

**GENERAL AUDIENCE: On the Door of Mercy**

**"There will be the Holy Door, but it will be the door of God's great mercy! May it also be the door of our heart for us all to receive God's forgiveness and for us in turn to forgive, welcoming all those that knock on our door" Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!**

With this reflection we have arrived at the threshold of the Jubilee, it is close. Before us is the door, but not only the Holy Door, the other – the great door of God's Mercy, and it is a beautiful door! – which receives our repentance, offering the grace of His forgiveness. The door is generously open; a bit of courage is needed on our part to cross the threshold. Each one of us has within himself things that burden him. All of us. We are all sinners! Let us take advantage of this moment that is coming and cross the threshold of this mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving, never tires of waiting for us! He looks at us, He is always beside us. Courage! Let us go in through this door!

From the Synod of Bishops, which we held in the course of the month of October, all families and the entire Church received great encouragement to meet one another on the threshold of this open door. The Church was encouraged to open her doors, to go out with the Lord to encounter sons and daughters on the way, sometimes uncertain, sometimes lost, in these difficult times. Christian families in particular were encouraged to open the door to the Lord who waits to come in, bringing His blessing and His friendship. And if the door of God's mercy is always open, the doors of our churches, of our communities, of our parishes, of our institutions, of our dioceses, must also be open, so that we can all go out to bring God's mercy. The Jubilee signifies the great door of God's mercy but also the small doors of our churches open to let the Lord come in – or many times to let the Lord go out – prisoner of our structures, of our egoism and of so many things.

The Lord never forces the door: He even asks permission to come in. The Book of Revelation says: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me" (3:20). But let us imagine the Lord who knocks on the door of our heart! And, in the last great vision of this Book of Revelation, the City of God is prophesied thus: "its gates shall never be shut by day," which means forever because "there shall be no night there" (21:25). There are places in the world where the doors are not locked, they still exist; but there are so many where Armour-plated doors have become normal. We must not yield to the idea of having to apply this system to our whole life, to the life of the family, of the city, of the society, and even less so to the life of the Church. It would be terrible! An inhospitable Church, just as a family shut-in on itself, mortifies the Gospel and hardens the world. No Armour-plated doors in the Church, none! Everything open!

The symbolic management of the "doors" – of the thresholds, of the passages, of the borders – has become crucial. A door must protect, certainly, but not push away. The door must not be forced, on the contrary, permission must be asked, because hospitality shines in the freedom of a welcome, and it is darkened in the arrogance of invasion. A door is often opened to see if someone is outside who is waiting, and perhaps does not have the courage -- perhaps not even the courage -- to knock. How many people have lost confidence, do not have the courage to knock on the door of our Christian heart, on the doors of our churches ... And they are there, they do not have the courage, we have taken away their confidence: please, let this not happen any more. The door says many things about a house, and also about the Church. The management of the door requires careful discernment and, at the same time, it must inspire great confidence. I would like to say a word of gratitude to all custodians of doors: of our condominiums, of civic institutions, of the churches themselves. Often the prudence and the kindness of the porter are capable of offering an image of humanity and welcome to the whole house, already from the entrance. We must learn from these men and women, who are custodians of places of encounter and welcome of the city of man! To all of you custodians of so many doors, be it doors of habitations, be it doors of churches, thank you so much! But always with a smile, always showing the hospitality of that house, of that church, thus the people feel happy and welcome in that place.

In truth, we know well that we ourselves are the custodians and servants of God's Door, and how is God's Door called? Jesus! He illumines us on all the doors of life, including those of our birth and of our death. He himself affirmed it: "I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture" (John 10:9). Jesus is the door that makes us go in and out. Because God's sheepfold is a shelter, it is not a prison! The House of God is a shelter, it is not a prison, and the door is called Jesus! And if the door is closed, we say: "Lord, open the door!" Jesus is the door and He makes us come in and go out. They are thieves who seek to avoid the door. It is curious, thieves always seek to enter another way, by the window, by the roof, but they avoid the door, because they have evil intentions, and they sneak into the sheepfold to deceive the sheep and to take advantage of them. We must pass through the door and listen to Jesus' voice: if we hear His tone of voice, we are safe; we are saved. We can enter without fear and go out without danger. In this very beautiful discourse of Jesus, there is also talk of the guardian, who has the task to open to the Good Shepherd (cf. John 10:2). If the guardian hears the voice of the Shepherd, then he opens and has all the sheep enter that the Shepherd brings, all, including those lost in the woods, which the Good Shepherd went to bring back. The sheep are not chosen by the guardian, they are not chosen by the parish secretary or the parish's secretariat; the sheep are all invited, they are chosen by the Good Shepherd. The guardian also obeys the voice of the Shepherd. See, we can well say that we must be like that guardian. The Church is the doorkeeper of the Lord's House; she is not the proprietor of the Lord's House.

The Holy Family of Nazareth knows well what it means to have an open or closed door, for one expecting a child, for one in need of shelter, for one who must escape from danger. May Christian families make the threshold of their home a small great sign of the Word of God's Mercy and His welcome. It is in fact thus that the Church must be recognized, in every corner of the earth: as the custodian of a God that knocks, as the welcome of a God that does not close the door in your face, with the excuse that you are not of the house. We approach the Jubilee with this spirit: There will be the Holy Door, but it will be the door of God's great mercy! May it also be the door of our heart for us all to receive God's forgiveness and for us in turn to forgive, welcoming all those that knock on our door.

# St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

## The Feast of Christ The King November 22, 2015

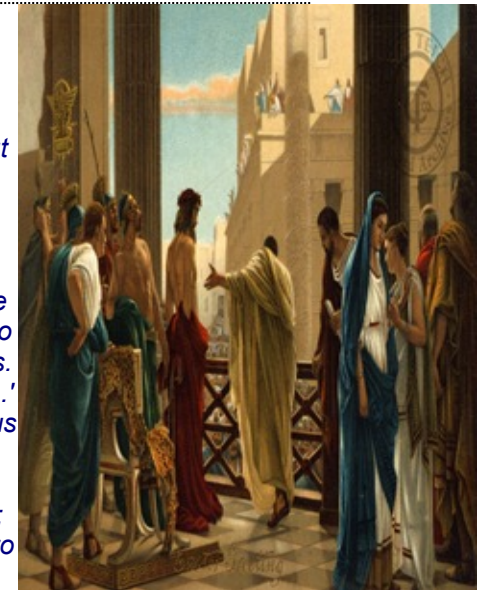
**Mission Statement**  
*Called to be a People for Others*

**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**

*So Pilate went back into the Praetorium and called Jesus to him and asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others said it to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. As it is, my kingdom does not belong here.' Pilate said, 'So, then you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'It is you who say that I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this, to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.' John 18:3-37*



**SUNDAY READINGS**

**First Reading:**

*Daniel 7:13-14*

**Responsorial:**

*Psalms 93:1, 1-2, 5*

**Second Reading:**

*Revelation 1:5-8*

**Gospel**

*John 18:33-37*

**Lectionary Readings for the week of  
November 22nd**

**Monday:** *Daniel 1:1-6,8-20;*

*Luke 21:1-4*

**Tuesday:** *Daniel 2:31-45;*

*Luke 21:5-11*

**Wednesday:** *Daniel 5:1-6,13-14,16-17,*

*23-28; Luke 21:12-19*

**Thursday:** *Daniel 6:12-28;*

*Luke 21:20-28*

**Friday:** *Daniel 7:2-14;*

*Luke 21:29-33*

*Today's Missal*

**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@atlanticbnn.net](mailto:stgerardscatholi@atlanticbnn.net)

**Facebook** @stgerardaiken,

**Emergency number for Father 803 637-2027**

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



**Pray for our sick:**  
 Gary Gilbert  
 Leonard Saunders  
 Shirley Paige  
 William and Jackie Cobbs  
 Woody Alexander  
 Lena Mickens  
 Rosa Johnson  
 Brenda Ligons  
 Meg Schaeffer  
 Joe Fulmer  
 Patricia Bailey  
 Shirley Acosta



*Saints help give us direction on the path of discipleship. They inspire us to give freely and gratefully of our time, abilities and resources.*

**Mass Intentions**  
 4:00 PM 7:00 AM Masses are said for your own personal intentions. 11:15 AM Mass For The Dearly Departed and All Veterans From: A Lauer

**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

**Sunday Offering November 15th**  
 Collection \$2,041.00  
 Needed \$2,612.00  
 Under \$571.00  
 Attendance 129  
*Stewardship a way of life*

*The Gathering Hymn 344 H*  
*Crown Him With Many Crowns*  
*The Offertory Hymn is 349 H*  
*Rejoice, the Lord Is King*  
*The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 347 H*  
*To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King*  
*Our Song of Praise is 343 H*  
*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*



	<b>Saturday November 28</b>	<b>Sunday November 29</b>	<b>Sunday November 29</b>
<b>4:00 PM Vigil Mass</b>	<b>7:00 AM Mass</b>	<b>11:15 AM Mass</b>	
<b>Lector: Diane Begic</b>	<b>Denise Gelinis</b>	<b>Richardean Paige</b>	
<b>E E Minister: Pam Ziomek</b>	<b>Roger Gelinis</b>	<b>Wayman Johnson</b>	
<b>Saturday December 5</b>	<b>Sunday December 6</b>	<b>Sunday December 6</b>	
<b>4:00 PM Vigil Mass</b>	<b>7:00 AM Mass</b>	<b>11:15 AM Mass</b>	
<b>Lector: Joan Hesik</b>	<b>Mary Kay L'Esperance</b>	<b>Sheila Wagner</b>	
<b>E E Ministers: Barbara Dixon</b>	<b>Gerard L'Esperance</b>	<b>Mary Rose</b>	
<b>Refreshments November 29</b>	<b>Counters November 29</b>		
<b>Janet Menefee/Jeanette Coleman</b>	<b>Open</b>		

**Second Collection for: Campaign for Human Development**



*Marge thanks all who were able to attend her reception on Friday. The support and love is appreciated.*

Christmas Choir practice will be on Tuesdays from 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Practice on the 15<sup>th</sup> will follow the Penance service

**Bazaar Total \$3,632.75 as of 11/19/15**

*Please look at the budget over view sheet and feel free to ask questions. We will be having another Town Hall in the near future. Probably after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. An opportunity for involvement.*

Please welcome Art Wagner as the newest member of the Parish Finance Council.

*The Christmas Mass schedule will be posted in the next two weeks as soon as we coordinate with St. Mary's in Edgefield. Thanksgiving Mass will be at 8:15 AM on Thanksgiving morning. The Mass for The Feast of The Immaculate Conception will be on December 8th at 8:15 AM. We will have a penance service at 6:30 PM on December 15th. This will consist of readings, Psalms and The Act of Contrition. Father will grant absolution.*

**No Bible Study on Friday after Thanksgiving (November 27<sup>th</sup>)**

**Volunteer Corner**

*Thanks to all on the Parish and Finance Councils for the time put in to help improve this parish.*

The work on the Rectory is progressing well. The floors have been installed and most of electrical and plumbing is complete. Painting is done but for some touch-up. Fans installed. Doors, Cabinets and trim/moldings ordered.

*We are in need of a new chalice and paten. Father would like two. One for the minister of the cup and one for the church for the priest to use. Unfortunately this is not in the budget. Father will select them for the catalogue and we will inform the finance council. If any one would like to assist in this purchase please contact the office.*

**Thanksgiving is only a few days away. Lets be thankful for all our blessings and carry that into Advent so we can properly prepare for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ.**

The Knights of Columbus  
 Are asking you to help save local lives  
 Knights of Columbus, and Shepard Community  
 Blood Center will host a blood drive  
 At the New Saint Mary Help of Christian Church  
 On Fairfield Street.  
 Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 7:00 PM  
 Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:45 AM – 2:00 PM  
**WE WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**  
 FATZ Café of Aiken,  
 Shepard Community Blood Center,  
 And The Knights of Columbus Council No. 3684  
 Are offering 9 gift certificates for FATZ Café.  
 All donors will be entered into a drawing.  
 The certificates are for \$25.00 each  
 Each donor will receive A free T-Shirt,  
 Also a free Lipid Profile  
 After your 3rd donation in a calendar year.  
 Bring a picture ID, Driver's license  
 or donor card!  
 Donate Blood the gift of life – What a gift! Thank You!

**Black Catholics' Heritage Celebration,  
 "An Advent Gathering of the Faithful"  
 December 12, 2015 Columbia, SC  
 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2015 Diocese of Charleston Office of Black Catholics' Heritage Celebration. Our guest homilist and keynote speaker at this year's celebration will be the Most Reverend Joseph N. Perry, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Other highlights of this special day will include a discussion on Bishop Edward Braxton's document "The Racial Divide in the United States: A Reflection for the World Day of Peace 2015" led by the Honorable Arthur C. McFarland, a panel discussion on the World Meeting of Families and the papal visit. There will also be a separate youth track. Follow this event and others on the web at [sccatholic.org/ethnic-ministries](http://sccatholic.org/ethnic-ministries)

**The next parish council meeting is 8 December at 6:30 PM.**

Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment, where women and men can express their post-abortive feelings, to begin the process of restoration and healing.

Our next retreat in SC is for people who speak Spanish, December 4-6, 2015 in Rock Hill. For more information, please contact Sarah at 803-627-1209

**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.

**Refreshments:** Every body please look at the schedule.

*We still need one more person from each Mass to be responsible for the care of the church linens. This would mean that each person would have two months responsibility. We must have these items cleaned and available for Mass.*



The Salvation Army needs help at the shelter on Park Ave. They are losing older people that have been helping with serving lunch. We already have at least one parishioner helping. Please if you have the time to help call Rose at 641-4149 or call Mary Welsh at 648-2140. Feed God's children.

**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 [stgerardscatholic@Atlanticcbbn.net](mailto:stgerardscatholic@Atlanticcbbn.net).