

## Pope Francis' Angelus Address: On Going to Jesus when Life Becomes Overwhelming

“Come to Me, All Who Labor and Are Heavy Laden, and I will give You Rest”

Rome, July 9, 2017, zenit.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

In today's Gospel, Jesus says: “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (*Matthew 11:28*). The Lord does not reserve this phrase for some of His friends, no, He addresses to “all” those that are tired and oppressed by life. And who can feel excluded from this invitation? The Lord knows what a burden life can be. He knows that many things weary the heart: past disappointments and wounds, burdens to carry and wrongs to be endured in the present, uncertainties and worries for the future.

In face of all this, Jesus' first word is an invitation, an invitation to move and react: “Come.” The mistake, when things go badly, is to stay where one is, lying there. It seems evident, but how difficult it is to react and open oneself! It's not easy. In dark moments it is natural to stay with oneself, to brood over how unjust life is, over how ungrateful others are and how evil the world is, and so on. We all know it. We have suffered this awful experience sometimes.

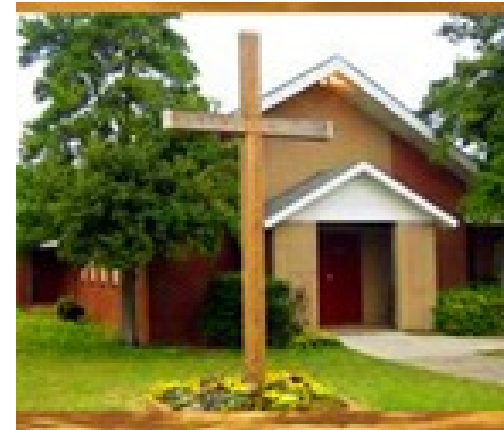
But thus, closed in on ourselves, we see everything black. Then we even become familiar with sadness, which becomes as home: that sadness that prostrates us; this sadness is an awful thing. Instead, Jesus wants to extricate us from this “quicksand” and therefore He says to each one: “Come!” – “Who?” – You, you, you . . .” The way out is in relation, in extending the hand and raising one's eyes towards the One who really loves us.

In fact, to come out of oneself isn't enough, it is necessary to know where to go, because so many aims are illusory: they promise rest and distract somewhat, assuring peace and giving amusement, then leaving one in the solitude of before; they are “fireworks.” Therefore Jesus points out where to go: “Come to Me.” Often, in face of a burden of life or a situation that pains us, we try to talk about it with someone who listens to us, with a friend, with an expert . . . It is a great good to do this, but let us not forget Jesus! Let us not forget to open ourselves to Him and to tell Him about our life, to entrust people and situations to Him. Perhaps there are “areas” of our life that we have never opened to Him and that have remained dark, because they have never seen the Lord's light. Each one of us has his/her own story. And if someone has this dark area, seek Jesus, go to a missionary of mercy, go to a priest, go . . . But go to Jesus, and tell this to Jesus. Today He says to each one of us: “Courage, do not give in to the burdens of life, do not close yourself in face of fears and sins, but come to Me!”

He waits for us, He always waits for us, not to resolve our problems magically, but to make us strong in our problems. Jesus does not remove the burdens of life, but the anguish of heart; He does not take the cross away from us, but carries it with us. And with Him, every burden becomes light (Cf. v. 30), because He is the rest that we seek. When Jesus enters our life, peace comes, that <peace> that remains even in trials, in sufferings. Let us go to Jesus, let us give Him our time, let us meet Him every day in prayer, in a confident and personal dialogue; let us familiarize ourselves with His Word, let us rediscover His forgiveness without fear, let us be satiated with His Bread of life: we will feel loved and consoled by Him.

It is He Himself who asks this of us, almost insisting. He repeats it again at the end of today's Gospel: “Learn from Me [ . . . ] and you will find rest for your souls” (v.29). And thus we learn to go to Jesus and, while in the summer months we will seek a bit of rest from what wearies the body, let us not forget to find true rest in the Lord. May the Virgin Mary our Mother, who always takes care of us when we are tired and oppressed, help us in this and take us to Jesus.

# 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:

*Isaiah 55:10-11(103A)*

### Responsorial Psalm:

*Psalms 65:10,11,12-13,14*

### Second Reading:

*Romans 8:18-23*

### Gospel:

*Matthew 13:1-23*

### Today's Missal

### Lectionary Readings for Week of July 16, 2017

**Monday:** *Exodus 1:8-14,22;*

*Matthew 10:34-11:1*

**Tuesday:** *Exodus 2:1-15a;*

*Matthew 11:20-24*

**Wednesday:** *Exodus 3:1-6,9-12;*

*Matthew 11:25-27*

**Thursday:** *Exodus 3:13-20;*

*Matthew 11:28-30*

**Friday:** *Exodus 11:10-12:14;*

*Matthew 12:1-8*

**Saturday:** *Song Of Songs 3:1-4b;*

*John 20:1-2,11-18*

## The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 16, 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.*

*Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' In answer, he said, 'Because to you is granted to understand the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven, but to them it is not granted. Anyone who has will be given more and will have more than enough; but anyone who has not will be deprived even of what he has. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah is being fulfilled: Listen and listen, but never understand! Look and look, but never perceive!  
Matthew 13:10-14*



**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**



**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

*“Christian stewards respond in a particular way to the call to be a disciple. Stewardship has the power to shape and mold our understanding of our lives and the way in which we live.” (SDR, 42)*




**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  
 Art Wagner  
 Clyde Hall

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

*The Gathering Hymn 546 BB*  
*Sing to the Mountains (Refrain, Verse 3, Refrain)*  
*The Offertory Hymn 357 BB*  
*Seed Scattered and Sown*  
*The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 689 BB*  
*How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place*  
*Our Song of Praise is 590 BB*  
*For the Beauty of the Earth*



**Weekend Offering**  
**July 9, 2017**  
 Collected \$3,051.00  
 Needed \$2,612.00  
**Over \$439.00**  
 Attendance 134  
 Stewardship a way of life

	<b>Lay Ministers</b>	
	<b>Saturday July 22</b>	<b>Sunday July 23</b>
	4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass
<b>Lector:</b>	Diane Begic	Denise Gelinas
<b>E E Ministers:</b>	Ellen Heim	Roger Gelinas
	<b>Saturday July 29</b>	<b>Sunday July 30</b>
	4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass
<b>Lector:</b>	Linda Cooper	Mary Kay L'Esperance
<b>E E Ministers:</b>	Pam Ziomek	Gerard L'Esperance
<b>Refreshments July 16</b>	<b>Refreshments July 23</b>	<b>Refreshments July 30</b>
Matt Fitzpatrick/Rosa DiStefano	Sheila Wagner/Patricia Hayes	Shirley Paige/Anne Marie Key

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

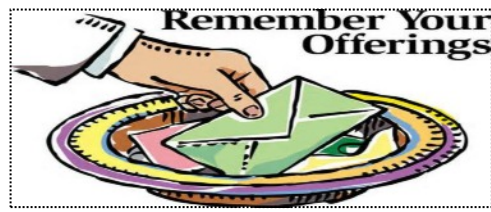
*Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Lady of the  
 Miraculous Medal Tuesdays at the 8:15 Mass*



**Judy Riley died on Monday in Ocean City, NJ. She was a our former church secretary and finance council member. She was cremated and will be interred in Lee Center III. With her Mother and Father. Steve asks for you prayers and he thanks St. Gerard's for our love. Our memorial Mass is 7/30 at 11:00 AM, St. Mary Help of Christians has a Mass intention for Judy on August 26 at 5 PM**

**Second Collection this week for (Infirm Priests)**

**Our July Men's and Woman's groups meeting/program was canceled. We will resume on August 7 at 7 PM. There will be a silent Auction.**



**Farther's birthday is Sunday August 6. Pot luck dinner after 11 AM Mass. Sign up for food. Sheet in the lobby.**

**Volunteer Corner:**  
**We need volunteers to count, for Fall Festival and for the Finance Council**

The new ministries schedules are posted on the bulletin board under the current schedules.  
 Thanks

The Unity Initiative is having the 2nd annual Aiken Unity Day Festival on July 22nd from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Perry Memorial Park. Music and fun is the theme. This event brings youth and law enforcement closer together.

**We need money counters!!** We count Sunday after the last Mass. We would like to have at least 4 people. We need volunteers as soon as possible. If interested call the office for job description. So far we only have 3 Sundays of 18 covered. I am not permitted to count nor is anyone on the finance council. **We need your help!!**

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

**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@atlanticbnn.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

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

*Planning continues 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. You have been very responsive to Fathers request for assistance in the past with this event and parish needs and this year is no exception. To be blunt, now is not the time for resting and the success of this event and the parish depends on the participation of all in whatever way you can. 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: Raffle, 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 **July 24 at 7:00 PM 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.***

**Think what if!**  
 Someone in our community or in your family is waiting for a donor. You take holidays-the Blood Bank doesn't. Will you Choose 2 Give and help save someone's life? Knights of Columbus, and Sheppard Community Blood Center will host a blood drive at Saint Mary Help of Christians Church On Fairfield Street. Please note the new start time on Saturday August 5<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 pm - 7:00 pm and Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:45am -1:30 pm Every Blood Donor is a Hero Each donor will receive a free T-Shirt and Free Lipid Profile after your 3rd donation in A calendar year. Bring a picture ID, Driver's license or donor card! Donors should drink plenty of water prior to donating.



There will be a Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend on the following dates: St. Andrew, Clemson on July 29-30, St. Michael, Murrell's Inlet on October 7-8, and All Saints, Lake Wylie on November 11-12. Please see the web site at: [www.cee-sc.org](http://www.cee-sc.org) for more information and to register.

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