

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

During these days the Church of Italy is holding its National Congress at Florence -- the Cardinals, Bishops, consecrated, and laymen all together. I invite you to pray a Hail Mary to Our Lady for them [Hail Mary]. Today we will reflect on a characteristic quality of family life, which is learned from the first years of life: fellowship, that is, the attitude of sharing the goods of life and of being happy to be able to do so. To share and to be able to share is a valuable virtue! Its symbol, its "icon" is the family gathered around the domestic table. The sharing of a meal -- and, therefore, in addition to food, also affections, the recounting of events -- is a fundamental experience. When there is a celebration, a birthday, an anniversary, it finds us around the table. In some cultures it is typical to do this also when mourning, to be close to one in sorrow because of the loss of a relative.

Fellowship is a sure thermometer to measure the health of relations: if there is in the family something that is not well, or some hidden wound, at the table it is immediately understood. A family that almost never eats together, or that does not speak at the table, but watches television, or looks at smart phones, is a family that is "very little a family." When children are attached to their computers at the table, to mobile phones, and do not listen to one another, this is not a family, it is a boarding house.

Christianity has a special vocation to fellowship; everyone knows it. The Lord Jesus gladly taught at the table, and sometimes represented the Kingdom of God as a festive invitation. Jesus chose the table also to give his disciples his spiritual testament -- he did so at supper -- condensed in the memorial gesture of His Sacrifice: gift of His Body and of His Blood as food and drink of salvation, which nourish true and lasting love.

In this perspective, we can well say that the family is "at home" at Mass, precisely because it brings to the Eucharist its own experience of fellowship and opens it to the grace of a universal fellowship, of the love of God for the world. By participating in the Eucharist, the family is purified from the temptation to shut itself in on itself, fortified in love and fidelity, and stretches the limits of its fraternity according to Christ's heart.

In this our time, marked by so many closures and too many walls, fellowship, generated by the family and dilated by the Eucharist, becomes a crucial opportunity. The Eucharist and the families nourished by it can surmount the closures and build bridges of hospitality and charity. Yes, the Eucharist of a Church of families, capable of restoring to the community the active leaven of fellowship and mutual hospitality, is a school of human inclusion that is not afraid of confrontations! There are no little ones, orphans, weak ones, vulnerable ones, wounded and disappointed ones, desperate and abandoned ones that the Eucharistic fellowship of families is not able to nourish, refresh, protect and host.

The memory of family virtues helps us to understand. We ourselves have known, and still know, what miracles can happen when a mother has eyes and attention, care giving and care for children other than her own. Up to yesterday, one mother was enough for all the children of the yard! And yet: we know well what strength a people acquire whose parents are ready to move to protect everyone's children, because they regard children as a joint good, that they are happy and proud to protect.

Today many social contexts put obstacles to family fellowship. It's true; today it's not easy. We must find the way to recover it. One speaks at table, one listens at table. There is no silence, that silence that is not the silence of nuns but the silence of egoism, where every one makes do for himself, or there is the television or the computer ... and there is no talking. No, no silence. We must recover that family fellowship although adapting it to the times. It seems that fellowship has become something that is bought and sold, but then it's something else. And nourishment is not always the symbol of a just sharing of goods, capable of reaching one who does not have bread or affections. In rich countries we are induced to spending for excessive nourishment, and then we are also induced to remedy the excess. And this foolish "business" takes away our attention from real hunger, of the body and of the soul. When there is no fellowship there is egoism, each one thinks of himself. So much so that advertising has reduced it to a weakness for snacks and a desire for sweets. While so many, too many brothers and sisters, remain outside the table. It is somewhat shameful!

Let us look at the mystery of the Eucharistic banquet. The Lord breaks His Body and sheds His Blood for all. Truly, there is no division that can resist this Sacrifice of communion: only a false attitude, of complicity with evil, can exclude from it. Every other distance cannot resist the vulnerable power of the broken bread and poured wine, Sacrament of the one Body of the Lord.

The living and vital alliance of the family, which precedes, supports and embraces, in the dynamism of its hospitality, the daily toils and joys, cooperates with the grace of the Eucharist, which is able to create ever new communion with the strength that includes and saves.

In fact a Christian family will show precisely in this way the breadth of its true horizon, which is the horizon of the Mother Church of all men, of all the abandoned and the excluded, in all peoples.

Let us pray that this family fellowship will be able to grow and mature in the time of grace of the forthcoming Jubilee of Mercy.

# St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

## The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time November 15, 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**

**SUNDAY READINGS**

**First Reading:**

*Daniel 12:1-3*

**Responsorial:**

*Psalms 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11*

**Second Reading:**

*Hebrews 10:11-14, 18*

**Gospel**

*Mark 13:24-32*

**Lectionary Readings for the week of  
November 15th**

**Monday:** *1Maccabees 1:10-15,41-43,  
54-57,62-63; Luke 18:35-43*

**Tuesday:** *2Maccabees 6:18-31;  
Luke 19:1-10*

**Wednesday:** *2Maccabees 7:1,20-31;  
Luke 19:11-28*

**Thursday:** *2Maccabees 2:15-29;  
Luke 19:41-44*

**Friday:** *1Maccabees 4:36-37,52-59;  
Luke 19:45-48*

*Today's Missal*

*'But in those days, after that time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will come falling out of the sky and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory, And then he will send the angels to gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of the sky. 'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you when you see these things happening: know that he is near, right at the gates. In truth I tell you, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Sky and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father. Mark 13:24-32*



**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

**Mass Intentions**

4:00 PM For a child for Son and Daughter in-law of Shirley Beetz,  
7:00 AM Mass is said for your own personal intentions.  
11:15 AM For Eric Wagner from Sheila Wagner

**Finance Council:**

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

**Sunday Offering November 8th**  
Collection \$2,203.18  
Needed \$2,612.00  
Under \$408.82  
Attendance 129  
*Stewardship a way of life*

The Gathering Hymn 236 H  
The King Shall Come  
The Offertory Hymn is 757 H  
Gift of Finest Wheat  
The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 604 BB  
Christ Be Our Light  
Our Song of Praise is 691 H  
Soon and Very Soon



	<u>Lay Ministers</u>		
	<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>Saturday November 28</b>	<b>Sunday November 29</b>	<b>Sunday November 29</b>
	4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	11:15 AM Mass
<b>Lector:</b>	Diane Begic	Denise Gelinas	Richardean Paige
<b>E E Minister:</b>	Pam Ziomek	Roger Gelinas	Wayman Johnson
<b>Refreshments November 22</b>	<b>Counters November 22</b>		
<b>Donna Ligons/Joan Lacombe</b>	<b>Open</b>		



Sorry I made a mistake on schedule for refreshments last week, the above is correct.

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!!**

**Bazaar Totals \$3,592.75 as of 11/9/15 (\$3,312.75 was collected on the day of the bazaar) The Thrift Shop collected \$459.10 this is separate from the bazaar total. Good Job St. Gerard Parishioners!**

Congratulations to Jill Randolph, She won the Thanksgiving basket donated by The Dixons

**Volunteer Corner**

Thanks for planning, setting up, staffing and the clean up of the bazaar. And thanks for all contributions. All three Masses working together We have great parishioners.



**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)

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

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

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

**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.

The Knights of Columbus Are asking you to help save local lives Knights of Columbus, and Sheppard 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, Sheppard 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!

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. 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@Atlanticbnn.net](mailto:stgerardscatholi@Atlanticbnn.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.