

POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE: On Praying Unceasingly

“Prayer is not a magic wand. It helps to keep faith in God and to entrust ourselves to Him, even when we do not understand His will”

May 25th 2016, Rome. Zenit.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

The Gospel parable we just heard (cf. Luke 18:1-8) contains an important teaching: “The need to pray always and not lose heart” (v. 1). Therefore, it is not about praying sometimes, when I feel like it. No, Jesus says that we must “pray always, and not lose heart,” and He gives the example of the widow and the judge.

The judge is a powerful character, called to hand down sentences on the basis of the Law of Moses. Therefore, the biblical tradition recommended that judges be persons fearful of God, worthy of faith, impartial and incorruptible (cf. Exodus 18:21). This judge, however, “neither feared God nor regarded man” (v. 2). He was an iniquitous judge, without scruples, who did not take the Law into account but did what he wished, according to his interest. A widow comes to him to have justice. Widows, together with orphans and foreigners, were the weakest categories of the society. The rights ensured to them by the Law could be easily trampled because, being persons alone and without defense, they could hardly make themselves heard.: a poor widow, there, alone, no one defended her; they could ignore her, also not give her justice. The same with the orphan, so also the foreigner, the migrant; at that time this problem was very strong. In face of the judge’s indifference, the widow takes recourse to her only weapon: to continue insistently to importune him, presenting him her request for justice. And, precisely with this perseverance, she accomplishes her purpose. At a certain point, in fact, at a certain point the judge listens to her, not because he is moved by mercy, or because his conscience imposed it on him; he simply admits: “because this widow bothers me, I will vindicate her, or she will wear me out by her continual coming” (v. 5).

Jesus draws a twofold conclusion from this parable: if the widow succeeded in bending the dishonest judge with her insistent requests, how much more God, who is a good and just Father, “will vindicate His elect, who cry to Him day and night?.” And, moreover, “He will vindicate them speedily” (vv. 7-8).

Therefore, Jesus exhorts to pray “without losing heart.” We all experience moments of tiredness and discouragement, especially when our prayer seems ineffective. But Jesus assures us: as opposed to the dishonest judge, God speedily listens to His children even if He does not do so in the times and ways that we wish. Prayer is not a magic wand. It helps to keep faith in God and to entrust ourselves to Him, even when we do not understand His will.

In this Jesus Himself – who prayed so much! – is our example. The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that “In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard for His godly fear (5:7). At first sight this affirmation seems unlikely, because Jesus died on the cross. Yet the Letter to the Hebrews is not mistaken: God truly saved Jesus from death giving Him complete victory over it, but the way followed to obtain it passed through death itself! The reference to the supplication that God heard refers to Jesus’ prayer in Gethsemane. Assailed by imminent anguish, Jesus prays to the Father to let the bitter chalice of the Passion pass from Him, but His prayer is pervaded by trust in the Father and He entrusts Himself to His will without reservations: “Nevertheless – says Jesus – not as I will, but as Thou wilt” (Matthew 26:39). The object of the prayer passes to the second plane; what matters first of all is His relation with the Father. See what prayer does: it transforms the desire and moulds it according to God’s will, whatever it is, because one who prays aspires first of all to union with Him, merciful Love.

The parable ends with a question: “Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, will He find faith on earth?” (v. 8). And, with this question, we are all put on guard: we must not desist from prayer even if it is not required. It is prayer that preserves faith; without it, faith vacillates! Let us ask the Lord for a faith that makes itself incessant, perseverant prayer, as that of the widow of the parable, a faith that is nourished by the desire of His coming. And, in prayer, we experience God’s compassion that, as a Father, comes to meet His children full of merciful love.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

The Feast of Corpus Christi May 29th, 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.*

Father Emmanuel Andinam: Administrator

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

First Kings 8:41-43

Responsorial:

Psalms 117:1, 2

Second Reading:

Galatians 1:1-2, 6-10

Gospel:

Luke 7:1-10

Today’s Missal

Lectionary Readings for the week of May 29, 2016

Monday: Second Peter 1:2-7

Mark 12:1-12

Tuesday: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Luke 1:39-56

Wednesday: Second Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12

Mark 12:18-27

Thursday: Second Timothy 2:8-15

Mark 12:28-34

Friday: Ezekiel 34:11-16

Luke 15:3-7

Saturday: Second Timothy 4:1-8

Mark 12:38-44

*While they were eating, Jesus
took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and giving it to his
disciples said, "Take and eat;
this is my body." Then he took
a cup, gave thanks, and gave it
to them, saying, "Drink from
it, all of you, for this is my
blood of the covenant, which
will be shed on behalf of many
for the forgiveness of sins."*

(Mt 26:26-28; cf. Mk 14:22-24,
Lk 22:17-20, 1 Cor 11:23-25)



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 during school year,

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 @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 and Ike Ligons
 Joe Fulmer

The rewards of stewardship are plentiful. Stewards happily accept the call to give of themselves in response to the gracious gifts given to them. By helping others, stewards show their gratitude to God through their loving care for others.



Pastoral Council:
 Wayman Johnson, Chairman
 Payson Borst
 Jacqueline Brown
 Fredrick Cadek
 Nancy Durden
 Marge Glauser
 Joan Hesik
 Janet Menefee
 Gregory Wright

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

Mass Intentions
 4:00 PM Mass For John Senn From Rose Hayes,
 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM Masses
 are said for your own personal intentions,

Weekend Offering
 May 22, 2016

Collection	\$2,638.35
Needed	\$2,612.00
Over	\$26.35
Attendance	120

Stewardship a way of life

<i>The Gathering Hymn</i>	40 M
<i>God, We Praise You</i>	
<i>The Offertory Hymn is</i>	21 M
<i>Soul of My Savior</i>	
<i>The Communion Hymn is</i>	CHOIR 360 BB
<i>Panis Angelicus</i>	
<i>Our Song of Praise is</i>	539 H
<i>Eternal Father, Strong to Save</i>	

Lay Ministers

Saturday June 4 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Joan Hesik E E Ministers: Mary Rose	Sunday June 5 7:00 AM Mass Denise Gelinas Roger Gelinas	Sunday June 5 9:00 AM Mass Richardean Paige Jacqueline Brown
Saturday June 11 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Tami Schaeffer E E Ministers: Jerry Schaeffer	Sunday June 12 7:00 AM Mass Mary Key L'Esperance Gerard L'Esperance	Sunday June 12 9:00 AM Mass Patricia Hayes Jeanette Coleman

Refreshments May 29
Janet Menefee/Joan Lacombe

Refreshments June 5
Jackie Brown/Jeanette Coleman

Refreshments June 12
Jean Schodowski/Rosa DiStefano

The Legion of Mary
1:30 PM Fridays

Ask Cathy Ciani about membership

Please pray for father and his Prison ministry.

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

acts SAVE THE DATE
 BE AN ACTS FAN!
 Purchase a fan at Lowe's of Aiken for \$17 June 3rd and 4th 10am-6pm and donate it to ACTS to be given to families in need in the Aiken area.

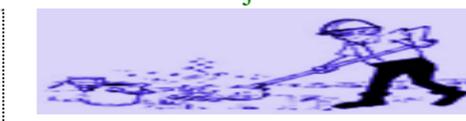
Next week is Feed The Valley Weekend. Thank You

Our Lady of The Valley

We're Searching for Volunteers

Emergency Assistance Caseworker, Receptionist, and Voicemail Person
 Food Pantry Helper on Monday during the summer
 If interested please contact Deondra Roper, Volunteer Coordinator at 803.857.6053

Outside clean-up on June 11th from 7:30 AM-Until. We will do some landscaping and power washing. We will also sort out items in the building that we can throw out. Come join us.



FREE EVENT
 Open to the public
 113 Langley Dam Rd.
 Burnetown, SC

acts
 AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER SERVING

2ND ANNUAL CAR SHOW
 A Drive Against Hunger,
 Come Ride With Us

Fun for the Whole Family
 June 11, 2016 10 am - 2 pm

Non-perishable food & Financial donations

Volunteer Corner
 There are still 3 volunteers that have church access who have not gotten a security code. Please contact the office.

Please welcome our diaconate candidate and newest family, Joe and Dottie Dennis. Joe and Dottie have joined St. Gerard. We are looking forward to his assistance with Father and their membership in the parish.

The Knights of Columbus
 Are asking you to help save local lives! Sheppard Community Blood Center will conduct a blood drive At the new Saint Mary Help of Christian Church On Fairfield Street
 Saturday, June 4th from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
 Sunday, June 5th from 7:45am -2:00 pm
 Blood is the living fluid that all life is based on. Give the gift that keeps on living. Donate Blood.
 Each donor will receive a free T-Shirt and free Lipid Profile
 After your 3rd donation in a calendar year. Bring a picture ID, Drivers license or donor card! Donors should drink plenty of water prior to donating.
 Thank you

"A wedding is a day, a marriage is a lifetime!" Catholic Engaged Encounter invites you to attend an in-parish weekend, (Sat. all day and Sunday till about 3pm – no overnight accommodations provided) – which is a highly effective marriage prep program designed to meet the needs of today's engaged couples. This program will be held at St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church in Clemson, SC, Saturday, July 23 and Sunday, July 24. For more information or to register: www.cee-sc.org

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.

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.

MERCY CENTER - COLORADO SPRINGS
2016 SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR PERSONAL GROWTH & HEALING

The Tour of Mid-Life Transitions
 June 13-17 & August 8-12, 2016
 In Phase One of life each person will be guided by their chosen archetype that helps in creating a personal and professional life-style and identity. By mid-life each person will move into their second archetype and experience a second birth that can lead to wonderment and bliss or if resisted and ignored depression and darkness. How do you cross the "poison river" of mid-life so that the journey to personal and professional transformation can be completed? Learning how to navigate the deep waters of mid-life will be our shared exploration during this week of dare and adventure.

Spirituality & Recovery
 June 6-10 & August 1-5, 2016
 All addictions are the absence of a grounded and embodied spirituality. If your drug of choice is food, alcohol, drugs, sex, pornography, money, love, gambling, power or control this week long program will take you to the core of your wounded self. Through mandala assessment you will discover what is missing and how personal and family grief and trauma can replicate itself in addictive thinking, feeling and behaving will lift the burden of guilt and shame. This program is designed for deep introspective moments, personal assessment and inner explorations while learning how to apply the power of prayer, forgiveness, serenity, achieving virtue and creating personal values that will guide you for a life time.

Mercy Center Inc., 520 W Buena Ventura St, Colorado Springs, CO 80907
themercycenter@aol.com

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> see below

DIOCESAN MISSION STATEMENT
 To proclaim the "Good News" and draw young people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, which will radically challenge and encourage them to embrace the life and mission of the Catholic Church.

DIOCESAN MISSIONARY TEAM VISION
 The vision for the Diocesan Missionary Team (DMT) is to reach young people "on the ground" in their parishes and Catholic schools. The DMT will evangelize young people where they are in their faith life. They will do this by offering young people an opportunity to not only hear about the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ but to learn and understand the grace of the truth that will set them free. It is the vision of the DMT that once young people have experienced the transformational grace and mercy of Jesus Christ, they will hunger and thirst to go deeper in their own Catholic faith life.

WHY DO WE NEED A DIOCESAN MISSIONARY TEAM?
 1. Youth leave the church because they have not encountered Christ and his unending love 2. 80% of Catholics are no longer Catholic by the time they are 23 3. Only 30% of Americans who were raised catholic are still practicing 4. 10% of all adults in America are ex-Catholics