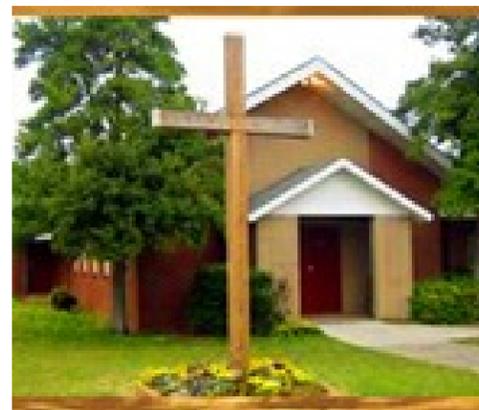


Dear Friends!

Listening to the dialogue of the risen Jesus with Simon Peter on the bank of the Sea of Galilee, hearing the triple question about love and the answer to it, we have in mind the hardships of the life of this fisherman of Galilee that preceded this crucial conversation. We know that he one day left everything – his family, boat and nets – and followed an unusual Teacher from Nazareth. He became His disciple. He learned His way of looking at the matters of God and people. He lived through His passion and death, as well as through a moment of personal weakness and betrayal. Afterwards, he experienced a moment of astonishment and joy connected with Jesus' resurrection, who appeared to His closest disciples before ascending into heaven. We also know the continuation of the conversation, or rather the trial of love that today's Gospel speaks about. Simon Peter, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, became a brave witness to Jesus Christ. He became a rock of the emerging Church. For all this he paid the highest price in the capital city of the Roman empire – he was crucified like his Master. Peter's bloodshed in the name of Jesus became the seed of faith and initiated the growth of the Church, which engulfed the whole world. Today, Christ speaks to us in Krakow, at the banks of the Wisła River, which flows through all of Poland – from the mountains to the sea. Peter's experience may become ours and inspire us to reflect. Let us pose three questions and look for the answers. First, where do we come from? Second, where are we today, in this moment of our lives? And third, where are we going to go and what are we going to take with us? Where do we come from? We come from "every nation under heaven" (Acts 2:5), like those who came in great numbers to Jerusalem on Pentecost Day, but there are incomparably more of us now than two thousand years ago, because we are accompanied by centuries of preaching the Gospel, which since then has reached the furthest ends of the world. We bring our experience of various cultures, traditions and languages. What we also bring are testimonies of faith and holiness of our brothers and sisters, followers of the risen Lord, of past generations as well as the current generation. We come from such parts of the world where people live in peace, where families are communities of love and life and where young people can pursue their dreams. But among us are also young people from countries whose people are suffering due to wars and other kinds of conflicts, where children are starving to death and where Christians are brutally persecuted. Among us are young pilgrims from parts of the world that are ruled by violence and blind terrorism, and where authorities usurp power over man and nations, following insane ideologies. We bring to this meeting with Jesus during these days our personal experiences of living the Gospel in our difficult world. We bring our fears and disappointments, but also our hopes and yearning, our desire to live in a more human, more fraternal and solidary world. We acknowledge our weaknesses, but at the same time believe that "we can do all things through Him who strengthens us" (Phil. 4:13). We can face the challenges of the modern world, in which man chooses between faith and disbelief, good and evil, love and its rejection. Where are we now, at this moment of our lives? We have come from near and far. Many of you have traveled thousands of kilometers and invested much in your journey to be here. We are in Krakow, the former capital of Poland, to which the light of faith reached one thousand fifty years ago. Polish history was difficult, but we have always tried to remain faithful to God and the Gospel. We are all here because Christ has gathered us. He is the light of the world. Whoever follows Him will not walk in darkness (Jn. 8:12). He is the way, and the truth, and the life (Jn. 14:6). He has the words of eternal life. To whom shall we go? (Jn. 6:68). Only He – Jesus Christ – is able to satisfy the deepest desires of the human heart. It is He who has led us here. He is present among us. He is accompanying us like He accompanied His disciples headed for Emmaus. Let us entrust Him in these days our matters, fears and hopes. During these days, He will be asking us about love, like He asked Simon Peter. Let us not avoid responding to these questions. Meeting with Jesus, we simultaneously realize that we all make up a great community – the Church – which surpasses the boundaries established by people and which divide people. We are all God's children, redeemed by the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. Experiencing the universal Church is a great experience associated with World Youth Day. The image of the Church depends on us – on our faith and sanctity. It is up to us to ensure that the Gospel reaches those who have not yet heard about Christ or have not learnt enough about Him. Tomorrow, the Peter of our times – Pope Francis – will arrive among us. The day after tomorrow, we will greet him in this same place. In the following days, we will listen to his words and pray together with him. The presence of the Pope at World Youth Day is yet another beautiful and characteristic feature of this celebration of faith. And finally the third, last question: where are we going and what will we take with us from here? Our meeting will last only a few days. It is going to be an intense, spiritual and, to a certain extent, physically demanding experience. Afterwards, we will return to our homes, families, schools, universities and to our places of employment. Maybe we will make some important decisions during these days? Maybe we will set some new goals in our lives? Maybe we will hear the clear voice of Jesus, telling us to leave everything and follow Him? With what will we return? It is better to not anticipate the answer to this question. But let us take up a challenge. During these days, let us share with each other what is most valuable. Let us share our faith, our experiences, our hopes. My dear young friends, may these days be an opportunity to form your hearts and minds. Listen to the catecheses delivered by bishops. Listen to the voice of Pope Francis. Participate wholeheartedly in the divine liturgy. Experience the merciful love of the Lord in the sacrament of reconciliation. Discover also the churches of Krakow, the wealth of the culture of this city, as well as the hospitality of its inhabitants and of those of neighboring towns, where we will find rest after a day's rigors. Krakow is alive with the mystery of Divine Mercy, also owing to humble Sister Faustina and John Paul II, who made the Church and the world sensitive to this specific trait of God. Returning to your countries, homes and communities, carry the spark of mercy, reminding everyone that "blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Mt 5:7). Carry the flame of your faith and ignite with it other flames, so that human hearts will beat to the rhythm of the Heart of Christ, which is "a flaming fire of love." May the flame of love engulf our world and rid it of egoism, violence and injustice, so that a civilization of good, reconciliation, love and peace will be strengthened on our earth. The prophet Isaiah tells us today "how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the one bringing good news" (Is. 52:7). John Paul II was such a messenger – He was the initiator of World Youth Day, a friend of youth and families. And you be such messengers. Carry the good news about Jesus Christ to the world. Give testimony that it is both worth it and necessary to entrust Him with our fate. Open wide the doors of your hearts to Christ. Proclaim with conviction like Paul the Apostle, "that neither death, nor life, [...] nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom. 8:38-39) Amen!

# St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

## SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Ecclesiastes 1:2;2:21-23(114C)

Responsorial:

Psalm 90:3-4,5-6,12-13,14,17

Second Reading:

Colossians 3:1-5,9-11

Gospel:

Luke 12:13-21

Today's Missal

## Lectionary Readings for the week of July 31, 2016

Monday: 2 Corinthians 4:7-15;

Matthew 20:20-28

Tuesday: Jeremiah 14:17-22;

Matthew 13:36-43

Wednesday: Jeremiah 15:10:16-21;

Matthew 13:36-43

Thursday: Jeremiah 18:1-6;

Matthew 13:47-53

Friday: Jeremiah 26:1-9;

John 11:19-27

Saturday: Jeremiah 26:11-16,24;

Matthew 14:1-12

## The Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 31, 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

*Then he told them a parable, 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time." But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when someone stores up treasure for himself instead of becoming rich in the sight of God.'*

Luke 12:16-21



**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 resuming in the fall, **CCD:** Sundays TBD during school year,

**RCIA:** Tuesdays 10:00 AM restarting in the fall

**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**



**Pray for our sick:**

Judy Riley  
Gary Gilbert  
Marge Glauser  
Leonard Saunders  
Shirley Paige  
William and Jackie Cobbs  
Woody Alexander  
Lena Mickens  
Rosa Johnson  
Brenda and Ike Ligons  
Joe Fulmer  
Elaine Smoak

When we turn over our lives to become disciples of Jesus, we trust that our needs will be met, our sacrifices worthwhile. This first step can be very difficult. We need to remember it is God whom we can trust. And God will not be outdone by our generosity.



**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, 7:00 AM Mass & 11:15 AM Mass  
are all said for your own personal intentions

**Weekend Offering**

July 16-17, 2016

Collection \$2,303.25  
Needed \$2,612.00

July 23-24 2016

Collected \$1,793.00  
Needed \$2,612.00  
Total Under \$1,127.75

The Gathering Hymn

38 M

Holy, Holy, Holy

The Offertory Hymn is

760 H

One Bread, One Body

The Communion Hymn is

CHOIR 402 BB

To Praise You

Our Song of Praise is

489

Thank You, Lord



**Lay Ministers**

**Saturday August 6**

4:00 PM Vigil Mass

Lector: Tami Schaeffer

E E Ministers: Jerry Schaeffer

**Sunday August 7**

7:00 AM Mass

Mary Key L'Esperance

Joe Dennis/Gerard L'Esperance

**Sunday August 7**

11:15 AM Mass

Patricia Hayes

Joe Dennis/Mary Rose

**Saturday August 13**

4:00 PM Vigil Mass

Lector: Joan Hesik

E E Ministers: Mary Rose

**Sunday August 14**

7:00 AM Mass

Denise Gelinias

Roger Gelinias

**Sunday August 14**

11:15 AM Mass

Jeanette Paige

Rochelle Coleman

Refreshments July 31

Jackie Cobb/Rosa DiStefano

Refreshments August 7

Sheila Wagner/Patricia Hayes

Refreshments August 14

Shirley Paige/Anna Marie Key



Attendance July 16-17: 132, July 23-24 : 117

Next Week is Feed The Valley Weekend  
Thank you and bless your gifts.

**Lectors and Ministers of Cup:**

When Joe Dennis is here you do not need to read the intentions and the Ministers of Cup will not need to serve.

We are having a Pot Luck Lunch on August 7<sup>th</sup> after the 11:15 Mass, for Fr. Emmanuel's 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday. There is a sign up sheet in the lobby.



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

(Holy Day)

Mass for The Feast of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is on Monday August 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 AM

**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

**Volunteer Corner: Thanks To**

All those that give their time and work to make this parish better. Special thanks to Leonard and the ladies and men that work in the thrift store.

**The Fall Festival Committee is meeting at 5:00 PM this Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will be a joint Parish Council and Festival Committee meeting. Finance Council and any parishioners that wish to help with the Festival are welcome.**

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  
Our Lady of The Valley

Please pray for Marge's Daughter Beth in Ohio!

**BiText of Cardinal Dziwisz's (Archbishop of Krakow) Introduction and Homily at Opening Mass of #World Youth Day 2016**

July 26, 2016, zenit.org

Introduction

My Dear Friends!

The moment we have been waiting 3 years for has arrived. We have been waiting since the day Pope Francis announced in Rio de Janeiro that the next World Youth Day would take place in Poland – in Krakow.

The clock fitted on the facade of St. Mary's Basilica in the heart of historic Krakow counted the days, hours, minutes and seconds to the moment which we are now experiencing. But a more important clock, registering the thoughts and feelings in our hearts, spiritually prepared us for the meeting of young disciples of the Master of Nazareth that we are beginning today.

You have come from all continents and nations, from the East and West, the North and South of our globe. You bring with you many experiences. You bring many desires. You speak numerous languages. But starting today we are going to communicate with each other in the language of the Gospel. This is a language of love, brotherhood, solidarity and peace.

I welcome you all most cordially in the city of Karol Wojtyła – Saint John Paul II. It is here that he grew up to serve the Church, and it is from here that he set off to the ways of the world to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I welcome you in the city where we especially experience the mystery and gift of Divine Mercy.

Brothers and sisters, let us open our hearts to receive the word of God and the gift of the Eucharist. May the crucified and risen Lord, the saviour of the world, stand among us. Let us commend to Him all our thoughts and feelings, hopes and expectations regarding the festival of faith of the young church that is beginning. But because we are aware of our sins and our disloyalty to the ideals of the Gospel, let us apologize to God so that we could jointly celebrate the Most Holy Sacrifice of this Mass with pure hearts.

Homily on back page.

**No Smart Phone... No Problem! Call 1 (712) 832-2674**

During our visits around the diocese, many have said, "I don't have a smartphone so I can't use the TuneIn app to listen to Catholic Radio." Well, there's a NEW way to listen to Catholic Radio in South Carolina and you can use a standard cell or landline to listen. Just dial 1 (712) 832-2674 (Powered by AudioNow.com), and your phone becomes a personal Catholic Radio listening device. There is no extra charge for this service but your normal call rates and limits do apply. BUT, as many plans have unlimited long distance or calling, you can essentially listen on your standard phone for free. Check your calling plan to be sure. Also, if you have friends and relatives who might enjoy listening to Catholic Radio on their standard phone, please pass the number on. Note: Smartphone users can still listen to our broadcast via TuneIn Radio – a FREE app for smart phones and app-based devices. After downloading the app, using the app's browse function, key in "wcki" and our logo will come up. Tap on our logo and the audio feed will play. Then you can save WCKI as a favorite station so that it is easier to access.

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.

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>

**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@atlanticbbn.net.

Show your thanks for all your blessings by giving back. 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. Just e-mail [usatvolunteer@actsofaiken.org](mailto:usatvolunteer@actsofaiken.org), or call 803.649.3800.

**Childcare Worker Position Opening**

The individual selected will provide care and supervision for children in a daycare-type environment. Lead games and activities for multiple children, keeping them engaged. Change diapers and/or clean children up after activities. The opening is a part time position and is available immediately. It is the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month (except Nov-Dec will be only the 2nd Thurs); 5:45 pm-8:15 pm (2.5 hrs per day). **Location is Hope Center in Graniteville SC.** Skills and abilities required: experience with children; a positive, friendly demeanor and ability to stand, kneel, bend, stoop and lift up to 30 lbs. This position supports a program that is an affiliation of ACTS, Christ Central, FamCo, and HUGS, LLC. Beginning pay \$8.00/hr. Submit resume to [carla@actsofaiken.org](mailto:carla@actsofaiken.org). Additional application guidance will be provided.