



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 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time *October 26, 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:

Sir 35:12-14,16-18; Ps 34:2-3,17-18,19,23; 2 Tim 4:6-8,16-18; Lk 18:9-14

Monday:

Rom 8:12-17; Ps 68:2 & 4,6-7ab,20-21; Lk 13:10-17

Tuesday: Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles

Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19: 2-3,4-5; Lk 6:12-16

Wednesday:

Rom 8:26-30; Ps 13:4-5,6; Lk 13:22-30

Thursday:

Rom 8:31b-39; Ps 109:21-22,26-27,30-31; Lk 13:31-35

Friday:

Rom 9: 1-5; Ps 147:12-13,14-15,19-20; Lk 14:1-6

Saturday: All Saints

Rev 7:2-4,9-14; Ps 24:1bc-2,3-4ab,5-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 25

4:00 PM - For Our Parish

Sunday, October 26

8:00 AM - For Our Parish

10:00 AM - Roger Miller

Tuesday, October 28 - Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, October 30 -Souls in Purgatory

Friday, October 31 -Souls in Purgatory

NOTE: There are NO weekday Masses November 3 thru and including November 7.

Ministers

November 1	November 2	November 2
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Karen Southwick	Peter Srednicki	Janet Menefee
Joel Southwick	Betsy Kenney	Karen Uhle
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, 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.

Weekly Collection 10/18-10/19/25

Budget	\$3,162.00
Collected	\$3,488.00
Short/Over	+\$326.00
YTD+-	+\$4,233.55

Second Collection November 9 Archdiocese for the Military Services

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 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 November 15-16: Thanksgiving dinner items.

Finance Council Meeting **Wednesday, October 29 - 5:00 p.m.** **Conference Room**

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection on the Pharisee and the Tax Collector – Luke 18:9-14

In today's gospel, Jesus addresses those people who are convinced of their own righteousness and despise everyone else. Here today, Jesus is challenging us to be more aware of our own moral duplicity and complicity in falling for into same sin of condemnation. The contrast between the Pharisee and the Tax Collector has entered so deeply into our culture today through politics, social injustice, poverty, racism and gender phobia. We don't have to look far to see those whose sins are paraded so disparagingly in the media.

Who is worse, the tax collector despite his job that was looked down upon at that time or the holy Pharisee who thinks he is wiser and better than anyone else. Their attitudes to others were starkly in contrast. And yet we all can probably identify with both of them at one time or another. So quick to judge others and accepting someone at face value is not enough. When was the last time we have looked down on others' moral or spiritual life. We are reminded that beautifully worded prayers mean nothing if the heart behind them contains self-righteousness – but no real faith or humility.

Pope Francis continually reminds us that God never tires of forgiving us, but that we tire of asking him for forgiveness. Today Jesus reminds us that God looks kindly on the humble heart, and leads us from pride to humility.

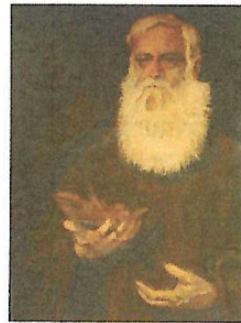
Am I honest with myself when I come before you, Lord? God be merciful to me, a sinner – let this be my prayer today and always. Amen.

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.

Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles Feast Day: October 28

Both Simon and Jude were ordinary men who were chosen by Jesus himself to teach others about God's love and to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Their lives help us to understand that even the most average people can become saints when they decide to follow Jesus. Both of these men were known by other names during their lives.



Simon was often called "the Zealot." A zealot is a person who is strongly committed to something. In Simon's case, he firmly believed in the importance of people following Jewish law. After meeting Jesus, his life was transformed, and he became convinced that the most important thing was to follow Jesus and his teachings. We believe that another reason Simon had a nickname was to prevent people from confusing him with the other apostle named Simon, whom Jesus called Peter.



Jude was also known as "Jude Thaddeus." People used this formal title so that he would not be confused with Judas, the apostle who betrayed Jesus and handed him over to be arrested. Jude is the patron saint of hopeless cases and desperate situations. People often pray to Jude when they feel that there is no one else to turn to. They ask Jude to bring their problem to Jesus. Because Jude had such great faith, we know that nothing is impossible for those who believe in the Lord.

Simon and Jude traveled together to teach others about Jesus. Because of their eyewitness accounts of Jesus' miracles, his death, and his Resurrection, many people became believers and were baptized. Simon and Jude died for their faith on the same day in Beirut. Jude's body was later returned to Rome, where it was buried in a crypt under St. Peter's Basilica.

We honor their feast day on October 28. These two saints remind us to learn all we can about Jesus and to share it with others, as they did.

LEO XIV
GENERAL AUDIENCE
Wednesday, 22 October 2025

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope

IV. The Resurrection of Christ and the Challenges of the Contemporary World

2. The Resurrection of Christ, the Response to Human Sadness

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is an event that one never finishes contemplating and meditating on. The more one explores it, the more one is filled with wonder, drawn in as if by an overwhelming yet fascinating light. It was an explosion of life and joy that changed the meaning of reality itself, from negative to positive; yet it did not happen in a striking way, much less a violent one, but gently, hidden, one might say humbly.

Today, we reflect on how Christ's resurrection can heal one of the malaises of our time: sadness. Intrusive and widespread, sadness accompanies the days of many people. It is a feeling of precariousness, at times profound desperation, which invades one's inner space and seems to prevail over any impetus to joy.

Sadness robs life of meaning and vigor, turning it into a directionless and meaningless journey. This very current experience reminds us of the famous account in the Gospel of Luke (24:13-29) of the two disciples of Emmaus. Disappointed and discouraged, they leave Jerusalem, leaving behind the hopes they held in Jesus, who has been crucified and entombed. In the opening lines, this episode presents a paradigm of human sadness: the end of the objective to which so much energy has been invested, the destruction of what seemed to be the essence of their lives. Their hope is dashed; desolation has taken hold of their hearts. Everything has imploded in a very short space of time, between Friday and Saturday, in a dramatic sequence of events.

The paradox is truly emblematic: this sad journey of defeat and return to ordinary life occurs on the same day as the victory of light, of the Pasch that has been fully consummated. The two men turn their backs on Golgotha, on the terrible scene of the cross, still imprinted on their eyes and their hearts. It seems that all is lost. They must return to their former lives, keeping a low profile and hoping not to be recognized.

At a certain point, a traveler joins the two disciples, perhaps one of the pilgrims who have been to Jerusalem for Easter. It is the risen Jesus, but they do not recognize him. Sadness clouds their gaze, erasing the promise that the Master had made several times: that he would be killed and that on the third day he would rise again. The stranger approaches and shows interest in what they are saying. The text says that the two "stood still, looking *sad*." The Greek adjective used describes an all-encompassing sadness, with the paralysis of the soul apparent on their faces.

Jesus listens to them, allowing them to unburden their disappointment. Then, with great frankness, he rebukes them for being "foolish ... and slow of heart to believe that all the prophets have declared!" and through the Scriptures, he shows that Christ had to suffer, die, and rise again. The warmth of hope is rekindled in the hearts of the two disciples, and then, when night falls and they arrive at their destination, they invite their mysterious traveling companion to stay with them.

Jesus accepts and takes his seat at the table with them. Then he takes the bread, breaks it, and offers it. At that moment, the two disciples recognize him... but he immediately disappears from their view. The gesture of the breaking of the bread reopens the eyes of the heart, illuminating once again the vision clouded by despair. And then everything becomes clear: the shared journey, the tender and powerful word, the light of truth... Immediately, joy is rekindled, energy flows back into their weary limbs, and gratitude returns to their memory. And the two hurry back to Jerusalem to tell the others everything.

"The Lord has risen indeed." In this adverb, *indeed*, the certain outcome of our history as human beings is fulfilled. It is no coincidence that this is the greeting Christians exchange on Easter Day. Jesus did not rise in words, but in deeds, with his body bearing the marks of his passion, a perennial seal of his love for us. The victory of life is not an empty word, but a real, tangible fact.

May the unexpected joy of the disciples of Emmaus be a gentle reminder to us when the going gets tough. It is the Risen One who radically changes our perspective, instilling the hope that fills the void of sadness. On the paths of the heart, the Risen One walks with us and for us. He bears witness to the defeat of death and affirms the victory of life, despite the darkness of Calvary. History still has much goodness to hope for. To recognize the Resurrection means to change one's outlook on the world: to return to the light to realize the Truth that has saved us, and that saves us. Let us remain watchful every day in the wonder of the Pasch of the risen Jesus. He alone makes the impossible possible!