

## A Cyclone Called Francis

The Social and Political Revolution of the Pope Who Came from the Confines of the World

Rome, March 9, 2016. Antonio Gaspari, Zenit.org

Something extraordinary is happening and mercy is going to spread throughout the world. March 13th will mark the third year of Pope Francis' pontificate.

Even if it is premature to express a judgment on what has been accomplished in these three years, there is no doubt that we are before one of the most innovative pontificates of history. Be it at the level of internal government or of the influence on the destiny of the world, Pope Francis is carrying out a real and just social and political revolution of global dimensions.

Among the most evident results of Pope Francis' pontificate is the path that leads to pacification. In a world where the conflicts in fact seemed unleashed to the point of a worldwide conflagration, the Pope has triggered an effective process of peace.

The most striking signs are the "thaw" between Cuba and the United States; his direct influence throughout Latin America, especially in Colombia, where pacification is about to be reached between the government and the FARC revolutionary group, and, not least, the announcement of pacification between Chile and Bolivia.

Then peace with the Orthodox: the meeting with Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill was not only the conclusion of a course of rapprochement between the Pope of Rome and the Patriarch of Moscow, but the beginning of a global process of collaboration between Catholics and Orthodox, between the capitalist and the former Communist world — a historic step of which there is no idea of the gigantic effects it can have in the planet.

There are those who already perceive a spread of the best of Christian culture, from Lisbon to Vladivostok, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with the definitive overcoming of the logic of the Cold War and of the conflict between Communism and capitalism. In this context, it will be interesting to see what emerges from the Pan-Orthodox Synod in June in Crete, which will witness the participation of leaders of all the autocephalous Churches .

Despite the wounds in the populations bordering Ukraine and Russia, in this part of Eastern Europe Christian Churches are also working for pacification. And it is easy to see the truce reached in Syria as an indirect effect of the pacification with Russia.

The Pope is not working only with Orthodox Christians, but also with Jews and Muslims. After the visit to the Synagogue, there will be a visit to the Mosque of Rome, not forgetting the renewal of the dialogue with al Azhar University, the most prestigious religious institutions of Sunni Islam, visited in recent days by a delegation of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, which has taken the invitation to the Grand Imam to meet the Pope.

Then there is the economic pacification. Pope Francis is trying to carry out a revolution in the society and in the economy, opposing the "disposable culture," utilitarianism and financial speculation, re-launching work and the appreciation of persons and families, freeing the world from the idolatry of money, which "must serve and not govern."

The limit of the present concept of the economy is represented by the idea that all that is good for the individual is good for the economy; but this, in addition to justifying immoral behavior, is penalizing for the economy and generates false wealth and indebtedness. Moreover, the idea that the market adjusts itself is false and only justifies the abuse of power and privileges of those at the top of the economy.

What Pope Francis is trying to do, therefore, is exactly what Saint Francis and the Franciscans did in the years from 1200 to 1500, that is, to transform poverty into an opportunity for growth and money from being an oppressive master to social and civil service. The occasion is propitious considering that, in a Jubilee Year, not only the Church but also the civil authorities cancelled debts, freed slaves and reassigned lands to those who had lost them. Bergoglio's Franciscan revolution is geared to having property in the world become a social resource rather than an egoistic and personal possession.

A key of reading to understand the principles that the Argentine Pontiff is indicating to surmount the economic and moral crisis is to render Franciscan socio-economic thought current and practicable, making of cooperation and sharing between State, market and civil society a model in which poverty from being a problem becomes a resource, and money from being an egoistic master becomes a docile servant to foster work, investments and real production. In this context, "the poor are considered a resource to which to give continued answers in terms of development and employment."

Economic and civil development has always been characterized in history by investment in less well-off parts. The incentive to do works of charity, to promote production and the sharing of goods is the turnkey of peoples and civilizations that determined the development of peoples and of civilizations.

According to Franciscans like friar Pietro di Giovanni Olivi (1248-1298) capital, which in and of itself is non-productive becomes productive, social and human when it finds investment and work," because money does not multiply on its own, but must be immersed in the productive process.

And Saint Bernardine of Siena (1380-1444) and his fellow friars who speak "of the ethical function of the entrepreneur and of business" as well as of the fair distribution of business profit, of the "grace" of free and creative "work," expression of the exercise of one's talents in favor of the common good; of financial resources as social goods; of the importance of the human before the State; of institutional, juridical, economic and social simplification as root from which the principle of subsidiarity stems ever proposed by the Social Doctrine of the Church.

With the encyclical 'Laudato Si', Pope Francis translates the Franciscan revolution in modern terms and proposes a social, economic and political revolution, taking up the same concepts of the "Poverello of Assisi."

With *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis wants to re-establish peace between God, humanity and creation in a dynamic dimension of social and civil development.

# St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

## SUNDAY READINGS

### First Reading:

*Isaiah 43:16-21*

### Responsorial:

*Psalms 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6*

### Second Reading:

*Philippians 3:8-14*

### Gospel:

*John 8:1-11*

### Today's Missal

### Lectionary Readings for the week of March 13, 2016

Monday: *Daniel 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62;*  
*John 8:12-20*

Tuesday: *Numbers 21:4-9;*  
*John 8:21-30*

Wednesday: *Daniel 3:14-20,91-92,95;*  
*John 8:31-42*

Thursday: *Genesis 17:3-9;*  
*John 8:51-59*

Friday: *Jeremiah 20:10-13;*  
*John 10:31-42*

Saturday: *2 Samuel 7:4-5a,12-14a,16;*  
*Romans 4:13,16-18,22;*  
*Matthew 1:16,18-21,24a*

## The Fifth Sunday Of Lent March 13, 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

*At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in the middle they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and in the Law Moses has ordered us to stone women of this kind. What have you got to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for an accusation to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he straightened up and said, 'Let the one among you who is guiltless be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and continued writing on the ground. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until the last one had gone and Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained in the middle. Jesus again straightened up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus. 'Go away, and from this moment sin no more.' **John 8:2-11***



**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 (Insight to the scriptures)

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

**Contact Us:** Phone 803 649-3203, 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 Ligons  
 Joe Fulmer

*As we experience the Paschal Mystery, we renew our goal as faithful stewards to give freely and generously to help build God's kingdom on earth. In this season and in all seasons, we share our gifts as we strive to live as an Easter people.*



**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 - 7:00 AM Masses are said for your own personal intentions. 11:15 AM for the soul of Pat Penrod From: Sheila Wagner

**Weekend Offering**  
 March 5-6, 2016  
 Collection \$2,968.00  
 Needed \$2,612.00  
 Over \$356.00  
 Attendance 126  
 Stewardship a way of life

*The Gathering Hymn is 300 H*  
*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross 769 H*  
*The Offertory Hymn is Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*  
*The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 637 BB*  
*This Day God Gives Me*  
*The Recessional Hymn 511 H*  
*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*



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

<b>Lay Ministers</b>			
	<b>Saturday March 19</b> 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Tami Schaeffer E E Ministers: Jerry Schaeffer	<b>Palm Sunday March 20</b> No 7:00 AM Mass	<b>Palm Sunday March 20</b> 11:15 AM Mass Janet Menefee Jacqueline Brown
	<b>Saturday March 26</b> 8:30 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Open E E Ministers: Open	<b>Easter Sunday March 27</b> 7:00 AM Mass Denise Gelinias Roger Gelinias	<b>Easter Sunday March 27</b> 9:00 AM Mass Patricia Hayes Jeanette Coleman



**Refreshments** March 13 Jackie Brown/Jeanette Coleman  
 March 20 Jackie Cobb/Rosa DiStefano  
 Lenten Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation March 15, 2016 at 5:00 PM

*The last date for the K of C Lenten Fish Fry will be on Friday the 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 Wednesday 3/16 at 6:30 PM**  
 Easter Lilies Memorial \$8 by Palm Sunday please in order to get them in the bulletin.

**There will be no 7:00 AM Mass on Palm Sunday. Father has no help during the season and this is necessary for that and for the availability of servers and others to assist with the Palm Sunday celebration.**

*The Legion of Mary Ask Cathy Ciani about membership*



**No Confirmation Classes, Bible Study or RCIA During Holy Week or Easter Week. No regular week day Masses after Friday 3/18 till Thursday 3/31. No Legion of Mary during Holy Week or Easter Week**

**Effective Easter Sunday we will no longer have an 11:15 AM Sunday Mass. The new Mass time is 9:00 AM. There have been changes at both Edgefield and here at St. Gerard. These changes have been prayed about and we are attempting to cut father's travel times and making good use of the rectory. Thank You.**

**Holy Week Masses Holy Thursday Mass 8:00 PM, Good Friday 3:00 PM, Saturday Vigil 8:30 PM, Easter Sunrise 7:00 AM, Morning Mass 9:00 AM**

**Volunteer Corner**  
 Thank you for all those parishioners that are working on the Liturgical Committee helping us to better prepare for Holy Week and the Easter Season. Thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Colley for their hard work in support of Father Emmanuel.

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

**Have a Heart Donate Blood!**  
 The Knights of Columbus  
 Are asking you to help save local lives! Saving Lives takes All Types Donate Blood; it's in you to give. People can't live without it! There is an urgent need for Type O blood. Will you Choose 2 Give? Sheppard Community Blood Center will conduct a Blood Drive At the New Saint Mary Help of Christian Church On Fairfield Street.  
 Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
 Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7:45 am- 2:00 pm  
 Each donor will receive a free T-Shirt and Free Lipid Profile after your 3<sup>rd</sup> donation in A calendar year. Bring a picture ID, Driver's license or donor card! Donors should drink plenty of water prior to donating. Blood Donors are Special People, Thank You.

Please pray for father's Prison ministry.

**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.

**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.**

During this year of mercy it is a great time to attend the Rachel's Vineyard Weekend for Spiritual Renewal for people dealing with an abortion experience. The next retreat is April 1-3, 2016 in Rock Hill, SC.

For more information please call Christy 803 554 6088 or Kathy 803 546 6010


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

Thank you and please continue the generous contributions on Feed The Valley Weekend.

I hope all who attended the Town hall had their questions answered and felt that they were a part of our decision making. I hope you liked the remodeled rectory.

If you see a new person in church or know of someone that may be looking for a church please have them contact the office.

There will be no one in the office March 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>. Please conduct all business by Wednesday noon. Thank You.

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

*We are attempting to update all parish registrations and volunteer missions information. This is to assure that we give accurate information to the diocese and in an attempt to prepare to start a new directory. I know some of you have done this recently but I ask you to bare with us in this effort. Please take a registration form 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.*

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