

POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE: On God's Mercy Made Flesh

'The power of the love of the Crucified knows no obstacles and is never exhausted, and this mercy cancels our miseries.'

Rome, April 6, 2016, Zenith.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

After having reflected on God's mercy in the Old Testament, today we begin to meditate on how Jesus Himself brought it to its fulfillment. Jesus, in fact, is God's mercy made flesh – a mercy that He expressed, realized and communicated always, in every moment of His earthly life. In meeting the crowds, in proclaiming the Gospel, in curing the sick, in approaching the last, in forgiving sinners, Jesus makes visible a love open to all: no one excluded! It is open to all without limits. It is a pure, free and absolute love, a love that reaches its culmination in the sacrifice of the Cross. Yes, the Gospel is truly the "Gospel of Mercy," because Jesus is Mercy!

All four Gospels attest that, before undertaking His ministry, Jesus wished to receive Baptism from John the Baptist (*Matthew* 3:13-17; *Mark* 1:9-11; *Luke* 3:21-22; *John* 1:29-34). This event imprints a decisive orientation to the whole of Christ's mission. In fact, He did not present Himself to the world in the splendor of the Temple: He could have done so, He did not have Himself proclaimed by fanfare: He could have done so, He did not even come in the robes of a judge: He could have done so. Instead, after thirty years of a hidden life at Nazareth, Jesus went to the river Jordan, together with many of His people, and He put Himself in the queue with sinners. He was not ashamed; He was there with everyone, with sinners, to be baptized. Therefore, from the beginning of His ministry, He manifested Himself as the Messiah who takes on the human condition, moved by solidarity and compassion. As He Himself affirmed in the synagogue of Nazareth, identifying Himself with Isaiah's prophecy: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." (*Luke* 4:18-19).

All that Jesus did after His Baptism was the realization of the initial program: to take to all the love of God that saves; Jesus did not bring hatred, He did not bring enmity: He brought us love! – a great love, a heart open to all, to all of us! – a love that saves!

He made Himself close to the last, communicating to them God's mercy, which is forgiveness, joy and new life. Jesus, the Son sent by the Father, is really the beginning of the time of mercy for the whole of humanity! Those who were present on the banks of the Jordan did not understand immediately the importance of Jesus' gesture. John the Baptist himself was astonished by His decision (cf. *Matthew* 3:14) — but not the heavenly Father! He made His voice heard from on high: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (*Mark* 1:11).

Thus, the Father confirmed the way the Son undertook as Messiah, while the Holy Spirit descended upon Him as a dove. So Jesus' heart beats, so to speak, in unison with the heart of the Father and of the Spirit, showing all men that salvation is the fruit of God's mercy.

We can contemplate the great mystery of this love even more clearly by turning our gaze to Jesus crucified. While He is about to die for us sinners, He entreats the Father: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (*Luke* 23:34). It is on the Cross that Jesus presents to the Father's mercy the sin of the world, the sin of all, my sins, your sins. And there, on the Cross, He presents them to the Father. And with the sins of the world all our sins are canceled. Nothing and no one remains excluded from this sacrificial prayer of Jesus. This means that we must not be afraid to acknowledge and confess ourselves sinners. How many times we say: "But he is a sinner, he has done this, and that ...", and we judge others. And you? Each one of us should ask himself: Yes, he is a sinner, and I?" We are all sinners, but we are all forgiven: we all have the possibility of receiving this forgiveness, which is God's mercy. Therefore, we must not be afraid to acknowledge ourselves sinners, to confess ourselves sinners, because every sin was born by the Son on the Cross. And when we confess it repentant, entrusting ourselves to Him, we are certain of being forgiven. The Sacrament of Reconciliation renders actual for each one the strength of the forgiveness that flows from the Cross and renews in our life the grace of mercy that Jesus acquired for us! We must not be afraid of our miseries: each one of us has his own. The power of the love of the Crucified knows no obstacles and is never exhausted, and this mercy cancels our miseries.

Beloved, in this Jubilee Year, let us ask God for the grace to experience the power of the Gospel: the Gospel of mercy that transforms, which makes us enter in God's heart, which enables us to forgive and to look at the world with greater kindness. If we receive the Gospel of the Risen Crucified One, the whole of our life is moulded by the strength of His love, which renews.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Acts 5:27-32, 40-41

Responsorial:

Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13

Second Reading:

Revelation 5:11-14

Gospel:

John 21:1-19

Today's Missal

Lectionary Readings for the week of April 10, 2016

Monday: *Acts 6:8-15;*

John 6:22-29

Tuesday: *Acts 7:51--8:1;*

John 6:30-35

Wednesday: *Acts 8:1-8;*

John 6:35-40

Thursday: *Acts 8:26-40;*

John 6:44-51

Friday: *Acts 9:1-20;*

John 6:52-59

Saturday: *Acts 9:31-42;*

John 6:60-69

John 21:10-14

Third Sunday of Easter April 10, 2016

Mission Statement

Called to be a People for Others

Vision Statement

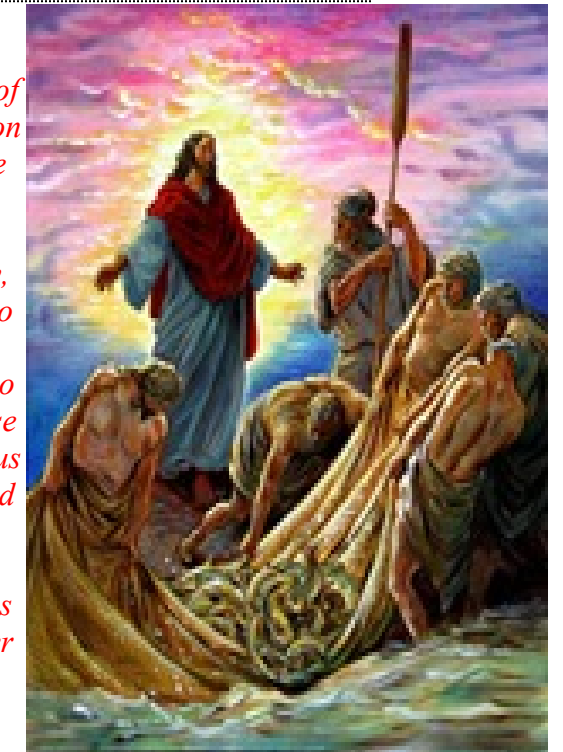
*Anchored by faith hope and love in Jesus Christ,
we strive to be active disciples, serving each
other and all God's people by welcoming and*

Fr. Emmanuel Andinam: Administrator

Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you just caught." So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred fifty-three large fish.

Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast." And none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they realized it was the Lord. Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish.

This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead



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

First Friday Benediction after Mass

Weekend Saturday 4:00 PM, Sunday 7:00 AM and 9:00 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:** Sundays 10:30 AM, **RCIA:** Tuesdays 10:00 AM

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

Contact Us: [Phone 803 649-3203](tel:8036493203), [E-Mail stgerardscatholi@atlanticbbn.net](mailto: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 and Ike Ligons
 Joe Fulmer

*We are all given different gifts
 for the work God sets before us.
 These many and varied gifts
 enable stewards to recognize
 their unique role*



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
 Art Wagner

Mass Intentions

4:00 PM -7:00 AM -9:00 AM
 Masses are said for your own personal intentions.

Weekend Offering
 April 2-3, 2016

Collection	\$3,786.00
Needed	\$2,612.00
Over	\$1,174.00
Attendance	129

The Gathering Hymn 80 M
Jesus Is Risen
The Offertory Hymn is 308 H
The Strife Is O'er
The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 90 M
Go Make of All Disciples
Our Song of Praise is 75 M
Alleluia, Let the Holy Anthem Rise



Stewardship a way of life



Lay Ministers

Saturday April 16	Sunday April 17	Sunday April 17
4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	9:00 AM Mass
Lector: Tami Schaeffer	Denise Gelinis	Patricia Hayes
E E Ministers: Jerry Schaeffer	Roger Gelinis	Jeanette Coleman
Saturday April 23	Sunday April 24	Sunday April 14
4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	9:00 AM Mass
Lector: Diana Begic	Mary Kay L'Esperance	Richardean Paige
E E Ministers: Barbara Dixon	Gerard L'Esperance	Mary Rose
Refreshments April 10	Refreshments April 17	Refreshments April 24
Jean Schodowski/Jeanette Coleman	Jackie Brown/Rosa DiStefano	Jackie Cobbs/Rosa Johnson



The Legion of Mary
 1:30 PM Fridays



Ask Cathy Ciani about membership

After the Aisle: Strengthening Marriage and Family Conference
 will be Saturday, April 16, 2016 at St. Mary Help of Christians Church
 located on 138 Fairfield St. SE, Aiken SC 29801 from 8:30 am -3:00 pm.

The event is being co-sponsored by the Office of Family.
 The cost is \$35 per couple (includes continental breakfast and lunch) Check-in
 begins at 7:30 am in St. Angela Hall located at 118 York St. SE. Holy Mass will
 be at 8:30 am in the church. To register or for more information, please email
 stmarys-aiken.org or familylife@catholic-doc.org.

It is spring and it is time to clean up and clean out the
 church and the campus. Please join us in this effort.
 I will print a list of projects and a date in the bulletin
 next week so you will know what to expect and when.



Please pray for father's
 Prison ministry.

No RCIA, Bible Study or Weekday Masses 4/11-4/15 and no Mass 4/19
 No Parish Council meeting this month due to Fathers unavailability

Be a good steward, make sure the church is secured prior to leaving after Mass.

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

Volunteer Corner

Thank you to the The legion of Mary for the
 assistance they have offered in updating our
 registration and members Info.
 Thanks to the members of the finance council
 for their work on budget prep and reports to
 the diocese

The 15th annual Regional Stewardship Conference

for the Atlanta Province is approaching soon
 (Saturday – April 30th – Charlotte, NC).
 This event is a combined effort of the Archdiocese of
 Atlanta and the Dioceses of Charleston, Charlotte,
 Raleigh, and Savannah. This gathering is certain to
 provide inspiration, information, and incentives for
 promoting stewardship in all areas of parish life.
 Please register early in order to give the conference
 planners enough time to reproduce materials and
 arrange the meeting space. The host hotel is the Hilton
 Charlotte University Place. They are holding a block of
 rooms at \$129 for attendees. This great bargain for the
 hotel registration ends on March 29, 2016. To insure a
 room at the conference rate, please make your
 reservation early and be sure to mention the program
 name: Regional Stewardship Conference. Our keynote
 speaker, Leisa Anslinger, Co-Director of Catholic Life
 and Faith, she will present the "Joy of Living as a
 Steward" Living as stewards is a wonderful and
 compelling way of life as disciples of Jesus Christ.
 How may we help one another to grow as good and
 faithful stewards? How might we encourage others to
 embrace stewardship as a way of life? Let us build
 bridges to one another and to the people we encounter,
 drawing all to a faith-filled, fruitful way of life!
<http://sestewardship.weconnect.com/>

FYI. I spoke with Fr. Don Wednesday for about 40 Minutes and he
 sounded fine. We had a very nice conversation and he wanted me to tell
 all of you hello. He also said that because the rectory has been remolded
 that he and Tony are ready to come back. Father Don's address is Carter
 May Home/St. Joseph Residence, Room 201, 1660 Ingram Rd.,
 Charleston, SC 29407 Cell # 843 599-1620. Call or write him please.
 He would love to hear from you. Mike



**Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Center
 Yard Sale**
 April 30, 2016
 9:00 am -2:00 pm
 2443 Augusta Rd
 Gloverville, SC 29828

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Center will be
 hosting a yard sale with various items for sale. All proceeds will go to
 support the Center's various programs such as utility and medication
 assistance, food pantry, and GED Program.

Thank you for Feed The Valley Weekend collection

Please pick up a registration form from the rear of the church,
 complete it and return it to the church and place in the box in the
 rear of the church or bring it to the office. To date we have only
 received 33 forms. Please help us in this endeavor.

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 They served us now let's help ACTS serve
 them.

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 demonstrated 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, 2016. All scholarships awarded are renewable up
 on re-application; 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.

Show your thanks for all your blessings by giving back. ACTS is in desperate need of volunteers to serve in our Resale Store and
 Client Room assisting clients with their clothing vouchers. Shifts are available Monday thru Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.
 Commit to as few or as many hours and/or days as fit your schedule. It's not only rewarding but fun, as well!
 Just e-mail usatvolunteer@actsofaiken.org, or call 803.649.3800 for more information.

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 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.