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 All Saints Day
November 1, 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:
Rev 7:2-4,9-14; Ps 24:1bc-2,3-4ab,5-6; 1Jon 3?:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a

Monday: All Souls Day
Wis 3:1-9;Ps 23:1-3a,3b-4,5,6; Rom 5:5-11; Jn 6:37-40

Tuesday:
Phi 2:5-11; Ps 22: 26b-27,28-30ab,30e,312-32; Lk 14:

Wednesday: Sts. Charles Borromeo, Bishop
Phi 2:12-18; Ps 27:1,4,13-14; Lk 14:25-33

Thursday:
Phi 3:3-8a; Psb 105:2-3,4-5,6-7; Lk 15:1-10

Friday:
Phi 3:17-4:1; Ps 122:1-2,3-4ab,4cd-5; Lk 16:1-8

Saturday:
Phi 4:10-19; Ps 112:1b-2,5-6,8a & 9; Lk 16:9-15

Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil October 31
4:00 PM - For our Parish
Sunday, November 1
8:00 AM - For our Parish
10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, November 3
8:15 AM - For our Parish
Thursday, November 5
8:15 AM - For our Parish
First Friday, November 6
8:15 AM - For our Parish
Benediction and Chaplet of Divine Mercy following Mass

Ministers

November 7	November 8	November 8
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Linda Cooper	Chuck Kenney	Anita Brown
Cindy McHale	Betsy Kenney	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, Michele 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.

Tabernacle Candle

The candle for November: The Carriero & George Families, living and deceased, and Jake Beckert's 17th birthday.

Weekly Collection 10/24-10/25/26

Budget	$4,325.00
Collected	$2,911.00
Short/Over	-$1,414 .00
YTD+-	-$4,242.19

Second Collection

November 15 - Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Our 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 November 21-22: Thanksgiving items.

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 hosts for November 7th are the Beckerts and Welshes.

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#.

New Missals

The Missals for 2027 will be available in the entrance to the Social Hall the weekends of November 14 &15, and November 21 & 22. The cost is $8/missal. Please put your money in the box for the votive lights.

November is Black Catholic History Month

A document regarding Black Catholic History can be found on the parish website under Parish News. The document is titled: Blacks in Catholic History.

The Pope's Intention for November
For the proper use of wealth

Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection: The Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 5:1-12

The Sermon on the Mount in today's gospel, Jesus delivers the Beatitudes to his disciples and the crowds on a mountainside, redefining true blessedness - not as material wealth or social status - but as a posture of heart aligned with God's kingdom. Here Jesus really turned things upside down for his followers.
Jesus flips worldly expectations by pronouncing a blessing on the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, and the persecuted instead of praising the powerful, self-sufficient, or famous.

Being "poor in spirit" means recognizing one's complete spiritual bankruptcy and deep need for God rather than self-reliance. Mourning acknowledges grief over personal and societal brokenness, promising divine comfort.

Meekness is not weakness, but strength under control and surrendered to God. Hunger and thirst for righteousness describe an active, desperate longing for

The middle Beatitudes call believers to active participation in God's character by showing mercy, having a clean/pure heart focused on God, and acting as peacemakers.

The passage concludes by noting that standing for righteousness will draw worldly pushback, yet disciples are told to rejoice because their reward in heaven is great, echoing the path of the prophets.

On this All Saints Day we are grateful for and remember the lives of so many people of every age, church and century who have lived their lives as best they could within the gospel of Jesus Christ and who still serve as our exemplary heroes of faith in living out the vision and spirit of Christ.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for the example of the Saints - we desire to join in their company. Please help us to follow in their footsteps, and yours, Jesus. Help us to conform ourselves to Your image, seeking Your will in all things, just as the Saints did. Please help us to devote ourselves, and all that we do to Your glory, and to the service of our neighbors. Amen.

The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed
All Souls' Day – November 2

Every year on November 2, the Church pauses, breathes deeply, and enters one of the most tender and profound commemorations of the Christian life — All Souls Day. It is a day wrapped in quiet reverence, gentle longing, and deep spiritual solidarity. A day when heaven feels closer, and our hearts instinctively turn toward those we have loved and lost.

In a world that moves fast, grieves quietly, and often avoids the subject of death, All Souls Day becomes a counter-cultural act of faith. It reminds us that:

- Love does not end at death.
- Prayer crosses every boundary.
- Hope is stronger than the grave.
- We remain spiritually connected to those who have gone before us.

The Church teaches that our prayers — especially the Holy Mass, the Rosary, acts of charity, and sacrifices offered with love — can assist the souls in purgatory as they are purified and prepared for eternal union with God. This is not a day of fear. It is a day of mercy. A day of connection. A day of holy remembrance.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

The Second Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, which reflects on the Church in the modern world, also addresses culture. In promoting culture in all its forms, the Church has always combined the proclamation of the Gospel with the establishment of schools, seeking to foster human and spiritual formation, encouraging believers to give an account of their faith and preparing all peoples to receive the Gospel. The authentic relationship between faith and culture is rooted in the Incarnation. Faith, therefore, enriches and fulfills every culture it encounters, and it is itself called to become a culture shaped by Christ. In this way, *Gaudium et Spes* affirms the need to cultivate a fruitful integration of knowledge, expressed in a way of living the faith marked by a positive outlook on the world and history.

LEO XIV

Wednesday, 28 October 2026

Catechesis. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council.

IV. Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*. *7. The relationship between faith and culture*

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

The Second Vatican Council could not fail to address culture and its relationship to the Christian faith. The Catholic Church has always sought to accompany the preaching of the Gospel by establishing schools of every kind, aimed at advancing the human, cultural, and spiritual formation of men and women across the five continents. Medieval universities emerged from the heart of the Church and made a decisive contribution to Western civilization. At the same time, cultural and intellectual progress raises ever new and deeper questions, prompting believers to give an account of their faith. Finally, as expressions of the spiritual dimension of the human being, the various manifestations of culture open minds to the perennial questions about the meaning of the world and human existence, thus preparing people to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The relationship between faith and culture finds its primary foundation in the Incarnation: if the divine Word became flesh and came to dwell among us, then faith is an incarnate reality, interwoven with the culture in which it is immersed. It must also become culture, that is, reach the person in their living environment, made up of human words, traditions, religious meaning, art and poetry, thought and science.

Faith can be embodied in all cultures because it does not identify itself with any one of them. It dwells within them, shaping them from within according to the "form" of Jesus Christ; that is, through charity, service and the filial recognition of God's fatherhood. In this way, the Church draws from the various cultures all that is good, beautiful, and true to embody and transmit the message of the Gospel. At the same time, "the Church, sent to all peoples of every time and place, is not bound exclusively and indissolubly to any race or nation, any particular way of life or any customary way of life recent or ancient. Faithful to her own tradition and at the same time conscious of her universal mission, she can enter into communion with the various civilizations, to their enrichment and the enrichment of the Church herself".

The Church promotes culture because it is good in itself, serves the human person, and helps fulfill her vocation on earth. For this reason, *Gaudium et Spes* exhorts the international community to ensure that everyone has access to fundamental cultural goods by overcoming illiteracy and the lack of education. All those who are capable of accessing higher education – the Council boldly states – must be placed in a position to do so in practice. Furthermore, "it will belong to all to acknowledge and favor the proper and necessary participation of women in the cultural life".

In addition, *Gaudium et Spes* upholds the need to direct teaching towards a certain *unity of knowledge*, even though changing living conditions may make this more difficult. Christians must first strive to bring about this unity of wisdom within themselves. Although they have received from Revelation the answers to the great questions of existence, they are not thereby exempt from patient intellectual and cultural formation; on the contrary, their human and scientific knowledge must go hand in hand with the substance of their faith, which must be continually deepened with age and in accordance with their level of study. The Council addresses a particular appeal to theologians: "Let those who teach theology … strive to collaborate with men versed in the other sciences through a sharing of their resources and points of view. Theological inquiry should pursue a profound understanding of revealed truth; at the same time, it should not neglect close contact with its own time that it may be able to help these men skilled in various disciplines to attain to a better understanding of the faith".

The Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* reminds us not to live the faith in a spirit of opposition or hostility towards the world, culture and its human expressions, but rather exhorts us as follows: "May the faithful live in close union with the other men of their time and strive to understand their way of thinking and judging, as expressed in their culture". Achieving a mature and responsible synthesis between faith and culture is necessary for persevering in the Christian vocation and essential for bearing witness to the faith before the world and communicating it to others credibly.

Sister Thea Bowman, F.S.P.A.

Ever loving God, who by your infinite goodness inflamed the heart of your servant and religious, Sister Thea Bowman with an ardent love for you and the People of God; a love expressed through her indomitable spirit, deep and abiding faith, dedicated teaching, exuberant singing, and unwavering witnessing of the joy of the Gospel.

Her prophetic witness continues to inspire us to share the Good News with those whom we encounter; most especially the poor, oppressed, and marginalized. May Sister Thea's life and legacy compel us to walk together, to pray together, and to remain together as missionary disciples ushering in the new evangelization for the Church we love.

Gracious God imbue us with the grace and perseverance that you gave your servant, Sister Thea. For in turbulent times of racial injustice, she sought equity, peace, and reconciliation. In times of intolerance and ignorance, she brought wisdom, awareness, unity, and charity. In times of pain, sickness, and suffering, she taught us how to live fully until called home to the land of promise. If it be your Will, O God, glorify our beloved Sister Thea, by granting the favor I now request through her intercession (mention your request), so that all may know of her goodness and holiness and may imitate her love for You and Your Church. We ask this through Your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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Imprimatur:
Most Rev. Joseph R. Kopacz, Bishop of Jackson

To report any spiritual or physical favors granted through prayer in Sister Thea's name, please write:
Sr. Thea Canonization, 237 E. Amite St. Jackson, MS 39201.

Life and Witness to Racial Justice: Thea Bowman, FSPA

Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA, was born in Canton, Mississippi, the only child of Dr. and Mrs. Bowman. Her early life was shaped by both the pain of systemic racism and the resilience of Black faith. When the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration opened a mission and school in Canton, young Thea felt a call to religious life. Though her parents were not Catholic, Thea embraced the faith of the Catholic Church as a child, drawn to its spiritual depth and the witness of the religious sisters who served her community.

As the only African American woman in her religious community, Sister Thea faced racism both within and beyond the Church. Yet she refused to be silenced. She became a fierce advocate for the dignity of Black people, the beauty of Black culture, and the richness of Black Catholic spirituality.

As a scholar, teacher, and speaker, Sister Thea challenged the Church to confront its history of racial exclusion and to embrace the gifts Black Catholics bring to the Body of Christ. Her momentous address to the U.S. Catholic bishops in 1989 was an inspiring call for justice, unity, and cultural celebration. She reminded them—and all of us—that to be Black and Catholic is to live at the intersection of suffering and hope, and to offer the Church a vibrant, prophetic witness rooted in song, story, and sacred tradition.

Going Home Like a Shooting Star: Thea Bowman's Journey to Sainthood is a compelling documentary from NewGroup Media and the Diocese of Jackson that explores the inspiring life of Sister Thea Bowman, an African American Franciscan Sister who used her powerful voice to educate, evangelize, and call the Church to greater racial inclusion. Through her gifts of preaching, music, and teaching, Sister Thea challenged Catholics to confront racism while encouraging her African American brothers and sisters to embrace and share their "fully functioning" personhood. She proclaimed this message with boldness and grace until her death from breast cancer in 1990.

The film is available to watch for free on the Diocese of Jackson's YouTube channel.

Thea Bowman - Diocese of Jackson - Jackson, MS