

## Pope Francis Message for “Together for Europe” Initiative

“God always brings newness. You have experienced this so often in your lives! Are we open to surprises today too?”

The message Pope Francis sent to the participants in the gathering of the “Together for Europe” initiative – an initiative that brings together over 300 Christian Movements and Communities of diverse confessions from every part of the Continent. It was held in Karlsplatz in Munich, Germany on the theme “Encounter – Reconciliation – Future,” June 30-July 1.

Dear Friends in *Together for Europe*,  
I know that you are gathered in Munich, Bavaria, from many Movements and Groups, for your meeting called “Encounter – Reconciliation – Future.”

You are right. It is time to get together, to face the problems of our day with a true European spirit. Apart from some visible walls, other invisible walls are being strengthened which tend to divide our continent. These walls are being built in people’s hearts. They are walls made of fear and aggression, a failure to understand people of different backgrounds or faith. They are walls of political and economic selfishness, without respect for the life and dignity of every person.

Europe finds itself in a complex and highly mobile world, which is ever more globalized and therefore ever less Eurocentric.

If we are aware of these momentous issues, then we must have the courage to say: we need change! Europe is called to reflect and to ask itself whether its immense heritage, so permeated with Christianity, belongs in a museum or is still able to inspire culture and to offer its treasures to the whole of humankind.

You are meeting so as to look at these challenges facing Europe and to highlight testimonies of life in society which enable networking, so as to welcome and show solidarity towards those who are weak and disadvantaged, to build bridges and overcome conflicts whether they are open or latent.

Europe’s history is an ongoing encounter between Heaven and earth. Heaven indicates openness to the Transcendent, to God, which has always been characteristic of European people. Earth represents their practical and concrete ability to address situations and problems.

You too, Christian communities and movements, which began in Europe, are bearers of many charisms, which are gifts of God to be made available to others. “*Together for Europe*” is a unifying power with the clear aim of translating the basic values of Christianity into concrete responses to the challenges of a continent in crisis.

Your lifestyle is based on mutual love, lived out with Gospel radicalness. A culture of reciprocity means talking things over, esteeming one another, welcoming one another, helping one another. It means appreciating the diversity of charisms so as to move together towards unity and enrich it. The tangible and clear presence of Christ among you is the witness which leads to faith.

Every authentic unity draws on the wealth of diversity which forms it – like a family which grows in unity in so far as its members can fully and fearlessly be themselves. If Europe as a whole wants to be a family of peoples, it should put the human person back at the center; it should be an open and welcoming continent, and continue to establish ways of working together that are not only economic but also social and cultural.

God always brings newness. You have experienced this so often in your lives! Are we open to surprises today too? You, who have answered the Lord’s call courageously, are called to show his newness in your lives and bring to life the fruits of the Gospel, fruits that have grown from Christian roots, which for the last 2,000 years have nourished Europe. And you will bear even greater fruit! Maintain the freshness of your charisms; continue to be “*Together*” and extend it further! Make your homes, communities and cities into workshops of communion, friendship and fraternity, which can bring people together and be open to the whole world.

*Together for Europe?* Today this is more than ever necessary. In a Europe made up of many nations, you bear witness to the fact that we are children of one Father and brothers and sisters to one another. You are a precious seed of hope so that Europe can rediscover its vocation to contribute to the unity of all.

# St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

## SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Genesis 18:20-32(111C0

Responsorial:

Psalms 138:1-2,2-3,6-7,7-8

Second Reading:

Colossians 2:12-14

Gospel:

Luke 11:1-13

Today’s Missal

## Lectionary Readings for the week of July 24, 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 13:44-46

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 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 24, 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**

*Now it happened that he was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray, this is what to say: Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come; give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us. And do not put us to the test.'*

**Luke 11:1-4**



**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 Glouser  
Leonard Saunders  
Shirley Paige  
William and Jackie Cobbs  
Woody Alexander  
Lena Mickens  
Rosa Johnson  
Brenda and Ike Ligons  
Joe Fulmer  
Elaine Smoak

Work is part of God's plan for us. Through our work, we recognize our talents and use them to build the kingdom of God. Through our work as stewards, we live out our discipleship.



**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 & 9:00 AM Mass are all said for your own personal intentions

**Weekend Offering  
July 16-17, 2016**

Collection Not Available  
Needed \$2,612.00



*The Gathering Hymn* 40 M  
*God We Praise You*  
*The Offertory Hymn is* 643 H  
*Here I Am, Lord*  
*The Communion Hymn is* CHOIR 397 BB  
*Christ Be Beside Me*  
*Our Song of Praise is* 556 H  
*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*



Lector: Diane Begic  
E E Ministers: Pam Ziomek

**Saturday July 30**  
4:00 PM Vigil Mass

**Lay Ministers**

**Sunday July 31**  
7:00 AM Mass  
Denise Gelinas  
Roger Gelinas

**Sunday July 31**  
11:15 AM Mass  
Lisa Solenberger  
Mike Solenberger



**Saturday August 6**  
4:00 PM Vigil Mass

**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

Lector: Tami Schaeffer  
E E Ministers: Jerry Schaeffer

**Refreshments July 24**

Jackie Brown/Jeanette Coleman

**Refreshments July 31**

Jackie Cobb/Rosa DiStefano

**Refreshments August 7**

Sheila Wagner/Patricia Hayes

**Attendance July 16-17  
Not Available**



*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*

**I will be out of the office July 13-25. Mike**

**We are still in the planning stage for the bazaar this fall. Ideas welcome and requested. Contact office or Wayman.**

*The Legion of Mary is off for the next few weeks. Please continue to say the Rosary.*



**ACTS** has a position opening that supports our Women's Enrichment Program, 'Coffee with JoJo'. If you have questions or need more information, please call Carla at ACTS, 649-3800.

**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

*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.*

**Volunteer Corner: Thanks**

**Joan Hesik  
for helping in my absence.**

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

**Spirituality & Recovery  
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

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*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.

**Ministry at the End of Life**

The office of Continuing Education is offering a series of workshops on ministry at the end of life. Ministry to those near the end of life, those grieving, or those caring for the terminally ill is one of the most challenging things we are called to do as servants of Christ. These workshops will introduce us to the complex issues surrounding death including ethical issues, personal issues and ministerial issues. We will use presentations, role playing, case studies, and other learning experiences. Some readings will be suggested before attending the workshop.

This is the first in a series of full day workshops on end of life care. This is a suggested prerequisite for attending subsequent workshops. *The workshops are open to Priests, Religious, Deacons and Laity who serve those at the end of life and their caregivers.* The workshops will run from 8:30am-3:30pm (lunch provided). **Aiken Deanery, Thursday July 28, St. Mary Help of Christians Aiken** The workshop is limited to 30 participants; please register as soon as possible. To register for classes or more information contact Msgr. Ed Lofton or Helena Moniz [office@ssttheresachurch.com](mailto:office@ssttheresachurch.com) The cost is \$45.00. per person. Make checks payable to the Diocese of Charleston. Mail checks to Helena Moniz St. Theresa Church 11001 Dorchester Rd Summerville SC 29485

Shepard Community Blood Center and The Knights of Columbus will conduct a Blood Drive At the New Saint Mary Help of Christian Church On Fairfield Street. Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup> from 7:45 am to 2 pm A mothers tears cannot save her child's life but a pint of your blood can Please consider becoming a blood donor, and save someone's life perhaps even your own. One out of every Seven-hospital patients are in need of blood. Will you Choose 2 Give? Thank You.

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.

We need a fund raising committee and chair. This for the long term in order to keep this parish viable. We are planning for the bazaar but that can't be all we do.

*Stewardship a way of life*