

Pope Francis' General Audience, 'Blessed Are the Dead that Die in the Lord'

Rome, Oct 18th 2017. Zenith.org

Dearest Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

Today I would like to compare Christian hope with the reality of death, a reality that our modern civilization tends increasingly to efface. Thus, when death comes, for one who is close to us or for ourselves, we find ourselves unprepared, deprived even of an appropriate "alphabet" to articulate meaningful words about its mystery, which in any case remains. Yet the first signs of human civilization transited in fact through this enigma. We can say that man is born with the cult of the dead.

Other civilizations, before ours, had the courage to look at it in the face. It was an event recounted by the elderly to the new generations, as an inescapable reality that obliged man to live for something absolute. Psalm 90 states: "Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom" (v. 12). To number our days so that our heart becomes wise! — words that lead us to a healthy realism, dispelling the delusion of omnipotence. What are we? We are "almost nothing," says another Psalm (Cf. 88:48); our days run off fast: even if we lived a hundred years, at the end it will all seem as if it was a flash. Many times I've heard elderly people say: "Life passed for me as a flash . . ."

Thus death strips our life. It makes us discover that our acts of pride, of wrath, of hatred were vanity, pure vanity. We realize with regret that we didn't love enough and that we didn't seek what was essential. And, on the contrary, we see what we sowed that was truly good: the affections for which we sacrificed ourselves, and that now hold our hand.

Jesus illumined the mystery of our death. With His conduct, He permits us to feel sorrowful when a dear person goes. He was "profoundly" upset before the tomb of His friend Lazarus, and He "wept" (*John* 11:35). In this attitude of His, we feel Jesus very close — our brother. He wept for His friend Lazarus.

And then Jesus prays to the Father, source of life, and orders Lazarus to come out of the sepulcher. And so it happens. Christian hope draws from this attitude, which Jesus assumes against human death: if it is present in Creation, it is, however, a scar that spoils God's design of love, and the Savior wants to heal it.

Elsewhere the Gospels talk about a father whose daughter is very sick, and he turns to Jesus with faith so that He will save her (Cf. *Mark* 5:21-24, 35-54). There is no more moving figure than that of a father or a mother with a sick child. And Jesus goes immediately with that man, who was called Jairus. At a certain point someone arrives from Jairus' house to say that the girl is dead, and there's no longer need to trouble the Teacher. However, Jesus says to Jairus: "Do not fear, only believe!" (*Mark* 5:36). Jesus knows that that man is tempted to react with anger and despair, because the little girl is dead, and he recommends to him to cherish the small flame burning in his heart: faith. "Do not fear, only have faith." "Do not fear, continue to have that flame burning!" And then, arriving at the house, He awakes the little girl from death and restores her alive to her dear ones.

Jesus puts us on this "ridge" of faith. To Martha weeping for the death of her brother Lazarus He opposes the light of a dogma: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (*John* 11: 25-26). It's what Jesus repeats to each one of us every time that death comes to tear the fabric of life and of affections. Our whole existence is played out here, between the slope of faith and the precipice of fear. Jesus says: I am not death, I am the resurrection and the life; do you believe this? Do you believe this?" Do we, who are in the Square today, believe this?

We are all small and vulnerable before the mystery of death. However, what a grace if in that moment we cherish in our heart the little flame of faith! Jesus will take us by the hand, as He took the hand of Jairus' daughter, and repeat once again: "*Talita kum*," "Little girl, arise!" (*Mark* 5:41). He will say it to us, to each one of us: "Get up, arise!" I now invite you to close your eyes and to think of that moment of our death. Each one of us think of his death and imagine that moment that will come, when Jesus will take us by the hand and say to us: Come, come with me, arise." Hope will end there and it will be the reality, the reality of life. Think about it: Jesus Himself will come to each one of us and will take us by the hand, with His tenderness, His meekness, His love. And each one repeat in his heart Jesus' word: "Get up, come. Get up, come. Get up, arise!"

This is our hope in face of death. For one who believes, it's a door that opens completely; for one who doubts it's a chink of light that filters from a doorway that was not altogether closed. However, for all of us it will be a grace, when this light, of the encounter with Jesus, will illuminate us.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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803 649-3203

Fr. Emmanuel O. Andinam: Administrator
Joseph A. Dennis: Deacon

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Isaiah 45:1,4-6(145A)

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 96:1,3,4-5,7-8,9-10

Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b

Gospel:

Matthew 22:15-21

Today's Missal

Lectionary Readings for Week of October 22, 2017

Monday: *Romans 1:1-7;*

Luke 11:29-32

Tuesday: *Romans 1:16-25;*

Luke 11:37-41

Wednesday: *2 Timothy 4:10-17b;*

Luke 10:1-9

Thursday: *Romans 3:21-30;*

Luke 11:47-54

Friday: *Romans 4:1-8;*

Luke 12:1-7

Saturday: *Romans 4:13, 16-18;*

Luke 12:8-12

The Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time October 22, 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.



Then the Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap him in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with some Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in all honesty, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because human rank means nothing to you. Give us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why are you putting me to the test? Show me the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose portrait is this? Whose title?' They replied, 'Caesar's.' Then he said to them, 'Very well, pay Caesar what belongs to Caesar -- and God what belongs to God.'
Matthew 22:15-21



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@atlanticbnn.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



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:
 Vacant,
 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 said for the soul of Anita Vachon from the Dixons
 7:00 AM Mass said for your own personal intentions.
 11:00 AM Mass said for the birthday of Rick Luck from Audry Lauer

Weekend Offering
October 15, 2017
 Collected \$1,871.10
 Needed \$2,612.00
Under \$741.90
 Attendance 125
Stewardship a way of life

The Gathering Hymn 558 BB
Sing A New Song
The Offertory Hymn is 390 BB
To Praise You
The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 601 BB
Christ Be Our Light
Our Song of Praise is 732 BB
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
Lay Ministers

Saturday October 28
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
 Lector: Joan Hesik
 E E Ministers: Pam Ziomek

Saturday November 4
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
 Lector: Linda Cooper
 E E Ministers: Pam Ziomek

Sunday October 29
 7:00 AM Mass
 Denise Gelinas
 Roger Gelinas
Sunday November 5
 7:00 AM Mass
 Denise Gelinas
 Roger Gelinas

Sunday October 29
 11:00 AM Mass
 Nancy Cadek
 Wayman Johnson
Sunday November 5
 11:00 AM Mass
 Pat Hayes
 Wayman Johnson

Please help fill in the refreshment schedule sign up sheet on the board!!



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

The Legion of Mary is meeting at 1:30 on Fridays. Please consider joining. Call Paula Thurston at 803 226-1120

The Fall Festival
 Unofficial total is \$ 4,929.76
 pending any outstanding pay outs.
 The Festival went well and was well attended.
 An after action meeting will be scheduled soon.

The new EM and Lector Schedules are posted for your input.

Second Collection is for Mission Sunday Propagation of The Faith



The Advent Penance service is to be held on November 28 at 6:30 PM Please plan to attend.

Any one needing reimbursement for fall Festival please contact the office this week.

Correction 14 November is the date set for the Finance Council Meeting @ 5:30 PM and the Parish Council Meeting 6:30 PM

We are planning a formal dinner in the parish hall. The proposed date is November 25th after the 4 PM Mass. Specifics will be published in the coming weeks. Price, menu etc. This is sponsored by the men's and woman's group as a social and money raising function.

Volunteer Corner:
 Thanks to all that worked so hard to make the Fall Festival a success. Before, during and after the event.
 Thanks to Dennis Hoochung for his work as St. Gerard's handy man.

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



5th Marian Eucharistic Conference will be held on Saturday, November 4 - Sunday, November 5 at the Hilton Hotel in Greenville.
 Our featured speakers include:
 Fr. Wade Menezes, The Fathers of Mercy;
 Fr. Chris Alar, Marian of the Immaculate Conception;
 Al Kresta, Ave Maria Radio; Raymond Arroyo, The World Over; Fr. Dwight Longenecker.
 General admission is \$75, youth is \$40 and it includes a buffet lunch on Saturday and Sunday. Registered by October 24 by mail. Registration after Oct. 24: \$85
We offer gluten free meals by request.
 For more information, call (864)354-7160 or go to www.meconferencesc.net

Family Charitable Outreach:
 Contact Marge Glauser-Hall or the office.

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@atlanticbbn.net. You should follow this advice for Nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities also.

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.

Wish List
 This is an older campus. Things break and wear out. In order to keep you informed we are putting out a list of urgent needs.
 Heat exchanger needs replacement grantee expired. cost \$1,235.00
 Father's needs a new Mattress cost \$ 600.00

We are going to buy new 5ft. round tables for the church hall. Please look at the one in the hall and give us feedback. Like yes or no. Email, call or tell a council member.

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

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**

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

To date we have received \$12,000 in donations towards the new roof to replace the flat roof.

Natural Family Planning in November
 Natural Family Planning (NFP) encompasses moral, natural, healthy, modern and scientifically reliable methods of family planning that teach 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:
 11.6.17 - St. Joseph Catholic Church (Columbia) - 6:30pm
 11.9.17 - St. Francis Hospital - eastside, Room 301 (Greenville) - 7:00 pm
 11.13.17 - Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, low-er church (Charleston) - 6:30pm
 11.14.17 - Seasons Ob/Gyn (N. Charleston) - 6:30pm
 11.17.17 - Immaculate Conception (Goose Creek) - 6:30pm
 Don't see your parish or location? Visit <http://www.sccatholic.org/nfp> to find a full listing of NFP methods, instructors, and dates 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.

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.

The state of finance at St. Gerard is to be presented to the parish at all 3 Masses in November. Date TBD