



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 Feast of Christ The King of The Universe *November 26, 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

Ez 34:11-12,15-17(160A); Ps 23:1-2,2-3,5-6; 1 Cor 15:20-26,28; Mt 25:31-46

Monday

Dan 1:1-6,8-20; Dan 3:52,53,54,55,56; Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday

Dan 2:31-45; Dan 3:57,58,59,60,61; Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday

Dan 5:1-6,13-14,16-17,23-28; Dan 3:62,63,64,65,66,67; Lk 21:12-19

Thursday St. Andrew, Apostle

Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8,9,10,11; Mt 4:18-22

Friday

Dan 7:2-14; Dan 3:75,76,77,78,79,80,81; Lk 21:29-33

Saturday

Dan 7:15-27; Dan 3:82,83,84,85,86,87; Lk 21:37-36

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 25

4:00 PM - Carolyn Heh (D)

Sunday, November 26

8:00 AM - EJ Nwaga (T)

10:00 AM - Gloria W. Augustine (D)

Tuesday, November 28 - 8:15 -EJ Nwaga (T)

Thursday, November 30 - 8:15 AM -For our Parish

Friday, December 1 - 8:15 AM -Deacon Pete Okteen (T)

Ministers

<u>December 2</u>	<u>December 3</u>	<u>December 3</u>
4:00 PM Vigil	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Michele Bullington	Denise Gelinas	Rosa Dstefano
Mary Rose	Betsy Kenney	Jackie Brown
Joan Hesik	Betsy Kenney	

Pray for our sick

Rosa Johnson, Paula Thurston, Ellen Heim, Rich Borst
Pat Hayes, Jack Holder, Betty Hyslop, Angelo Perrino,
John Burke, Mike Bucchichio, Chuck Kenney

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

Weekly Collection November 18-19

Budget	\$2,894.00
Collected	\$2,532.00
Short/Over	-\$362.00
YTD +/-	+\$161.00

Second Collection - November 25 & 26 Guatemala Mission

Second Collection – December 9 & 10 Retirement Fund for Religious

In the United States, hundreds of religious communities lack the financial resources to meet the retirement and healthcare needs of aging members. The Retirement Fund for Religious provides financial support for men and women who are in need. Since religious work for little to no salary, they do not have sufficient retirement savings. For giving their lives to the church, we offer support in gratitude for their service.

Annual Gift Collection

Total amount received is \$11,360 with 64% participation. Please 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 will continue to the end of 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. November: In honor of Jake & Cayla Beckert and Connor Brady, and in memory of Roger Gelinas

Wine & Cheese Social

Saturday, December 2, following the 4:00 p.m. Mass. Hosts for December Beckert & Welsh. If you would like to host a social, contact the office: 803-649-3203
stgerardinaiken@gmail.com

November 26, 2023
Deacon Chuck's Corner



A Reflection on The Needy Around Us Matthew 25:11-46

This long and exciting parable has a simple message: 'Minister to the needy around you, or else you are missing the whole point of living!' St Matthew's hearers had difficulty about what would happen to non-Jews, since they themselves were the Chosen People. Jesus says that with his coming into the world, everyone is a 'chosen person'. Everyone is to be treated with limitless respect.

This message is simple – the Lord will judge us on our love and service of others. You are there in the poor, the sick, the prisoners, the strangers - help us recognize your face, Lord.

This parable is about opening our eyes here and now to the needs of our neighbors - the hungry, the homeless, the refugee, the prisoner, the isolated lonely ones. Jesus identifies with each one. If I turn away from my brothers and sisters in need, I am turning away from my brother Jesus.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, help me to see what Jesus says, to recognize how, in my life, I embody the actions that express Jesus' attitudes. Holy Spirit guide me to recognize the good that God is doing in my life and that I not fall prey to any poor spirit that makes me gloomy or judgmental. May whatever good I do be an expression of my gratitude to God who does so much for me. Amen.

Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already come, and I unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Feast of Christ the King

On the last Sunday of each liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, or Christ the King.



Christ's kingship is rooted in the Church's teaching on the Incarnation. Jesus is fully God and fully man. He is both the divine Lord and the man who suffered and died on the Cross. One person of the Trinity unites himself to human nature and reigns over all creation as the Incarnate Son of God. "From this it

follows not only that Christ is to be adored by angels and men, but that to him as man angels and men are subject, and must recognize his empire; by reason of the hypostatic union Christ has power over all creatures".

The Church calls us to acknowledge Christ's kingship with our whole lives:

He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to him alone. He must reign in our bodies and in our members, which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, 'as instruments of justice unto God.'

Today, religious freedom for many people means that we can believe whatever we want in private, but when we enter the public square or the marketplace, we may not speak of anything that relates to our faith. However, the Church acknowledges the reign of Christ, not only privately, but publicly. **This solemnity encourages us to celebrate and live out our faith in public.** We love Jesus in our private lives, but we shrink from acknowledging the kingship of Christ in social life.

When we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King, we declare to the world and remind ourselves that Jesus is the Lord of the Church and of the entire universe.

Pope Francis' General Audience
Catechesis. The passion for evangelization:
The apostolic zeal of the believer. 27. Proclamation is for everyone

Rome: Wednesday, 22 November 2023

Dear brothers and sisters,

After having seen, last time, that the Christian proclamation is joy, today let us focus on a second aspect: it is *for everyone*, Christian proclamation is a joy for everyone. When we truly meet the Lord Jesus, the wonder of this encounter pervades our life and demands to be taken beyond us. He desires this, that His Gospel is for everyone. Indeed, in it there is a “humanizing power”, a fulfillment of life that is destined for every man and woman, because Christ was born, died, and rose again for everyone. For everyone: no-one excluded.

In *Evangelii Gaudium* we read that everyone has “a right to receive the Gospel. Christians have the duty to proclaim the Gospel without excluding anyone. Instead of seeming to impose new obligations, they should appear as people who wish to share their joy, who point to a horizon of beauty and who invite others to a delicious banquet. It is not by proselytizing that the Church grows, but ‘by attraction’”. Brothers, sisters, let us feel that we are at the service of the *universal destination of the Gospel*, it is for everyone; and let us distinguish ourselves for our capacity to come out of ourselves. A proclamation, to be true, must leave behind one’s own selfishness – and let us also have the capacity to cross all borders. Christians meet on the parvis more than in the sacristy, and go “to the streets and lanes of the city” (Lk14:21). They must be open and expansive, Christians must be “extrovert”, and this character of theirs comes from Jesus, who make his presence in the world a continuous journey, aimed at reaching out to everyone, even learning from some of his encounters.

In this sense, the Gospel reports Jesus’ surprising encounter with a foreign woman, a Canaanite who begs him to cure her sick daughter (cf. Mt 15:21-28). Jesus refuses, saying that he was sent only “to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” and that “it is not fair to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs” (vv. 24, 26). But the woman, with the insistence typical of the simple, replies that “even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table” (v. 27). Jesus is struck by this and says, “woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire” (v. 28). The encounter with this woman has something unique about it. Not only does someone make Jesus change his mind, and a woman, foreign and a pagan, but the Lord himself finds confirmation that his preaching should not be limited to the people to whom he belongs, but open to all.

The Bible shows us that when God calls a person and makes a pact with some of them, the criterion is always this: *elect someone to reach others*, this is the criterion of God, of God’s calling. All the Lord’s friends have experienced the beauty, but also the responsibility and the burden of being “chosen” by him. And everyone has felt discouragement in the face of their own weaknesses or the loss of their certainties. But perhaps the greatest temptation is that of considering the calling received as a privilege: please, no, the calling is not a privilege, ever. We cannot say that we are privileged compared to others. The calling is for a service. And God chooses one in order to love everyone, to reach everyone.

It is also to prevent the temptation of identifying Christianity with a culture, with an ethnicity, with a system. In this way, though, it loses its truly *Catholic* nature, or rather for everyone, universal: it is not a little group of first-class, chosen people. Let us not forget: God chooses some to love *all*. This horizon of universality. The Gospel is not only for me, it is for everyone; let us not forget this. Thank you.