

## Pope Francis' General Audience: On Missionaries of Hope Today

'A Christian isn't a prophet of doom'

Rome, October 4, 2017. Zenith.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

In this catechesis I wish to speak on the theme "Missionaries of Hope Today." I am happy to do so at the beginning of this month, which the Church dedicates particularly to the mission, and also on the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, who was a great missionary of hope!

In fact, a Christian isn't a prophet of doom. We are not prophets of doom. The essence of his proclamation is the opposite, the opposite of doom: it's Jesus, who died out of love and who God resurrected on Easter morning. And this is the nucleus of the Christian faith. If the Gospels ended with Jesus' burial, the story of this prophet would be added to the many biographies of heroic personalities that spend their life for an ideal. The Gospel would then be an edifying and consoling book, but wouldn't be a proclamation of hope.

However, the Gospels don't close with Holy Friday, they go beyond; and it's precisely this further fragment that transforms our lives. Jesus' disciples were depressed on that Saturday after His crucifixion; that stone rolled on the door of the sepulcher also closed the three exciting years lived by them with the Teacher of Nazareth. It's seemed that everything was finished, and some, disappointed and fearful, were already leaving Jerusalem.

But Jesus resurrected! This unexpected event upsets and overturns the mind and heart of the disciples, because Jesus didn't resurrect only for Himself, as if His rebirth was a prerogative of which to be jealous: if He ascends to the Father it's because He wants His Resurrection to be shared by every human being, and take every creature on high. And on the day of Pentecost, the breath of the Holy Spirit transformed the disciples. They not only had good news to take to all, but they themselves were different from before, as though reborn to a new life. Jesus' Resurrection transforms us with the strength of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is alive, He is alive among us, He is living and has that strength to transform.

How beautiful it is to think that we are heralds of Jesus' Resurrection not only in words but in deeds and with the witness of life! Jesus doesn't want disciples capable only of repeating formulas learnt by heart. He wants witnesses: persons that spread hope by their way of welcoming, of smiling, of loving. Above all by loving, because the strength of the Resurrection renders Christians capable of loving even when love seems to have lost its reasons. There is a certain "more" that dwells in Christian existence, and that is not explained simply with strength of spirit or greater optimism. The faith, our hope isn't only optimism; it's something else, <something> more! It's as if believers were persons with more of a "piece of Heaven" above the head, accompanied by a presence that some are not even able to intuit.

Thus the task of Christians in this world is to open areas of salvation, as cells of regeneration capable of restoring lymph to what seemed lost forever. When the sky is all cloudy, one who is able to speak of the sun is a blessing. See, the true Christian is thus: not lamenting and angry but convinced, by the strength of the Resurrection, that no evil is infinite, no night is without end, no man is definitively mistaken, no hatred is invincible for love.

Sometimes the disciples would certainly pay a dear price for this hope given to them by Jesus. We think of the many Christians that didn't abandon their people, when the time of persecution arrived. They stayed there, where they were even uncertain of the morrow, where no plans could be made of any sort, they stayed hoping in God. And we think of our brothers, of our sisters of the Middle East that give witness of hope and also offer their life for this witness. They are true Christians! They bear Heaven in their heart, looking beyond, always beyond. One who has had the grace to embrace Jesus' Resurrection can even hope in the unexpected. The martyrs of all times, with their fidelity to Christ, tell us that injustice isn't the last word in life. In the risen Christ, we can continue to hope. The men and women who have a "why" for living endure more than others in times of misfortune. However, whoever has Christ truly by his side no longer fears anything. And because of this Christians — true Christians —, are never easy and accommodating men. Their meekness is not confused with a sense of insecurity and submissiveness. Saint Paul spurs Timothy to suffer for the Gospel, and says thus: "for God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control" (2 Timothy 1:7). Fallen, they always rise.

See, dear brothers and sisters, why a Christian is a missionary of hope. Not by his merit but thanks to Jesus, the grain of wheat that fell on the ground died and bore much fruit (Cf. John 12:24).

# 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 5:1-7(139A)*

### Responsorial Psalm:

*Psalm 80:9,12,13-14,15-16,19-20*

### Second Reading:

*Philippians 4:6-9*

### Gospel:

*Matthew 21:33-43*

### Today's Missal

#### Lectionary Readings for Week of October 8, 2017

**Monday:** *Jonah 1:1-2:2,11;*

*Luke 10:25-37*

**Tuesday:** *Jonah 3:1-10;*

*Luke 10:38-42*

**Wednesday:** *Jonah 4:1-11;*

*Luke 11:1-4*

**Thursday:** *Malachi 3:13-20b;*

*Luke 11: 5-13*

**Friday:** *Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2;*

*Luke 11:15-26*

**Saturday:** *Joel 4:12-21;*

*Luke 11:27-28*

## The Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time October 8, 2017

### Mission Statement

Called to be a People for Others

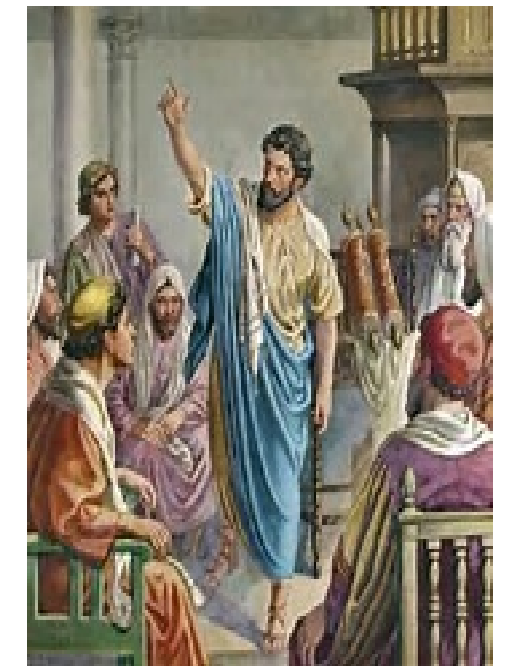
### Vision Statement

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.



*Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this is the Lord's doing and we marvel at it? 'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'*

**Matthew 21:42-43**



**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  
 Anita Vachon



*Celebrate a life given over to God in all things! Grow in your own faith through monthly stewardship prayers and meet saintly men and women living stewardship spirituality throughout the history of Church.*

**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 & 7:00 AM Masses are said for your own personal intentions. 11:00 AM Mass is said for the birthday of Bill Cobbs from A. Lauer

*The Gathering Hymn 595 BB*  
*All Good Gifts*  
*The Offertory Hymn 511 BB*  
*We Have Been Told*  
*The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 590 BB*  
*For the Beauty of the Earth*  
*Our Song of Praise is 420 BB*  
*How Great Thou Art*



**Lay Ministers**

**Weekend Offering**  
**October 1, 2017**

Collected \$2,884.00  
 Needed \$2,612.00  
**Over \$732.00**  
 Attendance 109

*Stewardship a way of life*



**Saturday October 14**  
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass  
 Lector: Linda Cooper  
 E E Ministers: Diane Begic

**Sunday October 15**  
 7:00 AM Mass  
 Denise Gelinas  
 Roger Gelinas

**Sunday October 15**  
 11:00 AM Mass  
 Janet Menefee  
 Jeanette Coleman



**Saturday October 21**  
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass  
 Lector: Diane Begic  
 E E Ministers: Barbara Dixon

**Sunday October 22**  
 7:00 AM Mass  
 Mary Kay L'Esperance  
 Gerard L'Esperance

**Sunday October 22**  
 11:00 AM Mass  
 Sheila Wagner  
 Mary Rose

**Please help fill in the refreshment schedule sign up sheet n thye board!!**

*Please join us for the Saint Gerard novena beginning on Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup> thru the Monday the 16<sup>th</sup>. Look for the novena prayers on our facebook page, website, and the rear of the church. On Monday October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM there will be Vespers in honor of Saint Gerard at the church followed by a small reception in the hall. Please join us in praying with our parish's patron saint.*



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**

10 October Finance Council Meeting 5:30 PM  
 Parish Council Meeting 6:30 PM

**Mike will be out of the office starting 1:00 PM Wednesday the 4th and returning Monday the 9th.**

**BINGO Columbus Club Hall Every Monday at 7:10 PM till 9:00 PM 5 Cards \$ 10.00. Each Additional Card \$2.00 15 Regular Games \$20 Payout 1 Coverall Jackpot \$150 Payout**

**Final Fall Festival Meeting**

*The Saint Gerard Fall Festival is upon us. The final planning meeting will be held on Tuesday October 10 at 7 PM. There will be a painting party for children's games and sign making at the church on Tuesday October 10th at 9am. Many hands will make light work here. Please plan on bringing all items to the church by Friday October 13th or to Odell Weeks Center no later than 8 AM on the day of the festival, October 14th. Look for an email with the volunteer sign up sheet in the next coming days that lists all volunteers and what they have sign up for. Please use this as a reminder of what you have volunteered to do. Thank you for all of your support and we look forward to seeing you at the festival to share in its success. Contact the church office or Deacon Joe at [josephadennis@yahoo.com](mailto:josephadennis@yahoo.com) or 843-743-8779. We need your help, your time, and your talents in order to be a success. Saint Gerard pray for us.*

**Volunteer Corner:**  
**In stead of our volunteers, I want to thank, with prayer, the men and woman in Las Vegas that helped the shooting victims in spite of the danger to themselves. Please Pray for all of them along with the victims.**

St. Mary Help of Christians in Aiken, SC, invites all to join us as we the 100th anniversary of the final 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.

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 @ 803 215-8008.

**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](mailto:rmcnamara@catholic-doc.org).

**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,

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

**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](mailto:stgerardscatholi@atlanticbnn.net). You should follow this advice for Nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities also.

**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](mailto:o2readmore@yahoo.com) or call/text 843-743-8676 Please contact Dot Dennis at [o2readmore@yahoo.com](mailto: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

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

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](mailto:psmith@catholic-doc.org) or (843) 819-7991.

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.