



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 Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time October 11, 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:

Isa 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a,3b-4,5,6; Phi 4:212-14,19-20; Mt 22:1-14

Monday:

Gal 4:22-24,26-27,31-5:1; Ps 113:1b-2,3-4,5a & 6-7; Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday:

Gal 5:1-6; Ps 119:41,43,44,45,47,48; Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday:

Gal 5:18-25; Ps 1:1-23,45 & 5; Lk 11:42-46

Thursday: St. Teresa of Jesus Virgin & Doctor of the Church

Eph 1:1-10; Ps 98:1,2-3ab,3cd-4,5-6; Lk 11:47-54

Friday:

Eph 1:11-14; Ps 33:1-2,4-5,12-13; Lk 12:1-7

Saturday: St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr

Eph 1:15-23; Ps 8:2-3ab,4-5,6-7; Lk 12:8-12

Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil October 10

4:00 PM - For our Parish

Sunday, October 11

8:00 AM - For our Parish

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, October 13

8:15 Mass - John & Lori Rainchuso - Anniversary

Thursday - October 15

8:15 AM - For our Parish

Friday, October 16

8:15 AM - For our Parish

	Ministers	
October 17	October 18	October 18
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Tony DaVino	No Mass	Chioma Nwoga
Joel Southwick	No Mass	Gregg Wright
Joan Hesik	No Mass	Gregg Wright

Pray for our Sick

Rosa Johnson, Rich Borst, John Burke, Krystal Ortiz, Michell Novotny, Casey Bay, Jeff Hesik, Dennis HooChung, Joe Monahan, Michelle 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.

Weekly Collection 10/3-10/4/26

Budget	\$4,325.00
Collected	\$3,205.00
Short/Over	-\$1,120.00
YTD+-	-\$4,545.19

Second Collection

October 18 - World Mission Sunday

Tabernacle Candle

In accordance with tradition, a special lamp fueled by oil or wax should be kept alight near the tabernacle to indicate and honor the presence of Christ. The candle for October Nowell Solenberger 4th Birthday

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 October 17-18 is Cold Cereal. The pantry is also in need of canned chicken and canned tuna.

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. If you would like to host a social, contact the parish office: 803-649-3203.

Priest Retreat

Father will be on retreat from Monday, October 26, through Friday, October 30. **There will be NO morning Mass that week and NO Bible Study on Friday.**

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#. **There is NO Bible Study on Friday, October 30.**

Deacon Chuck's Corner

Reflection: God's Invitation Matthew 22:1-14

There is no room for complacency in today's parable, or declining, spurning, ignoring the "invitation" to the king's banquet, let alone treating the messengers very badly. This reminds us how God's original covenant with the Jews has shifted with the coming of Jesus heralding a new covenant opening God's kingdom to all – non-Jews and Gentiles alike. Like the king, God's immense hospitality is now open to everyone.

The invitation to the kingdom of heaven is cast wide. We are all invited to God's kingdom, however, some do not accept the invitation and others may even attack the messengers that bring the invitation. "Many are called, but few are chosen." Can I answer the call and say "yes" to Jesus? Can I live out in my life and relationships what I claim to believe in?

God, who sees our hearts, knows our inner thoughts and everything about us. This is particularly significant and pertinent as we come to the table of the Lord, because, here, we are dealing with something that can easily be used as a mask, a guise of Christianity. All of us can partake of the table of the Lord. All of us can eat the bread and drink the wine. But God is watching the heart. He is looking to see whether that heart has really accepted the gift of life and has genuinely entered into an understanding of the joy, the gladness, and the glory that it is to know Jesus Christ.

Prayer: "Lord I believe, help my unbelief". God help me to respond as best I can to your invitation and protect all God's messengers, whatever their denomination. I thank you Lord for your willingness to change me, to love me, and to lead me into the experience of new life. Amen.

Prayer for Intercession of St. Gerard

O Father, we humbly seek St. Gerard's intercession in our family challenges. Grant us wisdom and strength to navigate our trials with love and unity. May his guidance illuminate our path and foster understanding and compassion among us. Help us to embrace each other in faith, trusting in Your divine plan. Amen

St. Gerard Majella Feast day: October 16



St. Gerard Majella was born in 1726 in Muro, Italy. When he was 12, his father passed away, and his mother sent him to live with his uncle to learn to become a tailor. After a few years as an apprentice, Majella took a job with the local Bishop of Lacedonia as a servant.

He tried to join the Capuchin Order twice, but was prevented by ill health.

In 1749, he joined the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, known as Redemptorists. The order was dedicated to preaching the word of God to the poor, as well as leading missions and retreats.

Majella lived with the three vows of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience. He stayed close to the poor and worked many different jobs. Because of his great piety, extraordinary wisdom, and his gift of reading consciences, he was permitted to counsel communities of religious women. Majella was often called on by the poor and the sick. Wherever his presence was demanded, he graciously presented himself. This humble servant of God also had faculties associated with certain mystics including, levitation, bi-location, and the ability to read souls. His charity, obedience, selfless service, and ceaseless mortification for Christ made him the perfect model of lay brothers. He was there to "do the Will of God."

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

We return to our reflection on *Gaudium et Spes*, considering the Church's mission in the contemporary world. As the Son of God became incarnate to fulfill his redemptive mission, so the Church dwells in the world as a living sign of God's plan to reconcile the world to himself. By discerning the signs of the times through the lens of the Gospel, she carries out this task by helping people respond to life's profound questions and contributing to society through her witness of faith and charity. To be effective in this mission, the Church depends on every baptized person cooperating with the grace of the Holy Spirit and seeking holiness. The lay faithful, in particular, are called to animate the culture in which they live with a Christian spirit. In our call to build up the Kingdom of God, may we renew our efforts toward personal sanctification, justice, and fraternal love, and thus be signs of hope for all people.

LEO XIV
Wednesday, 7 October 2026
Catechesis. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council.
IV. Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*.
5. *The mission of the Church in the contemporary world*

Brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Resuming our reflection on the Conciliar Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, today we will consider the fourth chapter of the first part, dedicated to the Church's mission in the contemporary world.

First, the Council recalls that the Church is not "above" or "beside" the world, but is, as it were, grafted into it. "*Mundus reconciliatus Ecclesia*", wrote Saint Augustine: the Church is the world already reconciled with God; we are pilgrims on earth and share in this world's fragility and beauty.

Just as the Son of God was incarnated to give life to the world and reconcile it with the Father, so the Church dwells in the world as a sign of the incarnation of God, to manifest His plan to make us all His children in one great human family. Therefore, the Church journeys through history among peoples and cultures, and "this involvement in people's lives helps the Church understand ever more clearly that her mission has a historical scope and entails a responsibility for the way in which social relations are built".

The Church's first mission is to help people attend to the profound questions of life: those concerning our origin and our destiny, as well as those concerning the meaning of love and suffering. The logic of profit at all costs and the manipulation of information risk exerting undue pressure on people to conform to a lifestyle centered on consuming material goods, but our hearts are made to look upwards.

The Council Fathers remind us that the Church's mission is also fulfilled by contributing to the construction of the earthly city. However, her methods and aims are not primarily political; rather, they consist in bearing witness to faith and charity, together with commitment to justice, peace, and fraternity. By worshipping Christ, the Righteous One who died for the unrighteous, the believer cannot accept the oppression of the weak and the poor, nor the unjust structures that perpetuate conditions of dependence and injustice. The social doctrine of the Church guides the actions of Christians, who collaborate with all people of good will in promoting the common good. The Church, therefore, "has no fiercer desire than that in pursuit of the welfare of all she may be able to develop herself freely under any kind of government which grants recognition to the basic rights of person and family, to the demands of the common good".

To fulfill the Gospel mission effectively, every baptized person must commit to cooperating with the grace of the Holy Spirit, so that their faith may be living and expressed in consistent behavior. Indeed, as the Council Fathers reiterate, the discrepancy between professed faith and daily life "deserves to be counted among the more serious errors of our age".

Gaudium et Spes reserves special mention for the mission of the lay faithful who, by virtue of their Baptism, are called to enliven the world with the Christian spirit and the vision of the Gospel. The principal settings for this activity, which may well be described as priestly, are undoubtedly the family and the workplace, but it extends to every sphere of life.

Finally, the Church is always attentive to what is taking place and developing in society. It is the task of the whole People of God, especially pastors and theologians, to discern what in the cultures of our time is worthy of consideration, always taking the Word of God and the Tradition of the Church as the supreme criteria for discernment. This requires a balanced mind, free from cultural trends, capable of viewing the world in a positive light whilst remaining steadfast in preserving and presenting the Gospel message in its entirety. Indeed, "it is certainly not by watering down the content or softening the demands that Christianity can be made attractive".

As she journeys through history, "the Church has a single intention: that God's kingdom may come, and that the salvation of the whole human race may come to pass". She strives towards this end through personal holiness and fraternal love. Saint Paul VI wrote: "Without this mark of holiness, our word will have difficulty in touching the heart of modern man. It risks being vain and sterile". Let us be open to the action of the Holy Spirit, that He may help us to live in holiness and charity, so that the world may believe and hope.