

Pope Francis' General Audience: On Bearing Wrongs Patiently

'It is easy to point the finger at the defects and lacks of others, but we should learn to put ourselves in others' shoes.'

Rome, November 16, 2016, zenith.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

We dedicate today's catechesis to a work of mercy that we all know very well, but that perhaps we do not put into practice as we should: *to endure patiently people who annoy us*. We are all very good in identifying a presence that can annoy us: it happens when we meet someone on the street, or when we receive a phone call ... We immediately think: "How long will I have to hear the complaints, the gossip, the requests or the boasts of this person?" It also happens some times that annoying persons are those closest to us: among relatives there is always one; they are not lacking in the workplace and not even in free time are we exempted. What should we do with annoying persons? But we also many times are annoying to others. Why has this also been inserted among the works of mercy? *To endure patiently people who annoy us?*

In the Bible, we see that God Himself must exercise mercy to endure the complaints of His people. For instance, in the Book of Exodus the people are truly unbearable: first they weep because they are slaves in Egypt, and God delivers them; then, in the desert, they complain because there is nothing to eat (cf. 16:3), and God sends quails and manna (cf. 16:13-16), yet despite this, the complaints do not cease. Moses was the mediator between God and the people, and sometimes the Lord also annoyed him. However, God had patience and thus He also taught Moses and the people this essential dimension of faith.

Then a first question comes spontaneously: do we ever make an examination of conscience to see if we also, sometimes, are annoying to others? It is easy to point the finger at the defects and lacks of others, but we should learn to put ourselves in others' shoes.

We look above all at Jesus: how much patience He had to have during the three years of His public life! Once, when He was walking with His disciples, he was stopped by the mother of James and John, who said to Him: "Command that these two sons of mine sit, one at your right and the other at your left, in your kingdom" (*Matthew 20:21*). The mother was lobbying for her sons, but she was the mother ...

Jesus takes that situation also as a starting point to give a fundamental teaching: His is not a kingdom of power and glory as the earthly ones, but of service and donation to others. Jesus teaches to go always to the essential and to look beyond to assume one's mission with responsibility. We can see here the recalling to two other works of spiritual mercy: to *admonish sinners* and to *teach the ignorant*. We think of the great commitment we can give when we help people to grow in faith and in life. I am thinking, for instance, of catechists – among whom there are so many mothers and so many women religious – who dedicate time to teach youngsters the basic elements of the faith. How much effort, especially when youngsters prefer to play rather than to listen to the catechism!

It is good and important to accompany <individuals> in the search for the essential, because it makes us share the joy of relishing the meaning of life. It often happens that we meet persons who stop at superficial, ephemeral and trivial things, sometimes because they have not met someone who would stimulate them to seek something else, to appreciate the true treasures. To teach to look at the essential is a determinant help, especially in a time like ours, which seems to have lost the way and chases short-term satisfactions. To teach to discover what the Lord wants from us, and how we can correspond to Him, means to set out on the way to grow in one's vocation, the way of true joy. Thus were Jesus' words to the mother of James and John, and then to the whole group of the disciples, indicating the way to avoid falling into envy, ambition and adulation, temptations that are always lurking also among us Christians. The need to counsel, admonish and teach must not make us feel superior to others, but obliges us first of all to enter within ourselves to verify if we are coherent with all that we ask of others. Let us not forget Jesus' words: "Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?" (*Luke 6:41*)." May the Holy Spirit help us to be patient in enduring and humble and simple in counseling.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

2 Samuel 5:1-3(162C)

Responsorial:

Psalm 122:1-2,3-4,4-5

Second Reading:

Colossians 1:12-20

Gospel:

Luke 23:35-43

Today's Missal

Lectionary Readings for the

week of November 20, 2016

Monday: Revelation 14:1-3,4b-5;

Luke 21:1-4

Tuesday: Revelation 14:14-19;

Luke 21:5-11

Wednesday: Revelation 15:1-4;

Luke 21:12-19

Thanksgiving: Sirach 50:22-24;

Psalm 113:1-2,3-4,5-6,7-8;

1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Luke 17:11-19

Friday: Revelation 20:1-4,11-21:2;

Luke 21:29-33

Saturday: Revelation 22:1-7; Luke 21:34-36

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

First Friday Benediction after Mass

Weekend Saturday 4:00 PM, Sunday 7:00 AM and 11:00 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:** Sundays 10:00 AM,

RCIA: 9 AM Thursdays

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

The Feast of Christ the King November 20, 2016

Mission Statement

Called to be a People for Others

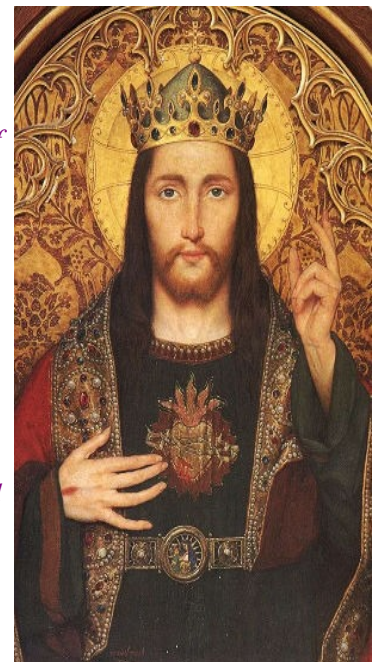
Vision Statement

*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

*Giving thanks with joy to the Father who has made
you able to share the lot of God's holy people and
with them to inherit the light. Because that is what he
has done. It is he who has rescued us from the ruling
force of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of
the Son that he loves, and in him we enjoy our
freedom, the forgiveness of sin. He is the image of the
unseen God, the first-born of all creation, for in him
were created all things in heaven and on earth:
everything visible and everything invisible, thrones,
ruling forces, sovereignties, powers -- all things were
created through him and for him. He exists before all
things and in him all things hold together, and he is
the Head of the Body, that is, the Church. He is the
Beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that he
should be supreme in every way; because God wanted
all fullness to be found in him and through him to
reconcile all things to him, everything in heaven and
everything on earth, by making peace through his
death on the cross.*

Colossians 1:12-20



Pray for our sick:

Judy Riley
Marge Glauser
Leonard Saunders
Shirley Paige
William and Jackie Cobbs
Woody Alexander
Lena Mickens
Rosa Johnson
Brenda and Ike
Ligons
Joe Fulmer
Chuck Simkin

Weekend Offering
November 12-13, 2016

Collection \$1,672.00
Needed \$2,612.00
Short (\$940.00)
Attendance 137

Stewardship a way of life

Saints help give us direction on the path of discipleship. They inspire us to give freely and gratefully of our time, abilities, and resources.



Mass Intentions

4:00 PM Mass is said for the soul of Spencer Harding Sr
From: P. Miles, 11:00 AM is said for the American Veterans
From: A. Lauer, 7:00 AM Mass is said for your own personal intentions,

The Gathering Hymn 372 H
His Name Is Wonderful
The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 36 M
The King of Kings, Christ Jesus Reigns
The Offertory Hymn is 344 H
Crown Him With Many Crowns
Our Song of Praise is 343 H
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name




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

Lay Ministers

	Saturday November 26 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: David Didimamoff E E Ministers: Ellen Heim/Joe Dennis	Sunday November 27 7:00 AM Mass Mary Kay L'Esperance Gerard L'Esperance	Sunday November 27 11:00 AM Mass Cathy Ciani Wayman Johnson
	Saturday December 3 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Diane Begic E E Ministers: Pam Ziomek	Sunday December 4 7:00 AM Mass Denise Gelinas Roger Gelinas	Sunday December 4 11:00 AM Mass Janet Menefee Jackie Brown
	Refreshments November 20 Matt Fitzpatrick/?	Refreshments November 27 Janet Menefee/Joan Lacombe	Refreshments December 4 Jackie Brown/Jeanette Coleman

Christmas flowers in memory of loved ones.

Memorials are \$10 each. Please make donations not later than December 18 so we can purchase the flowers and put the memorials in the bulletin. Contact the office, Jackie Brown or put donation in the collection baskets with the info on the loved one. Thank you and have a blessed Advent



Advent And Christmas Mass Schedules:

Weekend Masses will remain the same with the exception of Christmas Masses. Christmas Eve Mass is at 7:00 PM and Christmas Day Mass is at 9:00 AM. Weekday Masses will remain the same with the exception of December the 8th, Feast of The Immaculate Conception Holy Day, Masses are at 8:15 AM and 6:00 PM. We will have a Penitential Service at 7:00 PM Tuesday the 6th of December (We need Servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers and Sacristans for the penance service, the Holy Day and the two Christmas Masses.)

Second Collection this week For: Campaign for Human Development

Bulletin Announcement on Social interaction before Mass in the Church

There is no doubt that the lack of a gathering place is a burden on many of us, especially when we gather for Mass. Many rightly see the time before Mass as a good opportunity for social contact. It would be much appreciated if our social interaction in the church before Mass is done with due consideration for those that may be saying prayers or are having a moment of reflection. It would be helpful if all social interactions could be stopped and a quiet moment is observed five minutes before the start of Mass. Thank you very much.



Volunteer Corner:

Thanks to all those who prepare the Church for Mass each day.

The first of our ongoing Lector Development series will begin in November. If you are currently serving as a lector or wish to know more about how to serve in this capacity, you are strongly encouraged to attend. The sessions will be on Tuesday November 22 at 6 PM and Monday December 5 at 3 PM. The same program will be presented at both sessions so it is necessary to only attend one.

The Holy Door

This Sunday, join the Faithful of the Aiken Deanery for the closing ceremonies of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. There will be a Mass at 5:00 PM in St. Mary's church followed by a candlelight Eucharistic Procession in honor of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. Everyone will have a final opportunity to walk through the Holy Door and receive the plenary indulgence for the Year of Mercy. The night will end with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. For more information, call St. Mary's, Aiken, parish office at 803 649-4777; or email at parishoffice@stmarys-aiken.org; or visit the website: www.stmarys-aiken.org. Everyone is invited! (St. Mary's church: 138 Fairfield St. SE, Aiken, SC)

From The Bishop:

The Daughters of St. Paul have requested a day of prayer for their community and their charism of evangelization. They have been a marvelous presence in the city of Charleston for over 25 years. Their Catholic bookstore on King Street is a beacon of light in our city and they have been tremendously present to so many throughout the diocese. I declare a day of prayer for the Daughters of St. Paul in the Diocese of Charleston on Nov. 26, the feast day of their founder, Blessed James Alberione.

COLUMBIA, S.C. –

As South Carolinians prepare for Thanksgiving and the holiday season, Governor Nikki Haley announced a day of prayer vigils throughout the state on Tuesday, November 22, 2016. The governor, working together with leaders of the faith community, urges everyone, regardless of their faith or denomination, to pray for continued strength and healing across the state and give thanks for the state's blessings. Prayer vigils will be held in individual places of worship at 12:00 PM when bells will ring in observance of services statewide. "Faith, prayer and helping our neighbors is what got us through a challenging time last year, and those things will get us through these two trials and the aftermath of the hurricane," said the governor. "In South Carolina, we know how to have compassion toward each other, count our blessings, and remember that we are one state, one people."

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. December 9-11, 2016 in Rock Hill, SC. For information and registration please call Sarah 803 6271209. Or email grace4healing@gmail.com

Choir Practice will be held on the following Tuesdays November 29, December 6 & 13. Time 6:00 PM till 7:15 PM.

Black Catholics' heritage Celebration 2016 Theme: Forgiveness, reconciliation and Racial Harmony
Saturday December 10, 2016-9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Embassy Suites by Hilton Charleston Airport Hotel and Conference Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone, Bishop Edward K. Braxton, Father Michael Okere, The Heritage Choir under the direction of Mr. Charlton Singley, a youth track and much more. Registration /information contact Office of Ethnic Ministries @ 864 331-2627 or ethnicministriessecretary@catholic-doc.org

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

The Legion of Mary is meeting at 1:30 on Fridays. Call the office with questions. Please Pray the Rosary.

If you attend St. Gerard on a regular basis and feel welcome, Why not consider becoming a member. We would love to have you. Feel free to talk to a member or call the office 649-3203. Registration forms are in the the church hall lobby.

Christ Central is looking for volunteers for their 4 Aiken County locations. 2 in Aiken and 2 in Graniteville. Mentors and Youth Leaders are needed and these are only 2 of the needs for volunteers. For more information call 803 644-0705