



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.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 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 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:

Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2,4-5,18-19; 1 Ptr 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

Monday:

Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-2,3-4,15-16; Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday:

Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-11,12-13ab,21; Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday:

Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-2,3-4ab,4cd-5; Jn 15:1-8

Thursday:

Acts 15:7-21; Ps 96:1-2a,2b-3,10; Jn 15:9-11

Friday:

Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-9,10 & 12; Jn 15:12-17

Saturday:

Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-2,3,5; Jn 15:18-21

Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil May 2

8:00 PM - For our Parish

Sunday, May 3

8:00 AM - Jonathan Hewitt & Family (L)

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, May 5

8:15 AM- Kevin Hewitt (L)

Thursday, May 7

8:15 AM- Souls in Purgatory

Friday, May 8

8:15 AM - Souls in Purgatory

Ministers

May 9	May 10	May 10
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Tony DaVino	Perry Stanley	Erin Kramer
Joel Southwick	Kelly Stanley	Gregg Wright
Joan Hesik	Betsy Kenney	Gregg Wright

Pray for our Sick

Rosa Johnson, Ellen Heim, Rich Borst, Jeffrey Hesik, Angelo Perrino, John Burke, Krystal Ortiz, Michell Novotny, Casey Bay, Dennis HooChung, Joe Monahon, Michelle Bullington

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 a.m. in the Parish Center. 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 4/25-4/26/26

Budget	\$3,799.00
Collected	Not Available
Short/Over	
YTD+-	

Second Collection

May 10 - Catholic Charities

May 17 - Catholic Communications Campaign

Tabernacle Candle

A special candle should burn continuously near the tabernacle to indicate the presence of Christ. The candle for May: Margaret & Howard Hadlock, wedding anniversary memorial; Cayla Beckert's 13th birthday.

Lady of the Valley Food Pantry

Our collection for the OLV food pantry is the third weekend of the month. The focus food for the weekend of May 16-17 is Peanut Butter.

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. Mass. The host for May 2 is Dawson -Ekeland. If you would like to host a social, contact the office:803-649-3203.

Sunday After Mass Social

The Sunday After Mass social is May 17, after the 10 a.m. Mass. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the back entrance to the social hall.

Baby Bottle Campaign

On Mother's Day weekend, we will honor our mothers and our patron, St. Gerard, with the start of this year's Baby Bottle Campaign. Take a baby bottle from the back of the church, fill it with your spare change or other donations, and return it on Father's Day. Your donation will help to provide the necessary support to the Life Choices Pregnancy Center.

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection on Jesus' Farewell Discourse John 14:1-12

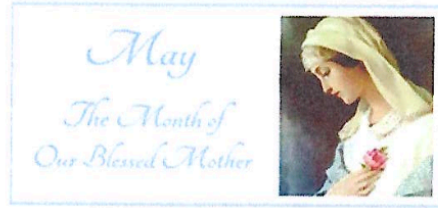
Today's continuation of the Farewell Discourse contains a number of radical lessons for Jesus' disciples to grasp—some quite contrary to our world culture and even our church cultures. In the New Testament, chapters 14–17 of the Gospel of John are known as the Farewell Discourse given by Jesus to his disciples immediately after the conclusion of the Last Supper in Jerusalem, the night before his crucifixion.

In today's reading, Jesus seeks to comfort his disciples. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me." Jesus has been their life for the last three years. They have left family and jobs -- everything -- to follow him and assist him on his mission. And now he is leaving? He is the one they believe to be the Messiah, the Son of God. How can his enemies win? They are confused and discouraged. So Jesus speaks much-needed words of comfort to these men whom he loves.

Jesus is telling them and us, too: My teachings will guide your feet. My presence will sustain your spirit. In all the twists and turns your future path may take, 'I am the Way.' Jesus is asking the disciples and us to open our eyes and hearts to the will of God. He invites us, like the disciples of the past, to look at the depth or perhaps the lack of depth of our own faith in Jesus, or whether our faith is strong or weak.

Thomas à Kempis (1380-1471), a German priest who wrote *The Imitation of Christ*, put it well:

"Follow me. I am the way and the truth and the life. Without the way there is no going; without the truth there is no knowing; without the life there is no living. I am the way which you must follow; the truth which you must believe; the life for which you must hope. I am the inviolable way, the infallible truth, the never-ending life. I am the straightest way; the sovereign truth; life true, life blessed, life uncreated. If you abide in my way you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free, and you shall attain life everlasting."



Prayer to Mary

O Mary, Mother of God and our most gentle Queen, In this month of May, we turn to you with love and devotion. You are the flower of God's creation, the fairest blossom of all humanity. Teach us to follow your example of humility, to say "yes" to God's will in all things, and to carry Christ within our hearts each day. Intercede for us, dearest Mother, that we may grow in faith, hope, and charity. Watch over our families, our parish, and the Church. Bring peace to our hearts and to the world. And lead us always closer to your Son, Jesus, the source of our salvation and eternal joy. Amen

The Pope's Intention for May That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

Summary of the Holy Father's words:*

Dear brothers and sisters, today I'd like to speak about my recent Apostolic Journey to four countries: Algeria, Cameroon, Angola, and Equatorial Guinea. I have long desired to embark on this journey since the beginning of my pontificate, and I now express my heartfelt gratitude to the Lord for granting me the opportunity to meet with the people of God in Africa and to confirm them in their faith as the Successor of Saint Peter. My time there was meant to offer the world a message of peace at a moment marked by conflicts and frequent violations of international law. Along with the call for peace, I denounced grave injustices in resource-rich countries, urging the international community to overcome neo-colonial attitudes and engage in genuine collaboration. At the same time, the Apostolic Journey gave people in Africa a chance to make their voices heard and to express the joy of being God's people. In this regard, I thank the Lord for what they have given me: an immeasurable gift of faith, hope, and charity, which has greatly enriched my life and ministry.

*The full text of the Pope's Audience is on the back page of the bulletin.

LEO XIV
GENERAL AUDIENCE
Wednesday, 29 April 2026

The Apostolic Journey to Algeria, Cameroon, Angola and Equatorial Guinea

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Today I would like to talk about the Apostolic Journey I made from 13 to 23 April, visiting four African countries: Algeria, Cameroon, Angola, and Equatorial Guinea. Since the beginning of my Pontificate, I have thought about a journey in Africa. I thank the Lord for granting me the opportunity to undertake it, as Shepherd, to meet and encourage the people of God, and to experience it as a message of peace at a moment in history marked by conflicts and serious and frequent violations of international law

The first stop was the country where the sites of Saint Augustine are found, namely Algeria. Thus, I found myself revisiting the roots of my spiritual identity and crossing and strengthening bridges that are very important for the world and the Church today: the bridge to the very fruitful age of the Fathers of the Church; the bridge to the Islamic world; and the bridge to the African continent.

In Algeria, I received a welcome that was not only respectful but warm, and we were able to experience first-hand and show the world that it is possible to live together as brothers and sisters, even of different religions, when we recognize ourselves as children of the same merciful Father. It was an opportunity to learn from the example of Saint Augustine: through his life experience, writings, and spirituality, he is a teacher in the search for God and truth. A testimony that is more important than ever today for Christians and for every person.

In the next three countries I visited, the population is predominantly Christian, and I found myself immersed in an atmosphere of faith-based celebration and a warm welcome, enhanced by the characteristic traits of the African people. Like my Predecessors, I experienced something of what happened to Jesus with the crowds in Galilee: He saw them thirsting and hungry for justice, and proclaimed: “Blessed are the poor, blessed are the meek, blessed are the peacemakers”, and, recognizing their faith, said, “You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world”.

The visit to Cameroon allowed me to reinforce the call to work together for reconciliation and peace, for that country is marked by tensions and violence. I traveled to Bamenda, in the Anglophone region, where I encouraged people to work together for peace. Cameroon is known as “Africa in miniature”, because of the variety and richness of its natural environment and its resources, but we can also interpret this expression to mean that the great needs of the entire continent are found in Cameroon: the need for a fair distribution of wealth; the need to provide space for the young, overcoming endemic corruption, that of promoting integral and sustainable development, countering the various forms of neo-colonialism with far-sighted international cooperation. I thank the Church in Cameroon and all the Cameroonian people, who welcomed me with such love, and I pray that the spirit of unity which was evident during my visit may be kept alive and guide future choices and actions.

The third leg of the trip was in Angola, a large country south of the equator, with a centuries-long Christian tradition, linked to Portuguese colonization. Like many African countries, after achieving independence, Angola went through a troubled period marked by a long and bloody civil war. In the crucible of this history, God has guided and purified the Church, converting her in the service of the Gospel, human promotion, reconciliation and peace. A free Church for a free people! And in the various meetings I rejoiced to see so many men and women religious of every age, a prophecy of the Kingdom of heaven in the midst of their people; I saw catechists who dedicate themselves fully to the good of the community; I saw the faces of elderly people weathered by toil and suffering yet radiant with the joy of the Gospel; I saw women and men dancing to the rhythm of songs of praise to the Risen Lord, the foundation of a hope that withstands the disappointments caused by ideologies and the empty promises of the powerful.

This hope demands concrete commitment, and the Church has the responsibility, with the witness and courageous proclamation of the Word of God, to recognize the rights of all and to promote their actual respect. With the Angolan civil authorities, as well as those of other countries, I assured them of the Catholic Church’s willingness to continue this contribution, particularly in healthcare and education.

The last country I visited was Equatorial Guinea, 170 years after its first evangelization. With the wisdom of tradition and the light of Christ, the Guinean people have weathered the vicissitudes of their history and, in recent days, in the presence of the Pope, have renewed with great enthusiasm their determination to walk together towards a future of hope.

I cannot forget what happened in the prison in Bata, in Equatorial Guinea: the prisoners sang at the top of their voices a song of thanksgiving to God and to the Pope, asking him to pray “for their sins and their freedom”. I had never seen anything like it. And then they prayed the “Our Father” with me in the pouring rain. A genuine sign of the Kingdom of God! A celebration of Christian joy, with moving testimonies from young people who have found in the Gospel the path to free and responsible growth. This celebration culminated in the Eucharistic celebration the following day, which concluded the visit to Equatorial Guinea and the entire Apostolic Journey.