

## POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE: On the Family and the Christian Community

"A Church that is truly according to the Gospel cannot but have the form of a welcoming home, with the doors always open."

Vatican City, publication time September 09, 2015 (ZENIT.org)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

Today I would like to focus our attention on the bond between the family and the Christian community. It is, so to speak, a "natural" bond, because the Church is a spiritual family and the family is a small Church (cf. Lumen gentium, 9). The Christian community is the home of those who believe in Jesus as the source of fraternity among all men. The Church walks in the midst of the peoples, in the history of men and women, of fathers and mothers, of sons and daughters: this is the history that counts for the Lord. The great events of the worldly powers are written in history books, and they remain there. However, the history of human affections is written directly in the heart of God; and it is the history that remains in eternity. This is the place of life and of faith. The family is the place of our initiation – irreplaceable, indelible – to this history, to this history of eternal life that will end with the contemplation of God for all eternity in Heaven. But it begins in the family! Therefore, the family is very important. The Son of God learned the human history in this way, and he lived it to the end (cf. Hebrews 2:18; 5:8).

It is good to contemplate Jesus again and the signs of this bond! He was born in a family and there he "learned the world": a shop, four houses, a nothing village. Yet, by living this experience for thirty years, Jesus assimilated the human condition, gathering it in his communion with his Father and in his very apostolic mission. Then, when he left Nazareth and began his public life, Jesus formed around himself a community, an "assembly," namely, a convocation of persons. This is the meaning of the word "church." In the Gospels, Jesus' assembly has the form of a hospitable family, not of an exclusive sect: we find Peter and John, but also the hungry and thirsty, the stranger and the persecuted, the sinner and the publican, the Pharisees and the crowds. And Jesus does not cease to receive and to talk to all, also to one who no longer expects to encounter God in his life. It is a strong lesson for the Church!

The disciples themselves were chosen to take care of this assembly, of this family of God's guests. For this reality of Jesus' assembly to be alive today, it is indispensable to revive the alliance between the family and the Christian community. We can say that the family and the parish are the two places in which that communion of love is realized, which finds its ultimate source in God himself.

A Church that is truly according to the Gospel cannot but have the form of a welcoming home, with the doors always open. Churches, parishes, institutions with closed doors must not be called Churches; they must be called museums! This is a crucial alliance today. "We put our hopes again in these centers of love, against the 'centers' of ideological, financial and political 'power.' We put our hope in these centers of love, evangelizing centers, rich in human warmth, based on solidarity and participation," also on forgiveness among us (PONTIFICAL CONSTITUTION FOR THE FAMILY, the Teachings of J.M. Bergoglio – Pope Francis on the Family and Life, 1999-2014, LEV 2014, 189). It is urgent today to reinforce the bond between the family and the Christian community. There is certainly need of a generous faith to rediscover the intelligence and the courage to renew this alliance. Sometimes families draw back, saying that they are not up to the measure: "Father, we are a poor family and also somewhat unhinged," "We aren't capable," "We already have so many problems at home," "We don't have the strength." It's true, but no one is worthy, no one is up to the measure, no one has the strength! We can do nothing without God's grace. Everything is given to us – freely given! And the Lord never arrives in a family without doing a miracle. Let us recall what he did at the Wedding of Cana! Yes, if we put ourselves in his hands, the Lord makes us do miracles -- those miracles of every day when the Lord is in that family.

Of course, the Christian community must also do its part. For instance, it must seek to overcome too directive and too functional attitudes, fostering inter-personal dialogue and mutual knowledge and esteem. Families take the initiative and feel the responsibility to take their precious gifts to the community. We must all be aware that the Christian faith is played in the open field of life shared with all; the family and the parish must work the miracle of a more communal life for the whole society. The Mother of Jesus was at Cana, the "Mother of Good Counsel." Let us listen to her words: "Do whatever he tells you" (cf. John 2:5).

Dear families, dear parish communities, we must let ourselves be inspired by this Mother: let us do everything that Jesus tells us and we will find ourselves before a miracle! – the miracle of every day. Thank you.

# St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

### SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

*Isaiah 50:4-9*

Responsorial:

*Psalms 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9*

Second Reading:

*James 2:14-18*

Gospel:

*Mark 8:27-35*

### Lectionary Readings for the week of September 13th

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

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

Tuesday: *1 Timothy 3:1-13;*

*John 19:25-27*

Wednesday: *1 Timothy 3:14-16;*

*Luke 7:31-35*

Thursday: *1 Timothy 4:12-16;*

*Luke 7:36-50*

Friday: *1 Timothy 6:2c-12;*

*Luke 8:1-3*

Today's Missal

## Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 13, 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**



*Then he began to teach them that the Son of man was destined to suffer grievously, and to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter tried to rebuke him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are thinking not as God thinks, but as human beings do.' Mark 8:31-33*

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

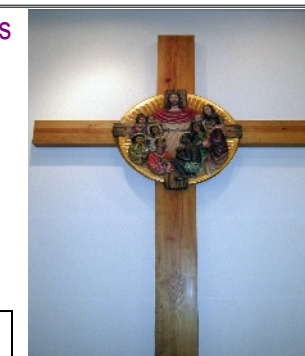
Bible Study: Fridays 10:00 AM

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, **Emergency number for Father 803 637-2027**

**Just four weeks away, The Rosary Rally (America Needs Fatima) October the 10<sup>th</sup>**



**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 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.

*Mass Intentions 9/12-9/13*  
 4:00 PM For George & Ellen Heim 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversery  
 From: Ellen Heim  
 7:00 AM and 11:15 AM Masses  
 are said for your own personal intentions.


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

**Sunday Offering September 6th**  
 Collection \$2,674.00  
 Needed \$2,612.00  
 Over \$62.00  
 Help Fr. Anthony \$400.00  
 Attendance 108  
*Stewardship a way of life*

The Offertory Hymn is 300 H  
 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross  
 Our Song of Praise is 405 H  
 How Great Thou Art  
 The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 622 H  
 The Summons  
 The Gathering Hymn 726 H  
 Lift High the Cross

**Finance Council:**  
 Robert Erikson,  
 Chairman  
 Leon Gagnon and  
 Anna Marie Key,  
 Auditors.  
 Judy Riley  
 Lisa Solenberger

<b><u>Lay Ministers</u></b>			
	<b><u>Saturday September 19</u></b> 4:00 PM Vigil Mass	<b><u>Sunday September 20</u></b> 7:00 AM Mass	<b><u>Sunday September 20</u></b> 11:15 AM Mass
<b>Lector:</b>	Tami Schaeffer	Denise Gelinas	Janet Menefee
<b>E E Ministers:</b>	Jerry Schaeffer	Roger Gelinas	Marge Glauser
	<b><u>Saturday September 26</u></b>	<b><u>Sunday September 27</u></b>	<b><u>Sunday September 27</u></b>
<b>Lector:</b>	David Didimamoff	Mary Kay L'Esperance	Patricia Hayes
<b>E E Minister:</b>	Barbara Dixon	Gerard L'Esperance	Wayman Johnson
<b>Refreshments September 20</b> Open	<b>Counters September 20</b> Nancy Durden and Peter Schwarz		

 **Columbus HOPE Foundation (Helping Other People Every Day)**

The Knights of Columbus will have a Tootsie Roll drive at all Masses on September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Bazaar Committee meeting Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM**  
 Chairs: Wayman Johnson; General, Janet Menefee: Vendors, Patricia Hayes: Silent Auction, Jackie Brown: Thrift Shop, Greg Wright: Kids Play, and Joan Hesik: Auction Sponsors. We still need a food chairperson.

Many hands make easy work for all! We are one parish. Support your parish. We need parishioners from all three Masses working together to **make our Fall Festival/Bazaar successful**. Need someone from each of the Masses to work on the Fall Festival Committee. Call the office if you can join the committee. Also need all to make an effort to get items donated for a silent auction and vendors. If you can, contact the businesses you frequent and request a donation for the silent auction. This is an example of support one can provide. We hope you all plan to attend the Festival and mark off some time on your calendar, **November 7, 2015 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**, if you can't support it all day. Let's unite and support our Parish, St Gerard of Aiken!



**Volunteer Corner**

Thank you to all those that donate their time to improve this parish in many ways. And especially Dennis Hoo Chung for taking over the Maintenance Coordinator position. Bless him.

**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.

**Help Fr. Anthony**  
 Fred Cadek has purchased the part for Fr. Anthony's car and will ship it when it comes in. We have collected \$400.00 and the cost of every thing is closer to \$600.00 then we thought. If you still want to make a donation just call the office. Thank you all

Knights of Columbus and Sheppard Community Blood Center are conducting a blood drive at the Chocolate Festival Sat. Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00am to 3:00pm. In Mrs. Noel's class room at the school. Open your hearts and donate the gift of life. It takes just a few moments of your time, So why not consider giving blood! Every blood donor is a hero to someone. Will you Choose 2 Give? After you donate, stay and enjoy the Chocolate Festival. Bring your family, there will be fun for all. Each donor will receive a free T-Shirt and Free Lipid Profile after your 3rd donation in A calendar year. Bring a picture ID, Driver's license or donor card! Donors should drink plenty of water prior to donating. Every BLOOD DONOR is a HERO THE NEED IS CONSTANT. THE GRATIFICATION IS INSTANT.

Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment; where women and men can express their post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration and healing. Our next retreat in SC is October 9-11, 2015 in Greenville. For more information, please contact Christy at 803 554 6088 or Kathy at 803 546 6010 or [grace4healing@gmail.com](mailto:grace4healing@gmail.com) Now is the time.

**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.

**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 a youth track. Follow this event and others on the web at [www.sccatholic.org/ethnic-ministries](http://www.sccatholic.org/ethnic-ministries)

**Have you ever contemplated a devotion to St. Therese of Lisieux, The Little Flower, Patroness of Humility, Doctor of the Church?**  
 On Nov. 13-15th, 2015 the Charleston Theresians are sponsoring the USA Theresian National Conference "Faith on Fire" here in Charleston at the Charleston Marriott, 170 Lockwood Boulevard, 29403. Hear wonderful speakers who will, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, fill you with joy and love. Enjoy beautiful music and join us in meaningful prayers and Holy Mass on Sunday. There will also be a Silent Auction. Registration is \$275. Includes Friday Reception, 3 Meals + Banquet and Registration Fee. If interested or have any questions, please contact Kathy Dornetto at: Email: [kathy3of6k@gmail.com](mailto:kathy3of6k@gmail.com) or call 843-696-4912. Deadline for Registration is Oct. 11th.

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.

**Legion of Mary and the Rosary Rally on October 10, 2015**  
 Cathy Ciani is the chair of the Legion and the Rosary Rally. Please call her or the office for information on either one of the above. 803 643-9011 or 908 675-1069 (Cathy) 803 649-3203 (office)

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

**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