

Pope's Letter as Jubilee Year of Mercy Approaches

"I wish that the Jubilee Indulgence may reach each one as a genuine experience of God's mercy, which comes to meet each person in the Face of the Father who welcomes and forgives, forgetting completely the sin committed."

With the approach of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy I would like to focus on several points which I believe require attention to enable the celebration of the Holy Year to be for all believers a true moment of encounter with the mercy of God. It is indeed my wish that the Jubilee be a living experience of the closeness of the Father, whose tenderness is almost tangible, so that the faith of every believer may be strengthened and thus testimony to it be ever more effective.

My thought first of all goes to all the faithful who, whether in individual Dioceses or as pilgrims to Rome, will experience the grace of the Jubilee. I wish that the Jubilee Indulgence may reach each one as a genuine experience of God's mercy, which comes to meet each person in the Face of the Father who welcomes and forgives, forgetting completely the sin committed. To experience and obtain the Indulgence, the faithful are called to make a brief pilgrimage to the Holy Door, open in every Cathedral or in the churches designated by the Diocesan Bishop, and in the four Papal Basilicas in Rome, as a sign of the deep desire for true conversion. Likewise, I dispose that the Indulgence may be obtained in the Shrines in which the Door of Mercy is open and in the churches which traditionally are identified as Jubilee Churches. It is important that this moment be linked, first and foremost, to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with a reflection on mercy. It will be necessary to accompany these celebrations with the profession of faith and with prayer for me and for the intentions that I bear in my heart for the good of the Church and of the entire world.

Additionally, I am thinking of those for whom, for various reasons, it will be impossible to enter the Holy Door, particularly the sick and people who are elderly and alone, often confined to the home. For them it will be of great help to live their sickness and suffering as an experience of closeness to the Lord who in the mystery of his Passion, death and Resurrection indicates the royal road which gives meaning to pain and loneliness. Living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial, receiving communion or attending Holy Mass and community prayer, even through the various means of communication, will be for them the means of obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence. My thoughts also turn to those incarcerated, whose freedom is limited. The Jubilee Year has always constituted an opportunity for great amnesty, which is intended to include the many people who, despite deserving punishment, have become conscious of the injustice they worked and sincerely wish to re-enter society and make their honest contribution to it. May they all be touched in a tangible way by the mercy of the Father who wants to be close to those who have the greatest need of his forgiveness. They may obtain the Indulgence in the chapels of the prisons. May the gesture of directing their thought and prayer to the Father each time they cross the threshold of their cell signify for them their passage through the Holy Door, because the mercy of God is able to transform hearts, and is also able to transform bars into an experience of freedom.

I have asked the Church in this Jubilee Year to rediscover the richness encompassed by the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The experience of mercy, indeed, becomes visible in the witness of concrete signs as Jesus himself taught us. Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence. Hence the commitment to live by mercy so as to obtain the grace of complete and exhaustive forgiveness by the power of the love of the Father who excludes no one. The Jubilee Indulgence is thus full, the fruit of the very event which is to be celebrated and experienced with faith, hope and charity. Furthermore, the Jubilee Indulgence can also be obtained for the deceased. We are bound to them by the witness of faith and charity that they have left us. Thus, as we remember them in the Eucharistic celebration, thus we can, in the great mystery of the Communion of Saints, pray for them, that the merciful Face of the Father free them of every remnant of fault and strongly embrace them in the unending beatitude.

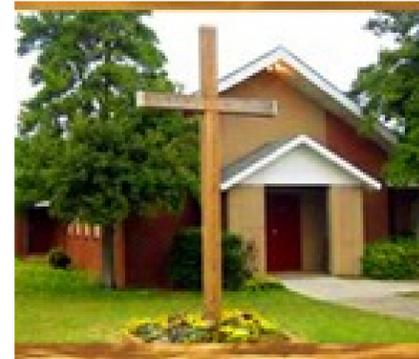
One of the serious problems of our time is clearly the changed relationship with respect to life. A widespread and insensitive mentality has led to the loss of the proper personal and social sensitivity to welcome new life. The tragedy of abortion is experienced by some with a superficial awareness, as if not realizing the extreme harm that such an act entails. Many others, on the other hand, although experiencing this moment as a defeat, believe that they have no other option. I think in particular of all the women who have resorted to abortion. I am well aware of the pressure that has led them to this decision. I know that it is an existential and moral ordeal. I have met so many women who bear in their heart the scar of this agonizing and painful decision. What has happened is profoundly unjust; yet only understanding the truth of it can enable one not to lose hope. The forgiveness of God cannot be denied to one who has repented, especially when that person approaches the Sacrament of Confession with a sincere heart in order to obtain reconciliation with the Father. For this reason too, I have decided, notwithstanding anything to the contrary, to concede to all priests for the Jubilee Year the discretion to absolve of the sin of abortion those who have procured it and who, with contrite heart, seek forgiveness for it. May priests fulfil this great task by expressing words of genuine welcome combined with a reflection that explains the gravity of the sin committed, besides indicating a path of authentic conversion by which to obtain the true and generous forgiveness of the Father who renews all with his presence.

A final consideration concerns those faithful who for various reasons choose to attend churches officiated by priests of the Fraternity of St Pius X. This Jubilee Year of Mercy excludes no one. From various quarters, several Brother Bishops have told me of their good faith and sacramental practice, combined however with an uneasy situation from the pastoral standpoint. I trust that in the near future solutions may be found to recover full communion with the priests and superiors of the Fraternity. In the meantime, motivated by the need to respond to the good of these faithful, through my own disposition, I establish that those who during the Holy Year of Mercy approach these priests of the Fraternity of St Pius X to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation shall validly and licitly receive the absolution of their sins.

Trusting in the intercession of the Mother of Mercy, I entrust the preparations for this Extraordinary Jubilee Year to her protection.

From the Vatican, 1 September 2015
FRANCISCUS

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Isaiah 35:4-7a(128B)

Responsorial:

Psalms 146:6-7,8-9,9-10

Second Reading:

James 2:1-5

Gospel:

Mark 8:27-35

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time September 6, , 2015

Lectionary Readings for the week of September 6th

Monday: *Colossians 1:24-2:3;*
Luke 6:6-11

Tuesday: *Micah 5:1-4a;*
Matthew 1:1-16,18-23

Wednesday: *Colossians 3:1-11;*
Luke 6:20-26

Thursday: *Colossians 3:12-17;*
Luke 6:27-38

Friday: *Timothy 1:1-2,12-14;*
Luke 6:39-42



Returning from the territory of Tyre, he went by way of Sidon towards the Lake of Galilee, right through the Decapolis territory. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside to be by themselves, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and at once the impediment of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they proclaimed it. Their admiration was unbounded, and they said, 'Everything he does is good, he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.' Mark 8:27-35

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 starting September 11th

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

<p>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</p>	<p>Promoting Parish Stewardship Stewards create a community – the Church. In that community we share our gifts, our time, our talents, our treasures. Baptism unites us in our faith. We cherish as our mission the mission of the Church to proclaim and teach, to serve and make holy.</p>	<p>Pastoral Council: Wayman Johnson, Chairman Payson Borst Jacqueline Brown Fredrick Cadek Nancy Durden Marge Glauser Janet Menefee Gregory Wright Joan Hesik</p>
	<p>Mass Intentions 4:00 PM For Mike and Pat Engelhardt 50th Anniversary From: Joan and Bill Hesik 7:00 AM For Rich Borst for recovery From: The Rileys 11:15 AM Mass is said for your own personal intentions.</p>	
<p>Sunday Offering August 30th Collection \$1,806.00 Needed \$2,612.00 Under \$806.00 Attendance 116</p>	<p>The Gathering Hymn 335 H Holy, Holy, Holy The Offertory Hymn is 779 H He Touched Me The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 476 BB Fly Like A Bird Our Song of Praise is 787 H God of Our Fathers</p>	<p>Finance Council: Robert Erikson, Chairman Leon Gagnon and Anna Marie Key, Auditors. Judy Riley Lisa Solenberger</p>

	Lay Ministers			
	<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	
	<u>Saturday September 19</u>	<u>Sunday September 20</u>	<u>Sunday September 20</u>	
	4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	11:15 AM Mass	
Lector:	Tami Schaeffer	Denise Gelinis	Janet Menefee	
E E Minister:	Jerry Schaeffer	Roger Gelinis	Marge Glauser	
Refreshments September 13		Counters September 13		
Open		Open		


Columbus HOPE Foundation (Helping Other People Every Day)


The Knights of Columbus will have a Tootsie Roll drive at all Masses on September 19th and 20th. Money collected from this drive will be used to support the Special Olympics of Aiken South Carolina. The Knights will be handing out Tootsie Rolls and asking for your help. All donations collected will go to help people in our community with intellectual disabilities. Tootsie Roll's are a reminder of this important program. Please be generous open your heart, and show them, that we care.



Fall Festival/Bazaar

WANTED VENDORS

VENDORS and items for a silent auction are still needed. We need the support of all St Gerard parishioners to make this a successful event.

Showcase and sell your creations. Clean out your house of items no longer wanted and sell them at the fall festival. Inside and outside spots are available for \$20.00 per spot. You may bring your own tent and set up at one of the outside spots.

Volunteer Corner

We would like to thank the people that have been and are working so hard on the renovations to the rectory.

Don't forget we still need help with the rectory so if you have not talked with Bob Erikson and have skills in renovation (painting, sheet rock etc.) and have time please call the office or Bob Erikson.

Refreshments

It has been a problem getting people to sign up for food after 11:15 Mass. There is a list in the hallway on the board. Please let me know if you can not participate. And if a weekend is bad for you please contact a replacement.

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

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

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

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.

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. We need servers to attend also. If you child is a server we need to get their size for new vestments. Thank you, Mike 803 649-3203

Legion of Mary

We are still praying for more members to do the work of Mary. For information call Cathy Ciani at 803 643-9011 or 908 675-1069

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

Help Fr. Anthony

Father Anthony has contacted Fred Cadek and requested that Fred ship him a part for his car that he can't get in Ghana. With shipping it will cost over \$800 and we need your help to take care of this. Please give what you can. Just put cash or check in an envelope with Fr. Anthony's name on it and put it in the collection or call/come into the office and make a donation. Make checks out to St. Gerard. Thank you from Fred and Fr. Anthony

Bible Study

Returns Friday September 11th at 10:00 AM and Fridays there after through the fall.

In a recent statement regarding abortion, Pope Francis conceded "to all priests for the Jubilee Year the discretion to absolve of the sin of abortion those who have procured it and who, with contrite heart, seek forgiveness for it." Priests in the Diocese of Charleston have long been delegated this authority by the bishop so those absolutions were completely valid. Our parish priests have and will continue to offer God's mercy to those contrite hearts who seek His forgiveness for the sin of abortion.

The pope's statement has provided yet another way to open the door of mercy to those who are truly repentant but feel their sin is beyond forgiveness. As we know from the Gospel, Our Lord is waiting like the father in the parable of the prodigal son, for his child to come home rejoicing upon their return.

If you have been waiting to seek forgiveness for your involvement in abortion, now is the time to seek the sacrament of reconciliation. Our Heavenly Father waits for you with open arms and an open heart.

The Diocese has Project Rachel, a post abortion ministry, which offers a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat to help heal the hurts that abortion has caused you or a loved one. For more information, contact graceforhealing@gmail.com or visit the national website www.rachelsvineyard.org or call **877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463)**.