



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 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time *October 4, 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

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:

Isa 5:1-7; Ps 80:9,12,13-14,15-16,19-20; Phi 4:6-9;
Mt 21:33-43

Monday:

Gal 1:6-12; Ps 111:1b-2,7-8,9 & 10c; Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday:

Gal 1:13-24; Ps 139:1b-3,13-14ab,14c-15; Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday: Our Lady of the Rosary

Gal 2:1-2,7-14; Ps 114:1bc,2; Lk 11:1-4

Thursday:

Gal 3:1-5; Lk 1: 69-70,71-72,73-75; Lk 11:5-13

Friday:

Gal 3:7-14; Ps 111:1b-2,3-4,5-6; Lk 11:15-26

Saturday:

Gal 3:22-29; Ps 105: 2-3,4-5,6-7; Lk 11:27-28

Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil October 3

4:00 PM - For our Parish

Sunday, October 4

8:00 AM - For our Parish

10:00 AM -

Tuesday, October 6

8:15 Mass - For our Parish

Thursday - October 8

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Friday, October 9

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Ministers		
October 10	October 11	October 11
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Linda Cooper	Perry Stanley	Pat Hayes
Cindy McHale	Kelly Stanley	Gregg Wright
Joan Hesik	Betsy Kenney	Gregg Wright

Pray for our Sick

Rosa Johnson, Rich Borst, John Burke, Krystal Ortiz, Michell Novotny, Casey Bay, Jeff Hesik, Dennis HooChung, Joe Monahon, Michelle Bullington, Janet Menefee, Joan Lacombe

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 9/26-9/27/26

Budget	\$4,325.00
Collected	\$6,630.00
Short/Over	+\$2,305.00
YTD+-	-\$3,425.19

Second Collection

October 18 - World Mission Sunday

Tabernacle Candle

In accordance with tradition, a special lamp fueled by oil or wax should be kept alight near the tabernacle to indicate and honor the presence of Christ. The candle for October Nowell Solenberger 4th Birthday

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 17-18 is Cold Cereal. The pantry is also in need of canned chicken and canned tuna.

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. The hosts for October 3rd are the Mayorgas. If you would like to host a social, contact the parish office: 803-649-3203.

Bible Study

Bible Study classes are held on Fridays at 10:00 AM in the church hall. If you can't attend in person, you can participate by teleconference. The phone number is 1-978-990-5273, and the Access Code is 236101#.

Blessing of Animals

October 4th is the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment. We invite you to bring your pets to the Blessing of the Animals at St. Gerard on Sunday, October 4, at 4:00 p.m.

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection: Tending God's Vineyard Matthew 21:33-43

Today's gospel parable is clear - the tenants refuse to pay the rent and the rent collectors get beaten up; then the landlord's son is killed. The listeners understand that the story doesn't end well for the tenants.

This parable is not only about the Jews, it speaks to us as well - every one of us has been given a vineyard by God: Our families, our communities, our work, our church, our environment are all parts of our vineyard. God provides us with everything we need to make our vineyard prosper. God gives us the freedom to run the vineyard as we choose - but it is God's vineyard. We need to be sensitive to what God desires of us and come to know the mind of God about our lives.

One of the saddest statements in this gospel is this innocent comment of the father: 'They will respect my son.' God for ages has tried to enlighten us with wisdom. Finally, as a last resort, God sent his Son among us, thinking "They will respect my son" - listen carefully to and cherish him and his ways. But that too failed. I am frightened to think what would happen if Jesus came into our world today.

Jesus is calling us to look at the vineyards of our lives. So, how's your garden growing? What do you see? Love, intimacy, mercy and forgiveness, justice, generosity, compassion, presence, wisdom, truth, healing, reconciliation, self-surrender, joy, thanksgiving, peace, obedience, humility. Is there fruit? Is there life? What fruits will I produce for the Lord?

Prayer: Jesus, You showed us what divine love is like. Because You love me totally, no matter what I do, may I always wish others well, and pray for them instead of taking revenge when they hurt me. Amen.

The Pope's Intention for October For mental health ministry

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

St. Faustina Kowalska Feast day: October 5



Saint Faustina Kowalska, born on August 25, 1905, in Poland, is known as the "secretary" of Divine Mercy due to her visions of Jesus and the messages she recorded in her diary. Through numerous apparitions, Jesus entrusted her with a specific mission: to proclaim to the world the truth of His merciful love

for every creature. He revealed to her new forms of devotion tied to this truth: the Image of the Divine Mercy with the inscription "Jesus, I trust in You," the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and the Hour of Mercy (3:00 p.m.) to recall the moment of Christ's death.

Sister Faustina died on October 5, 1938, at the age of only 33. She was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2000 and is celebrated for her profound spirituality and commitment to spreading God's mercy. Known as the Apostle of Divine Mercy and Teacher of the Interior Life, Saint Faustina is one of the most significant spiritual figures of the 20th century, loved throughout the world for the mystical depth of her experience and for her mission in the history of the Church. Her name is forever linked to the annual feast of the Divine Mercy, the Divine Mercy chaplet, and the Divine Mercy prayer recited each day at 3 p.m. by many people.

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

In today's catechesis, I would like to share some thoughts on my recent Apostolic Journey to France. The trip was a gift not only for the people of France, but also for me. I thank the Lord and all those who helped organize it. The motto of the Journey was "That the world may have life", and these words characterized the Gospel-centered nature of my meetings throughout the visit. For God alone, through his grace, can restore the Church and renew humanity, and it was evident to me that this is precisely what is occurring in Paris, Lourdes and Metz. Just as Notre-Dame Cathedral was restored, so too is the Church in France being renewed. This is particularly noticeable in the enthusiasm of the young people and the increased number of baptisms. I was especially pleased to make my pilgrimage to Lourdes in order to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, and to ask for her continued intercession for her children, not only in France, but throughout the world. May we learn from her how to establish a civilization of love that upholds human dignity and is marked by lasting peace.

LEO XIV
Wednesday, 30 September 2026
The Apostolic Journey in France and visit to UNESCO

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today I would like to talk about the Apostolic Journey I made to France. It was a great gift for me and for the people of God in that country. I would like to gather my thoughts and impressions of this pastoral visit centered on a single great symbol: the Cathedral of Notre-Dame of Paris. It is precisely Notre-Dame, with the tragedy it has endured, that can symbolically shed light on this entire Apostolic Journey, offering a perspective that I would summarize in one word: rebirth. The Cathedral of Paris, which just seven years ago seemed mortally wounded by a devastating fire, has now been rebuilt and is more splendid than ever. That disaster sparked a positive reaction at every level: some more visible and practical, others more hidden and spiritual.

Its restoration was a test of the possible collaboration between the Church, the State, public institutions and civil society. This approach made it possible to make the most of benefactors' generosity and the expertise of professionals and skilled workers. The synergy for the common good should be the norm for institutions, political and social forces, and all those with civil and economic responsibilities. This is the message I wished to convey to the French authorities, highlighting the fundamental criterion upon which such collaboration must be based: the dignity of the human person. Above all, Notre-Dame is the image of the Church made up of living stones: the holy people of God.

It is interesting to draw a parallel between the celebration of Vespers in the Cathedral and the vigil of young people which took place the same evening in the huge Stade de France in Paris. Two completely different locations, yet two complementary events, almost united spiritually. What united them? The Church, which is not made up of stones or cement, but of people who love Jesus Christ because they have been loved by Him. At Notre-Dame there were priests and deacons, consecrated persons, and pastoral workers; at the stadium, the new French generation. New, I would say, not only in terms of age, but even more so in spirit, in the freedom of heart and faith. Young people who sang and shouted, but who also remained silent, listening. Attentive, emotional faces revealed hearts yearning for truth and love. To them I said with joy: "You are the saints of France!" The Vigil was a great sign of hope.

The same was true – in the smallness that God favors – of the meeting at the *Maison Bakhita*, a shelter for various people in need: one of the many places, fruits of the Gospel, where people commit themselves every day to serving the dignity of the human person with love.

A sign of renewal within the Church in France has been evident for some years now: the remarkable and growing number of young people and adults seeking Baptism. The climax of my visit to the Capital was the Mass in *Place de la Concorde*. There, the sign of rebirth appeared in a surprising way: the liturgical assembly, which in the vast Square brought together the priests, the choir and a remarkable crowd. At the moment of Communion, everyone was able to receive the Eucharist, which was distributed everywhere. This is the true reconstruction, the restoration of the Church that only God can bring about, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary.

And so, it was natural and proper that, after Paris, I should make a pilgrimage to Lourdes to venerate the Mother of the Church, Mary, she who, in the hour of passion and death, keeps alight the lamp of faith and hope. In Lourdes, the Lord, through the maternal care of the Virgin Mary, conveys to everyone, pilgrims and especially those who are sick in body and spirit, a message of hope and rebirth. A message that I wished to openly reaffirm: every human life, in whatever condition, even in the most extreme frailty, retains its inviolable dignity and deserves to be cared for, accompanied and relieved of suffering with human compassion and with the aid of the means offered by science. For this reason, Lourdes represents for the entire world a sanctuary of the civilization of love.

The third and final stage of the Apostolic Journey was the city of Metz, in a region of France and Europe ravaged by the Second World War. There, Robert Schuman, one of the principal inspirers of European unification, carried out his work. Contemporary Europe was indeed born as a project for peace in the wake of the destruction wrought by war. We might say that what happened to Notre-Dame in Paris with the fire was what had happened to Europe during the Second World War. And Europe was reborn, founded on those principles of democracy, solidarity and fraternity amongst peoples, which owe much to its Christian roots. Even today, on these foundations and with this vital "lifeblood," the European project can be renewed in a far more globalized world, where interreligious dialogue plays a role of primary importance.

The theme of my Visit to France was, "That the world may have life". These are Jesus' words, which encapsulate His entire mission of salvation and, during the Journey, fully expressed the Gospel meaning of every encounter. May they now inspire our prayer, as we ask God that this event of grace may bear abundant and lasting fruit.