

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

The Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which ended a short while ago, reflected in depth on the vocation and mission of the family in the life of the Church and of contemporary society. It was an event of grace. At the end the Synodal Fathers gave me the text of their conclusions. I wanted this text to be published so that all would be participants in the work that has seen us committed together for two years. This is not the moment to examine those conclusions, on which I myself must meditate.

In the meantime, however, life does not stop, in particular the life of families does not stop! You, dear families, are always moving forward. And you already write continually, in the pages of concrete life, the beauty of the Gospel of the Family. In a world that at times becomes arid of life and love, you speak every day of the great gifts that marriage and the family are.

Today I would like to stress this aspect: that the family is a great training ground of gift and of mutual forgiveness, without which no love can last for long; without giving oneself and without forgiving one another love does not remain, it does not last! In the prayer that Jesus himself taught us – namely the Our Father – He has us ask the Father: “Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.” And at the end He comments: “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:12,14-15). We cannot live without forgiving one another, or at least we cannot live well, especially in the family. Every day we wrong one another. We must take these mistakes into account, which are due to our fragility and our egoism.

What we are asked, however, is to heal immediately the wounds we cause, to reweave the threads that we break in the family. If we wait too long, everything becomes more difficult. And there is a simple secret to heal the wounds and to break off the accusations: not to let the day end without apologizing to one another, without making peace between husband and wife, between parents and children, between brothers and sisters ... between daughter-in-law and mother-in-law! If we learn to apologize immediately and to forgive one another, the wounds heal, the marriage is strengthened, and the family becomes an ever more solid home, which resist the knocks of our little and great spiteful acts. And for this, a great speech is not necessary; a caress is enough and everything begins again. But do not end the day in war!

If we learn to live thus in the family, we do so also outside, wherever we find ourselves. It is easy to be skeptical about this. Many – also among Christians – think that it is an exaggeration. It is said: yes, they are beautiful words, but it's impossible to put them into practice. However, thank God, this isn't so. In fact, it is precisely by receiving forgiveness from God that we are capable, in turn, to forgive others. Therefore Jesus has us repeat these words every time that we recite the prayer of the Our Father, namely every day. And it is indispensable that, in a society that is sometimes merciless, there are places, such as the family, where we can learn to forgive one another.

The Synod revived our hope also on this: the capacity to forgive and to forgive one another is part of the vocation and mission of the family. The practice of forgiveness not only saves families from division, but renders them capable of helping society to be less evil and less cruel. Yes, every gesture of forgiveness repairs the cracks of the home and consolidates its walls. Dear families, the Church is always by your side to help you to build your home on the rock of which Jesus spoke. And let us not forget these words that precede immediately the parable of the house: “Not every one who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of my Father.” And he adds: “On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you’” (cf. Matthew 7:21-23). It is a strong statement, no doubt, which has the purpose to shake us and to call us to conversion.

I assure you, dear families, that if you are capable of walking ever more decisively on the way of the Beatitudes, learning and teaching to forgive one another mutually, the capacity will grow, in the whole great family of the Church, to give witness of the renewing strength of God's forgiveness. Otherwise, we might engage in very beautiful preaching, and perhaps even cast out a devil, but at the end the Lord will not recognize us as his disciples because we did not have the capacity to forgive and to be forgiven by others!

Truly Christian families can do much for today's society, and also for the Church. Therefore I desire that, in the Jubilee of Mercy, families rediscover the treasure of mutual forgiveness. Let us pray that families will be increasingly capable of living and building concrete ways of reconciliation, where no one feels abandoned to the weight of his debts.

With this intention, we say together: “Our Father, forgive us our trespasses, as we also forgive those who trespass against us.”

# St. Gerard Catholic Church



640 Edrie St. NE  
Aiken, SC 29801  
803 649-3203

## SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

First Kings 17:10-16

Responsorial:

Psalms 146:7, 8-9, 9-10

Second Reading:

Hebrews 9:24-28

Gospel:

Mark 12:38-44

## Lectionary Readings for the week of November 8th

Monday: Ezekiel 47:1-2,8-9,12;  
1 Corinthians 3:9c-11,16-17; John 2:13-22

Tuesday: Wisdom 2:23-3:9; Luke 17:7-10

Wednesday: Wisdom 6:1-11;  
Luke 17:11-19

Thursday: Wisdom 7:22b-8:1;  
Luke 17:20-25

Friday: Wisdom 13:1-9;  
Luke 17:26-37  
Today's Missal

## The 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time November 8, 2015

### Mission Statement

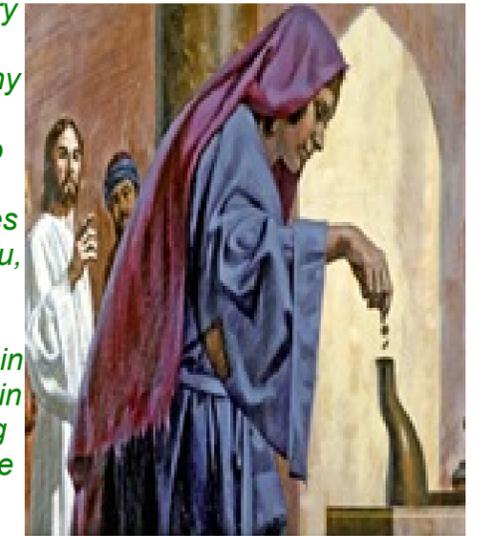
Called to be a People for Others

### 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.

### Fr. Emmanuel Andinam: Administrator

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'In truth I tell you, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they could spare, but she in her poverty has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.' Mark 12:41-44



**Mass Times:** Weekdays Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:15 AM, First Friday Benediction after Mass  
Weekend Saturday 4:00 PM, Sunday 7:00 AM and 11:15 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 (Insight to the scriptures)

**Baptisms, Confirmations and Marriages:** By Appointment, Contact the office.

**Contact Us:** Phone 803 649-3203, E-Mail [stgerardscatholi@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:stgerardscatholi@atlanticbbn.net)

**Facebook** @stgerardaiken,

**Emergency number for Father 803 637-2027**

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



**Pray for our sick:**

Gary Gilbert  
Leonard Saunders  
Shirley Paige  
William and Jackie Cobbs  
Woody Alexander  
Lena Mickens  
Rosa Johnson  
Brenda Ligons  
Meg Schaeffer  
Joe Fulmer  
Patricia Bailey



Saints help give us direction on the path of discipleship. They inspire us to give freely and gratefully of our time, abilities and resources.

**Pastoral Council:**

Wayman Johnson, Chairman  
Payson Borst  
Jacqueline Brown  
Fredrick Cadek  
Nancy Durden  
Marge Glauser  
Janet Menefee  
Gregory Wright  
Joan Hesik

**Finance Council:**

Robert Erikson, Chairman  
Leon Gagnon and Anna Marie Key, Auditors.  
Lisa Solenberger  
Vacant

**Mass Intentions**

4:00 PM For The Soul of Carmine DeMeo

From: The Pedleys

7:00 AM Mass is said for your own personal intentions.

11:15 AM For The Soul of Carolina Santizo

From: Pedro Santizo

<b>Sunday Offering November 1st</b>	
Collection	\$2,991.00
Needed	\$2,612.00
Over	\$379.00

Attendance 150  
*Stewardship a way of life*

*The Gathering Hymn 481 H*  
*Come, You Thankful People, Come*  
*The Offertory Hymn is 583 H*  
*Be Not Afraid*  
*The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 780 H*  
*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*  
*Our Song of Praise is 716 H*  
*Shall We Gather at the River*



**Lay Ministers**

	<b>Saturday November 14</b>	<b>Sunday November 15</b>	<b>Sunday November 15</b>	
	4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	11:15 AM Mass	
<b>Lector:</b>	Tami Schaeffer	Denise Gelinas	Janet Menefee	
<b>E E Minister:</b>	Jerry Schaeffer	Roger Gelinas	Jeanette Coleman	
	<b>Saturday November 21</b>	<b>Sunday November 22</b>	<b>Sunday November 22</b>	
	4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	11:15 AM Mass	
<b>Lector:</b>	David Didimamoff	Mary Kay L'Esperance	Patricia Hayes	
<b>E E Ministers:</b>	Mary Rose	Gerard L'Esperance	Marge Glauser	
<b>Refreshments November 8</b>	<b>Counters November 8</b>			
Donna Ligons/Joan Lacombe	Nancy Durden/Tony DiStefano			

**Second Collection for: The Church in Africa**

At the time of this printing we had not had the Bazaar. But a full report of the results will be available ASAP. Both in the bulletin and by announcements. Thank You!

**The next parish council meeting is 17 November at 5:30 PM. This is a joint Parish/Finance Council meeting.**

We have been informed that Marge Glauser has been selected to receive a Portrait of Care, (for care givers) representing the state of South Carolina, from AARP national. A reception by Sen. Tom Young will be held in her honor on November 20 at 10:00 AM in the church hall. All are invited to come. **Congratulations Marge!!**

**Black Catholics' Heritage Celebration,  
"An Advent Gathering of the Faithful"  
December 12, 2015 Columbia, SC  
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2015 Diocese of Charleston Office of Black Catholics' Heritage Celebration. Our guest homilist and keynote speaker at this year's celebration will be the Most Reverend Joseph N. Perry, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Other highlights of this special day will include a discussion on Bishop Edward Braxton's document "The Racial Divide in the United States: A Reflection for the World Day of Peace 2015" led by the Honorable Arthur C. McFarland, a panel discussion on the World Meeting of Families and the papal visit. There will also be a separate youth track. Follow this event and others on the web at [sccatholic.org/ethnic-ministries](http://sccatholic.org/ethnic-ministries)

**Volunteer Corner**

The people that have helped Bob and Brian with some of the work at the rectory, Thank You. Thanks to all those that are on the bazaar committee. You have done a wonderful job and a service to the parish. Those donating money and auction items, Thank You. And Veronica A. Baker who has done most of the graphics for the bazaar and our new brochure! Thank You

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

We want to buy new vestments for servers but I need sizes. Please get with me about the servers sizes.

**No Smart Phone...  
No Problem!  
Call 1 (712) 832-2674**

During our visits around the diocese, many have said, "I don't have a smart-phone so I can't use the TuneIn app to listen to Catholic Radio." Well, there's a **NEW way to listen to Catholic Radio in South Carolina** and you can use a standard cell or landline to listen.

**Just dial 1 (712) 832-2674** (Powered by AudioNow.com), and your phone becomes a personal Catholic Radio listening device. There is no extra charge for this service but your normal call rates and limits do apply. BUT, as many plans have unlimited long distance or calling, you can essentially listen on your standard phone for free. Check your calling plan to be sure. Also, if you have friends and relatives who might enjoy listening to Catholic Radio on their standard phone, please pass the number on.

Note: Smartphone users can still listen to our broadcast via TuneIn Radio - a FREE app for smart phones and app-based devices. After downloading the app, using the app's browse function, key in "wcki" and our logo will come up. Tap on our logo and the audio feed will play. Then you can save WCKI as a favorite station so that it is easier to access.

Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment, where women and men can express their post-abortive feelings, to begin the process of restoration and healing.

Our next retreat in SC is for people who speak Spanish, December 4-6, 2015 in Rock Hill. For more information, please contact Sarah at 803-627-1209

We need two people from each Mass to be responsible for the care of the church linens and an individual to chair the linen schedule. There is too much responsibility on one or two persons to get the linens cared for. We must have these items cleaned and available for Mass.



Thank you

**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).

**In Harms' Way:** Please remember in your prayers our Nation and loved ones of our parishioners currently serving in harms' way: James Ligon, Robert McHugh, Jacob Hershey, and James Rossini. 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.

**3rd Marian Eucharistic Conference**

Our Featured speakers will focus on seeking to anchor ourselves to the two pillars of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Where: St. Joseph's Catholic School, Greenville, SC 29607

Schedule: **Saturday, Nov. 14**

Doors open - 7:30 a.m.

Mass - 8:30 a.m.

Conference talks, lunch, Confessions

Meet & Greet the Speakers, Book Signing - 5:40 p.m. Meet & Greet the Speakers - 3:40 p.m.

**Sunday, Nov. 15**

Doors open - 7:50 a.m.

Mass - 8:30 a.m.

Conference talks, lunch, Confessions

For more information, call(864)354-7160 or go to [www.meconferencesc.net](http://www.meconferencesc.net)

We need another member on the Finance Council. Please contact us if you are interested.

**Need a Car? "05" PT Cruiser  
Call Richardean 803 648-0500**

**Bible Study, Fridays  
at 10:00 AM**

The Knights of Columbus Are asking you to help save local lives Knights of Columbus, and Shepard Community Blood Center will host a blood drive At the New Saint Mary Help of Christian Church On Fairfield Street.

Saturday December 5th from 4:00 - 7:00 PM

Sunday December 6th from 7:45 AM - 2:00 PM

WE WANT TO THANK YOU

FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

FATZ Café of Aiken,

Shepard Community Blood Center, And The Knights of Columbus Council No. 3684 Are offering 9 gift certificates for FATZ Café.

All donors will be entered into a drawing.

The certificates are for \$25.00 each

Each donor will receive A free T-Shirt,

Also a free Lipid Profile

After your 3rd donation in a calendar year.

Bring a picture ID, Driver's license

or donor card!

Donate Blood the gift of life - What a gift!

Thank You!