

GENERAL AUDIENCE: On Holy Week

'God's love has no limits'

Rome, March 23, 2016. Zenit.org

THE HOLY FATHER'S CATECHESIS

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

Our reflection on God's mercy introduces us today to the Easter Triduum. We will live Holy Thursday, Friday and Saturday as intense moments, which enable us to enter increasingly in the great mystery of our faith: the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Everything in these three days speaks of mercy, because it renders visible the point that God's love can reach. We will listen to the account of the last days of Jesus' life. The evangelist John offers us the key to understand the profound meaning: "He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end" (John 13:1). God's love has no limits. As Saint Augustine often repeated, it is a love that goes "to the end without end." God truly offers Himself wholly for each one of us and does not spare Himself in anything. The Mystery we adore in this Holy Week is a great story of love that knows no obstacles. Jesus' Passion lasts until the end of the world, because it is a story of sharing with the sufferings of the whole of humanity and a permanent presence in the events of the personal life of each one of us. In sum, the Easter Triduum is the memorial of a drama of love that gives us the certainty that we will never be abandoned in life's trials.

On Holy Thursday Jesus institutes the Eucharist, anticipating in the paschal banquet His sacrifice on Golgotha. To make His disciples understand the love that animates Him, He washes their feet, offering once again a personal example of how they must act. The Eucharist is love that becomes service. It is the sublime presence of Christ, who wishes to satisfy the hunger of every man, especially of the weakest, to render him capable of giving witness through the difficulties of the world — but not only this. In giving Himself to us as food, Jesus attests that we must learn to break this nourishment with others, so that it becomes a true communion of life with all those in need. He gives Himself to us and asks us to abide in Him to do the same.

Holy Friday is the culminating moment of love. The death of Jesus, who on the cross abandons Himself to the Father to offer salvation to the whole world, expresses the love given to the end, without end. A love that intends to embrace all, no one excluded. A love that extends to every time and place: an inexhaustible source of salvation from which each one of us, sinners, can draw. If God has shown His supreme love in Jesus' death, then we also, regenerated by the Holy Spirit, can and must love one another.

And, finally, Holy Saturday is the day of God's silence. It must be a day of silence. We must do everything possible so that it is a day of silence, as that Day, which was the day of God's silence. Jesus placed in the sepulcher shares with the whole of humanity the tragedy of death. It is a silence that speaks and expresses love as solidarity with all those ever abandoned, which the Son of God reaches filling the emptiness that only the infinite mercy of God the Father can fill. God is silent, but out of love. In this day love, that silent love, becomes expectation of life in the resurrection. We think of Holy Saturday: it will do us good to think of the silence of Our Lady, "the Believer," who in silence awaited the Resurrection. Our Lady must be the icon for us of that Holy Saturday. To think much of how Our Lady lived that Holy Saturday, in expectation. It is a love that does not doubt, but that hopes in the Lord's word, and which becomes manifest and splendid on Easter day.

It is all a great mystery of love and mercy. Our words are poor and insufficient to express it fully. We can be helped by the experience of a not well-known girl, who wrote sublime pages on the love of Christ. Her name was Julian of Norwich; she was illiterate, this girl who had visions of Jesus' Passion and who then, having become a recluse, described in simple but profound and intense language, the meaning of merciful love. She said this: "Then our good Lord asked me: 'Are you happy that I suffered for you?' I said: 'Yes, good Lord, and I thank you very much; yes, good Lord, may you be blessed.'" Then Jesus, our good Lord, said: "If you are happy, so am I. To have suffered the Passion for you is a joy for me, a happiness, and eternal bliss; and if I could suffer more, I would do so." This is our Jesus, who says to each one of us: "If I could suffer more for you, I would do so."

How beautiful these words are! They enable us to truly understand the immense and limitless love that the Lord has for each one of us. Let us be enveloped by this mercy that comes to us and, in these days, while we have our gaze fixed on the Passion and Death of the Lord, let us receive in our heart the greatness of His love and, as Our Lady on Saturday, in silence, in the expectation of the Resurrection.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

Easter Sunday March 27, 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

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Acts 10:34, 37-43

Responsorial:

Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Second Reading:

Colossians 3:1-4,

Gospel:

John 20:1-9

Today's Missal

**Lectionary Readings for the
week of March 27, 2016**

Monday: *Acts 2:14, 22-32;*

Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday: *Acts 2:36-41;*

John 20:11-18

Wednesday: *Acts 3:1-10;*

Luke 24:13-35

Thursday: *Acts 3:11-26;*

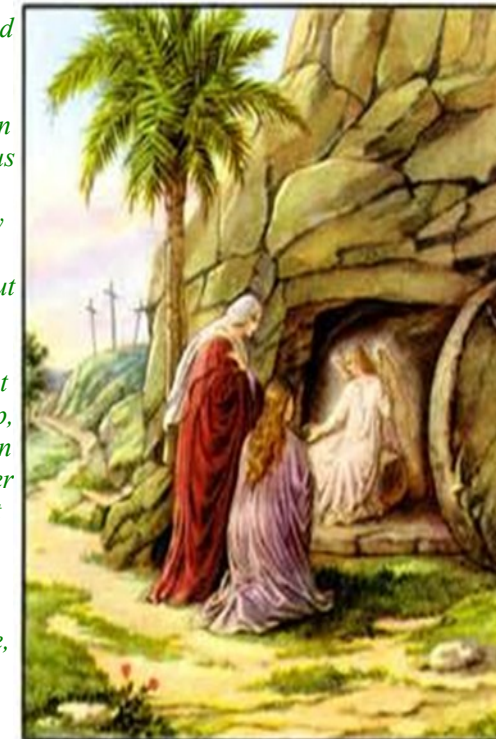
Luke 24:35-48

Friday: *Acts 4:1-12;*

John 21:1-14

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,' she said, 'and we don't know where they have put him.' So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter, following him, also came up, went into the tomb, saw the linen cloths lying on the ground and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had still not understood the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

John 20:1-9



Mass Times: Weekdays Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:15 AM, First Friday Benediction after Mass

New Weekend: Mass times 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 and Marriages: By Appointment, Contact the office.

Contact Us: Phone 803 649-3203, E-Mail stgerardscatholi@atlanticbbn.net

Facebook [@stgerardaiken](https://www.facebook.com/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

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, 9:00 AM
 Masses are said for your own personnel intentions.

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

Weekend Offering
 March 19-20, 2016
 Collection \$1,796.25
 Needed \$2,612.00
 Short \$815.75
 Attendance 133
 Stewardship a way of life

The Gathering Hymn 304 H
He Is Lord (Three Times)
The Offertory Hymn is 311 H/81 M
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today 315 H/68 M
The Communion Hymn is
Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
Our Song of Praise is 75 M
Alleluia, Let the Holy Anthem Rise



Lay Ministers			
	Saturday April 2 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Diane Begic E E Ministers: Mary Rose	Sunday April 3 7:00 AM Mass Denise Gelinas Roger Gelinas	Sunday April 3 9:00 AM Mass Richardean Paige Open
	Saturday April 9 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Joan Hesik E E Ministers: Jerry Schaeffer	Sunday April 10 7:00 AM Mass Mary Kay L'Esperance Gerard L'Esperance	Sunday April 10 9:00 AM Mass Sheila Wagner Wayman Johnson
Refreshments March 27 No refreshments		April 3 Shirley Paige/Anna Marie Key	



Easter Lily Memorials
The Lacombe and McCoola Families; From Joan & Harvey Lacombe
Charles & Eutropia Brunner and Hal & Virginia Erikson: From Mary Jo & Bob Erikson
The Family of Joseph Vachon and the Family of Wilson Swasey: From The Vachons
Rose Marie & David Mancah and Marie & Joseph Beck and Joe Beck Jr.
Edward & Josephine Winski and Walter & Barbara Chmiel
The Dixon, Pahler and Zelder Families: From The Dixons
Mary Louise Walker Simkins and Findley E. Hartzler: From The Simkins Family
Joe & Patricia Miles
Mary Gagnon, Ken Henning, Jeanne Moran, Jean Feraci and Janet & James Welsh
William S. Hyslop, Catharine & Francis Schaeffer and Dawn, Glenn & Tim Myers:
From The Schaeffers
The Begic Family Mr. & Mrs. Woodrow Paige : From The Paige Children
The Hadlock, Cassidy, Beckert and Earley Families : From Agnes & Bill Backert
The McHale, Moore and Gernheuser Families : From Laurence McHale
The Kalsted and Riley Families : From Judy & Steve Riley
The Gelinas Family
Don & Eleanor Strnad and Tony & Mary Ziomek From The Ziomeks
 We remember these loved ones in Christ.



Volunteer Corner
 Thanks to the Altar Servers
 and their parents

Please pray for father's Prison ministry.
 The first weekend of each month will be
 Feed The Valley Weekend.
 We had a wonderful response to our
 first collection.
 Thank you and please continue
 the generous contributions.

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

K of C Blood Drive
 New Saint Mary Help of Christian Church
 On Fairfield Street.
 Saturday, April 2nd from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm Sunday, April
 3rd from 7:45 am- 2:00 pm Each donor will receive a free
 T-Shirt and
 Free Lipid Profile after your 3rd 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.
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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 this Easter.**

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 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.

Show your thanks for all your blessings by giving back. Sign up this holiday season to become an ACTS volunteer. 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.

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](tel:803.642.5919)

RCIA
 Welcome
 Sandy Arbuckle
 Sponsors
 Mary Jo Erikson
 &
 Leon Gagnon

**Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Center
 Yard Sale**
April 30, 2016
9:00 am -2:00 pm
2443 Augusta Rd
Gloversville, 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.

Bible Study
returns on 4/8
@ 10:00 AM

If you know of someone that needs The Blessed Sacrament brought to their home or hospital please call the office.