

**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, Jacob Hershey, and James Rossini. Prayer's Humility for Solemnity of Epiphany  
 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 the signs which God offers us. Interpret them in the name of Jesus, interpret them and thus to understand his will. our Lord and Savior. Amen.  
 January 6, 2016, Vatican City, Zenit.org

The words of the Prophet Isaiah – addressed to the Holy City of Jerusalem – are also meant for us. They call us to rise and go forth, to leave behind all that keeps us self-enclosed, to go out from ourselves and to recognize the splendour of the light which illumines our lives: “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you” (60:1). That “light” is the glory of the Lord. The Church cannot delude herself into thinking that she shines with her own light. Saint Ambrose expresses this nicely by presenting the moon as a metaphor for the Church: “The moon is in fact the Church... [she] shines not with her own light, but with the light of Christ. She draws her brightness from the Sun of Justice, and so she can say: ‘It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me’” (Hexaameron, IV, 8, 32). Christ is the true light shining in the darkness. To the extent that the Church remains anchored in him, to the extent that she lets herself be illumined by him, she is able to bring light into the lives of individuals and peoples. For this reason the Fathers of the Church saw in her the *mysterium lunae*.

We need this light from on high if we are to respond in a way worthy of the vocation we have received. To proclaim the Gospel of Christ is not simply one option among many, nor is it a profession. For the Church, to be missionary does not mean to proselytize: for the Church to be missionary means to give expression to her very nature, which is to receive God’s light and then to reflect it. This is her service. There is no other way. Mission is her vocation; to shine Christ’s light is her service. How many people look to us for this missionary commitment, because they need Christ. They need to know the face of the Father.

The Magi mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew are a living witness to the fact that the seeds of truth are present everywhere, for they are the gift of the Creator, who calls all people to acknowledge him as good and faithful Father. The Magi represent the men and woman throughout the world who are welcomed into the house of God. Before Jesus, all divisions of race, language and culture disappear: in that Child, all humanity discovers its unity. The Church has the task of seeing and showing ever more clearly the desire for God which is present in the heart of every man and woman. This is the service of the Church, with the light that she reflects: to draw out the desire for God present in every heart. Like the Magi, countless people, in our own day, have a “restless heart” which continues to seek without finding sure answers – it is the restlessness of the Holy Spirit that stirs in hearts. They too are looking for a star to show them the path to Bethlehem. How many stars there are in the sky! And yet the Magi followed a new and different star, which for them shone all the more brightly. They had long peered into the great book of the heavens, seeking an answer to their questions – they had restless hearts –, and at long last the light appeared. That star changed them. It made them leave their daily concerns behind and set out immediately on a journey. They listened to a voice deep within, which led them to follow that light. It was the voice of the Holy Spirit, who works in all people. The star guided them, until they found the King of the Jews in a humble dwelling in Bethlehem.

All this has something to say to us today. We do well to repeat the question asked by the Magi: “Where is the child who has been born the King of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage” (Mt 2:2). We are impelled, especially in an age like our own, to seek the signs which God offers us, realizing that great effort is needed to interpret them and thus to understand his will. We are challenged to go to Bethlehem, to find the Child and his Mother. Let us follow the light which God offers us – that tiny light. The hymn in the breviary poetically tells us that the Magi *lumen requirunt lumine* – that tiny light. The light which streams from the face of Christ, full of mercy and fidelity. And once we have found him, let us worship him with all our heart, and present him with our gifts: our freedom, our understanding and our love. True wisdom lies concealed in the face of this Child. It is here, in the simplicity of Bethlehem, that the life of the Church is summed up. For here is the wellspring of that light which draws to itself every individual in the world and guides the journey of the peoples along the path of peace.

# St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

## The Baptism of The Lord January 10, 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.*

**Fr. Emmanuel Andinam: Administrator**

### SUNDAY READINGS

**First Reading:**

*Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7*

**Responsorial:**

*Psalms 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10*

**Second Reading:**

*Acts 10:34-38*

**Gospel:**

*Luke 3:15-16, 21-22*

*Today’s Missal*

### Lectionary Readings for the week of January 10, 2016

Monday: 1 Samuel 1:1-8;

Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Samuel 1:9-20;

Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20;

Mark 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Samuel 4:1-11;

Mark 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a;

Mark 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1;

Mark 2:13-17

*A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to wonder whether John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, who is more powerful than me, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Now it happened that when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in a physical form, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son; today have I fathered you.'*

**Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**



**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 (Insight to the scriptures)

**Baptisms, Confirmations and Marriages:** By Appointment, Contact the office.

**Contact Us:** Phone 803 649-3203, E-Mail [stgerardscatholi@atlanticcbbn.net](mailto:stgerardscatholi@atlanticcbbn.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 Ligon  
 Joe Fulmer  
 Patricia Bailey

*This month, on the first Sunday, we celebrate that Christ came to all of us, not just the Hebrews. He made us all one body with Him. We were all given different gifts; we all have different yet equally valuable roles to play in the Body of Christ. Ask God how He wants you to use your gifts so that we may all "be one" in this Year of Mercy and support St Gerard Parish.*



**Pastoral Council:**  
 Wayman Johnson,  
 Chairman  
 Payson Borst  
 Jacqueline Brown  
 Fredrick Cadek  
 Nancy Durden  
 Marge Glauser  
 Janet Menefee  
 Gregory Wright  
 Joan Hesik

**Finance Council:**  
 Robert Erikson,  
 Chairman  
 Leon Gagnon and  
 Anna Marie Key,  
 Auditors  
 Lisa Solenberger  
 Art Wagner

**Mass Intentions**  
 4:00 PM, 7:00 AM Masses  
 are said for your own personnel intentions.  
 11:15 AM for The McCoola and Lacombe Families

**Weekend Offering**  
 January 2-3, 2016

Collection	\$4,174.00
Needed	\$2,612.00
Over	\$1,562.00
Attendance	125

*Stewardship a way of life*

<i>The Gathering Hymn</i>	22 H
<i>On Jordan's Bank</i>	
<i>The Offertory Hymn is</i>	94 H
<i>When Jesus Comes to be Baptized</i>	
<i>The Communion Hymn is CHOIR</i>	750 H
<i>Taste and See</i>	
<i>Our Song of Praise is</i>	93 M
<i>Songs of Thankfulness and Praise</i>	



	<b>Lay Ministers</b>	
	<b>Saturday January 16</b>	<b>Sunday January 17</b>
<b>Lector:</b>	4:00 PM Vigil Mass Joan Hesik	7:00 AM Mass Denise Gelinas
<b>E E Ministers:</b>	Jerry Schaeffer	Roger Gelinas
	<b>Saturday January 23</b>	<b>Sunday January 24</b>
<b>Lector:</b>	4:00 PM Vigil Mass Tami Schaeffer	7:00 AM Mass Mary Kay L'Esperance
<b>E E Ministers:</b>	Jerry Schaeffer	Gerard L'Esperance
	<b>Sunday January 17</b>	<b>Sunday January 17</b>
	11:15 AM Mass Sheila Wagner	11:15 AM Mass Sheila Wagner
	Jeanette Coleman	Jeanette Coleman
	<b>Sunday January 24</b>	<b>Sunday January 24</b>
	11:15 AM Mass Janet Menefee	11:15 AM Mass Janet Menefee
	Marge Glauser	Marge Glauser



**Refreshments January 17**  
 Janet Menefee/Joan Lacombe

**Counters January 17**  
 Nancy Durden/ Open

*The Legion of Mary meets Fridays at 1:00 PM here at the church. Please come and sit in and think about joining. We need to pray the Rosary.*



*No Bible study on Friday January 15<sup>th</sup> It will continue January 22<sup>nd</sup>*



*Don't forget supper on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM, final count was submitted Friday.*



*Christmas offering*  
 \$3,019.00  
*Attendance 146*  
*December 27<sup>th</sup>*  
 \$1,773.00  
*Attendance 62*  
*New Years*  
 \$634.00  
*Attendance 48*

*We need two or more people to count the collections on a regular schedule. For the past number of years we have one person scheduling counters. She needs a break. Please help out. We don't want monies sitting in the safe for days. The collections need to be counted and deposited ASAP.*

*I wish to apologize for the oversight in the last bulletin of 2015. I failed to list Mass times for December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>. I hope this didn't cause anyone to miss Mass. Mike*

**The next Finance Council meeting is 19 January at 5:30 PM, parish council meeting follows at 6:30 PM.**

**There will be no week day Masses during the week of January 11<sup>th</sup>. Father will be at the convocation in Myrtle Beach, SC. Please pray for Father to have a safe trip.**

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

**Volunteer Corner**  
 A belated thanks to Nancy Durden, Jackie Brown and company for decorating the Altar. Thanks to Joan Lacombe and the choir for our Christmas music.

**Light up someone's life, Donate Blood The Gift of Life.**  
**The Knights of Columbus need you to Help save local lives!**  
 Sheppard Community Blood Center will conduct a Blood Drive At Saint Mary Help of Christian Church On Fairfield Street.  
 Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm and Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> from 7:45am -2:00 pm

Many things in this world can wait  
 But a transfusion of blood to a dying patient cannot. Donate Blood so that others may live.  
 Will you Choose 2 Give?  
 THE NEED IS CONSTANT.  
 THE GRATIFICATION IS INSTANT.  
 GIVE BLOOD Thank You.  
 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 3<sup>rd</sup> donation in a calendar year

*We still need one more person from each Mass to be responsible for the care of the church linens. This would mean that each person would have two months responsibility. We must have these items cleaned and available for Mass. Thank you*

*Show your thanks for all your blessings by giving back. Sign up this holiday season to become an ACTS volunteer. 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. It's not only rewarding but fun, as well! Just e-mail us at volunteer@actsofaiken.org, or call 803.649.3800 for more information.*

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

The Salvation Army needs help at the shelter on Park Ave. They are losing older people that have been helping with serving lunch. We already have at least one parishioner helping. Please if you have the time to help call Rose at 641-4149 or call Mary Welsh at 648-2140.

**16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**  
 sponsored by the Diocese of Charleston- Office of Family Life  
**Sunday, February 21, 2016 at 3:00 pm St. Mary Help of Christian Catholic Church 138 Fairfield St, Aiken SC 29801**  
 The Marriage Anniversary Celebration is an opportunity to honor all married couples especially those in long-term marriages. The married couples will affirm their love and commitment to each other. Most Reverend Robert Guglielmo, Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston will be the main celebrant.  
 The Mass will fulfill the Sunday obligation. (803) 547-5063 or email to [FamilyLife@catholic-doc.org](mailto:FamilyLife@catholic-doc.org)  
**'Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.'** (1 Cor 13:7)  
*"Ensure that, like the wine in Cana, the external signs of your wedding feast reveal the presence of the Lord and remind you, and all those present, of the origin of and reason for your joy". Pope Francis*

**COLLECTION FOR ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE RECTORY**  
 As you know, our Rectory is in the process of being renovated. This work has been on-going for the last six month. The goal is to be done early next year. Upon the completion, there will be many items needed to furnish the rectory, such as furniture, kitchen items, linens, towels, etc. Donations for these items are needed. If you would like to make a donation, please place it in an envelope and put it in the collection basket. Please indicate on the envelope "Donation for Rectory Items". If you want to designate what your donation should be

**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 stgerardscatholic@Atlanticcbbn.net.