

Pope Francis' talk before the Angelus, "Love alone gives meaning and happiness to life"

The "golden rule" in human life

Rome, September 3, 2017. Zenith.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

Today's evangelical passage (Cf. *Matthew* 16:21-27) is the continuation of last Sunday's, which highlighted the profession of faith of Peter, "rock" on which Jesus wishes to build his Church. Today, in striking contrast, Matthew shows us the reaction of the same Peter when Jesus reveals to the disciples that He will suffer in Jerusalem, be killed and be raised (Cf. v. 21). Peter takes Jesus aside and rebukes Him because this – he says to Him – can't happen to Him, to Christ. However, Jesus in turn rebukes Peter with harsh words: "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a hindrance to Me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men!" (v. 23). A moment earlier, the Apostle was blessed by the Father, because he had received from Him that revelation, he was a solid "rock" on which Jesus could build His community, and immediately after, he becomes an obstacle, a rock not on which to build but a stumbling block on the way of the Messiah. Jesus knew well that Peter and the others still had a long way to go to becoming His Apostles!

At that point, the Master turned to all those that followed Him, presenting clearly to them the way to follow: "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me" (v. 24). The temptation always, also today, is to want to follow a Christ without the cross, rather to teach God the right way, as Peter: "No, no Lord, not this, it will never happen." However, Jesus reminds us that His way is the way of love, and there is no true love without the sacrifice of oneself. We are called not to allow ourselves to be absorbed by the vision of this world, but to be ever more aware of the need and effort for us Christians to walk counter-current and uphill.

Jesus completes His proposal with words that express a great wisdom that is always valid, because they challenge the egocentric mentality and behavior. He exhorts: "For whoever will save his life will lose it and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (v. 25). Contained in this paradox is the Golden Rule that God has inscribed in human nature created in Christ: the rule that love alone gives meaning and happiness to life. To spend one's talents, one's energies and one's time only to save, protect and fulfill oneself leads in reality to lose oneself, that is, to a sad and sterile existence. If, instead, we live for the Lord and we organize our life on love, as Jesus did, we will be able to savor genuine joy, and our life won't be sterile, it will be fruitful.

In the celebration of the Eucharist we relive the mystery of the cross; not only do we remember but we carry out the memorial of the redeeming Sacrifice, in which the Son of God loses Himself completely to receive Himself again from the Father and thus find us again, who were lost, together with all creatures. Every time we take part in Holy Mass, the Love of the crucified and risen Christ is communicated to us as food and drink, so that we can follow Him on the way every day, in the concrete service of brothers.

May Mary Most Holy, who followed Jesus to Calvary, accompany us also and help us not to be afraid of the cross, but nailed with Jesus; not a cross without Jesus, but a cross with Jesus, namely, the cross to suffer for love of God and of brothers, because this suffering, by the grace of Christ, is fruitful resurrection.

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:

Ezekiel 33:7-9(127A)

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 95:1-2,6-7,8-9

Second Reading:

Romans 13:8-10

Gospel:

Matthew 18:15-20

Today's Missal

Lectionary Readings for Week of September 10, 2017

Monday: *Colossians 1:24-2:3;*

Luke 6:6-11

Tuesday: *Colossians 2:6-15;*

Luke 6:12-19

Wednesday: *Colossians 3:1-11;*

Luke 6:20-26

Thursday: *Numbers 21:4b-9;*

Philippians 2:6-11; John 3:13-17

Friday: *1 Timothy 1:1-2,12-14;*

John 19:25-27

Saturday: *1 Timothy 1:15-17;*

Luke 6:43-49

The Twenty Third Sunday In Ordinary Time September 10, 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.

'In truth I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 'In truth I tell you once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I am there among them.

Matthew 18:18-20



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

We are grateful for the gifts we have received and are eager to use them to show our love for God and for one another. We look to the life and teaching of Jesus for guidance in living as Christian stewards. 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 & Patricia Miles, Auditors
 Agnes Beckert, Secretary
 Art Wagner
 Michele Bullington

Mass Intentions:
 4:00 PM Mass for M. Hadlock from the Beckerts, 7:00 AM Mass for Judy Riley from Steve Riley & Family, 11:00 AM Mass for your own personal intentions.

The Gathering Hymn 466 BB
The King of Love My Shepherd Is 653 H
The Offertory Hymn
If You Believe
The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 601 BB
Christ Be Our Light
Our Song of Praise is 532 BB
Let There Be Peace on Earth



Weekend Offering
September 3, 2017
 Collected \$4,051.00
 Needed \$2,612.00
Over \$1,439.00
 Fall Festival so far \$1,685.00
 Attendance 125
Stewardship a way of life



Lector: Joan Hesik
 E E Ministers: Pam Ziomec



Lector: Tami Schaeffer
 E E Ministers: Jerry Schaeffer

Refreshments September 10
 Richardean Paige/Patricia Hayes

Lay Ministers

| Saturday September 16 | Sunday September 17 | Sunday September 17 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4:00 PM Vigil Mass | 7:00 AM Mass | 11:00 AM Mass |
| | Denise Gelinas | Nancy Cadek |
| | Roger Gelinas | Jeanette Coleman |
| Saturday September 23 | Sunday September 24 | Sunday September 24 |
| 4:00 PM Vigil Mass | 7:00 AM Mass | 11:00 AM Mass |
| | Mary Kay L'Esperance | Patricia Hayes |
| | Gerard L'Esperance | Mary Rose |
| Refreshments September 10 | Refreshments September 17 | Refreshments September 24 |
| Richardean Paige/Patricia Hayes | Rosa DiStefano/Jeanet Menefee | Pending new schedule |

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



Fall festival meeting TBA depending on weather conditions

Bible study has begun Fridays at 10:00 AM

St. Gerard will have baked goods at the Fall Festival on October 14. Since all monies collected will be pure profit for the church, we are asking everyone to contribute a baked item or two. Goodies may be dropped off before 9:00 am the morning of the festival at Odell Weeks. Loaf cakes, breads and cookies were the big sellers last year. Bag cookies in groups of 3, 6 or 12. Bring all items wrapped, labeled and in disposable containers. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Durden @ 215-8008.



Religious Education classes will begin on Sunday, September 17, at 10AM. All catechists and assistants, please arrive at 9:45 AM for a brief meeting before class starts. Thanks. Deacon Joe

Volunteer Corner:
Thanks to Joan Hesik for filling in for me next two weeks

12 September
Finance Council Meeting 5:30
Parish Council Meeting 7:00

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 not yet scheduled. 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**

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

Natural Family Planning (NFP) encompasses moral, natural, healthy, modern and scientifically reliable methods of family planning that teach married couples how to identify and understand their signs of fertility which can then be used to achieve or postpone a pregnancy in accordance with God's design and will. You are invited to attend the NFP sessions below:

- September 12 - Seasons Ob/Gyn (N. Charleston) - 6:30pm
 - September 14 - St. Francis Hospital - eastside (Greenville) - 7:00pm
 - September 18 - St. Joseph (Columbia) - 6:30pm
- Don't see your parish or location?

Visit <http://www.sccatholic.org/nfp> to find a full listing of NFP methods and instructors in the Diocese. Long-distance instruction is also available. Want more information or need to register? Visit <http://www.sccatholic.org/nfp> to locate the session and contact the associated instructor to register. Or contact Kelli Ball, Diocesan NFP Coordinator, at kball@catholic.doc.org or 803.807.0158.

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

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

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, Deja MS Pringle 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.