

POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE: On Accounting for Our Hope

'Remember that Christ is Risen, He is alive among us; He is alive and dwells in each one of us. It is because of this that Saint Peter invites us forcefully to adore Him in our hearts'

Rome, April 5, 2017. Zenit.org

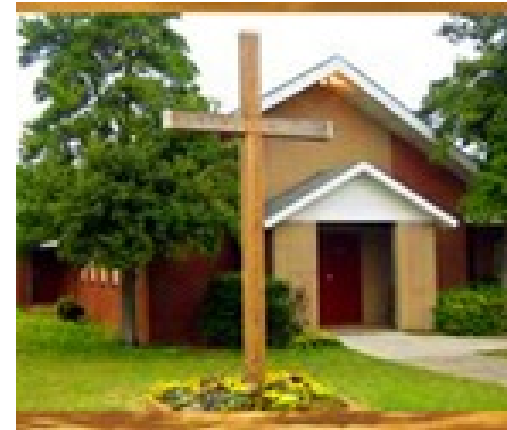
Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

The Apostle Peter's First Letter bears in it an extraordinary charge! It is necessary to read it one, two, three times to understand this extraordinary charge! It is able to infuse great consolation and peace, making one perceive how the Lord is always at our side and never abandons us, especially in the most delicate and difficult situations of our life. But what is the "secret" of this Letter, and, particularly, of the passage we just heard (cf. 1 Peter 3:8-17)? This is a question. I know that you will take the New Testament today, you will look for the First Letter of Peter and you will read it slowly, slowly, to understand the secret and force of this Letter. What is the secret of this Letter?

- 1 The secret is in the fact that this writing *sinks its roots directly in Easter*, in the heart of the mystery that we are about to celebrate, thus making us perceive all the light and joy that flow from the Death and Resurrection of Christ. Christ is truly Risen, and this is a beautiful greeting to give one another on Easter day: "Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen!," as so many people do. Remember that Christ is Risen, He is alive among us; He is alive and dwells in each one of us. It is because of this that Saint Peter invites us forcefully to adore Him in our hearts (cf. v. 16). The Lord made His abode there at the moment of our Baptism, and from there He continues to renew us and our life, filling us with His love and the fullness of His Spirit. See then why the Apostle recommends that we *account for the hope that is in us* (cf. v. 16): our hope is not a concept, it is not a sentiment, it's not a mobile phone, it's not a pile of riches! Our hope is a Person; it is the Lord Jesus that we acknowledge alive and present in us and in our brethren, because Christ is Risen. When the Slav people greet one another, instead of saying "good morning," "good evening," during the Easter days they greet one another with this "Christ is Risen!," "*Christos voskrese!*" they say to each other, and they are happy to say it! This is the "good morning" and the "good evening" they give one another: "Christ is Risen!"
- 2 Then we understand that we must not so much give an account of this hope at the theoretical level, with words, but especially with the testimony of life, and this be it within the Christian community, be it outside of it. If Christ is alive and dwells in us, in our heart, then we must also let Him be visible, not hide Him, and let Him act in us. This means that the Lord Jesus must become increasingly our model: model of life and that we must learn to behave as He behaved. To do what Jesus did. Therefore, the hope that dwells in us, cannot remain hidden within us, in our heart: but, it would be a weak hope, which does not have the courage to go out and have itself seen; but our hope, as it shines through in Psalm 33 quoted by Peter, must necessarily burst outside, taking the exquisite and unmistakable form of gentleness, respect and benevolence toward our neighbor, being able in fact to forgive one who does evil. A person who does not have hope is unable to forgive, is unable to give the consolation of forgiveness and to have the consolation of forgiving. Yes, because Jesus did this, and He continues to do through those who make room for Him in their heart and in their life, in the awareness that evil is not overcome with evil, but with humility, mercy and meekness. The *mafiosi* think that evil can be overcome with evil, and so they engage in revenge and do the many things we all know. But they do not know what humility, mercy and meekness are. And why? Because the *mafiosi* do not have hope. Think of this.
- 3 See what Saint Peter affirms that "it is better to suffer for doing right, than for doing wrong" (v. 17): it does not mean that it is good to suffer but that, when we suffer for the good, we are in communion with the Lord, who accepted to suffer and to be put on the cross for our salvation. Then, when we also accept to suffer for the good, in the smallest or greatest situations of our life, it is as if we scattered around us seeds of resurrection, seeds of life, and made the light of Easter shine in the darkness. It is because of this that the Apostle exhorts us to respond always "with a blessing" (v. 9): a blessing is not a formality, it is not only a sign of courtesy, but it is a great gift which we received first and that we have the possibility to share with brethren. It is the proclamation of the love of God, a limitless love, which is not exhausted, which never fails and which constitutes the true foundation of our hope.

Dear friends, we also understand why the Apostle Peter calls us "blessed," when we must suffer for justice (cf. V. 13). It is not only for a moral or ascetic reason, but it is because every time we take the side of the last and the marginalized, or that we do not respond to evil with evil, but by forgiving and blessing, every time we do this we shine as living and luminous signs of hope, thus becoming instruments of consolation and peace, according to God's heart. An so we go forward with gentleness, meekness, being kind and doing good also to those who don't love us, or who do us evil. Go on!

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:

Isaiah 50:4-7(38ABC)

Responsorial:

Psalms 22:8-9,17-18,19-20,23-24

Second Reading:

Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel:

Matthew 26:14-27:66

Lectionary Readings for Holy Week 2017

Monday: Isaiah 42:1-7,

John 12:1-11

Tuesday: Isaiah 49:1-6,

John 13:21-33,36-38

Wednesday: Isaiah 50:4-9a,

Matthew 26:14-25

Holy Thursday: Isaiah 61:1-3a,6a,8b-9,

Revelation 1:5-8; Luke 4:16-21

Good Friday: Isaiah 52: 13-53:12(40ABC);

Hebrews 4:14-16;5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

Saturday Easter Vigil: Genesis 1:1-2:2;

Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 14:15-15:1;

Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11;

Baruch 3:9-15,32-4:4;

Ezekiel 36:16-17a,18-28;

(Epistle)Romans 6:3-11;

Matthew 28:1-10

The Palm Sunday

April 9, 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.



They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them, and he sat upon them. The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road. The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying: "Hosanna" to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest."

Matthew 21:7-9

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**



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

Weekend Offering
April 2, 2017
 Collection \$3,865.00
 Needed \$2,612.00
Over \$1,253.00
 Attendance 133

Stewardship a way of life

“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)



Mass Intentions
 4:00 PM, 7:00 AM & 11:00 AM Masses are said for your own personal intentions.

The Processional Hymn 292 H/39M
All Glory Laud and Honor
The Offertory Hymn is 726 H
Lift High the Cross
The Communion Hymn is 301 H/54 M
Were You There
Our Song of Praise is 300 H
Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross



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

Lay Ministers


Easter Weekend
Saturday April 15
 7:00 PM Vigil Mass
 Lector: Joan Hesik
 E E Ministers: Ellen Heim


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

Sunday April 16
 7:00 AM Mass
 Denise Gelinas
 Roger Gelinas

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

Sunday April 16
 11:00 AM Mass
 Paula Thurston
 Wayman Johnson

Sunday April 23
 11:00 AM Mass
 Janet Manefee
 Jackie Brown

Refreshments April 9
 Jackie Brown/Jeanette Coleman

Refreshments April 16
 Jean Schodowski/Richardean Paige

Refreshments April 23
 Matt Fitzpatrick/Rosa DiSefano

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

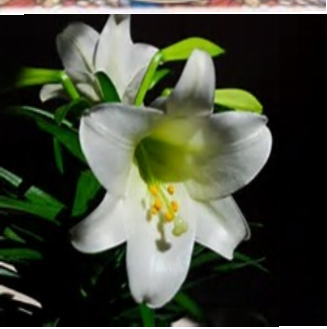


Please Pray for Deacon Joe and Dot. Their home was severely damaged Wednesday by the storm. They are unhurt and are staying with Deacon Larry and Kim in Edgefield.

Our dear friends and long time parishioners, Steve & Judy Riley, are moving back to New Jersey next week. Judy was our former secretary. Please keep them in your prayers. They will be missed.

Holy Week Mass Times: 13-16 April
 Holy Thursday; 6:00 PM, Good Friday; 3:00 PM,
 Saturday Easter Vigil; 7:00 PM, Easter Sunday; 7:00 and 11:00 AM

Easter Lilly memorials are \$10. Memorials will be in bulletin and in the sanctuary for Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. Please put contact number on memorial in case I have questions. And please have them into the office by 4-10-17 Thank you, Mike



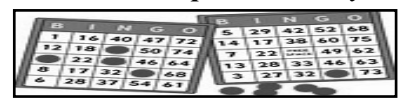
No Daily Mass this Tuesday April 11th, Father will be at The Chrism Mass in Charleston

Volunteer Corner:
Thanks to all of the people that helped with the preparations for, and clean up after, the workshop last Saturday. You made Marge's and my jobs much easier.

We still need 4 parishioners available to have their feet washed at Holy Thursday Mass. Please don't wait till the last minuet to sign up. Men, woman and children are invited to participate in this celebration of that night in the upper room. Sign up sheet is in the lobby.

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.

Finance Council: Meeting April 11 @ 4:00 PM
Parish Council: Meeting April 11 @ 6:00 PM

No Bible Study on Good Friday

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.