

## Pope Francis' General Audience: On Baptism, Door of Hope

'Martyrs have the certain hope that nothing and no one can separate them from the love of God'

Rome, August 2, 2017. Zenit.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

There was a time when the churches were oriented to the East. One entered the sacred building by a door open to the West and, walking in the nave, one was directed to the East. It was an important symbol for ancient man, an allegory that in the course of history progressively declined. We men of the modern age, much less used to gathering the great signs of the cosmos, almost never notice a particular of the sort. The West is the cardinal point of the sunset, where light dies. The East, instead, is the place where the darkness is overcome by the early light of dawn and reminds us of Christ, Sun come from on High to the horizon of the world (Cf. *Luke 1:78*). The ancient rites of Baptism foresaw that the catechumens should emit the first part of their profession of faith with their eyes turned to the West. And in that position, they were asked: "Do you renounce Satan, his service and his works?" And the future Christians repeated in unison: "I renounce!" Then they turned to the apse, in the direction of the East, where light is born, and the candidates to Baptism were again asked: "Do you believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?" And this time they answered: "I believe!" In modern times, the fascination of this rite has been partially lost: we have lost sensitivity to the language of the cosmos. The profession of faith of course remains, made according to the baptismal interrogation, which is proper to the celebration of some Sacraments. In any case, it remains intact in its meaning. What does it mean to be Christians? It means to look at the light, to continue to make the profession of faith in the light, including when the world is enveloped by night and darkness.

Christians are not exempt from darkness, external and also internal. They don't live outside of the world, however, by the grace of Christ received in Baptism, they are "oriented" men and women: they don't believe in darkness, but in the light of day; they do not succumb to the night, but wait for the dawn; they are not defeated by death, but long to rise again; they are not bowed by evil, because they always trust in the infinite possibility of the good. And this is our Christian hope: the light of Jesus, the salvation that Jesus brings us with His light, which saves us from the darkness.

We are those that believe that God is Father: this is the light! We are not orphans, we have a Father and our Father is God. We believe that Jesus descended among us, walked in our same life, making Himself above all companion of the poorest and frailest: this is the light! We believe that the Holy Spirit works ceaselessly for the good of humanity and of the world, and even the greatest sorrows of history will be overcome: this is the hope to which we wake up again every morning! We believe that every affection, every friendship, every good desire, every love, even the most minute and neglected, will find their fulfillment one day in God: this is the force that drives us to embrace enthusiastically our everyday life! And this is our hope: to live in hope and to live in the light, in the light of God the Father, in the light of Jesus the Savior, in the light of the Holy Spirit that pushes us to go on in life.

Then there is another very beautiful sign of the Baptismal Liturgy, which reminds us of the importance of light. At the end of the rite, a candle is handed to the parents – if it is a baby – or to the one baptized – if he is an adult – whose flame is lighted with the Paschal candle. It is the large candle that in the Easter Vigil enters the church, which is completely dark, to manifest the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection. From that candle, all light their own candle and spread the flame to their neighbors: in that sign is the gradual propagation of Jesus' Resurrection in the lives of all Christians. The life of the Church — I will say a rather strong word — is 'contaminazione' [contamination] of light. The more light of Jesus we Christians have, the more light of Jesus there is in the life of the Church, the more she is alive. The life of the Church is 'contaminazione' [contamination] of light.

The most beautiful exhortation we can address to one another is that of reminding ourselves always of our Baptism. I would like to ask you: how many of you remember the date of your Baptism? Don't answer because some might be embarrassed! Think about it and if you don't remember it, you have a task to do at home today: go to your mother, your father, your aunt, your uncle your grandmother, grandfather and ask them: "What was the date of my Baptism?" And never forget it again! Is this clear? Will you do it? Today's commitment is to learn or to remember the date of Baptism, which is the date of rebirth, it is the date of light, it is the date in which — I allow myself a word — in which we were contaminated by the light of Christ. We were born twice: the first to natural life; the second, thanks to the encounter with Christ, in the baptismal font. There we died to death, to live as children of God in this world. There we became human as we could never have imagined. See why we must all spread the perfume of the Chrism with which we were marked on the day of our Baptism. The Spirit of Jesus lives and works in us, firstborn of many brothers, of all those that are opposed to the ineluctability of darkness and death.

What a grace when a Christian truly becomes a "christ-opher, [Christopher]" that is, a "Christ-bearer" in the world! — especially for those going through situations of mourning, of despair, of darkness and of hatred. And this is understood by many small particulars: by the light that a Christian keeps in his eyes, by the background of serenity which is not even affected in the most complicated days, by the desire to begin to love again even when one has experienced many disappointments. In the future, when the history of our days is written, what will be said of us? That we were capable of hope or that we put our light under the bushel? If we are faithful to our Baptism, we will spread the light of hope, Baptism is the beginning of hope, that hope of God and we will be able to transmit to the future generations reasons for living.

# 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:

*Daniel 7:9-10,13-14(614)*

### Responsorial Psalm:

*Psalm 97:1-2,5-6,9*

### Second Reading:

*2 Peter 1:16-19*

### Gospel:

*Matthew 17:1-9*

### Today's Missal

### Lectionary Readings for Week of August 6, 2017

**Monday:** *Numbers 11:4b-15;*

*Matthew 14:13-21*

**Tuesday** *Numbers 12:1-13;*

*Matthew 14:22-36*

**Wednesday:** *Numbers 13:1-2,25-*

*14:1,26-29a,34-35;*

*Matthew 15:21-28*

**Thursday:** *2 Corinthians 9:6-10;*

*John 12:24-26*

**Friday:** *Deuteronomy 4:32-40;*

*Matthew 16:24-28*

**Saturday:** *Deuteronomy 6:4-13;*

*Matthew 19:27-30*

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

First Friday Benediction after Mass

Weekend Saturday Vigil 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:** 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**

## The Transfiguration of The Lord August 6, 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.*

*Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother, John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." Matthew 17:1-5*



**Pray for our sick:**  
 Marge Glauser  
 Leonard Saunders  
 Shirley Paige  
 William and Jackie Cobbs  
 Woody Alexander  
 Rosa Johnson  
 Brenda Ligons  
 Joe Fulmer  
 Jean Schodowski  
 Agnes Beckert  
 Dick Smoot

**Weekend Offering**  
**July 30, 2017**

Collected \$2,352.00  
 Needed \$2,612.00  
 Short \$260.00  
 Attendance 110

*Stewardship a way of life*

Stewards of God's gifts are not passive beneficiaries. We cooperate with God in our own redemption and in the redemption of others. We are also obliged to be stewards of the Church. USCCB





**Mass Intentions:**  
 4:00 PM for the soul of Sue Hesik form The Hesiks,  
 7:00 & 11:00 AM Masses are said for your own personal intentions.

*The Gathering Hymn 539 BB*  
*All Creatures of Our God and King*  
*The Offertory Hymn 124 BB*  
*'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here*  
*The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 41 M*  
*Transfigure Us, O Lord*  
*Our Song of Praise is 42 M*  
*Tell the Good News*



**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:**  
 Vacant,  
 Chairman  
 Anna Marie Key,  
 Auditor  
 Agnes Beckert  
 Art Wagner  
 Clyde Hall

	<b>Lay Ministers</b>			
	<b>Saturday August 12</b>	<b>Sunday August 13</b>	<b>Sunday August 13</b>	
<b>Lector:</b>	Linda Cooper	Mary Kay L'Esperance	Patricia Hayes	
<b>E E Ministers:</b>	Jerry Schaeffer	Gerard L'Esperance	Jackie Brown	
	<b>Saturday August 19</b>	<b>Sunday August 20</b>	<b>Sunday August 20</b>	
<b>Lector:</b>	Diane Begic	Denise Gelinas	Paula Thurston	
<b>E E Ministers:</b>	Mary Rose	Roger Gelinas	Jeanette Coleman	
<b>Refreshments August 6</b>	<b>Refreshments August 13</b>	<b>Refreshments August 13</b>	<b>Refreshments August 20</b>	
Janet Menefee/Joan Lacombe	Jackie Cobbs/Rosa DiStefano	Jackie Brown/Jeanette Coleman	Jackie Brown/Jeanette Coleman	

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*



**Registration has begun for the Saint Gerard Religious Education program 2017-2018 school year. Classes will be available for ages 3/4 through those recently confirmed. It is the diocese's policy that each child be enrolled in a religious education program two years prior to first Eucharist and two years prior to Confirmation. Please see the representative after each Mass to sign up or contact the church office at 803-649-3203 or Dottie Dennis at 843-743-8676. Registration forms are also available in the church hall lobby. Classes will begin in September and will be held on Sundays at 10 AM in the church hall. Please contact the Dottie Dennis if you wish to assist with Religious Education this year, either teaching or as an assistant. 843-743-8676 or [o2readmore@yahoo.com](mailto:o2readmore@yahoo.com)**

**The Saint Gerard Men's and Ladies Groups meet again this Monday, August 7, 7PM in the church hall. The topic will be discussion and planning for a silent auction event.**

**Volunteer Corner:**  
**Thanks to all of you that volunteer here at St. Gerard.**  
**We could not do it with out you.**

**Family Charitable Outreach:**  
 Contact Marge Glauser-Hall or the office.

**Handyman or 2 (or 3) Needed!**  
 We are happy to announce that Lowe's has graciously donated all the materials needed to build the children's games for the Fall Festival. Now, we need volunteers to build the games. If you have tools, space and skills please contact Dot Dennis at [o2readmore@yahoo.com](mailto:o2readmore@yahoo.com) or call/text 843-743-8676 Please contact Dot Dennis at [o2readmore@yahoo.com](mailto:o2readmore@yahoo.com) or call/text 843-743-8676 if you have an empty aquarium that we can borrow for the Fall Festival on Oct. 14

**Your Spiritual Guide to the HOLY LAND & Holy Sites**  
 Our Vision is to assist Catholics/Christians have a truly spiritual and meaningful pilgrimage experience while touring the Holy Land and other major religious sites in Europe,  
 call us at **1-844-400-9559**

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 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.

**The Saint Gerard Fall Festival Committee meets again this Wednesday, August 9, 6PM in the church hall. Please join us to see how you can help with your festival.**

Second Collection next week for Archdiocese for The Military Service

If you are on the Eucharistic Minister, Lector of refreshment schedule and have a conflict please switch with someone so we have someone serving.

**No Smart Phone... No Problem! Call 1 (712) 832-2674**  
 During our visits around the diocese, many have said, "I don't have a smart phone 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 land line 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.

**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](mailto:stgerardscatholi@atlanticbbn.net). You should follow this advice for Nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities also.

**BLACK CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE**  
**OCTOBER 5-7, 2017 MIAMI , FLORIDA**  
 The Bowman Francis Ministry team would like to invite you to the fourteen annual Black Catholic Men's conference in Miami Florida October 5-7. This conference invitation is extended to all males and youth males 10-17 years of age. Come to the conference and be blessed to be the best youth you can be in the church, community and world. If you have any concerns you can reached me at 317-523-0900 or check out the ministry at [bowmanfrancisministry.com](http://bowmanfrancisministry.com)

Fr. Chester Smith FOR BROCHURE: Click link below. [http://www.bowmanfrancisministry.com/men\\_s\\_conference](http://www.bowmanfrancisministry.com/men_s_conference)

**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**

