



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 Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time *October 22, 2023*

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

RCIA: Contact office 803-649-3203

Bible Study: Fridays 10:00 AM in the church hall

Website: www.stgerardinaiken.org

Readings for The Week

Sunday

Is 45:1,4-6(145A); Ps 96:1,3,4-5,7-8,9-10; 1 Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21

Monday

Rom 4:20-25; Lk 1:69-70,71-72,73-75; Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday

Rom 5:12,15b,17-19,20b-21; Ps 40:7-8a,8b-9,10,17; Lk 12:35-38

Wednesday

Rom 6:12-18; Ps 124:1b-3,4-6,7-8; Lk 12:39-48

Thursday

Rom 6:19-23; Ps 1:1-2,3,4 & 6; Lk 12:49-53

Friday

Rom 7:18-25a; Ps 119:66,68,76,77,93,94; Lk 12:54-59

Saturday Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles

Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-3,4-5; Lk 6:12-16

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 21

4:00 PM - For our Parish

Sunday, October 22

8:00 AM - For our Parish

10:00 AM - For our Parish

Tuesday, October 24 -No Mass

Thursday, October 26 - No Mass

Friday, October 27- No Mass

No weekday Masses October 23 through October 27

Ministers

October 28	October 29	October 29
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
M Bullington	P Srednicki	Janet Menefee
Ellen Heim	Betsy Kenney	W Johnson
Joan Hesik	Betsy Kenney	

Pray for our sick

Rosa Johnson, Paula Thurston, Ellen Heim, Rich Borst
Pat Hayes, Jack Holder, Betty Hyslop & John Burke

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. A careful judgment about the serious nature of the illness is sufficient. 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 office: 803-646-3203.

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

Legion of Mary meetings are on Tuesdays at 2:00 PM in the Conference Room. The Aiken Curia meetings are the 2nd Saturday of the month in the Parish Social Hall.

Bible Study

Classes are on Fridays at 10:00 AM in the church hall.
For information, contact the Office: 803-649-3203
stgerardinaiken@gmail.com

No Bible Study on Friday, October 27

Weekly Collection October 14-15

Budget	\$2,894.00
Collected	\$4,253.00
Short/Over	+\$1,359.00
YTD +/-	- \$184.00

Second Collection

World Mission Sunday – October 22

Annual Gift Collection

Total amount received is \$5,850 with 38% participation. Be sure to use the special envelope that was included with the weekly collection envelopes for your annual gift; otherwise, put your check in an envelope clearly marked Annual Gift Collection. The Annual Gift Collection is from October through December.

Tabernacle Candle

A special candle should be kept alight near the tabernacle to indicate and honor the presence of Christ. If you would like to make a donation in honor or in memory of a loved one, please call the Parish Office. The donation is \$25. The intention for October is for George & Ellen Heim & Family

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.

Save the Date and Mark your Calendar

Our next Family Friday is
Friday, October 27!

October 22, 2023
Deacon Chuck's Corner



A Reflection on Being Good Citizens - Matthew 22:15-21

In today's gospel, representatives from a number of Jewish leadership groups come to Jesus with their question short and to the point: "Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" The conundrum for Jesus is this: If he answers yes, then he could be perceived as in collusion with Rome, justifying Roman occupation and oppression of the Jews. This would not be a popular answer among the Jewish people. On the other hand, if Jesus answers no, he could be suspected of revolutionary sentiment against Rome.

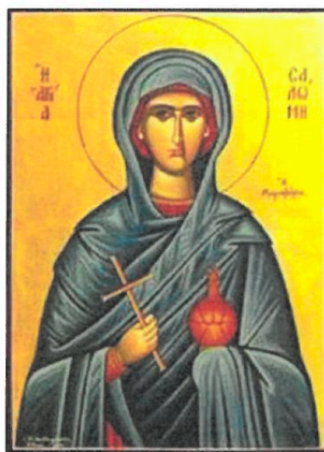
Jesus answers and shows that he is aware of their trickery. He calls them "hypocrites," because they show something on the outside (flattery) that is quite opposite of what is true internally (evil intent); Jesus calls for a coin--a denarius--presumably the cost of the tax, and he asks them to identify whose image is on the coin. When they identify the emperor's face and title, Jesus delivers an amazing and rather ambiguous one-liner: "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's". We see in this reading how Jesus remains free and firm in face of the plots against him.

Jesus, in his response to his questioners, reminds us that every Christian holds dual citizenship, each with its own benefits and duties: our birth makes us citizens of an earthly nation; our baptism makes us citizens of a heavenly Kingdom. We have duties to each. Generally, these loyalties are not in conflict. However, there are nonetheless occasions when we need to speak out against neglect or inequitable behavior by our Government, especially in regard to social injustice.

Prayer: Jesus, I ask for your courage to stand up for what is true and just. Help us to remember God needs us to be good citizens and to help build good relationships and a community of love wherever we find ourselves. Amen.

St. Mary Salome Feast day: October 22

Saint Mary Salome, a daughter of Saint Mary of Cleophas, was first called, Salome. She added Mary to her name in honor of the Blessed Virgin. Her father and her mother both were saints. She was the wife of Zebedee



and the mother of Saint John and Saint James the Greater. Her brothers were Saint Simon, Saint James the Less, and Saint Jude, Apostles, and Saint Joseph Barsabas, a disciple of Our Lord. Saint Mary Salome was one of the "three Marys" who stood by the Cross of Jesus when He died, and to whom He appeared on the first Easter Sunday.

The canonical gospels never go so far as to label Salome a "disciple", and so mainstream Christian writers usually describe her as a "follower" of Jesus per references to the women who "followed" and "ministered" to Jesus. However, feminist critiques have argued that the mainstream tradition consistently underplays the significance of Jesus's female supporters.

Salome, her mother Saint Mary of Cleophas, Saint Mary Magdalen, Saint Martha, and companions, were put on a boat with no sails and no oars, during a persecution by the Jews in the year 47, and were pushed out to sea. The boat miraculously floated unharmed to the south of France. Saint Mary Salome died in France. She is still venerated there with great love and devotion.

Saint Salome's feast day in the Latin liturgical rites of the Catholic Church is October 22. In art, she is often portrayed holding a thurible as a symbol of her sacrifice and faith in Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis' General Audience: Catechesis. The passion for evangelization: the apostolic zeal of the believer. 23. Saint Charles de Foucauld, the beating heart of charity in the hidden life

Rome: Wednesday, 18 October 2023

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today I would like to talk to you about a man who made Jesus and his poorest brothers the passion of his life. I refer to Saint Charles de Foucauld, who “drawing upon his intense experience of God, made a journey of transformation towards feeling a brother to all”.

What is the “secret” of Charles de Foucauld’s life? After living a youth far from God, without believing in anything other than the disordered pursuit of pleasure, he confides this to a non-believing friend, to whom, after having converted by accepting the grace of God’s forgiveness in Confession, he reveals the reason for his life. He writes: “I have lost my heart to Jesus of Nazareth”. Brother Charles reminds us that the first step in evangelizing is to have Jesus inside one’s heart; it is to “fall head over heels” for him. If this does not happen, we can hardly show it with our lives. Instead, we risk talking about ourselves, the group to which we belong, a morality or a set of rules, but not about Jesus, his love, and his mercy. It would be good for each one of us to ask: “Do I have Jesus at the center of my heart? Have I ‘lost my head’ a bit for Jesus?”.

Charles had, to the extent that he goes from *attraction to Jesus* to *imitation of Jesus*. Advised by his confessor, he goes to the Holy Land to visit the places where the Lord lived and to walk where the Master walked. It is in Nazareth that he realizes he must be formed in the school of Christ. He experiences an intense relationship with the Lord, and spends long hours reading the Gospels. As he gets to know Jesus, the desire to make Jesus known arises in him. When one of us gets to know Jesus better, the desire to make him known, to share this treasure, arises.

He decides to settle in distant regions to cry out the Gospel in silence, living in the spirit of Nazareth, in poverty and concealment. He goes to the Sahara Desert as a friend and a brother bearing the meekness of Jesus. Charles lets Jesus act silently, convinced that the “Eucharistic life” evangelizes. He remains in prayer at Jesus’ feet, before the Tabernacle, for a dozen hours a day, sure that the evangelizing force resides there and feeling that it is Jesus who will bring him close to so many distant brothers. Do we believe in the power of the Eucharist? Does our going out to others find its beginning and its fulfillment there, in adoration?

Charles de Foucauld wrote: “Every Christian is an apostle”, and that “there need to be laypeople close to priests, to see what the priest does not see, who evangelize with a proximity of charity, with goodness for everyone, with affection always ready to be given”. The saintly laypeople who love Jesus make the priest understand that he is not a functionary, he is a mediator, a priest. How we priests need to have beside us those laypeople who truly believe, and who teach us the way by their witness.

Charles de Foucauld, with this lay experience, foreshadows the times of Vatican Council II; he intuitively understands the importance of the laity and understands that the proclamation of the Gospel is up to the entire people of God. But how can we increase this participation? By kneeling and welcoming the action of the Spirit, who always inspires new ways to engage, meet, listen, and dialogue, always in collaboration and trust, always in communion with the Church and pastors.

Saint Charles de Foucauld bore witness to the beauty of communicating the Gospel through *the apostolate of meekness*: considering himself a “universal brother” and welcoming everyone, he shows us the evangelizing force of meekness, of tenderness. Let us not forget that God’s style is summarized in three words: proximity, compassion and tenderness. God is always near, he is always compassionate, and he is always tender. And Christian witness must take this road: of proximity, compassion and tenderness. He wanted everyone he met to see the goodness of Jesus. Living Jesus’ goodness led him to forge the bonds of friendship with the poor, with those furthest from his mentality. Goodness is simple and asks us to be simple people, who are not afraid to offer a smile. And with his smile, with his simplicity, Brother Charles bore witness to the Gospel. Never by proselytism, never: by witness. One does not evangelize by proselytism, but by witness, by attraction.

So finally, let us ask ourselves whether we bring Christian joy, Christian meekness, Christian tenderness, Christian compassion, Christian proximity. Thank you.