

“The spirit of prayer gives back time to God, it steps away from the obsession of a life that is always lacking time, it rediscovers the peace of necessary things, and discovers the joy of unexpected gifts.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

After reflecting on how the family lives times of celebration and work, we now consider *the time of prayer*. The most frequent lament of Christians has to do, in fact, with time: “I should pray more ... I would like to, but I often lack the time.” We hear this continually. The regret is certainly sincere, because the human heart always seeks prayer, even without knowing it, and if it does not find it, it has no peace. However, to find it, it is necessary to cultivate in the heart a “warm” love for God, an affectionate love.

We can ask ourselves a very simple question. It is good to believe in God with all one’s heart; it is good to hope that He will help us in difficulties; it is good to feel the duty to thank Him. All this is right. But *do we also love our Lord a bit?* Does the thought of God move us, astound us, make us tender?

We think of the formulation of the great Commandment, which supports all the others: “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might*” (Deuteronomy 6:5; cf. Matthew 22:37). The formula uses the intensive language of love, pouring it over God. See, the spirit of prayer abides first of all here. And if it abides here, *it abides all the time* and never leaves. Are we able to think of God as the caress that holds us in life, before which there was nothing? A caress from which nothing, not even death, can detach us? Or do we only think of Him as the great Being, the Almighty who has made everything, the Judge who controls every action? All this is true, of course, but only when God is the affection of all our affections does the meaning of these words become full. Then we feel happy, and also somewhat confused, because He thinks of us and, above all, He loves us! Is this not impressive? Is it not impressive that God caresses us with the love of Father? It is so beautiful! He could have simply made Himself known as the Supreme Being, given his Commandments and waited for the results. Instead God has done and does infinitely more than this. He accompanies us on the way of life, He protects us, He loves us.

If affection for God does not enkindle a fire, the spirit of prayer does not warm time. We can also multiply our words, “as the pagans do,” says Jesus, or also exhibit our rites, “as the Pharisees do” (cf. Matthew 6:5.7). A heart inhabited by affection for God also makes a thought without words become a prayer, or an invocation before a sacred image, or a kiss sent toward a church. It is lovely when mothers teach their little children to send a kiss to Jesus or to Our Lady. How much tenderness there is in this! At that moment the heart of the children is transformed into a place of prayer. And it is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Let us never forget to ask for this gift for each one of us! Because the Spirit of God has that special way of saying in our heart “Abba” – “Father,” in fact it teaches us to say “Father” as Jesus said it, a way that we can never find on our own (cf. Galatians 4:6). *It is in the family that one learns to ask for and appreciate this gift of the Spirit*. If one learns to say it with the same spontaneity with which one learns to say “father” and “mother,” one has learnt it forever. When this happens, the time of the whole of family life is enveloped in the womb of the love of God, and seeks spontaneously the time of prayer.

We know well that family time is a complicated and crowded time, occupied and preoccupied. It is always little, it is never enough, there are so many things to do. One who has a family soon learns to resolve an equation that not even the great mathematicians know how to resolve: within the 24 hours there is twice that number! There are mothers and fathers who could win the Nobel Prize for this. Of 24 hours they make 48: I do not know how they do it but they move and do it! There is so much work in a family!

The spirit of prayer gives back time to God, it steps away from the obsession of a life that is always lacking time, it rediscovers the peace of necessary things, and discovers the joy of unexpected gifts. Good guides in this are the two sisters Martha and Mary, spoken of in the Gospel we just heard: they learned from God the harmony of family rhythms: the beauty of celebration, the serenity of work, the spirit of prayer (cf. Luke 10:38-42). The visit of Jesus, whom they really loved, was their celebration. However, one day Martha learned that the work of hospitality, though important, is not everything, but that to listen to the Lord, as Mary did, was really the essential thing, the “better part” of time. Prayer flows from listening to Jesus, from the reading of the Gospel. Do not forget, every day to read a passage of the Gospel. Prayer flows from intimacy with the

Word of God. Is there this intimacy in our family? Do we have the Gospel at home? Do we open it some times to read it together? Do we meditate on it while reciting the Rosary? The Gospel read and meditated in the family is like good bread that nourishes everyone’s heart. And in the morning and in the evening, and when we sit at table, we learn to say together a prayer with great simplicity: it is Jesus who comes among us, as he was with the family of Martha, Mary and Lazarus. There is something that I have very much at heart and that I have seen in the city: there are children who have not learned to make the Sign of the Cross! But you, mother, father, teach your child to pray, to make the Sign of the Cross: this is a lovely task of mothers and fathers!

In the prayer of the family, in its intense and in its difficult seasons, we remember one another, so that each one of us in the family is protected by the love of God.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8(125B)

Responsorial:

Psalms 15:2-3,3-4,4-5

Second Reading:

James 1:17-18,21b-22,27

Gospel:

Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time August 30th, 2015

Lectionary Readings for the week of August 30th

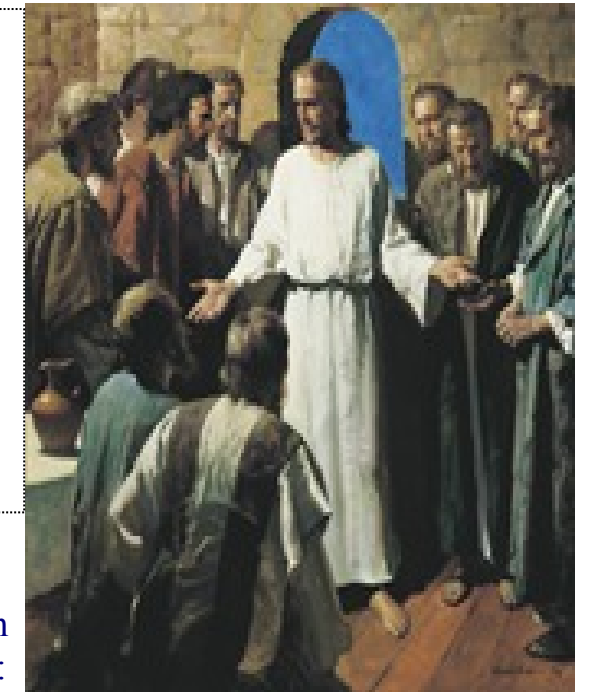
Monday: *Thessalonians 4:13-18;*
Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday: *Thessalonians 5:1-6,*
5-11; Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday: *Colossians 1:1-8;*
Luke 4:38-44

Thursday: *Colossians 1:9-14;*
Luke 5:1-11

Friday: *Colossians 1:15-20;*
Luke 5:33-39



So the Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'How rightly Isaiah prophesied about you hypocrites in the passage of scripture: This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. Their reverence of me is worthless; the lessons they teach are nothing but human commandments. You put aside the commandment of God to observe human traditions.' He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into someone from outside can make that person unclean; it is the things that come out of someone that make that person unclean.'

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 this fall

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

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

Facebook @stgerardaiken, **Emergency number for Father 803 637-2027**

Fr. Emmanuel Andinam: Administrator



Just seven weeks away, The Rosary Rally (America Needs Fatima) October the 10th

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

Promoting Parish Stewardship
Stewards hope and strive to be strong witnesses of faith to others. We realize we are sent forth in love and service to walk with those in need.
Stewardship a way of life

Mass Intentions: August 29-30
 4:00, 7:00 and 11:15
 Masses are said for your own personal intentions.

From the desk of Joan Lacombe
 The Gathering Hymn 407 H All Creatures of Our God and King
 The Offertory Hymn is 583 H Be Not Afraid
 The Communion Hymn CHOIR 118 BB
 Our Song of Praise is 29 M Tell the Good News

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.
 Judy Riley
 Lisa Solenberger

Sunday Offering August 23rd

Collection	\$1,869.00
Donation for Linens	\$238.20
Needed	\$2,612.00
Under Attendance	\$504.80 108



Lay Ministers

	<u>Saturday September 5</u>	<u>Sunday September 6</u>	<u>Sunday September 6</u>
	4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	11:15 AM Mass
Lector:	David Didimamoff	Denise Gelinas	Richardean Paige
E E Minister:	Mary Rose	Roger Gelinas	Marge Glauser
	<u>Saturday September 12</u>	<u>Sunday September 13</u>	<u>Sunday September 13</u>
	4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	11:15 AM Mass
Lector:	Joan Hesik	Mary Kay L'Esperance	Sheila Wagner
E E Minister:	Ellen Heim	Gerard L'Esperance	Mary Rose
Refreshments September 6		Counters September 6	
Open		Open	



Volunteer Corner
 On behalf of Fr. Emmanuel and the parishioners of St. Gerard I would like to thank all the volunteers that have given so much of themselves this summer. With Fr. Don leaving and sharing Fr. Emmanuel with St. Mary's your help has been greatly needed and appreciated by myself and the entire parish.

Refreshments
 It has been a problem getting people to sign up for food after 11:15 Mass. In October we will start assigning people to bring food and not leave it to chance. If you feel you can't participate call and let us know. If you need to change a date please arrange that with some one on the list. Thank you.

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

Active Ministries of St. Gerard

Altar Care:	Judy Riley	Altar Linens
Altar Servers:		Assist at Sat. & Sun. Masses
CCD Ministry:	Payson Borst	Advisor/Coordinator
Beginner Class:	Rosa & Wayman Johnson	
Intermediate Class:	Payson Borst	
Confirmation Class:	Jeanette Coleman	
1st Communion	Carole Miller	
Collection counters:	Nancy Durden	Count Collection after Sun Masses
Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministry:	Jacqueline Brown	Assist with Cup at Mass
Family Assist Outreach:	Marge Glauser: Chair, Tami Schaffer: Vice Chair	
Greeter & Ushers:	Jackie Cobbs: Benefit Bank, Sheila Wagner: Health and Medical	Assist with Cup at Mass
	George Kingman	Greet & Seat Sat. & Sun. Masses
	Tony DiStefano	
Home Communion/Visits:	Sheila Wagner	Take Communion to Homebound
Lectors:	Jacqueline Brown	Read Epistle & Prayers Sat. & Sun. Masses
Legion of Mary:	Cathy Ciani	Visit hospitals & shut-ins
	Rosa Johnson	
Maintenance & Capital:	Vacant	Maintenance, Repairs, & Capital Improvements
Music Ministry:	Joan Lacombe	Direct Choir & Music
	Mary Welsh	Saturday Mass Organist
Parish Finance Chair:	Robert Erikson	Oversight of Finances & Accounting Records
Prayer Chain:	JoAnne Schander	Organize & send our Prayer Requests
Prayer Shawl Ministry:	Ellen Heim	Knit blankets & lap robes for shut-ins
		Hospitals, Armed Forces, etc.
Refreshments:	Richardean Paige	Refreshments after Mass/Special Occasions
RCIA Ministry:	Marge Glauser	Exploring Our Faith (for newcomer(s))
Sacristans:	William Hesik & Joe Begic	Prepare Church & Sacristy for Sat. & Sun. Masses
	Wayman Johnson	Special Fund Raising & Volunteers
Stewardship:	Nancy Cadek	Lenten Renewal, Advent Mission, Bible Study & others
Spiritual Enrichment:		Management of Parish Thrift Shop
Thrift Shop:	Leonard Saunders	Food in support of Families with a deceased member
Bereavement Committee:	Nancy Durden	

Ministry training/installation
 Anyone that has not received Father's Ministry training or has been to training and needs to be installed, call or email the office and we will schedule you. Thank you, Mike 803 649-3203

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

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 8th at 6:30 PM

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 www.sccatholic.org/ethnic-ministries

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.

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.



ST GERARD of AIKEN WANTED VENDORS

And Bazaar/Flea Market November 7, 2015 9 am - 4 pm
Food, silent auction, activities for children

Showcase and sell your creations. Clean out your house of items no longer wanted. To reserve your spot today, contact the church office at (803) 649-3203 9:00 AM till 3:00 PM Tuesdays -Thursdays



2015 Bishop's Annual Appeal
 Thank you to our many generous parishioners who have returned gifts and pledges in support of the 2015 BAA. Your generosity helps to aid our parish family with our financial responsibility to our larger diocesan family. We are close to our goal of \$6583.00 at 95% of goal with 41% participation. Thank you for your ongoing support. Remember that half of any amount that exceeds our goal will be returned to St Gerard for use by our parish.