

## Pope Francis shares a Special Prayer He Says at Night

Reflecting on Jesus healing the leper, reminds faithful we too must ask Lord to make us clean.

June 22, 2016, Rome. Deborah Lobov, Zenit.org

Curious how Pope Francis ends his day? Well, he shared this personal detail during today's General Audience.

This morning in St. Peter's Square, the Holy Father continued his catechesis for the Holy Year of Mercy, turning to Jesus' healing of the leper (*Lk 5:12-14*).

Francis recalled that at Jesus' time, lepers were considered unclean and bound by law to avoid contact with others. Saint Luke tells of one leper, moved by faith, who did not fear to pass among the crowds and beg Jesus to cleanse him.

"All that this man does and says, [this man] who was considered impure, is an expression of his faith!" Francis said, noting he recognizes the power of Jesus, certain of His power to cure him.

"The leper's supplication," the Pope explained, "shows that when we present ourselves to Jesus, long speeches are not necessary. A few words suffice, though accompanied by full confidence in His omnipotence and in His goodness. In fact, to entrust ourselves to the will of God means to submit to His infinite mercy."

The Pope then departed from his text, saying he wanted to share something personal with those present. "In the evening, before going to bed, I pray this brief prayer: 'Lord, if you will, you can cleanse me!' And I pray five 'Our Fathers,' one for each wound of Jesus, because Jesus has purified us with His wounds."

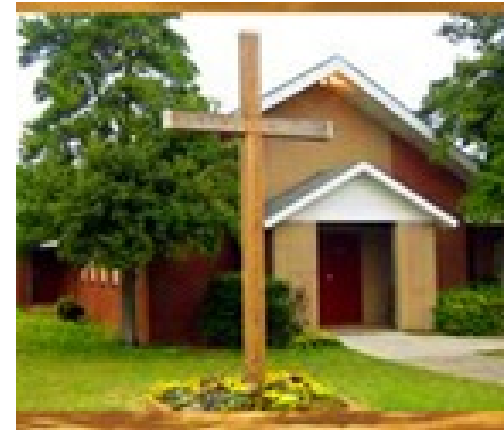
"But if I do this, you can also do it at home," Francis encouraged, telling them to say: 'Lord, if you will, you can cleanse me!' As one does this, Francis said, "Think of Jesus' wounds and say an Our Father for each one of them, for Jesus always listens to us."

The Pope, who has never shied away from gestures toward "the excluded," recalled how Jesus stretched His hand and even touched this leper, rejected by society. "How many times we meet a poor man who comes to us?!" Francis asked, "We can even be generous, we can have compassion, but usually we do not touch him. We offer him money, we throw it there, but we avoid touching his hand."

When we keep this distance, the Holy Father underscored, we forget that that person is part of the Body of Christ, for Jesus taught us to not be afraid to touch the poor and excluded. "To touch a poor man can purify us of hypocrisy and render us concerned for his condition. Touch the excluded," Francis said, reminding those gathered of the refugees with him on the stage.

Before concluding, the Holy Father urged those present to every night kneel before God and pray: "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean!" "And do it, do it every evening before going to bed. And now we say together this beautiful prayer: 'Lord, if you will, you can make me clean!'" Pope Francis said.

# St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

## The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 17, 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.*

**Father Emmanuel Andinam: Administrator**

### SUNDAY READINGS

**First Reading:**

*Genesis 18:1-10*

**Responsorial:**

*Psalms 15:2-3, 3-4, 5*

**Second Reading:**

*Colossians 1:24-28*

**Gospel:**

*Luke 10:38-42*

**Today's Missal**

### Lectionary Readings for the week of July 17, 2016

Monday: Micah 6:1-4,6-8;

Matthew 12:38-42

Tuesday: Micah 7:14-15,18-20;

Matthew 12:46-50

Wednesday: Jeremiah 1:1,4-10;

Matthew 13:1-9

Thursday: Jeremiah 2:1-3,7-8,12-13;

Matthew 13:10-17

Friday: Jeremiah 3:14-17;

John 20:1-2,11-18

Saturday: Jeremiah 7:1-11;

Matthew 13:24-30

*In the course of their journey he came  
to a village, and a woman named  
Martha welcomed him into her house.  
She had a sister called Mary, who sat  
down at the Lord's feet and listened to  
him speaking. Now Martha, who was  
distracted with all the serving, came to  
him and said, 'Lord, do you not care  
that my sister is leaving me to do the  
serving all by myself? Please tell her to  
help me.' But the Lord answered,  
'Martha, Martha,' he said, 'you worry  
and fret about so many things, and yet  
few are needed, indeed only one. It is  
Mary who has chosen the better part,  
and it is not to be taken from her.'*

**Luke 10:38-42**



**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 resuming in the fall, **CCD:** Sundays TBD during school year,

**RCIA:** Tuesdays 10:00 AM restarting in the fall

**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  
Gary Gilbert  
Marge Glouser  
Leonard Saunders  
Shirley Paige  
William and Jackie Cobbs  
Woody Alexander  
Lena Mickens  
Rosa Johnson  
Brenda and Ike Ligons  
Joe Fulmer  
Elaine Smoak

Work is part of God's plan for us. Through our work, we recognize our talents and use them to build the kingdom of God. Through our work as stewards, we live out our discipleship.



**Pastoral Council:**

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

**Finance Council:**

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

**Mass Intentions**

4:00 PM Mass, 7:00 AM Mass & 9:00 AM Mass are all said for your own personal intentions

**Weekend Offering**

July 9-10, 2016

Collection \$2,020.00  
Needed \$2,612.00  
Under \$592.00



The Gathering Hymn 343 H

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

The Offertory Hymn is 757 H

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (Gift of Finest Wheat)

The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 376 BB

The Servant Song

Our Song of Praise is 405 H

How Great Thou Art



**Lay Ministers**

Saturday July 23

4:00 PM Vigil Mass

Lector: David Didmamoff

E E Ministers: Joe Dennis/Elleen Heim

Sunday July 24

7:00 AM Mass

Mary Key L'Esperance

Gerard L'Esperance

Sunday July 24

11:15 AM Mass

Sheila Wagner

Jacqueline Brown

Saturday July 30

4:00 PM Vigil Mass

Lector: Diane Begic

E E Ministers: Pam Ziomek

Sunday July 31

7:00 AM Mass

Denise Gelinas

Roger Gelinas

Sunday July 31

11:15 AM Mass

Lisa Solenberger

Mike Solenberger



Refreshments July 17

Janet Menefee/Joan Lacombe

Refreshments July 24

Jackie Brown/Jeanette Coleman

Refreshments July 31

Jackie Cobb/Rosa DiStefano

Attendance July 9-10  
114

Joe Dennis (deacon candidate assigned to Saint Gerard Parish) and Dottie are hosting an Open House on Saturday July 23, 2-6 PM. Please come out and say hello. 601 Roland Avenue, Johnston SC. Thank you. Peace and Mercy

The Legion of Mary is off for the next few weeks. Please continue to say the Rosary.



Due to some changes in availability the 9:00 AM Mass will be going back to 11:15 as of 24 July. The 7:00 AM remains in tact. If you are scheduled for a ministry at 9:00 only the time will change as of July 24. Thank You

Emergency Assistance Caseworker, Receptionist, and Voicemail Person  
Food Pantry Helper on Monday during the summer  
If interested please contact Deondra Roper, Volunteer Coordinator at 803.857.6053

Our Lady of The Valley



I will be out of the office July 13-25. Mike

Sheila Wagner will take BP this Sunday after 9:00 AM Mass

Second Collection for: Infirm Priests



**Volunteer Corner: Thanks**

Joe Dennis For giving a large part of your life to Christ's Church

Stewardship a way of life

ACTS is partnering with the Augusta/Aiken Warrior Project (AWP) to provide available assistance to local Warriors of all service branches, regardless of era of service or wounded status. Please ask any veterans (especially post-9/11 veterans) to contact ACTS at ph#803.642.5919 They served us now let's help ACTS serve them.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats bring spiritual healing and strengthening of faith to individuals who have had or participated in an abortion. Join us on the journey to healing, peace and reconciliation. July 22-24, 2016 in Charleston, SC For information and registration call Christy 803 554 6088 or Kathy 803 546 6010

ACTS has a position opening that supports our Women's Enrichment Program, 'Coffee with JoJo'. If you have questions or need more information, please call Carla at ACTS, 649-3800.

"A wedding is a day, a marriage is a lifetime!" Catholic Engaged Encounter invites you to attend an in-parish weekend, (Sat. all day and Sunday till about 3pm - no overnight accommodations provided) - which is a highly effective marriage prep program designed to meet the needs of today's engaged couples. This program will be held at St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church in Clemson, SC, Saturday, July 23 and Sunday, July 24. For more information or to register: www.cce-sc.org

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 and James Rossini. 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.

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.

Childcare Worker Position Opening  
The individual selected will provide care and supervision for children in a daycare-type environment. Lead games and activities for multiple children, keeping them engaged. Change diapers and/or clean children up after activities. The opening is a part time position and is available immediately. It is the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month (except Nov-Dec will be only the 2nd Thurs); 5:45 pm-8:15 pm (2.5 hrs per day). Location is Hope Center in Graniteville SC. Skills and abilities required: experience with children; a positive, friendly demeanor and ability to stand, kneel, bend, stoop and lift up to 30 lbs. This position supports a program that is an affiliation of ACTS, Christ Central, FamCo, and HUGS, LLC. Beginning pay \$8.00/hr. Submit resume to carla@actsofaiken.org. Additional application guidance will be provided.

**Ministry at the End of Life**

The office of Continuing Education is offering a series of workshops on ministry at the end of life. Ministry to those near the end of life, those grieving, or those caring for the terminally ill is one of the most challenging things we are called to do as servants of Christ. These workshops will introduce us to the complex issues surrounding death including ethical issues, personal issues and ministerial issues. We will use presentations, role playing, case studies, and other learning experiences. Some readings will be suggested before attending the workshop.

This is the first in a series of full day workshops on end of life care. This is a suggested prerequisite for attending subsequent workshops. The workshops are open to Priests, Religious, Deacons and Laity who serve those at the end of life and their caregivers.

The workshops will run from 8:30am-3:30pm (lunch provided). Aiken Deanery, Thursday July 28, St. Mary Help of Christians Aiken

The workshop is limited to 30 participants; please register as soon as possible. To register for classes or more information contact Msgr. Ed Lofton or Helena Moniz office@ssttheresachurch.com

The cost is \$45.00. per person.

Make checks payable to the Diocese of Charleston. Mail checks to Helena Moniz St. Theresa Church 11001 Dorchester Rd Summerville SC 29485

**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? Knights of Columbus, and Sheppard Community Blood Center will host a blood drive At the New Saint Mary Help of Christian Church On Fairfield Street. Saturday, July 30th from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm and Sunday, July 31st from 7:45 am -2:00 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. Thank you

Show your thanks for all your blessings by giving back. 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. Just e-mail usatvolunteer@actsofaiken.org, or call 803.649.3800.

ACTS is partnering with the Augusta/Aiken Warrior Project (AWP) to provide available assistance to local Warriors of all service branches, regardless of era of service or wounded status. Please ask any veterans (especially post-9/11 veterans) to contact ACTS at ph#803.642.5919 They served us now let's help ACTS serve them.

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