

Pope Francis' General Audience; "Trust in the fulfillment of God's Promises"

Rome, September 20, 2017. Zenith.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis on Christian hope, I would now like to reflect on how we teach the virtue of hope. So I will speak directly, person to person, especially to our young people, with a few words of guidance and encouragement.

First and foremost, wherever the Lord has planted you, stand firm in hope; never lose heart! Trust in God's fatherly care, the love of Jesus and the power of the Spirit to transform and renew all things.

Never yield to the negativity that tears things and people down, but keep building, trying to make this world conform ever more fully to God's plan.

Keep your eyes open to the beauty all around you, keep the lamp of faith burning in your heart, and trust in the fulfillment of God's promises.

Use your God given gifts of mind and heart to help our human family to grow in freedom, justice and dignity.

Jesus has won the victory and he asks us to follow his example by bringing his love and mercy to a world wounded by sin, hatred and division.

Be faithful to your ideals, get up whenever you fall, and never despair.

In a word: live, love and believe!

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston Office of Ethnic Ministries
invites all to the
Native American Catholics' Heritage Celebration
on Saturday, October 21st at
Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church
3710 Augusta Road, Greenville, SC
12:00 Noon-3:00pm

You're invited to join the Native American Catholic community in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston as we celebrate the gifts our diversity brings to the Church. The theme for the event is "Loving One Another in Union with Christ." The event will begin with 12 noon Mass followed by a luncheon and program. The Most Reverend Robert Guglielmone, Bishop of Charleston, will be the celebrant for the mass and will speak at the luncheon. Our invited guest Reverend Michael Carson, Assistant Director for Native American Affairs for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will serve as homilist and speaker. Cathy Nelson and the "Keepers of the Word" Drum will entertain. An event for the entire family.

Register online by 10/15/17 at: <https://nativeamericancatholicsheritage2017.eventbrite.com> For more information and registration, contact the Office of Ethnic Ministries at (864)331-2627 or email rmcnamara@catholic-doc.org.

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 55:6-9(133A)

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalms 145:2-3,8-9,17-18

Second Reading:

Philippians 1:20c-24,27a

Gospel:

Matthew 20:1-16a

Today's Missal

Lectionary Readings for Week of September 24, 2017

Monday: *Ezra 1:1-6;*

Luke 8:16-18

Tuesday: *Ezra 6:7-8,12b,14-20;*

Luke 8:19-21

Wednesday: *Ezra 9:5-9;*

Luke 9:7-9

Thursday: *Haggai 1:1-8;*

Luke 9:7-9

Friday: *Daniel 7:9-10,13-14;*

John 1:47-51

Saturday: *Zechariah 2:5-9,14-15a;*

Luke 9:43b-45

The Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 24, 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.



'Now the kingdom of Heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing around, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us," they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner saying, "The men who came last have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the lastcomer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why should you be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

Matthew 20:1-16a

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
 Janet Menefee

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 Sue hesik from The Hesiks. 7:00 Mass is said for your own personal intentions. 11:00 AM Mass is said for Shirley Beetz for a healthy baby

The Gathering Hymn 38 M
Holy, Holy, Holy
The Offertory Hymn 383 BB
The Summons
The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 324 BB
Gift of Finest Wheat
Our Song of Praise is 387 BB
Sent Forth by God's Blessing



Weekend Offering
September 17, 2017

Collected \$2,336.00
 Needed \$2,612.00
Under \$276.00
 Attendance Not Avail.

Stewardship a way of life



Lector: Diane Begic
 E E Ministers: Mary Rose



Lector: Joan Hesik
 E E Ministers: Ellen Heim

Lay Ministers

Saturday September 30	Sunday October 1	Sunday October 1
4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	11:00 AM Mass
Lector: Diane Begic	Denise Gelinis	Paula Thurston
E E Ministers: Mary Rose	Roger Gelinis	Wayman Johnson
Saturday October 7	Sunday October 8	Sunday October 8
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	Jackie Brown

Need input for Refreshment schedule. Need someone to coordinate a 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



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Richard Lee Smoot who died on Monday, September 18, AD 2017. Richard and Sharon were long time parishioners of St. Gerard's. Please also pray for Sharon. George Funeral Home is assisting the family. Memorial Mass TBD

Life Chain
 Is an hour of Public Silent Prayer for respect of each human life From conception to death. We pray especially for an end of abortion
 Join Us Sunday October 1, 2017 2:30 to 3:30 PM
 Meet by 2:15 PM at Christ's Way Christian Church 183 Old Wagener Road Aiken SC More info aikenprolife@yahoo.com or http://lifechain.net/ see poster on bulletin board

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

St. Mary Help of Christians in Aiken, SC, invites all to join us as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the final apparition at Fatima on Friday, October 13th. Mass will be held in our main Church on Fairfield St. The celebration will include a procession, and afterward all are invited to join us to watch the movie *The Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima* in Mother Teresa Hall. All are welcome. For more information, contact Mary Jackson at 803-642-2676.

Volunteer Corner:

Thanks to those that stepped up to help in my absence the last two Weeks. Joan Hesik and Nancy Durdan and anyone else that helped. Thanks to The Fall Festival Committee for their work. We need a refreshment coordinator for after the 11:00 AM Mass

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



BLOOD DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus, and Sheppard Community Blood Center need you to help save local lives. Saturday, October 7th 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Mrs. Henry's classroom At the school on York St. will be available. Saving Lives takes All Types

Every pint of blood donated gives someone a chance to live. Much of today's medical care depends on a steady supply of blood from healthy donors. Yet only 5% of the eligible donors in the U.S. donate blood. What you do matters to someone. Donors should drink plenty of water prior to donating. After you donate please stay and enjoy the Chocolate Festival. Bring your family, there will be fun and games for all. **THE NEED IS CONSTANT. THE GRATIFICATION IS INSTANT.**

Women Facing the Future retreat on October 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sullivan's Island. Join the assorted sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius and a group of active young women for input, quiet, prayer, and faith sharing. For more information, please contact Sr. Pamela Smith at psmith@catholic-doc.org or (843) 819-7991.

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 7:00 PM September 29 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, 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.

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