

JUBILEE AUDIENCE: On Our Commitment

'And God is also committed to us. His first commitment was to create the world and, despite our attempts to ruin it — and there are so many —, He is committed to maintaining it alive.'

Pope Francis' address during his 2nd Jubilee Audience held Saturday morning in St. Peter's Square. The Jubilee Audiences are planned to be held on Saturdays, once a month, during the Holy Year:

February 22, 2016, Zenith.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

The Jubilee of Mercy is a true opportunity to enter in depth in the mystery of the goodness and love of God. In this season of Lent, the Church invites us to know the Lord Jesus ever better, and to live the faith coherently, with a style of life that expresses the Father's mercy. It is a commitment that we are called to assume to offer all those we meet a concrete sign of God's closeness. My life, my attitude, my way of living life must be, in fact, a concrete sign of the fact that God is close to us. Little gestures of love, of tenderness, of care, which make us think that the Lord is with us, that He is close to us, and thus the door of mercy is opened.

Today, I would like to pause briefly to reflect with you on the subject of the word I have mentioned: the subject of commitment. What is a commitment? What does it mean to be committed? When I am committed, it means that I assume a responsibility — a task towards someone, and it also means the style, the attitude of fidelity and dedication, of the particular care with which I carry out this task. Every day we are asked to put commitment in the things we do: in prayer, in work, in study, but also in sport, in free time. In sum, to be committed means to put our good will and our strengths to improve life.

And God is also committed to us. His first commitment was to create the world and, despite our attempts to ruin it — and there are so many —, He is committed to maintaining it alive. However, His greatest commitment was to give us Jesus. This is God's great commitment! Yes, Jesus is in fact the extreme commitment that God assumed in his dealings with us. Saint Paul reminds us of it when he writes that God "did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all" (Romans 8:32). And, in virtue of this, together with Jesus the Father will give us everything we need.

And how was this commitment of God to us manifested? It is very simple to verify it in the Gospel. God committed Himself completely in Jesus to restore hope to the poor, to all who were deprived of dignity, to strangers, to the sick, to prisoners, and to sinners whom He received with kindness. In all this, Jesus was the living expression of the Father's mercy. And I want to stress this: Jesus received sinners with kindness. If we think in a human way, the sinner would be an enemy of Jesus, an enemy of God, but He drew close to them with kindness, He loved them and changed their heart. We are all sinners: all! All of us have some fault before God, but we must not have mistrust: He comes close to us to give us comfort, mercy and forgiveness. This is God's commitment and for this He sent Jesus: to come close to us, to all of us and to open the door of His love, of His heart, of His mercy. And this is very beautiful, very beautiful!

Beginning with the merciful love with which Jesus expressed God's commitment, we also can and must correspond to His love with our commitment. And this above all in situations of greatest need, where there is more thirst for hope. I am thinking, for instance, of our commitment to abandoned persons, to all those who bear heavy handicaps, to the most seriously ill, to the dying, to all those who are unable to express gratitude. We take God's mercy in all these realities through a commitment of life, which is a testimony of our faith in Christ. We must always bring God's caress, because God has caressed us with His mercy — we must bring it to others, to those who are in need, to those who have a suffering in the heart or are sad: we must come close with God's caress, which is the same as that which He gave us.

May this Jubilee be able to help our mind and our heart to touch with our hand God's commitment to each of us, and thanks to this to transform our life into a commitment of mercy for all.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

The Third Sunday Of Lent February 28, 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:

Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

Responsorial:

Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11

Second Reading:

First Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Gospel:

Luke 13:1-9

Today's Missal

Lectionary Readings for the week of February 28, 2016

Monday: 2 Kings 5:1-15b;
Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday: Daniel 3:25, 34-43;
Matthew 18:21-35

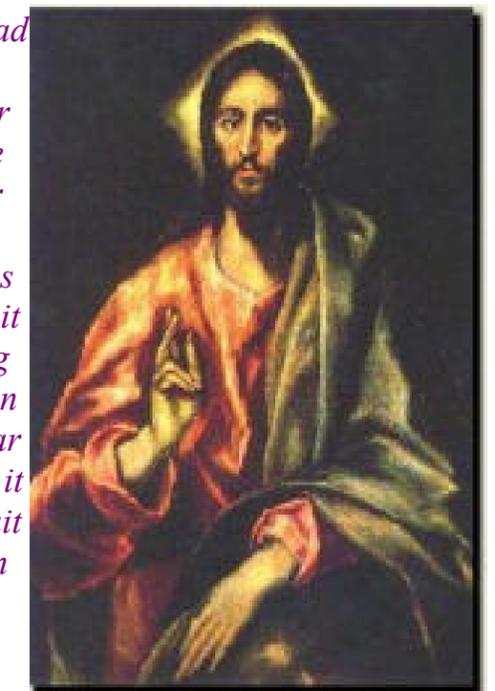
Wednesday: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9;
Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday: Jeremiah 7:23-28;
Luke 11:14-23

Friday: Hosea 14:2-10;
Mark 12:28-34

Saturday: Hosea 6:1-6;
Luke 18:9-14

He told this parable, 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to his vine dresser, "For three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied, "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."'



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 Gilbault
 Marge Glouser
 Leonard Saunders
 Shirley Paige
 William and Jackie Cobbs
 Woody Alexander
 Lena Mickens
 Rosa Johnson
 Brenda Ligons
 Joe Fulmer

Lent offers stewards the opportunity to rise from the daily deaths of sinfulness and indifference. We can use this season to open our hearts, to share, to listen, and to notice those in need around us. Support of our parish and the Bishop's Appeal are excellent ways to show your stewardship.



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 Mass for Carmine DeMeo Sr. from The Pedleys
 7:00 AM - 11:15 AM Masses are said for your own personnel intentions.

Weekend Offering
 February 20-21 2016
 Collection \$1,877.00
 Needed \$2,612.00
 Under \$735.00
 Attendance 138
 Stewardship a way of life

The Gathering Hymn 598 H
 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say 110 M
 The Offertory Hymn is Again We Keep This Solemn Feast 114 M
 The Communion Hymn is CHOIR Save Your People 120 M
 Our Song of Praise is Lord, Who Throughout These 40 Days



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

Lay Ministers		
	Saturday March 5 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Diane Begic E E Ministers: Jerry Schaeffer	Sunday March 6 7:00 AM Mass Mary Kay L'Esperance Gerard L'Esperance
	Saturday March 12 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Joan Hesik E E Ministers: Barbara Dixon	Sunday March 13 7:00 AM Mass Denise Gelinas Roger Gelinas
	Sunday March 6 11:15 AM Mass Richardean Paige Wayman Johnson	Sunday March 13 11:15 AM Mass Sheila Wagner Mary Rose



Refreshments February 28 Marge Glauser/Matt Fitzpatrick
 March 6 Janet Menefee/Joan Lacombe

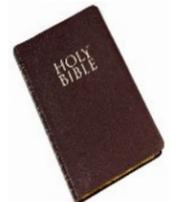
The K of C Lenten Fish Fry will be on Fridays March 4th and 18th from 6 to 8 PM. \$7.00 adults 12 and under \$4.00 Come join the fellowship and have a great meal. Call for reservations (803) 648-3684.

Stations of the Cross Wednesdays at 6:30 PM
Soup Supper after stations during Lent. Sign up sheet is in the hallway.

The Legion of Mary meets Fridays at 1:30 PM here in the church hall.



Bible Study 10:00 AM Fridays



Lenten Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation March 15, 2016 at 5:00 PM
 RCIA Tuesdays at 10:00 AM



Confirmation Classes at 10.00 AM Sundays see Jeanette Coleman

Church Community Is Important. Lets get all Masses involved in the renewal of our church.

Second Collection for: Black and Indian Home Mission



Finance Council and Parish Council meetings at 5:30 and 6:30 respectively on March 8th

Volunteer Corner
 Thanks to all the Altar Servers, Sacristans, Lectors, Ushers, Musicians, Counters and Eucharistic Ministers.

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

Please pray for father's Prison ministry.

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

South Carolina Catholic Men's Conference, featuring Dr. Ray Guarendi (EWTN), Chad Judice (Author) with Fr. Dwight Longenecker and Fr. Matthew Gray is to be held at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Goose Creek, SC on Saturday, March 5, 2016. This one day event is open to all Catholic men wanting to grow their Catholic faith, deepen their relationship with Christ, and live up to their callings as Catholic men, husbands and fathers. For more info and registration: www.sccatholicmensconf.org or call Tom Monahon at 803 648-9925

Catholic Woman's Conference, featuring Dr. Ray Guarendi (EWTN), Chad Judice (Author) Friday evening March 4th and Saturday March 5th (note: The same location and contact info as the men's conference)

There is a box in the rear of the church for donations for the three lady parishioners that are expecting this spring and summer. This is for a gift for each of them to be given the Sunday after Easter.

Feed The Valley Weekend. Thank you and please continue the generous contributions on the 1st weekend of the month

We need YOU to be a Light of Hope serving those in Need!!! Do you have an hour or two a week to help?

- Emergency Assistance
- EA Caseworker
 - Receptionist
 - Voicemail
- Food Pantry
- Food Pantry Helper
 - Food Pantry Pickup Helper
 - Food Pantry Driver



GED Program

- Math Tutor
- English Tutor

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Center
 2443 Augusta Rd
 Gloverville, SC 29828
 Contact Volunteer Coordinator:
 Deondra Roper
 Phone: 803.593.2623 or 803.857.6053

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.

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.

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. We will also have an open house for the newly remodeled rectory before and after the 4:00 PM mass.