

POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE: On Unfailing Hope Born From the Cross.

It will do us all good to pause before the Crucifix- all of you have one at home- and look at Him and say to Him: "With you nothing is lost. With you I can always hope".

Rome, April 12, 2017. Zenith.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

Last Sunday we recalled Jesus' entrance in Jerusalem, between the festive acclamations of the disciples and a great crowd. Those people placed many hopes in Jesus: so many expected miracles and great signs from Him, manifestations of power and even of freedom from the occupying enemies. Which one of them would have imagined that from there shortly Jesus would instead be humiliated, condemned and killed on a cross? The earthly hopes of those people collapsed in face of the cross. But we believe that precisely in the Crucified our hope is reborn. Earthly hopes collapse in face of the cross, but new hopes are reborn, those that last forever. It is a different hope from those that collapse, from those of the world. But what kind of hope is this? What hope is born from the cross?

What Jesus said, in fact, after entering Jerusalem can help us understand it: *"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit"* (John 12:24). Let us try to think of a grain or a small seed, which falls into the earth. If it remains closed in itself, nothing happens; instead, if it is broken, it opens and then gives life to an ear, a bud, then a plant and the plant will give fruit.

Jesus brought a new hope to the world, and he did so in the way of a seed: He made Himself small — small, like a grain of wheat; He left His heavenly glory to come among us: He "fell to the ground." But this was not enough yet. To bear fruit Jesus lived love to the end, letting Himself be broken by death as a seed lets itself be broken under the earth. In fact there, in the extreme point of His abasement — which is also the highest point of love — *hope sprouted*. If one of you asks: "How is hope born?" "From the cross. Look at the cross, look at Christ Crucified and from there hope will come to you that no longer disappears, which lasts to eternal life." And this hope sprouted precisely by the strength of love: because a love that "hopes all, endures all" (1 *Corinthians* 13:7), love that is God's life, has renewed everything it has reached. Thus at Easter, Jesus, taking our sin upon Himself, transformed it into forgiveness, our death into resurrection, our fear into trust. See why there, on the cross, our hope is born and is always reborn; see how with Jesus every darkness of ours can be transformed into light, every defeat into victory, every disappointment into hope — every, yes, every. Hope surpasses all, because it is born of the love of Jesus who made Himself like a grain of wheat in the earth and who died to give life and from that life full of love hope comes.

When we choose Jesus' hope, little by little we discover that the winning way of living is that of the seed, that of humble love. There is no other way to overcome evil and to give hope to the world. But you might say to me: "No, it's a losing logic!" It would seem so, that it is a losing logic, because one who loves loses power. Have you thought of this? One who loves loses power, one who gives, dispossesses himself of something and to love is a gift. In reality the logic of the seed that dies, of humble love, is the way of God, and only this way gives fruit. We see it also in us: to possess always pushes us to want something else: I have obtained something for myself and I immediately want something greater, and so on, and I am never satisfied. That is an awful thirst! The more you have, the more you want. One who is voracious is never sated. And Jesus says it clearly: "he who loves *his* life loses it" (John 12:25). You are voracious, you want to have so many things but . . . you will lose everything, also your life, that is: one who loves *himself* and lives for his interests is puffed up with himself and loses. Instead, one who accepts, is available and serves lives God's way: then he is victorious, saves himself and others; becomes *seed of hope* for the world. But it is good to help others, to serve others . . . perhaps we will get tired! But life is like this and the heart is filled with joy and hope. This is love and hope together: to serve and to give.

This true love certainly passes through the cross, sacrifice, as it did for Jesus. The cross is the obligatory passage but it is not the aim, it is a passage: the aim is glory, as Easter shows us. And here another very beautiful image comes to our aid, which Jesus left His disciples during the Last Supper. He says: "When a woman is in travail she has sorrow, because her hour has come; but when she is delivered of the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a child is born into the world" (John 16:21). See: to give life, not to possess it. And this is what mothers do: they give another life, they suffer, but then they are joyful, happy because they have given birth to another life. It gives joy; love gives birth to life and even gives meaning to sorrow. Love is the engine that makes our hope go on. I repeat: love is the engine that makes our hope go on. And each one of us can ask himself: "Do I love? Have I learned to love? Do I learn every day to love more?" — because love is the engine that makes our hope go on.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, during these days, days of love, let us allow ourselves to be enveloped by the mystery of Jesus that, dying as grain of wheat, dying gives us life. He is the seed of our hope. Let us contemplate the Crucified, source of hope. Little by little we will understand that to hope with Jesus is to learn to see already the plant in the seed, Easter in the cross, life in death. I would now like to give you a task to do at home. It will do us all good to pause before the Crucifix — all of you have one at home — and look at Him and say to Him: "With you nothing is lost. With you I can always hope. You are my hope." Let us now imagine the Crucifix and all together let us say to Jesus Crucified three times: "You are my hope." All: "You are my hope." Louder! "You are my hope." Thank you.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

Fr. Emmanuel O. Andinam: Administrator
Joseph A. Dennis: Deacon

SUNDAY READINGS
First Reading:
Acts 10:34a,7-43(42ABC)
Responsorial:
Psalm 118:1-2,16-17,22-23
Second Reading:
Colossians 3:1-4
Gospel:
John 20:1-9

Lectionary Readings for Week of
4/16, 2017

Monday: Acts 2:14,22-33;
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
Saturday: Acts 4:13-21;
Mark 16:9-15

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

Weekend Saturday 4:00 PM, Sunday 7:00 AM and 11:00 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:** No Class at this time

RCIA: No Class at this time

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 803 341-5933**

The Easter Sunday

April 16, 2017

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.*



*On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb
early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone
removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to
the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken
the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."*

John 20:1-2



Pray for our sick:
 Judy Riley
 Marge Glauser
 Leonard Saunders
 Shirley Paige
 William and Jackie Cobbs
 Woody Alexander
 Lena Mickens
 Rosa Johnson
 Brenda Ligons
 Joe Fulmer
 Sue Hesik
 Mary Welsh

*"When we live a life of gratitude, being thankful for the gifts we have been given, we really do see that God is providing all that we need".
 (Archbishop Carlson)*



Pastoral Council:
 Marge Glauser, Chairperson
 Janet Menefee, Vice Chair
 Payson Borst
 Jacqueline Brown
 Fredrick Cadek
 Joan Hesik
 Gregory Wright
 Patricia Hayes
 Matt Fitzpatrick

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

Mass Intentions
 4:00 PM Mass for Viola Beckerts 108th Birthday
 Memorial From The Beckerts,
 7:00 AM & 11:00 AM Masses are said for your own personal intentions.

Weekend Offering
 April 9, 2017
 Collection \$2,452.00
 Needed \$2,612.00
 Under \$160.00
 Attendance 135

The Gathering Hymn 304 H
He Is Lord
Our The Offertory Hymn is 311 H/83M
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
The Communion Hymn is 311 H/66 M
Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
Song of Praise is 70 M
Alleluia, Let the Holy Anthem Rise



Lector: David Didimamoff
 E E Ministers: Pam Ziomek

Lay Ministers
 Saturday April 22
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
 Lector: David Didimamoff
 E E Ministers: Pam Ziomek

Sunday April 23
 7:00 AM Mass
 Mary Kay L'Esperance
 Gerard L'Esperance

Lector: Diane Begic
 E E Ministers: Ellen Heim Up Date

Saturday April 29
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
 Lector: Diane Begic
 E E Ministers: Ellen Heim Up Date

Sunday April 30
 7:00 AM Mass
 Denise Gelinas
 Roger Gelinas

Refreshments April 16
 Jean Schodowski/Richardean Paige

Refreshments April 23
 Matt Fitzpatrick/Rosa DiSefano

Refreshments April 30
 Sheila Wagner/Patricia Hayes

The Legion of Mary is meeting at 1:30 on Fridays. Please consider joining. Please Pray the Rosary.

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

Miss Lena Mickens died last week. Sorry no details on arrangements.

Easter Lily Memorials

William Hyslop From The Hyslop Family
The Lacombe and McCoola Families From The Lacombes
Charles Coleman From Jeanette Coleman
Mr & Mrs Woodrow Paige From The Paige Family
The Brown and Butler families From Jackie Brown
Margaret & Howard Hadlock, Viola & Bill Beckert, Edith & John Cassidy, Jeanne Cooper & Jack Norton, Catherine & Arthur Norton, Mae & John Cassidy From The Beckerts
Susan White Hendricks, James White, Mary & John Solenberger, Nancy Solenberger From The Solenbergers
Dawn, Glenn & Tim Myers, Kay Francis Schaeffer From The Schaeffers
The Souls in Purgatory
Zak & Baniszewski Families
The Cobb & Luck Families From The Cobbs
Jim & Eileen Kelly, Art & Anne Wagner From The Wagners
The McHale, Moores, Mantel & Gernheuser Families
The Millers



Volunteer Corner:
 Thanks to all that were involved in the Holy Week Masses.
 Father, Deacon Joe and I appreciate your help

Please don't take missals out of the church. We just put the new ones out and we are missing some and don't have enough for each pew now. Thank you

Joe Dennis needs folks with chain saws to help clear up the mess of limbs and brush from the storm. Call the office if you can help and then we will come up with a date.

Family Charitable Outreach:
 Contact Marge Glauser or the office.

BINGO Columbus Club Hall Every Monday at 7:10 PM till 9:00 PM
 5 Cards \$ 10.00. Each Additional Card \$2.00
 15 Regular Games \$20 Payout
 1 Coverall Jackpot \$150 Payout



The Black Catholic Ministry of the Church of the Most Holy Trinity - Invites you to join us on a bus trip to The National Black Catholic Congress XII in Orlando, Florida July 6-9, 2017. For more information and to register for the meeting and hotel, visit the National Black Catholic Congress website: www.nbccongress.org or contact the NBCC office 410.547.8496. **There will be a meeting at Most Holy Trinity, St. Francis Hall, 720 Telfair St at 1:00pm on Saturday, April 22, 2017 for persons who have registered or those who want more information about the trip.**

Our dear friends and long time parishioners, Steve & Judy Riley, have moved back to New Jersey. Judy was our former secretary and Steve was always here helping. Please pray for Judy's health. They will be missed.

Father will be gone 24 April-14 May. No Daily Masses during that time. Weekend Masses at regular times.

Leonard Saunders is at Gracelynn Residential Care, 203 Jewel St. N., New Ellenton, SC 29809

In Harms' Way: Please remember in your prayers our Nation and loved ones of our parishioners currently serving in harms' way: James Ligons and Robert McHugh. 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.

From Joan Lacombe
 Earth Day Inside & Out Join us as we explore the relationships between Nature, Poetic Voice & Visual Arts April 21st-23rd, 2017
 Weekend Schedule Friday April 21st, 6pm—8pm: Reception Winners of PMP Lit Prize 2017 Announced
 Saturday April 22nd, 10am—3pm: Earth Day Celebration with Poetry & Visual Arts Please bring a poem to share Sunday April 23rd, 2pm—5pm: Poetry Basics: Learn how to deliver poetry at the mic
 Where: Aiken County Historical Museum
 433 Newberry Street SW, Aiken, S.C.
 All events are FREE and Open to Public RSVP is required for free lunch on April 22nd,(no exceptions!)
 For more information Call (855)790-7700 or email us info@poetrymattersproject.org

Separated or divorced? You don't want to miss the Journey of Hope Conference for Divorce Recovery coming to Charleston August 4th - 6th at the Charleston Marriott. Great speakers, wonderful food and fellowship. A special Easter Season registration rate will be available starting Easter Sunday April 16th through the 30th.
 Visit JourneyOfHopeConference.Com for details and to register.

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 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, 2017. All scholarships awarded are renewable upon reapplication 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.

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@atlanticbbn.net. You should follow this advice for Nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities also.