



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 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary time *February 1, 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:

Zep 2:3;3:12-13; Ps 146:6-7,8-9,9-10;1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a

Monday: Presentation of The Lord

Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7,8,9,10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40

Tuesday:

2 Sam 18:9-10,14b,24-25a,30-19:3; Ps 86:1-2,3-4,5-6; Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday:

2 Sam 24:2,9-17;Ps 32:1-2,5,6,7;Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

1 Kng 2:1-4,10-12 1 Chr 29:10,11ab,11d-12a,12bcd; Mk 6:7-13

Friday: St. Paul Miki & Companions Martyrs

Sir 47:2-11;Ps 18:31,47 & 50,51; Mk 6:14-29

Saturday:

1 Kng 3:4-13; Ps 132:6-7,8-10; Mk 6:53-56

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 31

4:00 PM - Geraldine McLaughlin (D)

Sunday, February 1

8:00 AM - Brian Karahalios

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, February 3

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Thursday, February 5

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Friday, February 6

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Ministers

<u>February 7</u>	<u>February 8</u>	<u>February 8</u>
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Karen Southwick	Denise Gelinas	Anita Brown
Cindy McHale	Jack Kline	Karen Uhle
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 1/24-1/25/26

Budget	\$3,799.00
Collected	\$2,286.00
Short/Over	-\$1,513.00
YTD+/-	\$343.66

Second Collections

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 February: John J Cassidy, birthday memorial, Terry Keane Stack Memory

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

Reflection on The Beatitudes Matthew 5:1-12

In today's gospel, we hear Jesus speaking the Beatitudes; a litany of the "blesseds" in which Jesus is giving us his vision statement and spirit for a blessed life. We can strive to recite these as our mantra every day and meditate on how Jesus lived by these qualities himself, recalling his words and actions during his life on earth: humility, mourning, meekness, gentleness, righteousness, mercy, purity, peace making, persecuted.

It may seem like a monumental task to achieve or tackle just one or two of these qualities, so perhaps we can incorporate one or two in our daily prayer; one that affirms each of us and calls us further in our spiritual journey. Jesus words are challenging us to live his vision by opening our minds to be enlightened to a new way of thinking and elevating our level of spiritual maturity in Christ.

It is difficult to take these truths and even fathom trying to measure how we can live up to Jesus standards as he did in the short 33 years of his life. Jesus desires to speak to us, in our poverty, sadness and hunger as we live with difficulties, and we can humbly seek to hear Jesus speaking the Beatitudes to each of us as we encounter them.

Matthew tells us the key to receiving the blessings of Jesus is simply humility. And the more we begin to humble ourselves, God gives us more grace to develop the character qualities esteemed in the Beatitudes that solidify intimate fellowship with God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Prayer:

"Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:5-7). Amen.

St, Paul Miki and Companions

Feast day: February 6



St. Paul Miki (1562–1597) and his twenty-five companions, known as the Martyrs of Nagasaki, were crucified for the faith in Nagasaki, Japan, in 1597. A Japanese layman of great nobility and wealth, Paul was converted to Christianity by St. Francis Xavier. Although the Christian missionaries did not meet with opposition initially, the Japanese rulers eventually launched a brutal campaign to wipe out their progress. The twenty-six men were forced to march 600 miles to meet their death in Nagasaki. The group included Franciscan and Jesuit missionaries and Japanese converts. They were repeatedly offered freedom if they would renounce Christianity; they all declined. When the march ended, the martyrs were tied to crosses. They prayed and sang while Paul Miki preached the Gospel in a loud voice. The martyrs were then stabbed to death while they hung on their crosses. The crowd that witnessed the testimony of Paul Miki and his companions would immortalize his words and use them to further spread Christianity in Japan. Their collective feast day is February 6th.

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Pope's Intention for February For Children with Incurable Diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

LEO XIV
GENERAL AUDIENCE
Wednesday, 28 January 2026
Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II. I. Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum*.
3. *A single sacred deposit. The relationship between Scripture and Tradition.*

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Continuing our reading of the Conciliar Constitution *Dei Verbum* on divine Revelation, today we will reflect on the relationship between Sacred Scripture and Tradition. We can take two Gospel scenes as a backdrop. In the first, which takes place in the Upper Room, Jesus, in his great discourse-testament addressed to the disciples, affirms: “These things I have spoken to you, while I am still with you. But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ... When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth”.

The second scene takes us to the hills of Galilee. The risen Jesus shows himself to the disciples, who are surprised and doubtful, and he advises them: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you”. In both scenes, the intimate connection between the words Christ uttered and their dissemination throughout the centuries is evident.

It is what Vatican Council II affirms, using an evocative image: “There exists a close connection and communication between sacred tradition and Sacred Scripture. For both of them, flowing from the same divine wellspring merge into a unity and tend toward the same end”. Ecclesial Tradition branches out throughout history through the Church, which preserves, interprets, and embodies the Word of God. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* refers, in this regard, to a motto of the Church Fathers: “Sacred Scripture is written principally in the Church’s heart rather than in documents and records”, that is, in the sacred text.

In the light of Christ’s words, the Council affirms that “the Tradition which comes from the Apostles develops in the Church with the help of the Holy Spirit”. This occurs with full comprehension through “contemplation and study made by believers”, through “a penetrating understanding of the spiritual realities which they experience,” and, above all, with the preaching of the successors of the apostles who have received “the sure gift of truth”. In short, “the Church, in her teaching, life and worship, perpetuates and hands on to all generations all that she herself is, all that she believes”.

In this regard, the expression of Saint Gregory the Great is famous: “The Sacred Scriptures grow with the one who reads them”. And Saint Augustine had already remarked that “there is only one word of God that unfolds through Scripture, and there is only one Word that sounds on the lips of many saints”. The Word of God, then, is not fossilized but rather a living and organic reality that develops and grows in Tradition. Thanks to the Holy Spirit, Tradition understands it in the richness of its truth and embodies it in the shifting coordinates of history.

In this regard, the proposal of the holy Doctor of the Church, John Henry Newman, in his work entitled *The Development of Christian Doctrine*, is striking. He affirmed that Christianity, both as a communal experience and as a doctrine, is a dynamic reality, as indicated by Jesus himself in the parables of the seed: a living reality that develops through an inner vital force.

The apostle Paul repeatedly exhorts his disciple and collaborator Timothy: “O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you”. The dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum* echoes this Pauline text when it says: “Sacred tradition and Sacred Scripture form one sacred *deposit* of the word of God, committed to the Church”, interpreted by the “living teaching office of the Church, whose authority is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ”. “Deposit” is a term that, in its original meaning, is juridical in nature and imposes on the depositary the duty to preserve the content, which in this case is the faith, and to transmit it intact.

The “deposit” of the Word of God is still in the hands of the Church, and all of us, in our various ecclesial ministries, must continue to preserve it in its integrity, as a lodestar for our journey through the complexity of history and existence.

In conclusion, let us listen once more to *Dei Verbum*, which exalts the interweaving of Sacred Scripture and Tradition: it affirms that they “are so linked and joined together that one cannot stand without the others, and ... all together and each in its own way under the action of the one Holy Spirit contribute effectively to the salvation of souls”.

