



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.

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

Weekly Mass Schedule

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – 8:15 AM

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 PM

Sunday - 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Readings for The Week

Sunday:

Acts 2:14,22-33; Ps 16:1-2,5,7-8,9-10,11; 42-47; Ps
Ptr 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

Monday:

Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119: 23-24,26-27,29-30; Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday:

Acts 7:51-8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4,6 & 7b & 8a,17 & 21ab;
Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday:

Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a,4-5,6-7a; Jn 6:35-40

Thursday:

Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9,16-17,20; Jn 6:44-51

Friday:

Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc,2; Jn 6:52-59

Saturday

1Ptr 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3,6-7,16-17; Mk 16:15-20

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil April 18

8:00 PM - Carmine DeMeo Jr (D)

Sunday, April 19

8:00 AM - For our Parish

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, April 21

8:15 AM - Peter & Susan Chadbourne (L)

Thursday, April 23

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Friday, April 24

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Ministers

<u>April 25</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Linda Cooper	Chuck Kenney	Rosa DiStefano
Joel Southwick	Betsy Kenney	Gregg Wright
Joan Hesik	Betsy Kenney	Gregg Wright

Pray for our Sick

Rosa Johnson, Ellen Heim, Rich Borst, Jeffrey Hesik, Angelo Perrino, John Burke, Krystal Ortiz, Michell Novotny, Casey Bay, Dennis HooChung, Joe Monahan, Michele Bullington

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 4/11-4/12/26

Budget	\$3,799.00
Collected	\$3,419.00
Short/Over	-\$380.00
YTD+-	+\$12,387.16

Weekly Collection 4/11-4/12/26

Budget	\$3,799.00
Collected	\$6,793.00
Short/Over	+\$2,994.00
YTD+-	+\$13,994.16

Second Collection

April 26 - Catholic Home Mission Appeal

Bible Study

Classes are held on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Center. 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

The candle for April: Viola E Beckert, Jimmy Cooper, & Edith M. Cassidy, birthday memorials, George Heim, Eddie Lopez

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 April 18-19 is Granola Bars.

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 host for April 11th is The Coopers. If you would like to host a social, contact the office:803-649-3203.

Sunday After Mass Social

The Sunday After Mass social is April 19, after the 10 a.m. Mass. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the back entrance to the social hall.

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection: A New Way of Remembering Jesus Luke 24:13-35

In today's Gospel, we hear how Jesus dialogues with two strangers (two despairing disciples on the road to Emmaus). He proclaims the Word to them and opens their eyes to the meaning of the Scriptures. When he breaks bread with them, their eyes are opened to the fact that their guest is Jesus. These two disciples travel from doubt and despair to faith in the Resurrection of Jesus.

Luke uses this story to communicate to those who are missing the physical presence of Christ, that their celebration of the Eucharist is the new way that Jesus is going to be with them. Now Jesus will continue to feed and nourish them in and through the proclamation of the Scriptures and the breaking of the bread. When we gather together to listen to his Word and break bread, Jesus is truly in our midst.

We too travel the road of doubt and despair to belief—like those disciples of old. Sometimes we are so caught up in our doubt and despair that we cannot see Jesus as he travels with us. But our footsteps all along the paths of our lives are matched by the footsteps of Jesus, if we only let Him open our eyes and hearts.

Hearts burned and tears were dried as the risen Lord made his way into the lives of his followers. It was in Jesus' characteristic behavior of giving, of feeding, of caring for his sheep--whatever way you want to describe the blessing and distributing of bread--that they knew him. Jesus spent a lot of time in Luke's gospel eating with people of all sorts. He described a wise and faithful disciple as one who makes sure others have what they need to eat at the right time.

Jesus gives us, not simply ordinary bread, but his very self to nourish us for the journey of life. In feeding others at the right time and in receiving the bread broken for us with thanksgiving, we are given Jesus. In this story, we might find hope that Jesus walks with us and find hope that in the breaking of the bread, we catch a glimpse of our Lord.

Prayer: May each glimpse of you Lord propel me to new confidence, new hope, even a new way of remembering. Amen.



St. Agnes of Montepulciano

Feast day: April 20

Agnes was born in 1268 into the noble Segni family in Gracciano. At the age of nine, she convinced her parents to allow her to enter a Franciscan monastery of women in the city known as the "Sisters of the Sack", after the rough religious habit they wore. They

lived a simple, contemplative life. She received the pope's permission to be admitted to this life at such a young age, which was normally against Church law.

In 1281, the lord of the castle of Proceno invited the nuns of Montepulciano to send some of their sisters to Proceno to found a new monastery. Agnes was among the nuns sent to found this new community. At the age of fourteen, she was appointed bursar.

In 1288, Agnes was elected prioress of the community. There, she gained a reputation for performing miracles; people suffering from mental and physical ailments seemed cured by her presence. She was reported to have "multiplied loaves", creating many from a few on numerous occasions, recalling the Gospel miracle of the loaves and fishes.

In 1306, Agnes was recalled to head the monastery in Montepulciano. She reached a high degree of contemplative prayer and is said to have been favored with many visions.

By 1316, Agnes' health had declined so greatly that her doctor suggested taking the cure at the thermal springs in the town of Chianciano Terme. The nuns of the community prevailed upon her to take his recommendation. While many of the other bathers reported being cured of their illnesses, Agnes received no benefit from the springs.

Agnes died on 20 April, at the age of 49. The Dominican friars attempted to obtain balsam to embalm her body. It was found, however, to be producing a sweet odor on its own, and her limbs remained supple. When her body was moved years after her death to the monastery church, it was found to be incorrupt.

Agnes was canonized by Pope Benedict XIII in 1726. Her feast day is celebrated within the Dominican Order on 20 April.

POPE LEO XIV
REGINA CAELI
St Peter's Square
Sunday, 12 April 2026

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday and happy Easter once again!

Today, on the Second Sunday of Easter, dedicated to Divine Mercy by Saint John Paul II, the Gospel recounts the appearance of the risen Jesus to the Apostle Thomas. This event took place eight days after Easter, while the community was gathered together. There, Thomas encountered the Master, who invited him to look at the marks of the nails and to put his hand into the wound in his side, and to believe. This scene invites us to reflect on our own encounter with the risen Jesus. Where can we find him? How can we recognize him? How can we believe? Saint John, who narrated the event, gives us precise indications: Thomas met Jesus on the *eighth day*, in the *gathered community*, and recognized him in the *signs of his sacrifice*. His profession of faith, the highest in the entire Fourth Gospel, emerged from this experience: “My Lord and my God!”

Of course, it is not always easy to believe. It was not easy for Thomas, and it is not easy for us either. Faith needs to be nourished and sustained. For this reason, on the “eighth day” — that is, every Sunday — the Church invites us to do as the first disciples did: gather together and celebrate the Eucharist. During Mass, we listen to the words of Jesus, we pray, we profess our faith, we share God’s gifts in charity, and we offer our lives in union with the Sacrifice of Christ. His Body and Blood nourish us, so that we too may become witnesses of his Resurrection, as indicated by the term “Mass,” which means “sending forth,” or “mission.”

The Sunday Eucharist is indispensable to the Christian life. Tomorrow I will depart for my Apostolic Journey to Africa. Some of the martyrs of the early African Church, particularly the Martyrs of Abitene, have left us a beautiful testimony in this regard. When offered the chance to save their lives by renouncing the celebration of the Eucharist, they replied that they could not live without celebrating the Lord’s Day. It is there that our faith grows and is strengthened. It is there that our efforts, though limited, are united by God’s grace to the actions of the members of a single body — the Body of Christ — for the accomplishment of a single great plan of salvation that embraces all humanity. It is through the Eucharist that our hands become “the hands of the Risen One,” giving witness to his presence, mercy, and peace. The signs of work, sacrifice, illness, and the passing of the years are often etched into our hands, just as they are in the tenderness of a caress, a handshake, or a gesture of charity.

Dear brothers and sisters, in a world that is in such great need of peace, this calls on us more than ever to be steadfast and faithful in our Eucharistic encounter with the risen Lord, so that we may go forth as witnesses of charity and messengers of reconciliation. May the Virgin Mary help us to do this, she who is blessed because she was the first to believe without seeing.

* * * * *

Prayer for the Holy Father

Almighty and everlasting God, have mercy upon Thy servant, Pope Leo XIV, 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. Our Father. Hail Mary.