

Every one of us is a story of God's love. God calls every one of us by our name: He knows us by name, He looks at us, He waits for us, He forgives us, He has patience with us'

Rome, May 17, 2017. Zenit.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In these weeks our reflection is moving, so to speak, in the orbit of the paschal mystery. Today we meet her who, according to the Gospels, was the first to see Jesus Risen: Mary Magdalene. The Sabbath rest had just ended. On the day of the Passion there was no time to complete the funeral rites; therefore, on that dawn full of sadness, the women went to Jesus' tomb with perfumed unguents. The first to arrive was she, Mary of Magdala, one of the disciples that had accompanied Jesus from Galilee, putting themselves at the service of the nascent Church. Reflected in her path to the sepulcher is the fidelity of so many women who are devoted for years to the paths of cemeteries, in memory of someone who is no longer. The most genuine bonds are not broken not even by death: one continues to love even if the beloved person has gone forever.

The Gospel (Cf. *John* 20:1-2.11-18) describes Magdalene, making it evident immediately that she was not a woman of easy enthusiasms. In fact, after the first visit to the sepulcher, she returned disappointed to the place where the disciples were hiding; she said that the stone was moved from the entrance to the sepulcher, and her first theory is the simplest that can be formulated: someone must have stolen Jesus' body. Thus, the first announcement that Mary brings is not that of the Resurrection, but of a robbery that unknowns perpetrated, while the whole of Jerusalem was asleep.

Then the Gospels tell of a second trip of Magdalene to Jesus' sepulcher. She was headstrong! She went, she returned . . . because she was not convinced! This time her step is slow, very heavy. Mary suffers doubly: first of all because of Jesus' Death, and then because of the inexplicable disappearance of His body.

It is while she is kneeling close to the tomb, with her eyes filled with tears, that God surprises her in the most unexpected way. The evangelist John stresses how persistent her blindness was: she is not aware of the presence of two Angels who question her, and does not even get suspicious seeing the man behind her, that she thinks is the guardian of the garden. And instead she discovers the most overwhelming event of human history, when she is finally called by her name: "Mary!" (v. 6).

How lovely it is to think that the first apparition of the Risen One — according to the Gospels — happened in such a personal way! That there is some one who knows us, who sees our suffering and disappointment, and who is moved for us, and calls us by name. It is a law that we find engraved in many pages of the Gospel. There are so many persons that seek God around Jesus, but the most prodigious reality is that, long before, it is first of all God who is concerned for our life, who wants to uplift it, and to do this He calls us by name, recognizing each one's personal face. Every man is a story of love that God writes on this earth.

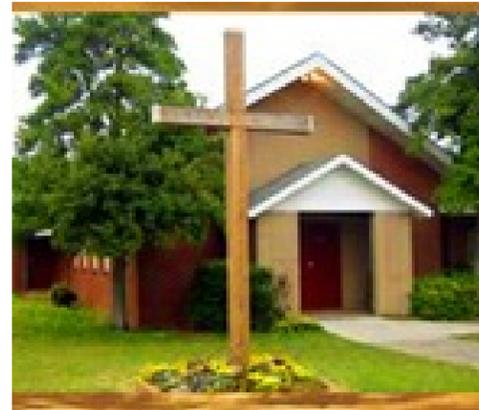
Every one of us is a story of God's love. God calls every one of us by our name: He knows us by name, He looks at us, He waits for us, He forgives us, He has patience with us. Is this true or is it not true? Every one of us has this experience.

And Jesus calls her: "Mary!" the revolution of her life, the revolution destined to transform the existence of every man and woman, begins with a name that echoes in the garden of the empty sepulcher. The Gospel describes for us Mary's happiness: Jesus' Resurrection is not a joy given in dribs and drabs but a cascade that assails the whole of life. Christian existence is not woven of soft happiness, but of waves that overwhelm everything. You also try to think at this moment, with the baggage of disappointments and defeats that each one bears in the heart, that there is a God close to us who calls us by name and says to us: "Rise, stop crying, because I have come to free you!" This is beautiful.

Jesus is not one who adapts Himself to the world, tolerating that in it death, sadness, hatred, the moral destruction of persons should endure . . . Our God is not inert, But our God – I permit myself the word – is a dreamer: He dreams of the transformation of the world, and He realized it in the mystery of the Resurrection.

Mary wanted to embrace her Lord, but He is now oriented to the celestial Father, while she is sent to bring the announcement to brothers. And so that woman, who before encountering Jesus was at the mercy of the Evil One (Cf. *Luke* 8:2), has now become *apostle of the new and greatest hope*. May her intercession help us also to live this experience: in the hour of weeping and in the hour of abandonment, to listen to the Risen Jesus who calls us by name and, with a heart full of joy, go to announce: "I have seen the Lord!" (v.18). I have changed my life because I saw the Lord! Now I am different from before, I am another person. I have changed because I saw the Lord. This is our strength and this is our 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 8:5-8,14-17(55A)

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 66:1-3,4-5,6-7,16,20

Second Reading:

1 Peter 3:15-18

Gospel:

John 14:15-21

Lectionary Readings for Week of May 21, 2017

Monday: *Acts 16:11-15;*

John 15:26-16:4a

Tuesday: *Acts 16:22-34;*

John 16:5-11

Wednesday: *Acts 17:155,22-18:1;*

John 16:12-158

Thursday: *Acts 18:1-8;*

John 16:16-20

Friday: *Acts 18:9-18;*

John 16:20-23

Saturday: *Acts 18:23-28;*

John 16:23b-28

The Sixth Sunday of Easter May 21, 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.*



I shall not leave you orphans; I shall come to you. John 14:18

Mass Times: Weekdays Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:15 AM, **No weekday Masses till May 23**

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 **No bible study till May 26**

RCIA: Contact Deacon Joe **843 743-8779**

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
 Rosa Johnson
 Brenda Ligon
 Joe Fulmer

Weekend Offering
May 14, 2017

Collection \$3,836.00
 Needed \$2,612.00
Over \$1,224.00

Attendance 127
Stewardship a way of life

The word "repent" means to turn from sin, to change our actions. When it comes to change, do we take responsibility for change or do we think that others have to change instead? Change that is permanent comes from within, we must take control and disciplined. Remember though that we are not alone, Jesus is there to help lighten the load. Archbishop Carlson



Mass Intentions
 4:00 PM for The Beckert's 45th Anniversary, 11:00 AM Mass for Cayla Beckert's 4th Birthday From The Beckerts
 7:00 AM is said for your own personal intentions.

The Gathering Hymn 732 BB
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
Asperges 934 BB
Water of Life
The Offertory Hymn 737 BB
Alleluia, Sing to Jesus
The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 527 BB
Prayer of St. Francis
Our Song of Praise is 187 BB/87 M
Go Make of All Disciples



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



Saturday May 27
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
 Lector: Linda Cooper
 E E Ministers: Mary Rose



Saturday June 3
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
 Lector: Joan Hesik
 E E Ministers: Ellen Heim

Lay Ministers

Sunday May 28
 7:00 AM Mass
 Denise Gelinas
 Roger Gelinas

Sunday June 4
 7:00 AM Mass
 Mary Kay L'Esperance
 Gerard L'Esperance

Sunday May 28
 11:00 AM Mass
 Paula Thurston
 Jeanette Coleman

Sunday June 4
 11:00 AM Mass
 Cathy Ciani
 Wayman Johnson

Refreshments May 21
 Jean Jackie Brown/Rosa DiStefano

Refreshments May 28
 Jackie Cobb/Rosa Johnson

Refreshments June 4
 Sheila Wagner/Matt Fitzpatrick

The Legion of Mary is meeting at 1:30 on Fridays. Please consider joining. Call Paula Thurston at 803 226-1120

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



It is time to take pictures for the new Church Directory
Dates for photos are June 2nd, 3rd & 4th You can get on line and schedule yourself at <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/9rjrez14/>
Anyone that can't get the on line site to work please call or e-mail the office. We need everyone to register. We have a limited number of pictures we can submit, at no cost, for people that will not be available for photo sessions. If we don't get more registrations we will have to cancel.

Planning has begun for the Saint Gerard annual Fall Festival.
 Although it is scheduled for October, there is much work to be done. Our parish's health and growth are contingent on the success of the festival. There are many aspects of the event, all of which need volunteers and people to take the lead. Please consider participating or leading one of the following ways: Silent Auction, Bake Sale, Youth Activities, Set Up, Clean Up, Food Service, Registration, Cash Handling, Vendor Coordinator, Signs, Artwork, as well as may more opportunities. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, at 7PM at the parish. Contact the church office or Deacon Joe at josephadennis@yahoo.com or 843-743-8779. We need your help, your time, and your talents in order to be a success.

Volunteer Corner:
 Need help with coverage for the weekend of the directory photos June 2-3 & 4. Any and all help will be appreciated. Call Office
Thanks Ron

Monday June 5th at 7:00 PM we are having a, get to know your church and its members, gathering. There will be light refreshments a brief film about St. Gerard Church's beginning and discussion with some of our founding members. This is presented by the members of the fledgling men's and woman's groups. Please plan to attend. A time to meet members from all Masses. Make St. Gerard one community

Little Bethlehem Christians will be here May 27 & 28 selling Rosewood crafts from The Holy Land in support of Christians there.

Please join St. Mary Help of Christians in Aiken, SC for

Stoke the Fire: Rekindling Your Gift of the Holy Spirit
 May 27 * May 31 * June 3
 Old St. Mary's on Park Ave.
 3-Day Retreat on the Holy Spirit, featuring Fr. Dave Pivonka TOR and The Wild Goose series. The retreat is open to all ages and is intended to help you deepen your relationship with the Person of the Holy Spirit. Each day is independent from the others. There is no charge. Study guides and materials will be provided. Bring a friend!

Day 1: Saturday, May 27 - After morning Mass (approx. 9 a.m.)
 Featuring: God's Love Poured Out
 Short talk on the Gift of Fear
 Day 2: Wednesday, May 31 - After evening Mass (approx. 6 p.m.)
 Featuring: The Breath of God
 Short talk on the Gift of Understanding
 Day 3: Saturday, June 3 - After morning Mass (approx. 9 a.m.)
 Featuring: Baptism in the Spirit and Fire
 Short talk on the Fruits of the Holy Spirit
 For more information contact Mary Ellen Jackson at 803.642.2676 or mejackson@stmarys-aiken.org

Family Charitable Outreach:
 Contact Marge Glauser or the office.

Have a Heart Donate Blood!
The Knights of Columbus need you to Help save local lives!
Shepard Community Blood Center will conduct a Blood Drive

At Saint Mary Help of Christian Church On Fairfield Street.
Saturday, June 3rd from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Sunday, June 4th from 7:45 am- 1:30 pm
Blood cannot be harvested it can only be donated!
Healthy donors are the only source.

This means you can save a life by becoming a donor. Donate Blood so that others may live. Will you Choose 2 Give? Every Blood Donor is a Hero! Donors should drink plenty of water prior to donating!
You will need a picture ID, driver's license, or donor card to donate.

Each donor will receive a T-Shirt and a Free Lipid Profile after your 3rd donation in a calendar year
THE NEED IS CONSTANT.
THE GRATIFICATION IS INSTANT.
GIVE BLOOD.



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.

If you know of someone that needs The Blessed Sacrament brought to their home or hospital please call the office.

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