

POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS ADDRESS: Facing the Lenten Spiritual Combat with the Strength of the Word of God

'It is necessary to draw confidence from the Bible: to read it often, meditate on it and assimilate it'

Rome, March 5, 2017 zenith.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

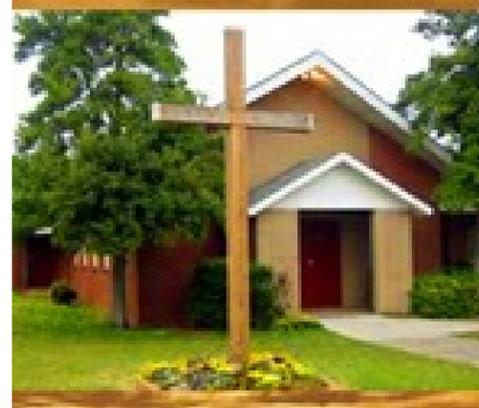
In this first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel introduces us on the path towards Easter, showing Jesus, who stays forty days in the desert, subjected to the devil's temptations (cf. *Matthew* 4:1-11). This episode is placed in a specific moment of Jesus' life: immediately after His Baptism in the river Jordan and before His public ministry. He has just received His solemn investiture: the Spirit of God descended on Him, the Father of heaven declared Him: "This is my beloved Son" (*Matthew* 3:17). Jesus is now ready to begin His mission; and because it has a declared enemy, namely Satan, He confronts him immediately, body to body." In fact, the devil appeals to His title of "Son of God," to dissuade Jesus from carrying out His mission: "If you are the Son of God . . .", he repeats to Him (vv. 3.6), and he suggests that He engage miraculous gestures — to be a "magician" — such as transforming the stones into bread to satiate His hunger, and throwing Himself from the wall of the Temple, having the Angels rescue Him. These two temptations are followed by a third: to adore him, the devil, to have dominion over the world (cf. v. 9).

Through this threefold temptation, Satan wants to divert Jesus from the way of obedience and humiliation – because he knows that, through this way, evil will thus be defeated – and lead Him on the false shortcut of success and glory. However, the devil's poisonous arrows are all "stopped" with the shield of the Word of God (vv. 4.7.10), which expresses the Father's will. Jesus does not say a single word of his own: He responds only with the Word of God. And thus the Son, full of the strength of the Holy Spirit, comes out victorious from the desert.

As Christians we are invited, during the forty days of Lent, to follow in Jesus steps and face the spiritual combat against the Evil One with the strength of the Word of God. Not with our word, which is useless. The Word of God: that which has the strength to defeat Satan. Therefore, it is necessary to draw confidence from the Bible: to read it often, meditate on it and assimilate it. The Bible contains the World of God, which is always timely and effective. Someone said: what would happen if we treated the Bible as we treat our mobile phone? If we always carried it with us, or at least a small pocket Bible, what would happen? If we went back when we forgot it: you forgot your mobile phone – O, I don't have it, I'll go back to find it; if we opened it several times a day; what would happen if we read God's messages contained in the Bible as we read our phone messages? The paragon is clearly paradoxical, but it makes us reflect. In fact, if we had the Word of God always in the heart, no temptation would be able to estrange us from God and no obstacle would be able to make us deviate from the path of goodness; we would be able to overcome the daily suggestions of evil that are in us and outside of us; we would be more capable of living a resurrected life according to the Spirit, receiving and loving our brothers, especially the weakest and neediest, and also our enemies.

May the Virgin Mary, perfect icon of obedience to God and of unconditional trust in His will, sustain us on our Lenten journey, so that we place ourselves in docile listening to the Word of God, to undertake a true conversion of the heart.

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:

Genesis 12:1-4a (25A)

Responsorial:

Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22

Second Reading:

2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Gospel:

Matthew 17:1-9

Today's Missal

Lectionary Readings for the week of March 12, 2017

Monday: Genesis 4:1-15, 25;

Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday: Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10;

Mark 8:14-21

Wednesday: Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22;

Mark 8:22-26

Thursday: Genesis 9:1-13;

Mark 8:27-33

Friday: Genesis 11:1-9;

Mark 8:34-9:1

Saturday: Hebrews 11:1-7;

Mark 9:2-13

Mass Times: Weekdays Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:15 AM,

First Friday Benediction after Mass

Weekend Saturday 4:00 PM, Sunday 7:00 AM and 11:00 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: No Class at this time

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

The Second Sunday of Lent March 12, 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.*



Let us set up three tents



Pray for our sick:
 Judy Riley
 Marge Glauser
 Leonard Saunders
 Shirley Paige
 William and Jackie Cobbs
 Woody Alexander
 Lena Mickens
 Rosa Johnson
 Brenda Ligons
 Joe Fulmer
 Sue Hesik

Filled with desire, we respond to Your call for discipleship by shaping our lives in imitation of Christ. We profess that the call requires us to be stewards of Your gifts



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:
 Robert Erikson,
 Chairman
 Leon Gagnon and
 Anna Marie Key,
 Auditors
 Lisa Solenberger,
 Secretary
 Art Wagner

Mass Intentions
 4:00 PM Mass is said for the soul of Viola Beckert
 From the Beckerts, 7:00 AM Mass is said for your own personal intentions. 11:00 AM is said for the Soul of John Lauer From A. Lauer

Weekend Offering
March 5, 2017

Collection	\$4,999.00
Needed	\$2,612.00
Over	\$2,387.00
Attendance	151

Stewardship a way of life

The Gathering Hymn	102 M
The Glory of These Forty Days	
The Offertory Hymn is	103 M
'Tis Good Lord To Be Here	
The Communion Hymn is	CHOIR 111 M
Save Your People	
Our Song of Praise is	300 H
Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross	



Lector: Joan Hesik
E E Ministers: Barbara Dixon



Lector: Tami Schaeffer
E E Ministers: Jerry Schaeffer

Lay Ministers

Saturday March 18	Sunday March 19	Sunday March 19
4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	11:00 AM Mass
Denise Gelinas	Denise Gelinas	Lisa Solenberger
Roger Gelinas	Roger Gelinas	Mike Solenberger
Saturday March 25	Sunday March 26	Sunday March 26
4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	11:00 AM Mass
Tami Schaeffer	Mary Kay L'Esperance	Sheila Wagner
Jerry Schaeffer	Gerard L'Esperance	Marge Glauser



Refreshments March 12
 Sheila Wagner/Patricia Hayes

Refreshments March 19
 Shirley Paige/Anna Marie Key

Refreshments March 26
 Janet Menefee/Joan Laombe

The Legion of Mary is meeting at 1:30 on Fridays. Please consider joining. Please Pray the Rosary.

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



Please come to Bible Study on Fridays at 10:00 AM Father brings the true perspective to the scriptures. Please try to attend.

Stations of The Cross are on Wednesdays during lent from 3/8-4/5 at 6:30 PM
 Soup and bread supper served following stations.
 Sign up to bring soup and/or bread. Sheet in the lobby

Choir practice for Easter will be at 4:00 PM on March 14, 21, 28 and April 4
Reconciliation Service for Lent is Thursday 30 March at 6:00 PM

Finance Council: Meeting March 21 @ 4:00 PM **Parish Council:** Meeting March 21 @ 6:00 PM



Confirmation:
 We have three of our young people receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this Tuesday the 14th. At St. Mary Help of Christians at 7:00 PM. They are Kamilia Alarcon, Daniel Johnson and Phillip Perea. Please try to attend and pray for them, their sponsors, teachers and their families

Easter Lilly memorials are \$10. Please have donations and memorials in by 10 April. Memorials will be in bulletin and in the sanctuary for Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. Please put contact number on memorial in case I have questions. Thank you, Mike

Volunteer Corner:

Thank you to all who taught and had a positive influence on our children that are being Confirmed.
 Especially Jeanette Coleman

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

Family Charitable Outreach: Contact Marge Glauser or the office.

Thank you and bless your gifts of food.

WHAT WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD; A REFLECTION AND DIALOGUE ON PEACE

Date: Saturday, April 1, 2017
Location: St. Gerard Catholic Church, 640 Edrie Street NE, Aiken, SC
Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Hosts: St. Gerard and St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Churches

This interactive experience will consist of dialogue and reflection on the racial divide in America as a path toward healing and peace. The primary focus will be on the content of a pastoral letter, written by Bishop Edward K. Braxton of Belleville, IL – The Racial Divide in the United States; A Reflection for the World Day of Peace 2015. Facilitated by Kathleen Merritt and staff with the Office of Ethnic Ministries for the Diocese of Charleston. For more information and registration contact St. Gerard Catholic Church; stgerardscatholic@atlanticbbn.net or call 803.649.3203. You must be registered to attend! **Deadline for Registration is March 27, 2017.** Bishop Braxton's paper can be found at www.sccatholic.org/downloads/ethnic_ministry/braxton_racialstudyguide.pdf Highlights from the previous session can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/V30whmceTwI>.

BLACK CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE
 OCTOBER 5-7, 2017 MIAMI, FLORIDA

The Bowman Francis Ministry team would like to invite you to the fourteen annual Black Catholic Men's conference in Miami Florida October 5-7. This conference invitation is extended to all males and youth males 10-17 years of age. Come to the conference and be blessed to be the best man- the best youth you can be in the church, community and world. If you have any concerns you can reach me at 317-523-0900 or check out the ministry at bowmanfrancismistry.com

Fr. Chester Smith FOR BROCHURE: Click link below.
http://www.bowmanfrancismistry.com/men_s_conference

Jesus Wept John 11:35
GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

St. Mary's has an ongoing grief support group that meets on Wednesdays. The 13-week program uses Griefshare, a special, lay-led weekly seminar and support group that embraces a biblical, Christ-centered approach to grieving. Please join us for help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. We provide a safe and loving environment to encourage sharing and exchanging of concerns and feelings as you are comfortable. This group is open to anyone in our community, regardless of Church affiliation. Please pass the information along to anyone you know who might need it. People may join the group at any point during the 13 weeks; each session stands alone. The meetings are held downstairs in Smith Hall from 3:30 until 5:00 pm but we join for coffee and fellowship any time after 3:00. The registration fee is \$20 and scholarships are available. Registration information is available at the St. Mary Parish Office. Please contact Bette Ross at 803.649-4777 or bross@stmarys-aiken.org for additional information or questions.

I will turn their mourning into joy; I will console and gladden them after their sorrows
 — Jeremiah 31:13

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year the Aiken Knights of Columbus Council #3684 awards scholarship assistance to eligible applicants. Scholarships are based solely on ability and will be awarded based on school grades, standardized test scores, quality of the essay submitted, letters of recommendation, and community or extracurricular involvement. With few exceptions, scholarship assistance will require a minimum grade average of B or 3.00 in high school and 1600 or higher SAT scores (or equivalent). All scholarship applications must be received by April 30, 2017. All scholarships awarded are renewable upon reapplication provided a recipient maintains a B or 3.00 grade average and is a worthy campus citizen. Scholarship interviews may be an integral part of the evaluation. For more information or an application form, call Tom Meisner at (803) 649-4721 or Chuck Goergen at (803) 649-4097.

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.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats bring spiritual healing and strengthening of faith to individuals who have had or participated in an abortion. Join us on the journey to healing, peace and reconciliation. March 17-19, 2017 in Rock Hill, SC. For information and registration please call Christy 803 554 6088 or Kathy 803 546 6010. Or email grace4healing@gmail.com This could be the right time for you!

In Harms' Way: Please remember in your prayers our Nation and loved ones of our parishioners currently serving in harms' way: James Ligons and Robert McHugh. 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.