

## POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE: On Being Made Clean Again

'The leper's supplication 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.'

Rome, June 22, 2016. Zenith.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

"Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean," (*Luke 5:12*) is the request that we heard addressed to Jesus by a leper. This man does not only ask to be cured, but to be "purified," that is, to be healed integrally, in body and in heart. In fact, leprosy was considered a sort of curse from God, of profound impurity. The leper had to keep himself far from everyone; he could not access the Temple or any divine service. He was far from God and far from men. Sad lives these people had!

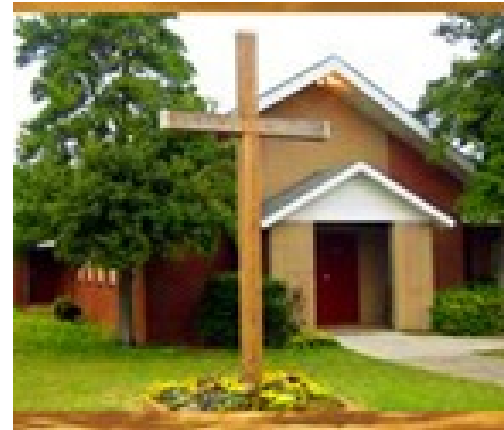
Despite this, that leper was not resigned either to his sickness or to the dispositions that made of him someone excluded. To reach Jesus, he did not fear to infringe the law and to enter the city – something he should not do, he was prohibited to do –, and, when he found Him "he fell prostrate, pleaded with him, and said, "Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean." (v. 12). All that this man does and says, who was considered impure, is an expression of his faith! He recognizes the power of Jesus: he is sure He has the power to cure him and that all depends on His will. This faith is the strength that enabled him to break every convention and seek the encounter with Jesus and, kneeling before Him, he calls Him "Lord." The leper's supplication 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. I will also share something personal with you. 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, and say: "Lord, if you will, you can cleanse me!" –and think of Jesus' wounds and say an "Our Father for each one of them. And Jesus always listens to us.

Jesus is profoundly affected by this man; Mark's Gospel underscores that "moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." (1:41). Jesus' gesture accompanies His words and renders His teaching more explicit. Against the dispositions of the Law of Moses, which prohibited coming close to a leper (cf. *Leviticus 13:45-46*), Jesus stretches His hand and even touches him. How many times we meet a poor man who comes to us! 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. And we forget that that is the body of Christ! Jesus teaches us not to be afraid to touch the poor and the excluded, because He is in them. To touch a poor man can purify us of hypocrisy and render us anxious for his condition. Touch the excluded. Today, I am accompanied here by these youngsters. Many think that it would have been better for them if they had stayed in their land, but they suffered so much there. They are refugees, but so many consider them excluded: Please, they are our brothers! A Christian does not exclude anyone, but gives a place to everyone, allows everyone to come.

After curing the leper, Jesus sternly charges him not to speak about it with anyone, but says to him: "Go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." (v. 14). This disposition of Jesus shows at least three things. The first: the grace that acts in us does not seek sensationalism. It usually moves with discretion and without clamor. To medicate our wounds and to guide us on the way of holiness it works molding patiently our heart on the Lord's Heart, so as to assume increasingly His thoughts and sentiments. The second: by having the healing that happened verified officially by the priests and celebrating an expiatory sacrifice, the leper is readmitted in the community of believers and in social life. His reintegration completes the healing. As he himself had supplicated, now he is completely purified! Finally, by presenting himself to the priests the leper renders them testimony regarding Jesus and His messianic authority. The strength of compassion with which Jesus cured the leper led the faith of this man to open himself to the mission. He was excluded, now he is one of us.

We think of ourselves, of our miseries ... Each one has his own. We think with sincerity. How many times we cover them with the hypocrisy of "good manners." And precisely then, it is necessary to be alone, to 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!"

# St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

## SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

*First Kings 19:16-21*

Responsorial:

*Psalms 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11*

Second Reading:

*Galatians 5:1, 13-18*

Gospel:

*Luke 9:51-62*

Today's Missal

## Lectionary Readings for the week of June 26, 2016

Monday: *Amos 2:6-10, 13-16;*

*Matthew 8:18-22*

Tuesday: *Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12;*

*Matthew 8:23-27*

Wednesday: *Acts 12:1-11;*

*2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16:13-19*

Thursday: *Amos 7:10-17;*

*Matthew 9:1-8*

Friday: *Amos 8:4-6, 9-12;*

*Matthew 9:9-13*

Saturday: *Amos 9:11-15;*

*Matthew 9:14-17*

**Mass Times:** Weekdays Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:15 AM,

First Friday Benediction after Mass

Weekend Saturday 4:00 PM, Sunday 7:00 AM and 9:00 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 resuming in the fall, **CCD:** Sundays 10:30 AM 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 803 637-2027**

## The Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Mission Statement

*Called to be a People for Others*

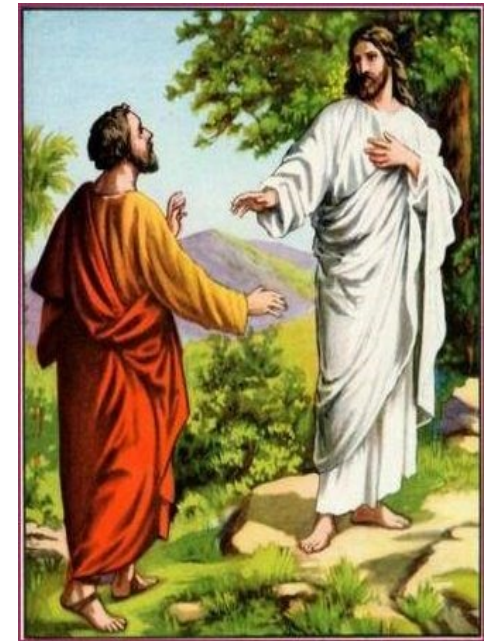
### Vision Statement

*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**

As they were proceeding on their journey someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." And to another he said, "Follow me." But he replied, "[Lord,] let me go first and bury my father." But he answered him, "Let the dead bury their dead. But you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." And another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say farewell to my family at home." [To him] Jesus said, "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:57-62



**Pray for our sick:**  
 Judy Riley  
 Gary Gilbault  
 Marge Glouser  
 Leonard Saunders  
 Shirley Paige  
 William and Jackie Cobbs  
 Woody Alexander  
 Lena Mickens  
 Rosa Johnson  
 Brenda and Ike Ligons  
 Joe Fulmer

*The rewards of stewardship are plentiful. Stewards happily accept the call to give of themselves in response to the gracious gifts given to them. By helping others, stewards show their gratitude to God through their loving care for others.*



**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**  
 June 19, 2016  
 Collection \$2,392.00  
 Needed \$2,612.00  
 Under \$220.00  
 Attendance 124  
*Stewardship a way of life*

*The Gathering Hymn 22 M*  
*On This The First of Days*  
*The Offertory Hymn is 29 M*  
*Beautiful Savior*  
*The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 384 BB*  
*The Summons*  
*Day, Our Song of Praise is 27 M*  
*Now, Thank We All Our God*



**Saturday July 2**  
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass  
 Lector: Tami Schaeffer  
 E E Ministers: Jerry Schaeffer

**Lay Ministers**

**Sunday July 3**  
 7:00 AM Mass  
 Denise Gelinas  
 Roger Gelinas

**Sunday July 3**  
 9:00 AM Mass  
 Sheila Wagner  
 Jacqueline Brown

**Saturday July 9**  
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass  
 Lector: David Didimamoff  
 E E Ministers: Jerry Schaeffer

**Sunday July 10**  
 7:00 AM Mass  
 Mary Key L'Esperance  
 Gerard L'Esperance

**Sunday July 10**  
 9:00 AM Mass  
 Richardean Paige  
 Jeanette Coleman



**Refreshments June 26**  
 Shirley Paige/Anna Marie Key

**Refreshments July 3**  
 Richardean Paige/Marilu Alarcon

**Refreshments July 10**  
 Matt Fitzpatrick/?

*New Lector and EO Eucharistic Minister schedules are on board. Please look them over.*

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

*Pray for Fr. Emmanuel, Fr. Ernie and Fr. Don.*

*Please pray for father and his Prison ministry.*

*The Legion of Mary 1:30 PM Fridays*



*Ask Cathy Ciani about membership*

**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*



**Second Collection for: Peter's Pence**



**Please pray for the soul of our former parishioner Phyllis Ralston Rous who died on Monday, June 20, AD 2016. Please also pray for the consolation of her husband Brian Rous. The Rous' were with St. Gerard's for a while and remained close to several of our parishioners. A Requiem Mass for Phyllis was on Saturday, June 25, AD 2016 at 10:00 AM at Old St. Mary Help of Christians Church on Park Ave., where they were married. Interment will be at a later time.**

**Volunteer Corner Thanks**

**Carol Miller, Bob Erikson and Jackie Brown for watering the plants. Mary Jo Erikson and Sparky Arbuckle for cleaning out Fathers refrigerator and freezer.**

**Joe Dennis will be contacting ushers, altar servers, lectors, EO Eucharistic Ministers and sacristans. This will be in an attempt for you and him to be familiar with each other and to assure that all those programs are operating according to policy.**

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](http://www.cce-sc.org)*

*The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is excited to announce the establishment of a Diocesan Missionary Team. The purpose of this groundbreaking program will be to evangelize youth in grades 6 – 12 and help them encounter Christ. Retreats will be offered beginning in September at our parishes and Catholic schools. To learn more or to help with the funding of this dynamic new program, go to <http://sccatholic.org/youth-ministry>*

**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](mailto: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](mailto:carla@actsofaiken.org). Additional application guidance will be provided.

I am sure that you noticed that most of the old trees are gone and we will have the stumps ground down in the near future. This makes the property safer and we will, in the fall, plant trees that are easier to maintain. This will enhance the curb appeal and provide some shade.

**MERCY CENTER - COLORADO SPRINGS 2016 SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR PERSONAL GROWTH & HEALING**

**The Tour of Mid-Life Transitions August 8-12, 2016**  
 In Phase One of life each person will be guided by their chosen archetype that helps in creating a personal and professional life-style and identity. By mid-life each person will move into their second archetype and experience a second birth that can lead to wonderment and bliss or if resisted and ignored depression and darkness. How do you cross the "poison river" of mid-life so that the journey to personal and professional transformation can be completed? Learning how to navigate the deep waters of mid-life will be our shared exploration during this week of dare and adventure.

**Spirituality & Recovery August 1-5, 2016**

All addictions are the absence of a grounded and embodied spirituality. If your drug of choice is food, alcohol, drugs, sex, pornography, money, love, gambling, power or control this week long program will take you to the core of your wounded self. Through mandala assessment you will discover what is missing and how personal and family grief and trauma can replicate itself in addictive thinking, feeling and behaving will lift the burden of guilt and shame. This program is designed for deep introspective moments, personal assessment and inner explorations while learning how to apply the power of prayer, forgiveness, serenity, achieving virtue and creating personal values that will guide you for a life time.

Mercy Center Inc., 520 W Buena Ventura St, Colorado Springs, CO 80907  
[themeracycenter@aol.com](mailto:themeracycenter@aol.com)