

It is true that not only the educational links have been broken but education has become too selective and elitist. It seems that only people or persons who have <reached> a certain level or who have a certain capacity have a right to education, but certainly all children and all young people have a right to education. This is a global reality that makes us ashamed. It is a reality that leads us to a human selectivity, and that instead of bringing peoples closer, it distances them; it also distances the rich from the poor; it distances one culture from another ... But this also happens in a small way: the educational pact between the family and the school is broken! We must begin again. The educational pact between the family and the State is also broken. Unless there is an ideological State that wishes to take advantage of education to carry its ideology forward: such as those dictatorships that we saw in the last century. It's awful. Educators are among the worst paid workers: what does this mean? This simply means that the State is not interested. If it was interested, things wouldn't be the way they are. The educational pact is broken. And here comes our work: to find new ways.

The testimony of Senegal, of Father ... [he turns to him] you, who spoke: try to do what Don Bosco did. At the time of the worst Masonry in Northern Italy, Don Bosco sought an "emergency education." And today we have an "educational emergency," we must push for "informal education," because formal education has been impoverished by the legacy of positivism. It only conceives an intellectual technicality and the language of the head. Hence, it has been impoverished. This scheme must be broken. And there are experiences with art, with sport ... Art and sport educate! We must open ourselves to new horizons, create new models ... There are so many experiences: you know the one that was presented by you, *Scholas occurrentes*, which in fact seeks to open, to open the horizon to an education that is not only concepts in the head. There are three languages: the language of the head, the language of the heart and the language of the hands. Education must move in these three ways. To teach to think, to help to feel well and to accompany in doing, so that the three languages are in harmony; that the child, the youngster think about what he feels and does, feel what he thinks and does, and that he does what he thinks and feels. And thus education becomes *inclusive*, because everyone has a place – inclusive also humanly. The educational pact was broken by the phenomenon of exclusion. We find the best, the most selective – those that are the most intelligent, or those with the most money to pay the best school or university – and the others are left to one side. The world cannot go forward with a *selective* education, because there is no social pact that unites everyone. And this is a challenge: to seek ways of informal education – of art, of sport, so many, so many. A great Brazilian educator – are there Brazilians here? --, one of yours said that in the school – in the formal school – one must avoid falling solely into teaching concepts. A true school must teach concepts, habits and values, and when a school is incapable of doing this at the same time, that school is selective and exclusive and for a few.

I think the situation of a broken educational pact, such as that of today, is grave, it is grave, because it leads to the selection of "super-men," but only with the criteria of the head and only with the criteria of interest. Behind this there is always the ghost of money – always! – Which ruins true humanity. One thing that helps is a sure and healthy respectful informality; and this is good in education, because formality is confused with rigidity. And a go back to the first question: where there is rigidity there is no humanism, and where there is no humanism, Christ cannot enter! The doors are closed! The drama of closure begins in the roots of rigidity. And peoples want something else, and when I say "peoples" I mean people, all of us, families ... They want coexistence, they want dialogue – Cardinal Versaldi stressed this: they want dialogue. However, when the educational pact is broken and there is rigidity, there is no place for dialogue: I think my way, you think your way and there is no place for universality and for fraternity. In the two experiences I have had here, in the Vatican, speaking, connecting with students of five continents – which was organized by *Scholas occurrentes* – I have seen the need for unity and today, the project that is offered is precisely the plan of separation, not of unity – also of selectivity.

What does this mean for individuals committed to the promotion of education? -- the question ended. It means *to risk*. An educator who is unable to risk is no good for education. A father or a mother who are unable to risk, do not educate their child well -- to risk in a reasonable way. What does this mean? To teach how to walk. When you teach a child to walk, you teach him that one leg must stay put, on the pavement he knows, and with the other, he must try to go forward so that if he slips, he can defend himself. This is to educate. You are certain on this point, but this is not definitive. You must take another step. Perhaps you will slip. But you get up and go forward ... The true educator must be a teacher of risk, but of reasonable risk, one understands, as I have now tried to explain. I don't know. I think I've answered the question ...

Sister Pina Del Core, President of the Faculty of Sciences of the *Auxilium* Education of Rome

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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Aiken, SC 29801
803 649-3203

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Jeremiah 33:14-16(3C)

Responsorial:

Psalms 25:4-5,8-9,14

Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Gospel

Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Lectionary Readings for the week of

November 29th

Monday: Romans 10:9-18;

Matthew 4:18-22

Tuesday: Isaiah 11:1-10;

Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday: Isaiah 25:6-10a;

Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew

7:21,24-27

Friday: Isaiah 29:17-24;

Matthew 9:27-31

Today's Missal

Mass Times: Weekdays Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:15 AM, First Friday Benediction after Mass
Weekend Saturday 4:00 PM, Sunday 7:00 AM and 11:15 AM

Confessions: after weekday Masses and by Appointment

Office Hours: 9:00 AM till 3:00 PM Tuesday - Thursday

Bible Study: Fridays 10:00 AM (**Insight to the scriptures**)

Baptisms, Confirmations and Marriages: By Appointment, Contact the office.

Contact Us: Phone 803 649-3203, [E-Mail stgerardscatholi@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:stgerardscatholi@atlanticbbn.net)

[Facebook @stgerardaiken](https://www.facebook.com/stgerardaiken),

Emergency number for Father 803 637-2027

*Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
Tuesdays at the 8:15 Mass.*

The First Sunday of Advent November 29, 2015

Mission Statement

Called to be a People for Others

Vision 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.*

Fr. Emmanuel Andinam: Administrator

'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the turmoil of the ocean and its waves; men fainting away with terror and fear at what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.' And he told them a parable, 'Look at the fig tree and indeed every tree. As soon as you see them bud, you can see for yourselves that summer is now near. Luke 21:25-30



Pray for our sick:
 Gary Gilbert
 Leonard Saunders
 Shirley Paige
 William and Jackie Cobbs
 Woody Alexander
 Lena Mickens
 Rosa Johnson
 Brenda Ligon
 Joe Fulmer
 Patricia Bailey
 Shirley Acosta



Saints help give us direction on the path of discipleship. They inspire us to give freely and gratefully of our time, abilities and resources.

Mass Intentions
 4:00 PM, 7:00 AM and 11:15 AM
 Masses will be said for your own personal intentions.

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| <i>The Gathering Hymn</i> | 44 M |
| <i>The Advent of Our King</i> | |
| <i>The Offertory Hymn is</i> | 334 H |
| <i>Come Now, Almighty King</i> | |
| <i>The Communion Hymn is</i> | CHOIR 604 BB |
| <i>Christ Be Our Light</i> | |
| <i>Our Song of Praise is</i> | 21 M |
| <i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i> | |

Pastoral Council:
 Wayman Johnson,
 Chairman
 Payson Borst
 Jacqueline Brown
 Fredrick Cadek
 Nancy Durden
 Marge Glauser
 Janet Menefee
 Gregory Wright
 Joan Hesik

Finance Council:
 Robert Erikson,
 Chairman
 Leon Gagnon and
 Anna Marie Key,
 Auditors.
 Lisa Solenberger
 Art Wagner

Sunday Offering November 15th
 Collection \$1,988.00
 Needed \$2,612.00
 Under \$624.00
 Attendance 140
Stewardship a way of life



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|  | Saturday December 5 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Joan Hesik E E Ministers: Barbara Dixon | Sunday December 6 7:00 AM Mass Mary Kay L'Esperance Gerard L'Esperance | Sunday December 6 11:15 AM Mass Sheila Wagner Mary Rose |  |
| | Saturday December 12 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Tami Schaeffer E E Minister: Jerry Schaeffer | Sunday December 13 7:00 AM Mass Denise Gelinis Roger Gelinis | Sunday December 13 11:15 AM Mass Sheila Wagner Mary Rose | |
| | Refreshments December 6 Jackie Brown/Rosa DiSefano | Counters December 6 Open | | |

Christmas Choir practice will be on Tuesdays from 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM December 1st, 8th and 22nd.
 Practice on the December 15th will follow the Penance service

*The Mass for The Feast of The Immaculate Conception will be on December 8th at 8:15 AM. We will have a penance service at 6:30 PM on December 15th. This will consist of readings, Psalms and The Act of Contrition. Father will grant absolution. The Christmas Mass schedule will be (Christmas Vigil at 4:00 PM Christmas Eve) and (Christmas Mass at 11:15 AM Christmas Day). **No 4:00 PM Mass on Saturday December 26th.***

*Thank you to the family that has told father that they will purchase the chalices and paten that we need. We may need to replace the ciborium so it will match the other vessels and someone has offered to purchase that. If any one would like to assist in the purchase of any items for the sanctuary contact the office.
 Thank you to Mary Welsh for the new altar cloth.*

I hope everyone is having a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend. And with Advent beginning this weekend we can prepare for Christmas.

We will be having another Town Hall in the near future. Probably after the 1st of the year. An opportunity for involvement.

Church Community is important



Volunteer Corner

Thanks to Leon Gagnon for hauling all the construction materials off the property and Joan Hesik for assistance in the office and around the church.

Show your thanks for all your blessings by giving back. Sign up this holiday season to become an ACTS volunteer. ACTS is in desperate need of volunteers to serve in our Resale Store and Client Room assisting clients with their clothing vouchers. Shifts are available Monday thru Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Commit to as few or as many hours and/or days as fit your schedule. It's not only rewarding but fun, as well! Just e-mail us at volunteer@actsofaiken.org, or call 803.649.3800 for more information.

Our Lady of The Valley still needs food donations. All food collected here at St. Gerard is donated to OLV. Please continue to be generous.

If you know of someone that needs The Blessed Sacrament brought to their home or hospital please call the office.

**Bible study will continue through Advent.
 10:00 AM on Fridays**

**Black Catholics' Heritage Celebration,
 "An Advent Gathering of the Faithful"
 December 12, 2015 Columbia, SC
 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2015 Diocese of Charleston Office of Black Catholics' Heritage Celebration. Our guest homilist and keynote speaker at this year's celebration will be the Most Reverend Joseph N. Perry, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Other highlights of this special day will include a discussion on Bishop Edward Braxton's document "The Racial Divide in the United States: A Reflection for the World Day of Peace 2015" led by the Honorable Arthur C. McFarland, a panel discussion on the World Meeting of Families and the papal visit. There will also be a separate youth track. Follow this event and others on the web at sccatholic.org/ethnic-ministries

The next parish council meeting is 8 December at 6:30 PM.

Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment, where women and men can express their post-abortive feelings, to begin the process of restoration and healing.

Our next retreat in SC is for people who speak Spanish, December 4-6, 2015 in Rock Hill. For more information, please contact Sarah at 803-627-1209

In Harms' Way: Please remember in your prayers our Nation and loved ones of our parishioners currently serving in harms' way: James Ligon, Robert McHugh, Jacob Hershey, and James Rossini. Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Refreshments: Every body please look at the schedule it has been changed..

We still need one more person from each Mass to be responsible for the care of the church linens. This would mean that each person would have two months responsibility. We must have these items cleaned and available for Mass.



The Salvation Army needs help at the shelter on Park Ave. They are losing older people that have been helping with serving lunch. We already have at least one parishioner helping. Please if you have the time to help call Rose at 641-4149 or call Mary Welsh at 648-2140. Feed God's children.

Hospital Visits: If you or a loved one is in Aiken Regional Hospital (ARMC) please let St Gerards know. Remember - ARMC does not inform us of Catholic patients, even if you register as a Catholic; it is up to the patient or family to do so. You can: ask the ARMC Chaplain to call the Catholic church, ask your nurse to inform the Catholic church (name & room number), call-St.Gerard at 649-3203 and leave a message or email St Gerard at stgerardscatholi@Atlanticcbbn.net.