

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 Third Sunday in Ordinary time January 25, 2026

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:

Isa 8:23-9:3; Ps 27:1,4,13-14;1 Cor 1:10-13,17; Mt 4:12-23

Monday: Sts. Timothy & Titus, Bishops

2 Tim 1:1-8; Ps 96:1-2a,2b-3,7-8a,10; Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday:

2 Sam 6:12b-15,17-19; Ps 24:7,8,9,10; Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of The Church

2 Sam 7:4-17; Ps 89:4-5,27-28,29-30; Mk 4:1-20

Thursday:

2 Sam 7:18-19,24-29; Ps 132:1-2,3-5,11,12,13-14;Mk 4:21-25

Friday:

2 Sam 11:1-4a,5-10a,13-17;Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: St. John Bosco,Priest

2 Sam 12:1-7a,10-17; Ps 51:12-13,14-15,16-17; Mk 4:35-41

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 24

4:00 PM - David Jointer (L)

Sunday, January 25

8:00 AM - Brian Karahalios

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, January 27

8:15 AM - Mr & Mrs DiStefano and

Mr & Mrs Carlos Gonzalez

Thursday, January 29

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Friday, January 30

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Ministers

January 31	February 1	February 1
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Diane Begic	Peter Srednicki	Cathy Ciani
Joel Southwick	Betsy Kenney	Wayman Johnson
Joan Hesik	Betsy Kenney	Gregg Wright

Pray for our sick

Rosa Johnson, Paula Thurston, Ellen Heim, Rich Borst, Betty Hyslop, Jeffrey Hesik, Angelo Perrino, John Burke, Krystal Ortiz, Michell Novotny, Nancy Gardzina, Casey Bay, Dennis HooChung, Joe Monahon

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.

Sunday After Mass Social

We plan to start a social on the third Sunday of the month after 10 a.m. Mass. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the back entrance to the social hall. Please sign your name and what food you plan to bring to the social.

Weekly Collection 1/17-1/18/26

Budget	\$3,799.00
Collected	\$3,304.00
Short/Over	-\$495.00
YTD+-	+\$1,856.66

Second Collections

January 25 - Church in Latin America

February 8 - Catholic Appeal of South Carolina

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#.

Tabernacle Candle

A special candle should burn continuously near the tabernacle to indicate the presence of Christ and honor it. If you would like to donate in honor or memory of a loved one, call the church office. The donation is \$25. The candle for January: Lisa Solenberger 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 February 21-22 is hot cereal.

Monthly After Mass Social

The Monthly After Mass Social is the first Saturday of the month after the 4:00 p.m. Mass. If you would like to host a social, contact the office: 803-649-3203. The hosts for February 7 are the Holder and Rose families.

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.

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.

Deacon Chuck's Corner
A Reflection on— Matthew 4:12-23

In this passage, we see Jesus beginning His ministry in Galilee after the arrest of John the Baptist. This transition signifies a pivotal moment in Jesus' life, where He steps into His role as the Messiah and begins to fulfill the prophecies of the Old Testament. The reference to "the people dwelling in the darkness have seen a great light" (Matthew 4:16) highlights the hope and salvation that Jesus brings to those who are spiritually lost and in need of guidance.

Jesus begins His ministry with a clear message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near" (Matthew 4:17). This call to repentance is essential for spiritual renewal and readiness to embrace God's reign. It invites us to reflect on our own lives, turn away from sin, and align ourselves with God's purpose.

The setting by the sea, with its tranquil waters and bustling fishing activity, provides a fitting backdrop for the beginning of Jesus' ministry and the calling of His first disciples. Those early followers were very ordinary people who were called to an extraordinary mission. Such a calling might well involve them taking risks. It may well mean something of a similar risk for us. We are being invited to so many tasks that we don't think we're cut out for, are afraid to try, might have a bigger cost or result in a bigger change than we realize.

This passage challenges us to consider our own response to Jesus' call. Are we willing to leave behind our comfort zones and follow Him. How can we be "fishers of men" in our communities, sharing the light of Christ with those around us. Jesus encourages us to embrace our role as disciples, actively participating in the mission of spreading the Gospel and serving others. Amen.

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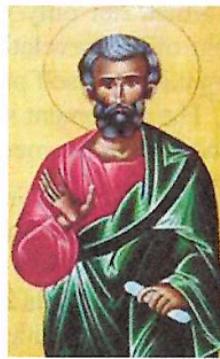
Lord of Light, shine on us; Lord of might,
protect us; Lord of love, enfold us;
Lord of wisdom, enlighten us. Then, Lord
Let us go out as your witnesses, in obedience
to your command; to share the good news
of your mighty love for us in the gift of your
son, our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

11th Century Latin Hymn

St. Timothy

Feast day: January 26

St. Timothy of Ephesus is among the most prominent figures in the formative years of the Christian Church. Born around 17 AD in the ancient city of Lystra, Timothy was the son of a Greek father and a Jewish mother named Eunice. His maternal grandmother, Lois, also played a significant role in his spiritual upbringing. Both women are praised in the New Testament for their sincere faith.



Timothy first appears in the Acts of the Apostles, where St. Paul meets him during his second missionary journey. Impressed by Timothy's reputation among the believers in Lystra and Iconium, Paul chose him as a companion. Despite being of mixed heritage, Timothy agreed to be circumcised by Paul to ease his acceptance among Jewish communities. This act symbolized his commitment to the ministry and his flexibility in navigating the diverse cultural and religious challenges of early Christianity.

As Paul's closest companion, Timothy traveled extensively across the Roman Empire, coauthoring several epistles and serving in leadership roles in various Christian communities. Eventually, Timothy was appointed the first bishop of Ephesus, one of the most influential Christian centers in Asia Minor. According to early Christian tradition and writings by church fathers, he led the Ephesian community with dedication and spiritual fervor. However, during a pagan festival in Ephesus, believed to be in honor of the goddess Diana (Artemis), Timothy publicly opposed the idolatrous rituals. His protest angered the crowd, and he was beaten to death, thus sealing his witness with martyrdom around 97 AD.

Timothy's legacy endured in both Eastern and Western Christianity, and he was recognized as a saint long before the formal canonization process was established, which is why his canonization is dated as "Pre-Congregation." His life and ministry serve as a powerful example of loyalty, humility, and dedication to the Gospel. As a bridge between Jewish and Gentile believers, his identity also reflects the inclusive message of early Christianity. The Church remembers him as a model of pastoral care, scriptural fidelity, and spiritual mentorship.

LEO XIV
GENERAL AUDIENCE
Wednesday, 21 January 2026
Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II.
I. Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum*. 2. Jesus Christ reveals the Father

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

We will continue the catechesis on the Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum*, of Vatican Council II, on divine Revelation. We have seen that God reveals himself in a dialogue of covenant, in which he addresses us as friends. It is therefore a relational knowledge, which not only communicates ideas, but shares a history and calls for communion in reciprocity. The fulfilment of this revelation takes place in a historical and personal encounter in which God himself gives himself to us, making himself present, and we discover that we are known in our deepest truth. It is what happens in Jesus Christ. The Document states: "The deepest truth about God and the salvation of man shines out for our sake in Christ, who is both the mediator and the fullness of all revelation."

Jesus reveals the Father to us by involving us in his own relationship with Him. In the Son sent by God the Father, "man might in the Holy Spirit have access to the Father and come to share in the divine nature." We therefore reach full knowledge of God by entering the Son's relationship with his Father, by virtue of the action of the Spirit. This is attested to, for example, by the Evangelist Luke when he recounts the Lord's prayer of jubilation: "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Thanks to Jesus, we know God as we are known by Him. Indeed, in Christ, God has communicated himself to us and, at the same time, he has manifested to us our true identity as his children, created in the image of the Word. This "eternal Word ... enlightens all men", revealing their truth in the eyes of the Father: "Your Father, who sees in secret will reward you", says Jesus, and he adds that "your Father knows that you need all these things." Jesus Christ is the place where we recognize the truth of God the Father, while we discover ourselves known by Him as sons in the Son, called to the same destiny of full life. Saint Paul writes: "When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son ... so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba!' Father!"

Finally, Jesus Christ reveals the Father with his own humanity. Precisely because he is the Word incarnate that dwells among men, Jesus reveals God to us with his own true and integral humanity: To see Jesus is to see His Father. For this reason, Jesus perfected revelation, fulfilling it through his whole work of making Himself present and manifesting Himself through His words and deeds, His signs and wonders, but especially through His death and glorious resurrection from the dead and final sending of the Spirit of truth". To know God in Christ, we must welcome his integral humanity: God's truth is not fully revealed where it takes something away from the human, just as the integrity of Jesus' humanity does not diminish the fullness of the divine gift. It is the integral humanity of Jesus that tells us the truth of the Father.

It is not only the death and resurrection of Jesus that saves us and calls us together, but his very person: the Lord who becomes incarnate, is born, heals, teaches, suffers, dies, rises again, and remains among us. Therefore, to honor the greatness of the Incarnation, it is not enough to consider Jesus as the channel of transmission of intellectual truths. If Jesus has a real body, the communication of the truth of God is realized in that body, with its own way of perceiving and feeling reality, with its own way of inhabiting and passing through the world. Jesus himself invites us to share his perception of reality: "Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

Brothers and sisters, by following the path of Jesus to the very end, we reach the certainty that nothing can separate us from God's love. "If God is for us, who is against us?" writes Saint Paul again. "He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else?" Thanks to Jesus, Christians know God the Father and entrust themselves to Him with confidence.