



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 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 16, 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:

Isa 56:1,6-7; Ps 67:2-3,5,6,8; Rom 11:13-15,29-32;
Mt 15:21-28

Monday:

Eze 24:15-23; Deu 32:18-19,20,21; Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday:

Eze 28:1-10; Deu 32:26-27ab,27cd-28,30,35cd-36ab;
Mt 19:32-30

Wednesday:

Eze 34:1-11; Ps 23:1-3a,3b-4,5,6; Mt 20:1-16

Thursday: St. Bernard, Abbot & Doctor of The Church

Eze 36:23-28; Ps 51:12-13,14-15,18-19; Mt 22:1-14

Friday: St. Pius X, Pope

Eze 37:1-14; Ps 107:2-3,54-5,6-7,8-9; Mt 22:34-40

Saturday: The Queenship of The Blessed Virgin Mary

Eze 43:1-7ab; Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12,13-14; Mt 23:1-12

Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil August 15

4:00 PM - Geraldine DeMeo

Sunday, August 16

8:00 AM - Robert Tardio

10:00 AM - Paul Aberti

Tuesday, August 18

8:15 Mass - For our Parish

Thursday - August 20

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Friday, August 21

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Ministers

<u>August 22</u>	<u>August 23</u>	<u>August 23</u>
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Tony DaVino	Peter Srednicki	Chioma Nwoga
Joel Southwick	Jack Kline	Gregg Wright
Joan Hesik	Betsy Kenney	Gregg Wright

Pray for our Sick

Rosa Johnson, Rich Borst, Jeffrey Hesik, John Burke, Krystal Ortiz, Michell Novotny, Casey Bay, Dennis HooChung, Joe Monahan, Michelle Bullington, Janet Menefee

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

Bible Study classes resume on Friday, September 11th.

St. Gerard-Baby Bottle Total: \$2,360

Thank you. We had an increase of about \$800.

Weekly Collection 8/8-8/9/26

Budget	\$4,325.00
Collected	\$5,031.00
Short/Over	+\$706.00
YTD+-	- \$2,142.40

Tabernacle Candle

A special candle should burn continuously near the tabernacle to indicate the presence of Christ. The candle for August is for Connor Brady's 8th 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 August 15-16 is Peanut Butter.

Feed the Hungry

We are forming a committee to develop a "Feed 5K Ministry" to feed the needy in Aiken. For more information, contact Tony DaVino: doctony.47@gmail.com

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.

Sunday After Mass Social

The Sunday After Mass social is August 16 after the 10 a.m. Mass. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the back entrance to the social hall.

Thinking About Becoming Catholic or Know Someone Else Thinking About It?

Are you wondering how to become Catholic? Whether you're feeling a spiritual pull, exploring the beauty of Catholic teaching, or simply curious about the process, you're not alone. Every year, thousands of people begin the journey into the Catholic Church through a process called OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults). We would welcome hearing from you and walking with you through the process. Contact Deacon Chuck Cooper at 815-985-3636 or Linda Cooper at 815-985-3637.

Second Collection

September 13th The Catholic University of America

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection: Faith that Seeks Mercy Matthew 15:21-28

Today's Gospel talks about Jesus' encounter with a persistent Canaanite woman in Gentile territory who was convinced He was the Messiah and He could not discourage her efforts. His apparent attempt to put her off was therefore a test, and her great faith must have been gratifying to the Savior.

Historically the Canaanites were thoroughly pagan and corrupt and their presence in the land was a strong threat to the purity of Israel's religion and morality. So there is a long history of spiritual and military conflict between the Israelites and the Canaanites. The basic theme of the passage is that Christ went into Gentile territory and did this miracle for a Gentile woman who had greater faith than the Jews who were rejecting and challenging Jesus' claims.

The woman came crying out to Jesus, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession." She believes Jesus is the promised Messiah; but if that is true, then He is to her a Jewish king, "Son of David". As such, He is sovereign over her and her land, and all she can do is cry for mercy. She is desperate for her daughter, and so would cry out for mercy from the visiting Jewish king.

At first Jesus was silent, no doubt to see if she would persevere – and she did, following Him down the street crying out, "Lord, help me." All the woman could do is ask for mercy as a non-Israelite. This woman would not be put off, and so knelt before Him and begged, "Lord help me." Jesus honors the faith that seeks mercy.

And so is the instruction for us as well, that we are to take the message of grace to the world, to whoever is seeking mercy and will believe. Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Prayer: Teach us about your grace, Lord, about faith of people who are in need, about the coming of your kingdom and God's desire that all come to salvation. Amen

August: Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary



O Most Blessed Mother, heart of love, heart of mercy, ever listening, caring, consoling, hear our prayer. As your children, we implore your intercession with Jesus, your Son. Receive with understanding and compassion the petitions we place before you today. We are comforted in knowing your heart is ever open to those who ask for your prayer. We entrust to your gentle care and intercession those whom we love and who are sick or lonely or hurting. Help all of us, Holy Mother, to bear our burdens in this life until we may share eternal life and peace with God forever. Amen.

Prayer for the Holy Father

Almighty and everlasting God, have mercy upon Thy servant, Pope Francis, our Supreme Pontiff, and direct him, according to Thy loving kindness, in the way of eternal salvation; that, of Thy gift, he may ever desire that which is pleasing unto Thee and may accomplish it with all his might. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

Dear brothers and sisters, in our continuing series of catechesis on the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, we reflect today on the liturgical year and its relevance for the faithful. The liturgical year is not a static representation of past events but an encounter with Christ himself, who desires to immerse his people in the mysteries of salvation history. The day on which Christ rose from the dead is the core of the liturgical year, and foreshadows Christ's second coming, when we will all rise again. For this reason, it is essential for the faithful to sanctify the Lord's Day by gathering to celebrate the Eucharist. May our active participation and steadfast witness help us to enter ever more deeply into the reality of belonging to Christ, and may we anticipate with hope his coming in glory.

LEO XIV
Wednesday, 12 August 2026
Catechesis. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council.
III. Constitution *Sacrosanctum Concilium*.
6. *The liturgical year*

Dear brothers and sisters,

The fifth chapter of the Conciliar Constitution *Sacrosanctum Concilium* is dedicated to the liturgical year, a theme we would like to look at today to explain its value in the life of every believer. It is important to note that this way of referring to the cycle of Christian feasts as the ‘liturgical year’ became widespread in ecclesiastical language thanks to the work of the Servant of God, Abbot Prosper Guéranger (1805–1875).

In the Encyclical *Mediator Dei*, Pope Pius XII states that it “is not a cold and lifeless representation of the events of the past, or a simple ... record of a former age. The liturgical year is rather Christ Himself who is ever living in His Church. Here He continues that journey of immense mercy which He lovingly began in His mortal life ... with the design of bringing men to know His mysteries and in a way live by them. These mysteries are ever present and active.” The liturgical year should thus be understood as a constant renewal of the work of salvation which Christ accomplishes in history. As she journeys through this temporal cycle, the Church remains in contact with the Lord’s redemptive action, so that all the faithful may be filled with His grace.

The encounter with Jesus, who died and rose again for us, is the purpose that the Church always pursues, placing the celebration of the Paschal event at the center of every moment. Hence the Council Fathers considered “the foundation and kernel of the whole liturgical year” to be Sunday, “the original feast day”. In various modern languages, its name indicates that it is the “*dies Domini*,” “the Lord’s Day.” Even in those languages where the reference to the “day of the sun” (*Sunday, Sonntag*) has prevailed, the link with Christ can be discerned: Christ is the true “sun of righteousness” who enlightens every person!

Saint John Paul II, in the Apostolic Letter *Dies Domini*, teaches that Sunday is the day of the Lord, the day of the Church, the day of man and, finally, the “day of days”. “Since Sunday is the weekly Easter, recalling and making present the day upon which Christ rose from the dead, it is also the day which reveals the meaning of time. ... Springing from the Resurrection, it cuts through human time, the months, the years, the centuries, like a directional arrow which points them towards their target: Christ’s Second Coming. Sunday foreshadows the last day, the day of the “*Parousia*”, when we shall all rise again.

To sanctify Sunday, it is fundamental to celebrate the Eucharist. Listening to the Word and partaking of the Body of Christ entail, according to the Council Fathers, the coming together *in unum*, that is, the joyful gathering of the faithful. In this assembly, the Christian community makes visible its communion with the Lord and bears witness to its belonging to Christ and its fidelity to the Church. This assembly cannot be substituted by a solely virtual presence, nor can it be reduced to a merely passive gathering. The liturgical assembly is in fact fulfilled through the active participation of brothers and sisters, called together to “thank God who ‘has begotten them again, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, unto a living hope’. In this regard, I urge everyone to seek the best possible conditions so that even those who are unable to take time off work on Sundays may take part in Holy Mass.

The liturgical year, punctuated by Sundays, has an interesting history, in which the faith and devotion of the Church are interwoven. Indeed, from as early as the second century AD, the celebration of the weekly Easter was joined by that of the annual Easter, the “most solemn festival”, extending over the most joyful period of fifty days, culminating in Pentecost, and prepared for by the season of Lent with its penitential character. The development of the Christmas cycle, which took place later and was modeled on the Paschal cycle, has made it possible to relive the mysteries of the Incarnation of the Word of God, His birth, and His manifestation to the world. The Church then incorporated, at various times, the veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, “joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son” and “the memory of the martyrs and the other saints” who “sing God’s perfect praise in heaven and offer prayers for us”.

The liturgical year thus repeats, in sacramental form, the teaching of salvation history, guiding the faithful from the expectation of the Messiah to the fullness of the Paschal Mystery and the anticipation of future glory. In it, the Church celebrates the salvific relevance of the mystery of Christ, enabling believers to participate in it ever more deeply. For this reason, the liturgical year serves as the guiding principle and essential framework for all pastoral action.