

## Pope Francis' General Audience: On Heaven, the Goal of Our Hope

"Every time that a man, doing the last examination of conscience of his life, discovers that the deficits are greater compared to his good works, he must not be discouraged, but entrust himself to God's mercy"

Rome, Oct 25, 2017. Zenith.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

This is the last catechesis on the theme of Christian hope, which has accompanied us from the beginning of this Liturgical Year. And I will conclude speaking of *Paradise*, as *end of our hope*.

"Paradise" is one of the last words spoken by Jesus on the cross, addressed to the good thief. Let us pause a moment on that scene. Jesus isn't alone on the cross. Next to Him, on the right and on the left, are two evildoers. Perhaps, passing before those three crosses raised on Golgotha, someone sighed a sigh of relief, thinking that finally justice was done putting people like this to death.

Next to Jesus there is also a self-confessed criminal: one who recognizes he deserved that terrible torture. We call him the "good thief," who, opposing the other <thief>, says: we are receiving the due reward for our deeds (Cf. *Luke 23:41*).

On Calvary, that tragic and holy Friday, Jesus reaches the extreme of His Incarnation, of His solidarity with us sinners. Realized there was what the prophet Isaiah said of the Suffering Servant: "He was numbered with the transgressors" (*53:12*; Cf. *Luke 22:37*).

It is there, on Calvary, that Jesus has the last meeting with a sinner, to open to him also the door of His Kingdom. This is interesting: it's the only time the word "Paradise" appears in the Gospels. Jesus promises it to a "poor devil" who, on the wood of the cross, had the courage to address to Him the most humble request: "Remember me when you come in your kingly power" (*Luke 23:42*). He didn't have good works to assert, but he entrusts himself to Jesus, whom he recognizes as innocent, good, so different from himself (v. 41). That word of humble repentance was enough to touch Jesus' heart.

The good thief reminds us of our true condition before God: that we are His children, that He has compassion for us, that He is disarmed every time we manifest to Him nostalgia for His love. In the rooms of so many hospitals or in the cells of prisons this miracle is repeated innumerable times: there is no person, no matter how badly he lived, for whom only despair remains and for whom grace is prohibited. We all present ourselves before God with empty hands, somewhat like the publican of the parable who paused to pray in the back of the Temple (Cf. *Luke 18:13*). And every time that a man, doing the last examination of conscience of his life, discovers that the deficits are greater compared to his good works, he must not be discouraged, but entrust himself to God's mercy. And this gives us hope; this opens our heart!

God is Father, and He waits for our return up to the end. And to the Prodigal Son who returns, who begins to confess his faults, the father closes his mouth with an embrace (Cf. *Luke 15:20*). This is God: this is how He loves us!

Paradise is not a dream place or an enchanted garden. Paradise is the embrace with God, infinite Love, and we enter it thanks to Jesus, who died on the cross for us. Where Jesus is, there is mercy and happiness; without Him there is cold and darkness. In the hour of death, a Christian repeats to Jesus: "Remember me." And if there isn't any one who remembers us, Jesus is there, next to us. He wants to take us to the most beautiful place that exists. He wants to take us there with the little or the lot of good that was in our life, so that nothing is lost of what He already redeemed. And He will bring to the Father's House all that is in us that still needs to be redeemed: the failures and mistakes of a whole life. This is the end of our existence: when everything is fulfilled and is transformed in love.

If we believe this, death ceases to make us afraid, and we can also hope to depart from this world serenely and with much trust. Whoever has known Jesus, no longer feels anything. And we can also repeat the words of the elderly Simeon, who was also blessed by his meeting with Christ, after a whole life consumed in waiting: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation" (*Luke 2:29-30*).

And in that instant, finally, we won't be in need of anything, we will no longer see in a confused way. We won't cry anymore uselessly, because everything has passed, also the prophecies, also knowledge, but not love, it remains, because "love never ends" (Cf. *1 Corinthians 13:8*).

# 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:

*Exodus 22:20-26(148A)*

### Responsorial Psalm:

*Psalm 18:2-3,3-4,47,51*

### Second Reading:

*1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10*

### Gospel:

*Matthew 22:34-40*

### Today's Missal

### Lectionary Readings for Week of October 29, 2017

**Monday:** *Romans 8:12-17;*

*Luke 13:10-17*

**Tuesday:** *Romans 8:18-25;*

*Luke 13:18-21*

**All Saints Day:** *Revelation 7:2-4,9-14(667);*

*Psalm 24:1bc-2,3-4ab,5-6; 1 John 3:1-3;*

*Matthew 5:1-12a*

**Thursday:** *Wisdom 3:1-9;*

*Romans 5:5-11; John 6:37-40*

**Friday:** *Romans 9:1-5;*

*Luke 14:1-6*

**Saturday:** *Romans 11:1-2a,11-12,25-29;*

*Luke 14:1,7-11*

**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**

## The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time October 29, 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.



*But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to put him to the test, one of them put a further question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said to him, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets too'*

Matthew 22:34-40



**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:**  
 David Didimamoff, 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 and 11:00 AM Masses are said for your own personal intentions. 7:00 AM Mass for the soul of Christopher Van Burn

*The Gathering Hymn 441 BB*  
*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*  
*The Offertory Hymn 200 BB*  
*Beautiful Savior*  
*The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 481 BB*  
*Where Charity and Love Prevail*  
*Our Song of Praise is 434 BB*  
*How Can I Keep From Singing*



**Lay Ministers**

**Weekend Offering**  
**October 22, 2017**

Collected \$3,026.00  
 Needed \$2,612.00  
**Over \$414.00**

Attendance 122  
*Stewardship a way of life*



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

**Sunday November 5**  
 7:00 AM Mass  
 Denise Gelinas  
 Roger Gelinas

**Sunday November 5**  
 11:00 AM Mass  
 Pat Hayes  
 Wayman Johnson



**Saturday November 11**  
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass  
 Lector: Diane Begic  
 E E Ministers: Jerry Schaeffer

**Sunday November 12**  
 7:00 AM Mass  
 Mary Kay L'Esperance  
 Gerard L'Esperance

**Sunday November 12**  
 11:00 AM Mass  
 Paula Thurston  
 Jackie Brown

**Mass times for Wednesday November 1st, All Saints Day 8:15 AM and 6:00 PM**



*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

14 November is the date set for the Finance Council and Parish Council Meeting 6:00 PM Father has requested a joint meeting

**BAA/ Bishop's Stewardship Appeal for St. Gerard as of September 30, 2017**

Balance	Cash	Goal	Percent of Goal	Donors	Parish Families
\$500.00	\$8,066.00	\$7,476.00	107.89%	51	97
<b>Percent of Participation</b>					
<b>52.58%</b>					

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

*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. A celebration of our parish feast.*

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

**The Fall Festival Total is \$ 4,929.76**

**Volunteer Corner:**  
 We have a new chair of the Parish Council.  
 Thanks David Didimamoff

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

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.

**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

We are going to buy new 5ft. round tables for the church hall. These tables are lighter easier to move and store. They are also better for the future uses that the council and father have planed. Anyone that would like to help offset the cost your help would be appreciated.

Father's new mattress cost has been offset by the cost of the retreat that he will not be attending. This item is not an issue for the budget.

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

**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, lower 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](mailto:kball@catholic-doc.org) or 803.807.0158.

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