

## Pope Francis' General Audience: Accept Heartfelt Apologies, 'Don't Cut Relationship'

Feb, 3, 2016, Deborah Castellano Lubov, Zenit.org

God wants to save everyone! Without exception. He even wanted to save Judas and Pontius Pilate.

Pope Francis stressed this during his General Audience this morning as he reflected on the relationship between mercy and justice to the faithful in St. Peter's Square, stressing we need to imitate the Father's pardoning and open heart. He reminded those present that, in our relationships, we likewise are called to open our hearts by pardoning those we feel wronged by, who seek forgiveness. 'Don't cut the relationship,' he said off the cuff.

### Mercy vs. Justice

The Holy Father picked up this theme reflecting on how the Sacred Scriptures present God as infinite mercy, but also as perfect justice. When we think of justice, he noted, how we often think of its legal administration, which seeks retribution and exacts a penalty. Such legal justice, he explained, does not conquer evil, but simply stems its tide.

### Invitation to Conversion

The Bible, the Pontiff explained, presents true justice as a process, which avoids a tribunal. "It foresees the offended person going directly to the guilty party to invite them to conversion, by helping them to see the evil they have done, and by appealing to their conscience." In this way, the guilty person is able to see their wrong and be open to the forgiveness offered. This is effective, he suggested, because the person sees their wrong and can be open to the forgiveness offered.

In our personal relationships, especially those between spouses or between parents and children, he said, "this is the way to resolve their differences in families." The person injured, in loving the person who was wrong, 'saves' that relationship by forgiving.

### Do Not Cut Relationship

Even though doing this is difficult, the Pope said, "Do not cut that relationship." "It requires that those who have suffered wrong be ready to forgive and desire the salvation and the good of those who have offended him." Yet, this is still justice, because the offended person recognizes the harm they committed and does not do it again. Then, being forgiven, the person who behaved unjustly, becomes just, and finds the right path.

### Saving Pilate and Judas

In short, he said, we are to imitate, when we are wronged, how God acts towards us sinners. "The Lord constantly offers us his forgiveness and helps us to welcome him and to become aware of our evil that we should deliver." This, he said, is because God doesn't want our condemnation, but our salvation. "God does not want the condemnation of anyone! Some of you might ask me the question: "But Father, the condemnation of Pilate he deserved? God wanted it? "- No! God wanted to save Pilate and Judas, everyone! He is the Lord's mercy wants to save everyone."

### We Must Let Him Enter Our Heart

The problem is to let him enter the heart. All the words of the prophets are a passionate appeal and full of love that seeks our conversion. And this is the heart of God, a Father's heart that loves and wants his children to live in goodness and justice, and therefore live in fullness and to be happy. "A fatherly heart," he stressed, "goes beyond our little concept of justice to open ourselves to the boundless horizons of His mercy," regardless of our sins.

**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.**

# St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

## SUNDAY READINGS

### First Reading:

*Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8*

### Responsorial:

*Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8*

### Second Reading:

*First Corinthians 15:1-11*

### Gospel:

*Luke 5:1-11*

### Lectionary Readings for the week of February 7, 2016

Monday: *First Kings 8:1-7, 9-13;*

*Mark 6:53-56*

Tuesday: *First Kings 8:22-23, 27-30;*

*Mark 7:1-13*

Wednesday: *Joel 2:12-18;*

*Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18*

Thursday: *Deuteronomy 30:15-20;*

*Luke 9:22-25*

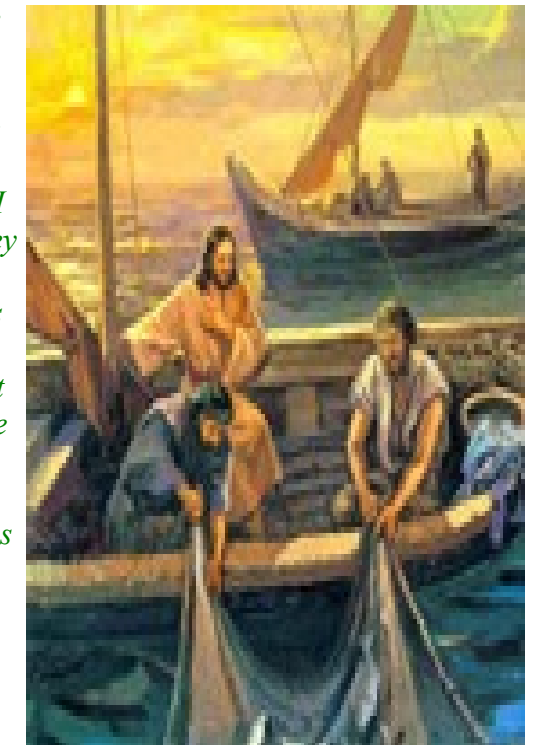
Friday: *Isaiah 58:1-9;*

*Matthew 9:14-15*

Saturday: *Isaiah 58:9-14;*

*Luke 5:27-32*

*When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' Simon replied, 'Master, we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signaled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled both boats to sinking point. When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely awestruck at the catch they had made.*



## The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 7, 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**

**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](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 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

**Mass Intentions**

4:00 PM Mass is said for your own personnel intentions.  
 7:00 AM Mass is for the health of Greta White, 11:15 AM for the soul of Shirley Acosta :From The Legion of Mary

**Weekend Offering**  
**January 30-31 2016**  
 Collection \$2,476.00  
 Needed \$2,612.00  
 Short \$136.00  
 Attendance 135  
*Stewardship a way of life*

*The Gathering Hymn 335 H*  
*Holy, Holy, Holy 643 H*  
*The Offertory Hymn is Here I Am, Lord*  
*The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 622 H*  
*The Summons*  
*Our Song of Praise is 752 H*  
*Alleluia, Sing to Jesus*



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

<b>Lay Ministers</b>		
Saturday February 13	Sunday February 14	Sunday February 14
4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Joan Hesik E E Ministers: Barbara Dixon	7:00 AM Mass Denise Gelinas Roger Gelinas	11:15 AM Mass Sheila Wagner Jacqueline Brown
4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Joan Hesik E E Ministers: Barbara Dixon	7:00 AM Mass Mary Kay L'Esperance Gerard L'Esperance	11:15 AM Mass Janet Menefee Jeanette Coleman
Refreshments February 7 Sheila Wagner/Patricia Hayes	February 14 Shirley Paige/Anna Marie Key	Counters February 8 Mary Jo Erikson/Sheila Wagner



*The Legion of Mary meets Fridays at 1:00 PM here in the church hall.*

**Ash Wednesday 2/10/16**  
**Masses 8:15 AM and 4:00 PM**

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

**Conformation Classes at 9:30 AM Sundays see Jeanette Coleman**



**Church Community Is Important**

*Bible Study 10:00 AM Fridays*



**36th Annual Cardinal Newman Lecture**

*Saturday, February 20th 9:30 AM-2:30 PM Rock Hill Oratory for more info call 803 327-2097 or e-mail oratorycenter@gmail.com*



*Starting this Sunday there will be 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.*

*As president of the South Carolina Council of Catholic Women, I would like to share information about the upcoming SCCCW Convention in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, March 11-13, 2016 at the Marina Inn at Grande Dunes. Please see the convention flyer on the church bulletin board for details. Reservation deadline is Wednesday, February 10, 2016. Call 843-238-0576; 843-283-4445 (cell) Marlene Grover, President*

**Volunteer Corner**  
*Thanks to Jeanette Coleman for teaching CCD. Mary Jo Erikson and Sandy Arbuckle for all their good work in the rectory. Thanks to The Legion of Mary and the ladies of the Outreach program.*

*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.*

**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 Monahan 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*

**Finance and Parish Councils meet on February 16th at 4:30 and 6:30 respectively.**

**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

**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.*

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

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.*

Please mark your calendar and spread the word to your ministry, friends and family! The Fat Tuesday dinner will be held in St. Angela Hall Tuesday, February 9 from 5:00-7:00 PM Tickets can be picked up at the Parish Office.

Donations taken at the door. If you pick up a ticket and do not need it, please return it to the Parish Office. PLEASE spread the word!