

## The Holy Father's Catechesis

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

In our itinerary of catecheses on Christian hope, today we look at Mary, Mother of hope. Mary went through more than one night in her path as Mother. From her first appearance in the history of the Gospels, her figure stands out as if she were the personage of a drama. It was not simple to answer the Angel's invitation with a "yes": yet she, a woman still in the flower of youth, answered courageously, despite not knowing anything of the destiny that awaited her. In that instant, Mary appears to us as one of the many mothers of our world, courageous to the end when it is about receiving in their womb the story of a new man that is born.

That "yes" is the first step of a long list of obedience — long list of obedience! — that will accompany her itinerary as mother. Thus, Mary appears in the Gospels as a silent woman, who often does not understand all that is happening around her, but who meditates every word and every event in her heart.

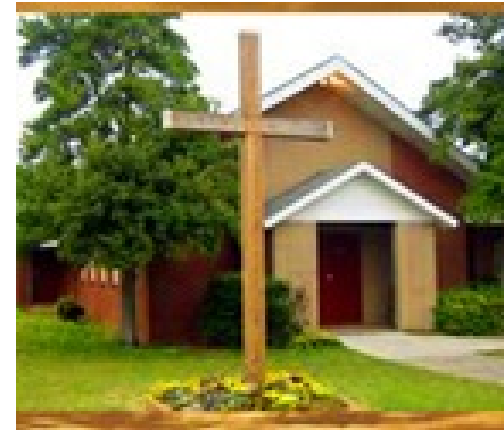
In this disposition, there is a very beautiful [demonstration] of Mary's psychology: she is not a woman who gets depressed in face of the uncertainties of life, especially when nothing seems to go the right way. Nor is she even a woman who protests violently, who inveighs against the destiny of a life that often reveals itself with a hostile face. Instead, she is a woman who listens: do not forget that there is always a great relation between hope and listening, and Mary is a woman who listens. Mary accepts existence just as it is given to us, with its happy days, but also with its tragedies, which we would never have wanted to come across — until Mary's supreme night, when her Son is nailed to the wood of the cross.

Until that day, Mary almost disappeared from the plot of the Gospels: the sacred writers let this slow eclipsing of her presence be understood, her remaining silent before the mystery of a Son who obeys the Father. However, Mary reappears precisely at the crucial moment, when a good part of the friends vanished out of fear. Mothers do not betray and, at that instant, at the foot of the cross, no one of us can say which was the most cruel passion: that of an innocent man who dies on the gibbet of the cross, or the agony of a mother who accompanies the last instants of the life of her son. The Gospels are laconic and extremely discreet. They record with a simple verb the Mother's presence: she "was" (*John 19:25*), she was. They say nothing of her reaction, if she was weeping, if she was not weeping . . . nothing; not even a brush stroke to describe her sorrow: on these details the imagination of poets and painters would then venture, giving us images that have entered in the history of art and of literature. But the Gospels only tell us: she "was." She was there, in the most awful moment, in the cruellest moment, and she suffered with her Son. "Was," Mary "was," she was simply there. Behold her again, the young woman of Nazareth, now with greying hair with the passing of the years, still struggling with a God who must only be embraced, and with a life that has reached the threshold of the densest darkness. Mary "was" in the densest darkness, but she "was." She did not go away. Mary is there, faithfully present, every time that a lighted candle must be held in a place of mist and fog. She does not even know the destiny of resurrection that her Son at the moment was opening for all of us men: she is there out of fidelity to God's plan, of whom she proclaimed herself handmaid on the first day of her vocation, but also because of her mother's instinct, who simply suffers, every time there is a son who goes through a passion. The sufferings of mothers: we have all known strong women, who have faced so many sufferings of their children!

We will find her again on the first day of the Church, she, *Mother of hope*, in the midst of that community of such frail disciples: one had denied, many fled, all were afraid (Cf. *Acts 1:14*). But she was simply there, in the most normal of ways, as if it were an altogether natural thing: in the first Church enveloped by the light of the Resurrection, but also by the tremors of the first steps that it must take in the world.

For this, we all love her as Mother. We are not orphans: we have a Mother in Heaven, who is the Holy Mother of God. Because she teaches us the virtue of waiting, even when everything appears nonsensical: she is always confident in the mystery of God, even when He seems to eclipse Himself because of the evil in the world. In moments of difficulty may Mary, the Mother that Jesus gave all of us, always be able to support our steps, always be able to say to our heart: "Rise! Look ahead, look at the horizon," because she is Mother of 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 6:1-7(52A)*

**Responsorial Psalm:**

*Psalm 33:1-2,4-5,18-19*

**Second Reading:**

*1 Peter 2:4-9*

**Gospel:**

*John 14:1-12*

## Lectionary Readings for Week of May 14, 2017

**Monday:** *Acts 14:5-18;*

*John 14:21-26*

**Tuesday:** *Acts 14:19-28;*

*John 14:27-31a*

**Wednesday:** *Acts 15:1-6;*

*John 15:1-8*

**Thursday:** *Acts 15:7-21;*

*John 15:9-11*

**Friday:** *Acts 15:22-31;*

*John 15:12-17*

**Saturday:** *Acts 16:1-10;*

*John 15:18-21*

# The Fifth Sunday of Easter May 14, 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.*

*Amen, amen, I say to you,  
whoever believes in me will do the works that I do,  
and will do greater ones than these,  
because I am going to the Father."*  
John 1:12



**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 Lignons  
 Joe Fulmer

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



**Pastoral Council:**  
 Marge Glauser,  
 Chairperson  
 Janet Menefee,  
 Vice Chair  
 Payson Borst  
 Jacqueline Brown  
 Fredrick Cadek  
 Joan Hesik  
 Gregory Wright  
 Patricia Hayes  
 Matt Fitzpatrick

**Mass Intentions**  
 4:00 PM, 7:00 AM & 11:00 AM Masses are said for your own personal intentions.

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

**Weekend Offering**  
 May 7, 2017

Collection	\$2,704.00
Needed	\$2,612.00
<b>Over</b>	<b>\$ 92.00</b>

Attendance 154  
 Stewardship a way of life

*The Gathering Hymn* 558 BB  
*Sing A New Song*  
*The Offertory Hymn is* 844 BB  
*Magnificat*  
*The Communion Hymn is* CHOIR 701 BB  
*On This Day, O Beautiful Mother*  
*Our Song of Praise is* 34 BB  
*How Can I Keep From Singing*



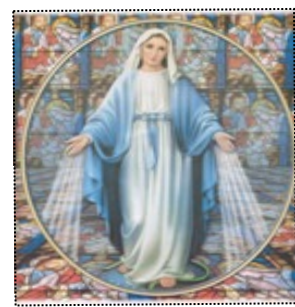
**Lay Ministers**

	<b>Saturday May 20</b> 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Diane Begic E E Ministers: Ellen Heim	<b>Sunday May 21</b> 7:00 AM Mass Mary Kay L'Esperance Gerard L'Esperance	<b>Sunday May 21</b> 11:00 AM Mass Richardean Paige Marge Glauser
	<b>Saturday May 27</b> 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Linda Cooper E E Ministers: Mary Rose	<b>Sunday May 28</b> 7:00 AM Mass Denise Gelinis Roger Gelinis	<b>Sunday May 28</b> 11:00 AM Mass Paula Thurston Jeanette Coleman

<b>Refreshments May 14</b> Jean Schodowski/Richardean Paige	<b>Refreshments May 21</b> Jackie Brown/Rosa DiStefano	<b>Refreshments May 28</b> Jackie Cobb/Rosa Johnson
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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*



**GOD Bless all the mothers.  
 Remember them today.  
 Happy Mother's Day.**



*Second Collection is for Catholic Charities*  
*Thanks for the Food for the Valley.*

**It is time to take pictures for the new Church Directory**  
**Dates for photos are June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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. Your cooperation is needed to make this work.**

**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

**Monday June 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mejackson@stmarys-aiken.org)

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



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, June 3rd from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm and Sunday, June 4th from 7:45 am -1:30 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? Every Donor is a Hero!  
 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 3rd donation in a calendar year

**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.

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 Lignons 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.