

POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE: On Humility vs. Hypocrisy

'All of us are sinners, but we often fall into the temptation of hypocrisy, of believing ourselves better than others and we say: "Look at your sin ..." Instead, we should all look at our sin, our falls, our mistakes and look at the Lord.'

Rome April 20, 2016, Zenith.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

Today, we wish to reflect on an aspect of mercy well represented by the passage of Luke's Gospel, which we heard. It is an event that happened to Jesus while He was the guest of a Pharisee called Simon. The latter wished to invite Jesus to his home because he had heard <people> speak well of him as a great prophet. While they were sitting at lunch, a woman came in, known by all in the city as a sinner. Without saying a word, she fell down at Jesus' feet, weeping. Her tears bathed Jesus' feet and she dried them with her hair, then she kissed them and anointed them with perfumed ointment, which she had brought with her.

Striking is the contrast between the two figures: that of Simon, the zealous servant of the Law, and that of the anonymous sinful woman. While the former judged others on the basis of their appearance, with her gestures the latter expressed her heart sincerely. Although having invited Jesus, Simon does not want to commit himself or involve his life with the Master. The woman, on the contrary, entrusts herself fully to Him with love and veneration. The Pharisee cannot conceive that Jesus lets Himself be "contaminated" by sinners, that is how they thought. He thought that if <Jesus> was really a prophet, He should recognize them and keep them at a distance, so as not to be stained, as if they were lepers.

This attitude is typical of a certain way of understanding religion, and it is motivated by the fact that God and sin are radically opposed. However, the Word of God teaches how to distinguish between sin and the sinner: one must not descend to compromises with sin, while sinners – that is, all of us! – are like the sick that are cured, and to cure them the doctor must come close to them, visit and touch them. And, of course, to be cured, the sick person must admit that he is in need of a doctor!

Between the Pharisee and the sinful woman, Jesus aligns Himself with the latter. Free of prejudices that impede mercy from being expressed, the Master lets her be. He, the Holy One of God, lets Himself be touched by her without fear of being contaminated. Jesus is free because He is close to God who is a Merciful Father. Therefore, by entering in relation with the sinful woman, Jesus puts an end to that condition of isolation to which the merciless judgment of the Pharisee and of his fellow citizens, who insulted her, condemned her: "Your sins are forgiven" (v. 48). So the woman can now go "in peace." The Lord saw the sincerity of her faith and of her conversion, therefore, He proclaimed before everyone: "Your faith has saved you" (v. 50). On one hand, the hypocrisy of the Doctors of the Law, on the other, the humility and sincerity of the woman. All of us are sinners, but we often fall into the temptation of hypocrisy, of believing ourselves better than others and we say: "Look at your sin ...". Instead, we should all look at our sin, our falls, our mistakes and look at the Lord. This is the line of salvation: the relationship between "I" a sinner and the Lord. If I consider myself just, this relationship of salvation does not happen.

At this point, even greater astonishment assails all the table companions: "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" (v. 49). Jesus does not give an explicit answer, but the sinful woman's conversion is before the eyes of all and demonstrates that in Him shines the power of God's mercy, capable of transforming hearts.

The sinful woman shows us the bond between faith, love and gratitude. "Many sins" were forgiven her, therefore, she loves much; "instead, he who is forgiven little, loves little" (v. 47). Simon himself must admit that he loves more to whom more has been condoned. God has enclosed all in the same mystery of mercy and, from this love, which always precedes us, we all learn to love. As Saint Paul recalls: "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished upon us" (*Ephesians* 1:7-8). In this text, the term "grace" is practically a synonym of mercy, and is said to be "lavish," that is, beyond our expectation, because God's salvific plan acts for each one of us.

Dear brothers, let us be grateful for the gift of faith; we thank the Lord for His very great and unmerited love! Let us allow the love of Christ to be poured into us: the disciple draws from this love and is founded on it; everyone can be nourished and fed by this love. Thus, in the grateful love that we in turn pour on our brothers, in our homes, in the family, in the society, the Lord's mercy is communicated to all.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

Fifth Sunday of Easter April 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*

Father Emmanuel Andinam: Administrator

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Acts 14:21-27

Responsorial:

Psalms 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13

Second Reading:

Revelation 21:1-5

Gospel:

John 13:31-33, 34-35

Today's Missal

Lectionary Readings for the week of April 24, 2016

Monday: *First Peter 5:5-14;*

Mark 16:15-20

Tuesday: *Acts 14:19-28;*

John 14:27-31

Wednesday: *Acts 15:1-6;*

John 15:1-8

Thursday: *Acts 15:7-21;*

John 15:9-11

Friday: *Acts 15:22-31;*

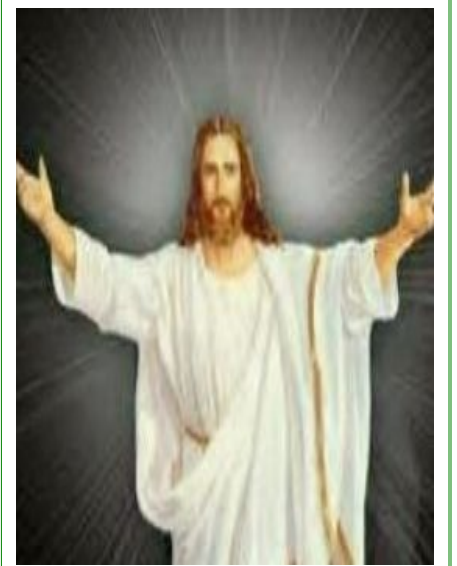
John 15:12-17

Saturday: *Acts 16:1-10;*

John 15:18-21

*When he had gone, Jesus said: Now
has the Son of man been glorified,
and in him God has been glorified.
If God has been glorified in him,
God will in turn glorify him in
himself, and will glorify him very
soon. Little children, I shall be with
you only a little longer. You will look
for me, and, as I told the Jews, where
I am going, you cannot come. I give
you a new commandment: love one
another; you must love one another
just as I have loved you. It is by your
love for one another, that everyone
will recognize you as my disciples.*

John 13:31-33, 34-35



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

Facebook @stgerardaiiken, **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 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 For Sarah Doss From unk, 7:00 AM For
 The Soul of Fr. Martin From The Rileys and Fr. Anthony
 9:00 AM Mass is said for your own personal intentions.

Weekend Offering
April 16-17, 2016
 Collection \$1,811.55
 Needed \$2,612.00
 Under \$895.00
 Attendance 129

The Gathering Hymn 567 BB
Sing A New Song
The Offertory Hymn is 311 H
Christ The Lord Is Risen Today
The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 508 BB
We Have Been Told
Our Song of Praise is 305 H
This Is The Day OR 576 BB Alleluia #1



Stewardship a way of life



	Lay Ministers	Sunday May 1	Sunday May 1
Saturday April 30 4:00 PM Vigil Mass		7:00 AM Mass	9:00 AM Mass
Lector: Joan Hesik	Mary Key L'Esperance	Gerard L'Esperance	Janet Menefee
E E Ministers: Pam Ziomek			Wayman Johnson
Saturday May 7 4:00 PM Vigil Mass		7:00 AM Mass	9:00 AM Mass
Lector: Diana Begic	Denise Gelinas	Roger Gelinas	Sheila Wagner
E E Ministers: Mary Rose			Jacqueline Brown



Refreshments April 24 Jackie Cobbs/Rosa Johnson	Refreshments May 1 Sheila Wagner/Patricia Hayes	Refreshments May 8 Shirley Paige/Anna Marie Key
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The Legion of Mary
 1:30 PM Fridays



Ask Cathy Ciani about membership

With the arrival of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima what better time to join the Legion of Mary.

Please pray for father's Prison ministry.

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

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!

Welcome back Father Emmanuel

No Mass or Bible study on Friday April 29. Father will be in North Carolina

The last CCD class is May 1st. Classes will resume in the fall.

Two Priest friends of Father Anthony's died recently. Please remember and keep Father Anthony in your prayers.

The Finance and parish council meetings are tentatively set for May 10 time to be determined.

Volunteer Corner

Thank you to the ladies that take care of the churches linens Sheila, Payson, Diane, Carole, Madeline and Joan
 Thanks to Dennis for the work in maintenance. A special thanks to Leonard, Jeanette, Maxine, Jackie C and Jackie B.
 For their work in thrift shop

Bishop Robert Guglielmone has given his approval for the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima to visit parishes throughout the South Carolina from April 30 - May 21, 2016.

Plases find a location near you to meet with Our Lady of Fatima. More detailed information is attached. We know that the Fatima messages is more urgent today than it was first received in 1917.
 Gratefully in Christ and Our Lady,

May 10, 2016
 @ St. Marys Help of Christians
 803 649-4777 parishoffice@stmarys-aiken.org

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is excited to announce the establishment of a Diocesan Missionary Team. The purpose of this groundbreaking program will be to evangelize youth in grades 6 – 12 and help them encounter Christ. Retreats will be offered beginning in September at our parishes and Catholic schools. To learn more or to help with the funding of this dynamic new program, go to <http://sccatholic.org/youth-ministry>

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 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.

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, 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.