

GENERAL AUDIENCE: On Christian Unity

‘God’s mercy, which operates in Baptism, is stronger than our divisions.’

Rome Jan 20, 2016

Holy Father’s Catechesis:

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

We have heard the biblical text that, this year, guides the reflection during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which is going on this week, from January 18th to 25th. The passage from the First Letter of Saint Peter was chosen by an ecumenical group of Latvia, requested by the Ecumenical Council of Churches and by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

At the center of the Lutheran Cathedral of Riga, there is a baptismal font that dates back to the 12th Century, to the time when Latvia was evangelized by Saint Maynard. That font is an eloquent sign of an origin of faith recognized by all Christians of Latvia — Catholics, Lutherans and Orthodox. This origin is our common Baptism. The Second Vatican Council affirmed: “Baptism constitutes the sacramental bond of the unity in force among all those that have been regenerated through it” (*Unitatis Redintegratio*, 22). The First Letter of Peter is addressed to the first generation of Christians, to make them aware of the gift received in Baptism and of the demands that it entails. In this Week of Prayer, we are also invited to rediscover all this, and to do so together, going beyond our divisions.

First of all, to share in Baptism, means that we are all sinners and are in need of being saved, redeemed, liberated from evil. This is the negative aspect, which the First Letter of Peter calls “darkness” when he says, “[God] has called you out of darkness to lead you into His marvelous light.” This is the experience of death, which Christ made His own, and which is symbolized in Baptism. We affirm that all of us — Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox — share the experience of being called from the merciless and alienating darkness to the encounter with the living God, full of mercy. All of us, unfortunately, experience egoism, which generates division, closure and contempt. To begin again from Baptism means to rediscover the font of mercy, font of hope for all, because no one is excluded from God’s mercy.

The sharing of this grace creates an indissoluble bond among us Christians, so that, in virtue of Baptism, we can really consider ourselves brothers. We are really the holy People of God, even if, because of our sins, we are yet not a fully united people. God’s mercy, which operates in Baptism, is stronger than our divisions. In the measure in which we receive the grace of mercy, we become ever more fully People of God, and we also become capable to proclaim to all His wonderful works, beginning, in fact, from a simple and fraternal witness of unity. We Christians can proclaim to all the strength of the Gospel, committing ourselves to share the works of corporal and spiritual mercy. And this is a concrete witness of unity among us Christians: Protestants, Orthodox and Catholics.

In conclusion, dear brothers and sisters, all of us Christians, through the grace of Baptism, have obtained mercy from God and have been received in His People. All of us, Catholics, Orthodox and Protestants form a royal priesthood and a holy nation. This means that we have a common mission, which is to transmit the mercy [we’ve] received to others, beginning with the poorest and most abandoned. During the Week of Prayer, we pray that all of us, disciples of Christ, will find the way to collaborate together to bring the Father’s mercy to all parts of the world.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time January 24, 2016

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:

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10(69C)

Responsorial:

Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 15

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Gospel:

Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

Lectionary Readings for the week of January 24, 2016

Monday: Acts 22:3-16;

Mark 16:15-18

Tuesday: 2 Timothy 1:1-8;

Mark 3:31-35

Wednesday: 2 Samuel 7:4-17;

Mark 4:1-20

Thursday: 2 Samuel 7:18-19,24-29;

Mark 4:26-34

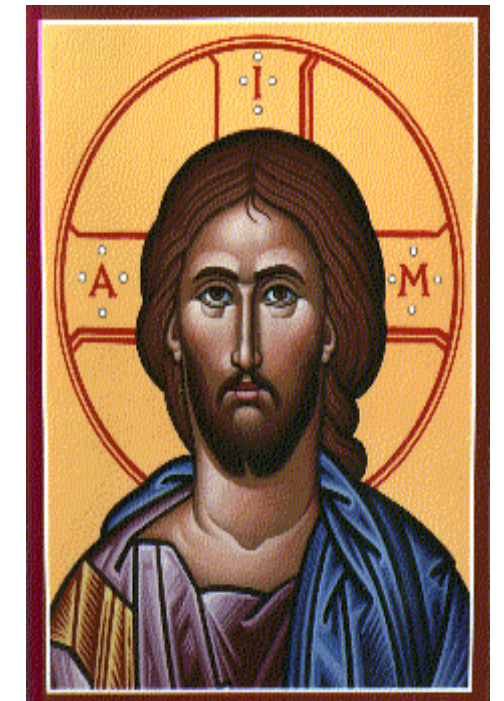
Friday: 2 Samuel 11:1-4a,5-10a,13-17;

Mark 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Samuel 12:1-7a,10-17;

Mark 4:35-41

*Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in
him, returned to Galilee; and his
reputation spread throughout the
countryside. He taught in their syna-
gogues and everyone glorified him.
He came to Nazara, where he had
been brought up, and went into the
synagogue on the Sabbath day as he
usually did. He stood up to read,
and they handed him the scroll of
the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the
scroll he found the place where it is
written: The spirit of the Lord is on
me, for he has anointed me to bring
the good news to the afflicted. He
has sent me to proclaim liberty to
captives, sight to the blind, to let the
oppressed go free, to proclaim a
year of favour from the Lord.*



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

Facebook @stgerardaiken,

Emergency number for Father 803 637-2027



Pray for our sick:
 Gary Gilbert
 Marge Glouser
 Leonard Saunders
 Shirley Paige
 William and Jackie Cobbs
 Woody Alexander
 Lena Mickens
 Rosa Johnson
 Brenda Ligon
 Joe Fulmer
 Patricia Bailey

This month, on the first Sunday, we celebrate that Christ came to all of us, not just the Hebrews. He made us all one body with Him. We were all given different gifts; we all have different yet equally valuable roles to play in the Body of Christ. Ask God how He wants you to use your gifts so that we may all "be one" in this Year of Mercy and support St Gerard Parish.



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


Weekend Offering
January 16-17 2016
 Collection \$1,705.00
 Needed \$2,612.00
 Short \$907.00
 Attendance 125
Stewardship a way of life

Mass Intentions
 4:00 PM, 7:00 AM Masses
 are said for your own personnel intentions.
 11:15 AM For The Soul of Shirley Acosta From: The Rileys

The Gathering Hymn 138 M
Holy, Holy, Holy
The Offertory Hymn is 760 H
One Bread, One Body
The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 586 BB
Let the Heavens Be Glad
Our Song of Praise is 606 H
The Church's One Foundation



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

Lay Ministers			
	Saturday January 30	Sunday January 31	Sunday January 31
	4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	11:15 AM Mass
Lector:	David Didimamoff	Denise Gelinas	Patricia Hayes
E E Ministers:	Mary Rose	Roger Gelinas	Wayman Johnson
	Saturday February 6	Sunday February 7	Sunday February 7
	4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	11:15 AM Mass
Lector:	Diane Begic	Mary Kay L'Esperance	Richardean Paige
E E Ministers:	Open	Gerard L'Esperance	Mary Rose
Refreshments	January 24	January 31	Counters January 24
	Jackie Brown/ Jeanette Coleman	Jackie Cobb/ Rosa DiStefano	Nancy Durden/ Open



The Legion of Mary meets Fridays at 1:00 PM here at the church. Please come and sit in and think about joining. We need to pray the Rosary.

The Second Collection is for Support of the Church in Latin America.

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

Bible Study
 10:00 AM
 Fridays



ACTS is partnering with the Augusta/Aiken Warrior Project (AWP) to provide available assistance to local Warriors of all service branches, regardless of era of service or wounded status. Please ask any veterans (especially post-9/11 veterans) to contact ACTS at ph#803.642.5919

Town Hall II
A Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2016 at 2:00 PM in the church hall. We will have 2 hours to discuss topics. The target subject is renovation of the entire campus. Please plan to attend. We will also have an open house for the newly remodeled rectory.

The 36th annual Cardinal Newman Lecture to be held February 20th at the Rock Hill Oratory Directions, Schedule and other information can be found at oratorycenter@gmail.com or call 803 327-2097 or write The Oratory center for Spirituality, PO Box 11586, Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586

Volunteer Corner
 Thanks to Joan Hesik for her coordination of the volunteer dinner.

Building Men of the Family of God
 Third annual men's conference.
 March 12th at Immaculate Conception Church, Goose Creek, SC from 9:00 AM Till 4:00 PM

2016 Bishop Stewardship Appeal kick off and video will be January 30-31

Beginning in January, the Rev. Franklin Graham, president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, will hold one-day public events in each of our nation's 50 capitals. These are non-partisan, non-political events to bring Christians together and to pray for our nation. The goal is to encourage all believers to stand for Biblical morality and justice during these challenging times.
 DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2016 TIME: noon to 1 p.m.
 WHERE: Capital Plaza (north side), Columbia
 If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Michael Acquilano, director of the South Carolina Catholic Conference, at 843-261-0535 or macquilano@catholic-doc.org.
 Or go to: decisionamericatour.com for additional details.

The policy for handling the collections has been revised. Any one that is involved with the collections will be contacted and given the policy. This is ushers, sacristans, counters and administrative assistant. The new policy has been reviewed by finance council and approved by the pastor.

Conformation Classes
 Classes will begin on January 31st at 10:00 AM in the meeting room. Jeanette Coleman will be the instructor. If you have a child or grandchild of conformation age please contact the office.

RCIA Team
Father Emmanuel
Fred Cadak
Leon Gagnon
Greg Wright
 We would like to have some ladies on the team. Please call the office.

RCIA Classes are going to begin very soon and we have one candidate so far. If you know of someone that has expressed an interest in Catholicism let Father know.

Food collections for Our Lady of The Valley have dropped off a little. We will always accept donations but the first weekend of each month will be Feed The Valley Weekend. We would pray for generous donations for the OLV food bank.

16th ANNUAL MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
 sponsored by the Diocese of Charleston- Office of Family Life
 Sunday, February 21, 2016 at 3:00 pm St. Mary Help of Christian Catholic Church 138 Fairfield St, Aiken SC 29801
 The Marriage Anniversary Celebration is an opportunity to honor all married couples especially those in long-term marriages. The married couples will affirm their love and commitment to each other. Most Reverend Robert Guglielmo, Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston will be the main celebrant. The Mass will fulfill the Sunday obligation. (803) 547-5063 or email to FamilyLife@catholic-doc.org "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things." (1 Cor 13:7)
 "Ensure that, like the wine in Cana, the external signs of your wedding feast reveal the presence of the Lord and remind you, and all those presence, of the origin of and reason for your joy". Pope Francis

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.

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.