that of our life too. Every gesture of willingness, every gratuitous act, every forgiveness given in advance, every effort patiently accepted, is a way to prepare a place where God can dwell. We can ask ourselves, then: what spaces in my life do I need to put in order so that they are ready to receive the Lord? What does it mean for me today to “prepare”? Perhaps to renounce a demand, to stop waiting for others to change, to take the first step. Possibly to listen more, to act less, or to learn how to trust in what has already been prepared.

If we accept the invitation to prepare the place of communion with God and among ourselves, we will discover we are surrounded by signs, encounters, and words that guide us towards that room, spacious and already prepared, in which the mystery of an infinite love, sustaining us and always preceding us, is celebrated unceasingly. May the Lord grant us to be humble preparers of his presence. And, in this daily readiness, may that serene trust also grow in us, allowing us to face everything with a free heart. Because where love has been prepared, life can truly flourish.