

Pope Francis' remarks at Angelus; On the Feast of the Assumption

Mary Is Model of Virtue and Faith. In Contemplating Her Today Assumed into Heaven, We Thank Her Because She Always Goes before Us in Our Pilgrimage of Life and of Faith'

Rome, August 15, 2017, zenit.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

Today, Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Gospel presents to us the young woman of Nazareth that, having received the Angel's announcement, left in haste to be close to Elizabeth, in the last months of her miraculous pregnancy. Arriving at her home, Mary receives from her mouth the words that came to form the "Hail Mary" prayer: "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb" (Luke 1:42). In fact, the greatest gift that Mary brings to Elizabeth – and to the whole world – is Jesus, who now lives in her; and lives not only by faith and expectation, as in so many women of the Old Testament: Jesus took human flesh from the Virgin for His mission of salvation.

In Elizabeth's home, and that of her husband Zachariah, where sadness reigned before because of the lack of children, now there is the joy of a baby about to arrive: a baby that will become the great John the Baptist, Precursor of the Messiah. And when Mary arrives, joy overflows and bursts from hearts, because Jesus' invisible but real presence fills everything with meaning: life, the family, the salvation of the people . . . everything! This full joy is expressed with Mary's voice in the stupendous prayer that Luke's Gospel has transmitted to us and that is called Magnificat, from the first Latin word. It is a song of praise to God who does great things through humble persons, unknown to the world, as Mary herself was and her husband Joseph, and as Nazareth, the place where they lived was also. The great things that God has wrought with humble persons, the great things the Lord does in the world with the humble, because humility is like an emptiness that gives place to God. The humble is powerful because he is humble, not because he is strong. And this is the grandeur of the humble and of humility. I would like to ask you – and also myself – but don't answer in a loud voice: each one answer in his heart: "how is my humility doing?"

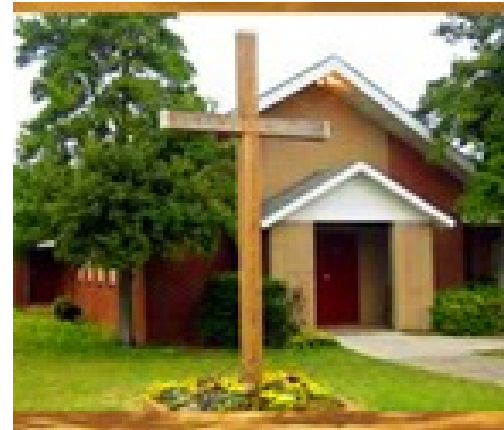
The Magnificat sings to the merciful and faithful God, Who fulfils His plan of salvation with the little ones and the poor, with those that have faith in Him, that trust His Word, as Mary did. See Elizabeth's exclamation: "Blessed is she who believed" (Luke 1:45). In that home, Jesus' coming through Mary not only created an atmosphere of joy and fraternal communion, but also an atmosphere of faith that leads to hope, to prayer to praise.

We would like all this to happen on our homes today. Celebrating Mary Most Holy Assumed into Heaven, we would like Her, once again, to bring to us, to our families, to our communities, that immense gift, that unique grace, that we must always ask for first of all and above all other graces, which we also have at heart: the grace that is Jesus Christ!

By bringing Jesus, Our Lady brings to us also a new joy, full of meaning. She brings to us a new capacity to go through painful and difficult moments with faith; She brings us the capacity of mercy, to forgive one another, to understand each other, to support one another.

Mary is model of virtue and faith. In contemplating Her today assumed into Heaven, in the final fulfilment of Her earthly itinerary, we thank Her because she always goes before us in our pilgrimage of life and of faith – She is the first disciple. And we ask Her to protect and support us, that we may have a strong, joyful and merciful faith; that She help us to be saints, to meet with Her one day in Paradise.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



640 Edrie St. NE, Aiken, SC 29801
803 649-3203

Fr. Emmanuel O. Andinam: Administrator
Joseph A. Dennis: Deacon

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Isaiah 56:1,6-7(118A)

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 67:2-3,5,6,8

Second Reading:

Romans 11:13-15,29-32

Gospel:

Matthew 15:21-28

Today's Missal

Lectionary Readings for Week of August 20, 2017

Monday: *Judges 2:11-19;*

Matthew 19:16-22

Tuesday: *Judges 6:11-24a;*

Matthew 19:23-30

Wednesday: *Judges 9:6-15;*

Matthew 20:1-16

Thursday: *Revelation 21:9b-14;*

John 1:45-51

Friday: *Ruth 1:1,3-6,14b-16,22;*

Matthew 22:34-40

Saturday: *Ruth 2:1-3,8-11;4:13-17;*

Matthew 23:1-12

The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 20, 2017

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.



Jesus left that place and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And suddenly out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Lord, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he said not a word in answer to her. And his disciples went and pleaded with him, saying, 'Give her what she wants, because she keeps shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was bowing low before him. 'Lord,' she said, 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to little dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, Lord; but even little dogs eat the scraps that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your desire be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

Matthew 15:21-28



Mass Times: Weekdays Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:15 AM,

First Friday Benediction after Mass

Weekend Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM, Sunday 7:00 AM and 11:00 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, **CCD:** No Class at this time

RCIA: Contact Deacon Joe 843 743-8779

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

Contact Us: Phone 803 649-3203, **E-Mail** stgerardscatholi@atlanticbbn.net

Facebook @stgerardaiken, **Emergency number for Father** 803 341-5933



Pray for our sick:
 Marge Glauser
 Leonard Saunders
 Shirley Paige
 William and Jackie Cobbs
 Woody Alexander
 Rosa Johnson
 Brenda Ligons
 Joe Fulmer
 Jean Schodowski
 Dick Smoot

Stewards of God's gifts are not passive beneficiaries. We cooperate with God in our own redemption and in the redemption of others. We are also obliged to be stewards of the Church. USCCB



Pastoral Council:
 Marge Glauser, Chairperson
 Janet Menefee, Vice Chair
 Payson Borst
 Jacqueline Brown
 Fredrick Cadek
 Joan Hesik
 Gregory Wright
 Patricia Hayes
 Matt Fitzpatrick

Finance Council:
 Clyde Hall, Chairman
 Anna Marie Key, Auditor
 Agnes Beckert
 Art Wagner
 Vacant

Mass Intentions:
 4:00 PM, 7:00 & 11:00 AM Masses are said for your own personal intentions.

Weekend Offering
August 13, 2017

Collected \$2,172.00
 Needed \$2,612.00
Under \$440.00
 Attendance 114

Stewardship a way of life

The Gathering Hymn 415 BB
All Are Welcome
The Offertory Hymn 653 H
If You Believe and I Believe
The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 431 BB
Seek Ye First
Our Song of Praise is 387 BB
Sent Forth By God's Blessing



	Lay Ministers	Saturday August 26	Sunday August 27	Sunday August 27
		4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	11:00 AM Mass
Lector:		Joan Hesik	Mary Kay L'Esperance	Cathy Ciani
E E Ministers:		Ellen Heim	Gerard L'Esperance	Mary Rose
		Saturday September 2	Sunday September 3	Sunday September 3
		4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	11:00 AM Mass
Lector:		Tami Schaeffer	Denise Gelinas	Janet Menefee
E E Ministers:		Diane Begic	Roger Gelinas	Wayman Johnson
Refreshments August 20	Refreshments August 27	Refreshments September 3		
Jackie Brown/Jeanette Coleman	Open	Matt Fitzpatrick/Rosa DiStefano		

The Legion of Mary is meeting at 1:30 on Fridays. Please consider joining. Call Paula Thurston at 803 226-1120

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



Let's support our neighboring church, Second Baptist Church (Hampton Ave) by enjoying and attending their first Peaches and Cream Festival on August 26 on Newberry Street in downtown Aiken. With over 60 vendors and live music, it's sure to be a good time for a good cause! They will be supporting our Fall Festival and will hand out our fliers to their vendors.



Fall festival meeting Wednesday August 23, at 7:00 PM

The Saint Gerard Men's and Ladies Groups meet again in early December. Date and time TBD. A silent auction is on the schedule.

Finance Council Budget Meeting 6:00 PM Thursday the 24th tentative

Volunteer Corner:
 We will be signing up Fall Festival volunteers this weekend after all Masses. Clyde Hall is our new Finance Council Chair. Thank you Clyde.

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

The Saint Gerard Religious Education program is in need of teachers or assistants for the following classes: Preschool, Second/Third Grade, Post Confirmation. We have students signed up for these classes, it is imperative that we have teachers for them. Your church is growing, please respond to the Holy Spirit and assist how you can. Teaching materials will be provided. Please contact the church office to help.

Registration has begun for the Saint Gerard Religious Education program 2017-2018 school year. Classes will be available for ages 3/4 through those recently confirmed. It is the diocese's policy that each child be enrolled in a religious education program two years prior to first Eucharist and two years prior to Confirmation. Please see the representative after each Mass to sign up or contact the church office at 803-649-3203 or Dottie Dennis at 843-743-8676.

Registration forms are also available in the church hall lobby. Classes will begin in September and will be held on Sundays at 10 AM in the church hall. Please contact the Dottie Dennis if you wish to assist with Religious Education this year, either teaching or as an assistant. 843-743-8676 or o2readmore@yahoo.com

Handyman or 2 (or 3) Needed!
 We are happy to announce that Lowe's has graciously donated all the materials needed to build the children's games for the Fall Festival. Now, we need volunteers to build the games. If you have tools, space and skills please contact Dot Dennis at o2readmore@yahoo.com or call/text 843-743-8676 Please contact Dot Dennis at o2readmore@yahoo.com or call/text 843-743-8676 if you have an empty aquarium that we can borrow for the Fall Festival on Oct. 14

BLACK CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE
 OCTOBER 5-7, 2017 MIAMI, FLORIDA
 Fr. Chester Smith FOR BROCHURE: Click link below.
http://www.bowmanfrancisministry.com/men_s_conference

Planning continues for the Saint Gerard annual Fall Festival. Although it is scheduled for October, there is much work to be done. Our parish's health and growth are contingent on the success of the festival. You have been very responsive to Fathers request for assistance in the past with this event and parish needs and this year is no exception. To be blunt, now is not the time for resting and the success of this event and the parish depends on the participation of all in whatever way you can. There are many aspects of the event, all of which need volunteers and people to take the lead. Please consider participating or leading one of the following ways: Raffle, Bake Sale, Youth Activities, Set Up, Clean Up, Food Service, Registration, Cash Handling, Vendor Coordinator, Signs, Artwork, as well as may more opportunities. The next meeting is scheduled for August 23, at 7:00 PM at the parish. Contact the church office or Deacon Joe at josephadennis@yahoo.com or 843-743-8779. We need your help, your time, and your talents in order to be a success.

Your Spiritual Guide to the HOLY LAND & Holy Sites
 Our Vision is to assist Catholics/Christians have a truly spiritual and meaningful pilgrimage experience while touring the Holy Land and other major religious sites in Europe, call us at **1-844-400-9559**

In Harms' Way: Please remember in your prayers our Nation and loved ones of our parishioners currently serving in harms' way: James Ligons, Robert McHugh and Chris Solenberger. 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.

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@atlanticbnn.net. You should follow this advice for Nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities also.

If you are on the Eucharistic Minister, Lector of refreshment schedule and have a conflict please switch with someone so we have someone serving.