

Pope Francis' Angelus Address: On the Parable of the Sower.

*Our heart is the soil on which the seed of the word falls. It can be "Good" or "Hard, Impermeable".*

Rome, July 16, 2017. Zenit.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

When Jesus spoke He used simple language and also made use of images, which were examples drawn from daily life, to be able to be easily understood by all. Therefore, they listened to Him willingly and appreciated His message, which went straight to their heart: and it was not complicated language to understand, as that which Doctors of the Law used at that time, which was not well understood but was full of rigidity and distanced the people. And with this language Jesus made the mystery of the Kingdom of God understood, it was not a complicated theology. And an example is that which today's Gospel brings: the parable of the sower.

.Jesus is the sower. We note that, with this image, He presents Himself as one who does not impose Himself, but who proposes; He does not draw us by conquering us, but by giving Himself: He throws the seed. He strews His Word with patience and generosity, which is not a cage or a trap, but a seed that can bear fruit. And how can it bear fruit? If we receive it. Therefore, the parable concerns us especially: in fact it speaks more of the soil than of the sower. Jesus effects, so to speak, a "spiritual x-ray" of our heart, which is the soil on which the seed of His Word falls. Our heart, like the soil, can be good and then the Word bears fruit – and so much — but it can also be hard, impermeable. This happens when we hear the Word, but it bounces off, in fact as on a road: it does not enter us.

Between the good soil and the road, asphalt – if we throw a seed on "cobblestones" nothing grows; however, there are two intermediate soils that, in different measure, we can have in ourselves. The first, says Jesus, is the *rocky* one. Let us try to imagine it: a rocky ground is ground "where there is not much soil" (Cf. v.5) so that the seed sprouts but is unable to put down deep roots. So is the superficial heart, which receives the Lord, wants to pray, love and witness, but does not persevere, gets tired and never "takes off." It is a heart without thickness, where the stones of laziness prevail over the good earth, where love is inconstant and passing. But he who receives the Lord only when it suits him, does not bear fruit. There is, then, the last soil, the *thorny one*, full of brambles that choke the good plants. What do these brambles represent? "The cares of the world and the delight in riches" (v. 22), says Jesus explicitly. The brambles are the vices that are at odds with God, which choke His presence: first of all, the idols of worldly wealth, living avidly, for oneself, to have and for power. If we cultivate these brambles, we suffocate God's growth in us. Each one can recognize his small and large brambles, the vices that dwell in his heart, those more or less rooted bushes that do not please God and impede having a clean heart. They must be torn out, otherwise the Word cannot bear fruit; the seed will not develop.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Jesus invites us today to look within ourselves: to be grateful for our good soil and to work on the soil that is not yet good. Let us ask ourselves if our heart is open to receive the seed of the Word of God with faith. Let us ask ourselves if the stones of laziness are still numerous and large in us; let us identify and call by name the brambles of vices. Let us find the courage to make a good *soil remediation*, a good remediation of our heart, bringing to the Lord in Confession and prayer our stones and our brambles. Thus Jesus, the good sower, will be happy to carry out an additional work: to purify our heart, removing the stones and thorns that choke the Word.

May the Mother of God, who today we remember with the title Blessed Virgin of Mount Carmel, unsurpassable in receiving the Word of God and putting it into practice (Cf. *Luke 8:21*), help us to purify our heart and to keep the presence of the Lord.

# 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:

*Wisdom 12:13,16-19(106A)*

### Responsorial Psalm:

*Psalm 86:5-6,9-10,15-16*

### Second Reading:

*Romans 8:26-27*

### Gospel:

*Matthew 13:24-43*

### Today's Missal

#### Lectionary Readings for Week of July 23, 2017

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

*Matthew 12:38-42*

**Tuesday:** *2 Corinthians 4:7-15;*

*Matthew 20:20-28*

**Wednesday:** *Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15;*

*Matthew 13:1-9*

**Thursday:** *Exodus 19: 1-2,9-11,16-20b;*

*Matthew 13:10-17*

**Friday:** *Exodus 20:1-17;*

*Matthew 13:18-23*

**Saturday:** *Exodus 24:3-8;*

*John 11:19-27*

## The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 23, 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.*

*And as well as this, the Spirit  
too comes to help us in our  
weakness, for, when we do  
not know how to pray  
properly, then the Spirit  
personally makes our  
petitions for us in groans that  
cannot be put into words;  
and he who can see into all  
hearts knows what the Spirit  
means because the prayers  
that the Spirit makes for  
God's holy people are always  
in accordance with the mind  
of God.*

**Romans 8:26-27**



**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

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

**Finance Council:**  
 Vacant,  
 Chairman  
 Anna Marie Key,  
 and Vacant  
 Auditors  
 Art Wagner  
 Clyde Hall

**Weekend Offering**  
**July 16, 2017**  
 Collected \$2,227.00  
 Needed \$2,612.00  
**Short \$385.00**  
 Attendance 130  
*Stewardship a way of life*

*The Gathering Hymn is 640 BB*  
*This Day God Gives Me*  
*The Offertory Hymn is 577 BB*  
*Let the Heavens Be Glad*  
*The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 357 BB*  
*Seed Scattered and Sown*  
*Our Song of Praise is 595 BB*  
*All Good Gifts*



**Saturday July 29**  
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass  
 Lector: Linda Cooper  
 E E Ministers: Pam Ziomek

**Lay Ministers**

**Sunday July 30**  
 7:00 AM Mass  
 Mary Kay L'Esperance  
 Gerard L'Esperance

**Sunday July 30**  
 11:00 AM Mass  
 Sheila Wagner  
 Marge Glauser



**Saturday August 5**  
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass  
 Lector: Joan Hesik  
 E E Ministers: Pam Ziomek

**Sunday August 6**  
 7:00 AM Mass  
 Denise Gelinas  
 Roger Gelinas

**Sunday August 6**  
 11:00 AM Mass  
 Nancy Cadek  
 Wayman Johnson

Refreshments July 23  
 Sheila Wagner/Patricia Hayes

Refreshments July 30  
 Shirley Paige/Anne Marie Key

Refreshments August 6  
 Janet Menefee/Joan Lacombe

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*



**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. Please Sign up for food! Sheet in the lobby.**

**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 or call/text 843-743-8676

Please contact Dot Dennis at 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.

**Volunteer Corner:**  
**We still need counters and finance council members**

**Memorial Mass for Judy Riley is at the 11:00 AM Mass on July 30th**

**We need money counters!! We count Sunday after the last Mass. We would like to have at least 1 person that can be trained to rotate with Nancy Durden as head counter. We need a volunteer as soon as possible. If interested call the office for job description. I am not permitted to count nor is anyone on the finance council. We need your help!!**

**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\\_conference](http://www.bowmanfrancisministry.com/men_s_conference)

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

**Thanks**

**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.

**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**

*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.*

**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  
 Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:45am -1:30 pm  
 Blood cannot be harvested it can only be donated!  
 Healthy donors are the only source.  
 One out of every Seven-hospital patients  
 Are in need of blood  
 Will you Choose 2 Give?  
**THE NEED IS CONSTANT & THE GRATIFICATION IS INSTANT!**

Each donor will receive a free T-Shirt and free Lipid Profile  
 After your 3rd donation in a calendar year.  
 Bring a picture ID, Drivers license or donor card!  
 Donors should drink plenty of water prior to donating.  
 Thank you,

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