

Pope Francis' General Audience: On Praying With Humility

"It is necessary to learn to rediscover the way to our heart, to recover the value of intimacy and silence, because it is there that God meets us and speaks to us"

Rome, June 1, 2016. zenit.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

Last Wednesday we heard the parable of the judge and the widow, on the need to pray with perseverance. Today, with another parable, Jesus wishes to teach us the right attitude with which to pray and to invoke the Father's mercy; how one must pray, the right attitude to pray. It is the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican (cf. *Luke* 18:9-14).

Both the protagonists go to the Temple to pray, but they act in very different ways, obtaining opposite results. The Pharisee "stood" (v. 11) to pray, and used many words. His prayer was one of thanksgiving addressed to God, but in reality it was a display of his merits, with a sense of superiority vis-a-vis "other men," described as "extortioners, unjust, adulterers," as, for example — and he points to the other who was there — "this tax collector" (v. 11). But the problem is precisely here: the Pharisee prays to God, but in truth he looks at himself. He prays to himself! Instead of having the Lord before his eyes, he has a mirror. Although being in the Temple, he does not feel the need to be prostrate before God's majesty; he is standing, he feels sure of himself, as if he were the owner of the Temple! He lists the good works he has done: he is irreproachable, observant of the Law beyond what is due, he fasts "twice a week" and pays "tithes" of all that he gets. In sum, more than praying, the Pharisee is pleased with his observance of the precepts. Yet his attitude and his words are far from the way of acting and of speaking of God, who loves all men and does not scorn sinners. On the contrary, that Pharisee scorns sinners, also when he points out the other who is there. In sum, the Pharisee, who considers himself just, neglects the most important Commandment: love of God and of one's neighbor.

Therefore, it is not enough to ask ourselves *how much* we pray; we must also ask ourselves *how* we pray, or better, *how our heart is*: it is important to examine it to evaluate our thoughts, our feelings, and to extirpate arrogance and hypocrisy. But, I ask: can one pray with arrogance? No. Can one pray with hypocrisy? No. We must only pray by putting ourselves before God as we are, not like the Pharisee who prayed with arrogance and hypocrisy. We are all prey of a frenetic daily rhythm, often at the mercy of sensations, bewildered, confused. It is necessary to learn to rediscover the way to our heart, to recover the value of intimacy and silence, because it is there that God meets us and speaks to us. Only beginning from there can we in turn encounter others and speak with them. The Pharisee went to the Temple, he is sure of himself, but he does not realize that he has lost the way of his heart.

The other, instead, the tax collector presents himself in the Temple with a humble and repentant spirit: "Standing far off, he would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven, but beat his breast" (v. 13). His prayer was very brief, it was not so long as that of the Pharisee: "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" — nothing more, a beautiful prayer! In fact, the tax collectors, called precisely "Publicans," were considered impure persons, subject to foreign dominators, they were not regarded well by the people and in general were associated with "sinners." The parable teaches that one is just or a sinner not because of one's social belonging, but by the way of relating to God and by the way of relating to one's brothers. The Publican's gestures of penance and his few and simple words attest to his awareness of his miserable condition. His prayer is essential. He acts humbly, certain only of being a sinner in need of mercy. If the Pharisee did not ask for anything because he already had everything, the Publican could only beg for God's mercy. And this is beautiful: to beg for God's mercy! Presenting himself with "empty hands," with a naked heart and acknowledging himself a sinner, the Publican shows all of us the necessary condition to receive the Lord's forgiveness. In the end, he who in fact was so scorned becomes an icon of the true believer.

Jesus ends the parable with a sentence: "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted" (v. 14). Of these two, who is the one who is corrupt? The Pharisee. The Pharisee is in fact the icon of the corrupt one that feigns to pray, but only succeeds in strutting in front of a mirror. He is corrupt and feigns to pray. So, in life, one who believes himself just and judges others and scorns them, is corrupt and hypocritical. Arrogance compromises every good action, empties prayer, distances one from God and from others. If God favors humility, it is not to humiliate us: rather humility is the necessary condition to be raised by Him, so as to experience the mercy that comes to fill our emptiness. If the prayer of the arrogant does not reach God's heart, the humility of the miserable one opens it wide. God has a weakness: a weakness for the humble. Before a humble heart, God opens His heart totally. It is this humility that the Virgin Mary expressed in the canticle of the *Magnificat*: "He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden. [...] His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation" (*Luke* 1:48.50). May she, our Mother, help us to pray with a humble heart, and let us repeat three times that beautiful prayer: "O God, have mercy on me a sinner."

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

The Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time June 5th, 2016

Mission Statement

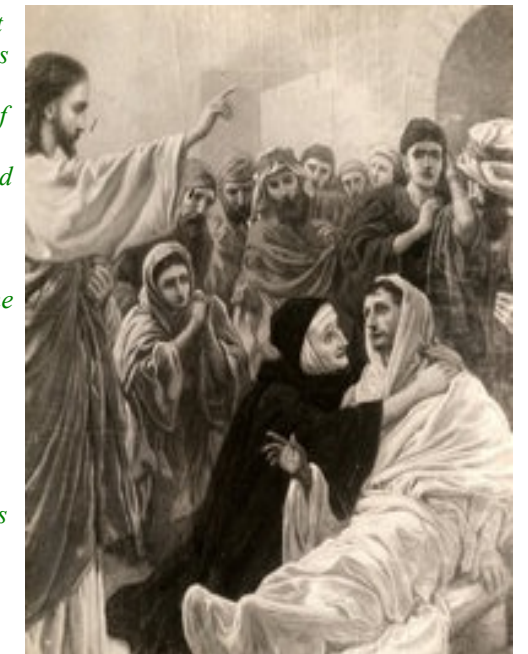
Called to be a People for Others

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

It happened that soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people. Now when he was near the gate of the town there was a dead man being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a considerable number of the townspeople was with her. When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her and said to her, 'Don't cry.' Then he went up and touched the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said, 'Young man, I tell you: get up.' And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Everyone was filled with awe and glorified God saying, 'A great prophet has risen up among us; God has visited his people.' And this view of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.



SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

1 Kings 17:17-24(90C)

Responsorial:

Psalm 30:2,4,5-6,11,12,13

Second Reading:

Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel:

Luke 7:11-17

Today's Missal

Lectionary Readings for the week of June 5, 2016

Monday: 1 Kings 17:1-6;

Matthew 5:1-12

Tuesday: 1 Kings 17:7-16;

Matthew 5:13-16

Wednesday: 1 Kings 18:20-39;

Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday: 1 Kings 18:41-46;

Matthew 5:20-26

Friday: 1 Kings 19:9a,11-16;

Matthew 5:27-32

Saturday: Acts 11:21b-26;13:1-3;

Matthew 5:33-37

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

First Friday Benediction after Mass

Weekend 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 resuming in the fall, **CCD:** Sundays 10:30 AM 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** 803 637-2027



Pray for our sick:
 Gary Gilbert
 Marge Glouser
 Leonard Saunders
 Shirley Paige
 William and Jackie Cobbs
 Woody Alexander
 Lena Mickens
 Rosa Johnson
 Brenda and Ike Ligons
 Joe Fulmer

The rewards of stewardship are plentiful. Stewards happily accept the call to give of themselves in response to the gracious gifts given to them. By helping others, stewards show their gratitude to God through their loving care for others.



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, 7:00 AM Masses
 are said for your own personal intentions,
 9:00 AM Mass for Sophia Fernandes from Natalie Perks

Weekend Offering
 May 29, 2016
 Collection \$1,472.00
 Needed \$2,612.00
 Under \$1,140.00
 Attendance 107

The Gathering Hymn 31 M
We Gather Together
The Offertory Hymn is 42 M
In His Temple Now Behold Him
The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 442 BB
How Can I Keep From Singing
Our Song of Praise is 24 M
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name



Stewardship a way of life



Lector: Tami Schaeffer
E E Ministers: Jerry Schaeffer

Saturday June 11
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass

Saturday June 18
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass

Lector: David Didimamoff
E E Ministers: Barbara Dixon

Lay Ministers

Saturday June 11	Sunday June 12	Sunday June 12
4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	9:00 AM Mass
Tami Schaeffer	Mary Key L'Esperance	Patricia Hayes
Jerry Schaeffer	Gerard L'Esperance	Jeanette Coleman

Saturday June 18	Sunday June 19	Sunday June 19
4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	9:00 AM Mass
David Didimamoff	Denise Gelinis	Janet Menefee
Barbara Dixon	Roger Gelinis	Mary Rose

Refreshments June 5
 Jackie Brown/Jeanette Coleman

Refreshments June 12
 Jean Schodowski/Rosa DiStefano

Refreshments June 19
 Sheila Wagner/Patricia Hayes



The Legion of Mary
 1:30 PM Fridays

Ask Cathy Ciani about membership

No Bible study till fall.
 RCIA is on hold for new candidates.
 Finance and Parish council Meetings on 6/14/16 at 4:30 and 6:30 respectively

We pray for the health of Fr. Emmanuel, Fr. Ernie and Fr. Don.

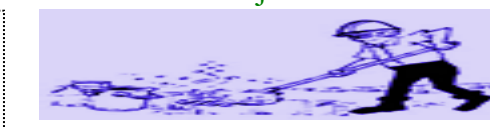
Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Tuesdays at the 8:15 Mass

This Feed The Valley Weekend. Thank You

Our Lady of The Valley

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

Outside clean-up on June 11th from 7:30 AM-Until. We will do some landscaping and power washing. We will also sort out items in the building that we can throw out. Come join us.



FREE EVENT
 Open to the public
 113 Langley Dam Rd.
 Burnetown, SC

acts
 AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER SERVING

Aiken County PRT
 South Carolina's First Drive

2ND ANNUAL CAR SHOW
 A Drive Against Hunger,
 Come Ride With Us

Fun for the Whole Family

June 11, 2016 10 am - 2 pm

Non-perishable food & Financial donations

Volunteer Corner
 Thanks to Agnes Beckert for singing at the 4:00 PM Mass Wonderful Voice

The Office of Continuing Education of Priests will offer a three-part workshop on "Ministering to the Dying and Grieving" on Wednesday, June 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Ministries & Administration building (Corley Conference Room), St. Joseph Church, 3512 Devine St. Columbia, SC 29205. The cost will be \$30. Of all the Church's various ministries, caring for and supporting dying and grieving persons (and caregivers) is one of the most critical. The pastoral ministry of care for such persons is one of the functions that priests, deacons and lay ministers perform regularly, sacramentally and otherwise. We who provide care do our best when we have the confidence of faith, and the knowledge and skills needed to minister to those dying and grieving. This workshop will be the first of several on this ministry in the forthcoming Pastoral Care track that Continuing Education is developing. Since each subsequent workshop will build on the previous ones, we suggest taking them in order, though that is not required. Each of the workshops in this series will be offered several times at different locations throughout the diocese. Various professionals will offer their perspectives (palliative care physicians, music therapists, hospice providers, psychologists, thanatologists, and clergy). To register please contact Helena Moniz or Msgr. Lofton at office@ssttheresachurch.com

THIS WEEKEND
 The Knights of Columbus
 Are asking you to help save local lives! Sheppard Community Blood Center will conduct a blood drive At the new Saint Mary Help of Christian Church On Fairfield Street
Saturday, from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Sunday, from 7:45am -2:00 pm
 Blood is the living fluid that all life is based on. Give the gift that keeps on living. Donate Blood.
 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.
 Thank you

"A wedding is a day, a marriage is a lifetime!"
 Catholic Engaged Encounter invites you to attend an in-parish weekend, (Sat. all day and Sunday till about 3pm – no overnight accommodations provided) – which is a highly effective marriage prep program designed to meet the needs of today's engaged couples. This program will be held at St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church in Clemson, SC, Saturday, July 23 and Sunday, July 24. For more information or to register:
www.cce-sc.org

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. Additional application guidance will be provided.

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

The Tour of Mid-Life Transitions
 June 13-17 & August 8-12, 2016
 In Phase One of life each person will be guided by their chosen archetype that helps in creating a personal and professional life-style and identity. By mid-life each person will move into their second archetype and experience a second birth that can lead to wonderment and bliss or if resisted and ignored depression and darkness. How do you cross the "poison river" of mid-life so that the journey to personal and professional transformation can be completed? Learning how to navigate the deep waters of mid-life will be our shared exploration during this week of dare and adventure.
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
themerccenter@aol.com

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.

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> see below

DIOCESAN MISSION STATEMENT
 To proclaim the "Good News" and draw young people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, which will radically challenge and encourage them to embrace the life and mission of the Catholic Church.
DIOCESAN MISSIONARY TEAM VISION
 The vision for the Diocesan Missionary Team (DMT) is to reach young people "on the ground" in their parishes and Catholic schools. The DMT will evangelize young people where they are in their faith life. They will do this by offering young people an opportunity to not only hear about the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ but to learn and understand the grace of the truth that will set them free. It is the vision of the DMT that once young people have experienced the transformational grace and mercy of Jesus Christ, they will hunger and thirst to go deeper in their own Catholic faith life.
WHY DO WE NEED A DIOCESAN MISSIONARY TEAM?
 1. Youth leave the church because they have not encountered Christ and his unending love 2. 80% of Catholics are no longer Catholic by the time they are 23 3. Only 30% of Americans who were raised catholic are still practicing 4. 10% of all adults in America are ex-Catholics