

Below is a ZENIT translation of Pope Francis' address at this morning's General Audience in St. Peter's Square:

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Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

We heard the Gospel of the calling of Matthew. Matthew was a "publican," namely a tax collector for the Roman Empire and, therefore, considered a public sinner. However, Jesus called him to follow Him and to become His disciple. Matthew accepted, and invited Him to dine in his home together with the disciples. Then a discussion arose between the Pharisees and Jesus' disciples because the latter shared the table with publicans and sinners. "But you can't go to these people's house," they said Jesus, in fact, does not move away from them, rather He frequents their homes and sits by them. This means that they also can become His disciples. Likewise, it is true that to be Christians does not make us sinless. Like the publican Matthew, each one of us entrusts himself to the Lord's grace despite our sins. We are all sinners; we have all sinned. By calling Matthew, Jesus shows sinners that He does not look at their past, at their social condition, at external conventions, but rather opens a new future to them. Once I heard a good saying: "There is no saint without a past and there is no sinner without a future." This is what Jesus does. There is no saint without a past or sinner without a future. Suffice it to respond to the invitation with a humble and sincere heart. The Church is not a community of the perfect, but of disciples on the way, who follow the Lord because they recognize themselves sinners and in need of His forgiveness. Therefore, the Christian life is a school of humility that is open to grace.

Such behavior is not understood by one with the presumption of believing himself "just" and better than others. Arrogance and pride do not enable one to recognize oneself in need of salvation; instead, they impede seeing the merciful face of God and of acting with mercy. They are a wall. Arrogance and pride are a wall, which impedes a relationship with God. Yet, Jesus' mission is precisely this: to come in search of each one of us, to heal our wounds and call us to follow Him with love. He said it clearly: "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick" (v. 12). Jesus presents Himself as a good doctor! He proclaims the Kingdom of God, and the signs of His coming are evident: He heals sicknesses, frees from fear, from death and from the devil. Before Jesus, no sinner is excluded — no sinner is excluded! — because God's healing power knows not infirmities that cannot be cured; and this must give us confidence and open our heart to the Lord so that He will come and heal us. Calling sinners to His table, He heals them, re-establishing them in the vocation they thought was lost and that the Pharisees had forgotten: that of guests at the banquet of God. According to Isaiah's prophecy: "On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wine on the lees well refined. And he will destroy on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death for ever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken" (25:6-9).

If the Pharisees see only sinners in the guests and refuse to sit with them, Jesus on the contrary reminds them that they are also God's table companions. So, to sit at table with Jesus means to be transformed and saved by Him. Jesus' table is twofold in the Christian community: there is the table of the Word and there is the table of the Eucharist (cf. *Dei Verbum*, 21). These are the medicines with which the Divine Doctor heals and nourishes us. With the first — the Word — He reveals Himself and invites us to a dialogue between friends. Jesus was not afraid to dialogue with sinners, publicans, prostitutes. No, he was not afraid; He loved all! His Word penetrates us and, as a scalpel, operates in depth to free us from the evil that nests in our life. Sometimes this Word is painful, because it cuts into hypocrisies, unmasking false excuses, exposes the hidden truth but, at the same time, it illumines and purifies, gives strength and hope, is a precious re-constituent of our journey of faith. For its part, the Eucharist nourishes us with the very life of Jesus and, as a very powerful medicine continually renews the grace of our Baptism in a mysterious way. By approaching the Eucharist, we nourish ourselves with the Body and Blood of Jesus, though, coming into us, it is Jesus that unites us to His Body!

Concluding the dialogue with the Pharisees, Jesus reminds them of a word of the prophet Hosea (6:6): "Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice'" (*Matthew* 9:13). Addressing the people of Israel, the prophet reproves them because the prayers they raised were empty and incoherent words. Despite God's covenant and mercy, the people often lived with a "facade" religiosity, without living profoundly the Lord's command. See why the prophet insisted: "I desire mercy," that is, the loyalty of a heart that recognizes its sins, that repents and turns to be faithful to the covenant with God. "And not sacrifice": every religious action is ineffectual without a repentant heart! Jesus applies this prophetic phrase also to human relations: the Pharisees were very religious in the form, but they were not willing to share the table with publicans and sinners; they did not acknowledge the possibility of repentance and hence of healing; they did not put mercy in the first place: though being faithful custodians of the Law, they showed they did not know God's heart! It is as if you were given a parcel with a gift inside and you, instead of looking for the gift, look only at the paper in which it is wrapped: only the appearances, the form, and not the kernel of grace, the gift that is being given!

Dear brothers and sisters, we are all invited to the table of the Lord. Let us make our own the invitation to sit by Him together with His disciples. Let us learn to look with mercy and to recognize in every one of them a table companion of ours. We are all disciples in need of experiencing and living the consoling word of Jesus. We are all in need of nourishing ourselves of God's mercy, because it is from this source that our salvation flows. Thank you!

# St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

## Fourth Sunday of Easter April 17, 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*

Father Emmanuel Andinam: Administrator

### SUNDAY READINGS

#### First Reading:

*Acts 13:14,43-52*

#### Responsorial:

*Psalms 100:1-2,3,5*

#### Second Reading:

*Revelation 7:9,14-17*

#### Gospel:

*John 10:27-30*

#### Today's Missal

#### Lectionary Readings for the week of April 17, 2016

Monday: *Acts 11:1-18;*

*John 10:1-10*

Tuesday: *Acts 11: 19-26;*

*John 10: 22-30*

Wednesday: *Acts 12:24-13:5;*

*John 12:44-50*

Thursday: *Acts 13:13-25;*

*John 13:16-20*

Friday: *Acts 13:26-33;*

*John 14:1-6*

Saturday: *Acts 13:44-52;*

*John 14:7-14*

*The sheep that belong to  
me listen to my voice; I  
know them and they follow  
me. I give them eternal life;  
they will never be lost and  
no one will ever steal them  
from my hand. The Father,  
for what he has given me,  
is greater than anyone, and  
no one can steal anything  
from the Father's hand.  
The Father and I are one.*



**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, E-Mail [stgerardscatholi@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:stgerardscatholi@atlanticbbn.net)

Facebook @stgerardaiden, **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 Ligon  
 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 For Carmine DeMeo: From-The Pedleys  
 7:00 AM -9:00 AM  
 Masses are said for your own personal intentions.

**Weekend Offering**  
**April 9-10, 2016**  
 Collection \$2,006.00  
 Needed \$2,612.00  
 Over \$606.00  
 Attendance Not Available

*The Gathering Hymn 75 M*  
*Alleluia, Let the Holy Anthem Rise*  
*The Offertory Hymn is 601 H*  
*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*  
*The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 317 BB*  
*The God of All Grace*  
*Our Song of Praise is 81 M*  
*Christ, the Lord, Is Risen Today OR 576 BB Alleluia #1*



*Stewardship a way of life*



	<b>Lay Ministers</b>	<b>Sunday April 24</b>	<b>Sunday April 24</b>
<b>Saturday April 23</b>	<b>Sunday April 24</b>	<b>Sunday April 24</b>	<b>Sunday April 24</b>
4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	9:00 AM Mass	9:00 AM Mass
Lector: Diana Begic	Denise Gelinas	Richardean Paige	Richardean Paige
E E Ministers: Barbara Dixon	Roger Gelinas	Mary Rose	Mary Rose
<b>Saturday April 30</b>	<b>Sunday May 1</b>	<b>Sunday May 1</b>	<b>Sunday May 1</b>
4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	9:00 AM Mass	9:00 AM Mass
Lector: Joan Hesik	Mary Key L'Esperance	Janet Menefee	Janet Menefee
E E Ministers: Pam Ziomek	Gerard L'Esperance	Wayman Johnson	Wayman Johnson



Refreshments April 17  
 Jackie Brown/Rosa DiStefano

Refreshments April 24  
 Jackie Cobbs/Rosa Johnson

Refreshments May 1  
 Sheila Wagner/Patricia Hayes

**The Legion of Mary**  
 1:30 PM Fridays



Ask Cathy Ciani about membership

May 10, 2016  
 @ St. Marys  
 Help of Christians  
 803 649-4777

parishoffice@stmarys-aiken.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. We still have not set a date due to the parish council meeting cancellation but we will have a date soon. Thanks



No RCIA and no Mass 4/19

**Second Collection for:**  
**Catholic Home Missions**



Please pray for father's  
 Prison ministry.

**A DAY OF PRAYER WITH JESUS AND HIS MOTHER**

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the appearances of Our Blessed Mother to the shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, Our Lady's messages are more urgent than ever!

**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**

I want to thank Bob Erikson, Leon Gagnon and Dennis HooChung for their help with the renovation and insurance survey from The Diocese and Catholic Mutual Insurance.

**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 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 remodeled 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.

Please keep Father in your prayers. Even though some Mass times were changed Father is still on the road 6 days a week. Between here and Edgefield and the prison. Saying eleven Masses a week. Only 3 less than some churches that have 2 and 3 priests. So please pray for him.

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