

## Pope Francis' General Audience Text: On Crossing the Holy Door Like the Widow of Nain

“So, especially in the Jubilee, Mother Church receives her children, recognizing in them the life given to them by the grace of God”

Rome, August 10, 2016. Zenit.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

The passage of Luke's Gospel that we heard (7:11-17) presents to us a truly grandiose miracle of Jesus: the resurrection of a young man. Yet, the heart of this account is not the miracle but Jesus' tenderness to the young man's mother. Here mercy takes the name of great compassion toward a woman who had lost her husband and is now accompanying her only son to the cemetery. It is this great sorrow of a mother, which moves Jesus and incites Him to the miracle of the resurrection.

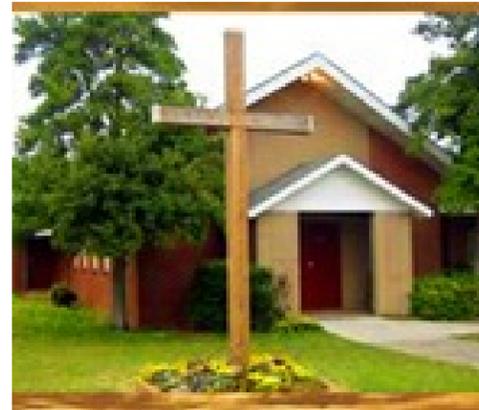
On introducing this episode, the Evangelist dwells on many particulars. Meeting at the door of the small city of Nain, a village, are two numerous groups that came from opposite directions and have nothing in common. Jesus, followed by the disciples and a great crowd, is about to enter the town, while the sad procession is coming out, which is accompanying the deceased, with the widowed mother and many people. Near the door the two groups just pass one another, each one going its own way, but it is then that Saint Luke notes Jesus' sentiment: Seeing [the woman], the Lord was gripped by great compassion for her “and said to her, ‘Do not weep.’ And He came close and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still” (vv. 13-14). Great compassion guided Jesus' actions: He halted the procession and touched the bier and, moved by profound mercy for this mother, He decided to confront death, so to speak, face to face. And He would confront it definitively, face to face, on the Cross.

During this Jubilee, it would be a good thing if, on crossing the Holy Door, the Door of Mercy, pilgrims were to recall this episode of the Gospel, which happened at the gate of Nain. When Jesus saw that mother in tears, she entered His heart! Each one arrives at the Holy Door bearing his own life, with its joys and its sufferings, plans and failures, doubts and fears, to present them to the Lord's mercy. We are certain that, at the Holy Door, the Lord comes close to meet each one of us, to bring to us and to offer us His powerful consoling word: “Do not weep!” (v.13). This is the Door of the encounter between humanity's pain and God's compassion. Let us always think of this: an encounter between humanity's pain and God's compassion. By crossing the threshold we fulfill our pilgrimage in the mercy of God who repeats to all of us, as He did to the young man: “I say to you, arise!” (v.14). Arise! God wants us to stand. He created us to stand: therefore, Jesus' compassion leads to that gesture of healing, to heal us, the key word here is: “Arise! Stand up, as God has created you!” – Stand. “But father, we fall so often” – “Forward, arise!” This is always Jesus' word. On crossing the Holy Door, let us seek to hear this word in our heart: “Arise!” Jesus' powerful word can make us arise and work in us also the passage from death to life. His word makes us revive, it gives hope, heartens tired hearts, opens to a vision of the world and of life that goes beyond suffering and death. Engraved on the Holy Door for each one is the inexhaustible treasure of God's mercy!

Reached by Jesus' word, “the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And He gave him to his mother” (v. 15). This phrase is so beautiful: it indicates Jesus' tenderness: “He gave him to his mother.” The mother finds her son again. Receiving him from Jesus' hands, she becomes mother for the second time, but the son that is now restored to her has not received his life from her. Thus mother and son receive their respective identity thanks to the powerful word of Jesus and his loving gesture. So, especially in the Jubilee, Mother Church receives her children, recognizing in them the life given to them by the grace of God. It is by dint of this grace, the grace of Baptism, that the Church becomes Mother and that each one of us becomes her child.

In face of the young man who came back to life and was restored to his mother, “fear seized them all; and they glorified God saying, ‘A great prophet has arisen among us’ and ‘God has visited His people!’” What Jesus did, therefore, is not only an act of salvation directed to the widow and her son, or a gesture of kindness limited to that city. In Jesus' merciful rescue, God goes to encounter His people; in Him appears and will continue to appear to humanity, all the grace of God. Celebrating this Jubilee, which I wanted to be lived in all the particular Churches, namely in all the Churches of the world, and not only in Rome, it is as if the whole Church spread throughout the world joins in the one song of praise to the Lord. Today also, the Church recognizes herself being visited by God. Therefore, on going to the Door of Mercy each one knows that he goes to the merciful heart of Jesus: in fact, He is the true Door that leads to salvation and restores us to a new life. Mercy, be it in Jesus be it in us, is a path that begins from the heart to arrive at the hands. What does this mean? Jesus looks at you, He heals you with His mercy, He says to you: “Arise!” — and your heart is new. What does it mean to go on the path from the heart to the hands? It means that with a new heart, with a heart healed by Jesus I can carry out works of mercy through my hands, trying to help, to take care of all those in need. Mercy is a path that begins from the heart and arrives at the hands, namely, to works of mercy.

# St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

## SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Jeremiah 38:4-6,8-10

Responsorial:

Psalms 40:2,3,4,18

Second Reading:

Hebrews 12:1-4

Gospel:

Luke 12:49-53

Today's Missal

## Lectionary Readings for the week of August 14, 2016

Monday: Revelation 11:19a;12:1-6a, 10ab;  
Psalm 45:10,11,12,16; Luke 1:39-56

Tuesday: Ezekiel 28:1-10;  
Matthew 19:23-30

Wednesday: Ezekiel 34:1-11;  
Matthew 20:1-16

Thursday: Ezekiel 36:23-28;  
Matthew 22:1-14

Friday: Ezekiel 37:1-14;  
Matthew 22:34-40

Saturday: Ezekiel 43:1-7ab;  
Matthew 23:1-12

## The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 14, 2016

### Mission Statement

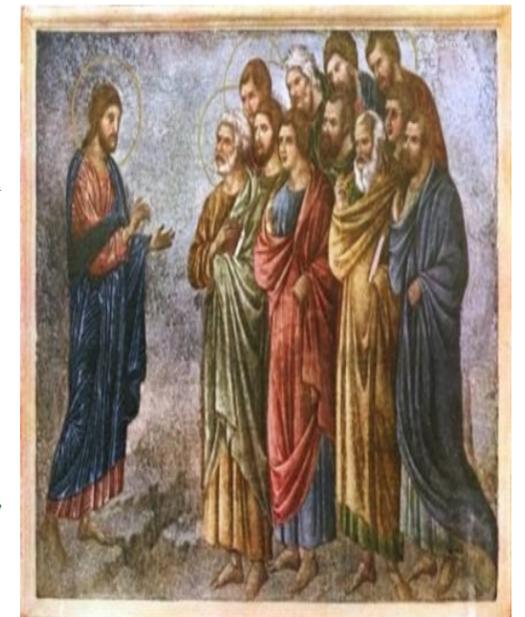
*Called to be a People for Others*

### 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**

*'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! 'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on, a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; father opposed to son, son to father, mother to daughter, daughter to mother, mother-in-law to daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law to mother-in-law.'*



Luke 12:49-53

**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 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](mailto:stgerardscatholi@atlanticbbn.net)

**Facebook** @stgerardaiken, **Emergency number for Father 803 341-5933**



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

When we turn over our lives to become disciples of Jesus, we trust that our needs will be met, our sacrifices worthwhile. This first step can be very difficult. We need to remember it is God whom we can trust. And God will not be outdone by our generosity.



**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 said for Bruce McGrath From:  
 Sue Charlesworth, 7:00 AM Mass & 11:00 AM Mass  
 are all said for your own personal intentions

**Weekend Offering**  
 August 6-7 2016  
 Collection \$3,222.09  
 Needed \$2,612.00  
 Over \$610.09  
 Attendance 121  
 Stewardship a way of life

*The Gathering Hymn* 22 M  
*On This Day, The First of Days*  
*The Offertory Hymn is* 28 M  
*Blessed by Your Sacrifice*  
*The Communion Hymn is* CHOIR 442 BB  
*How Can I Keep From Singing*  
*Our Song of Praise is* 30 M  
*Immaculate Mary*



Lay Ministers		
 <b>Saturday August 20</b> 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: David Didimamoff E E Ministers: Ellen Heim	<b>Sunday August 21</b> 7:00 AM Mass Mary Key L'Esperance Joe Dennis/Gerard L'Esperance	<b>Sunday August 21</b> 11:00 AM Mass Paula Thurston Joe Dennis/Wayman Johnson
<b>Saturday August 27</b> 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Diane Begic E E Ministers: Joe Dennis/Pam Ziomek	<b>Sunday August 28</b> 7:00 AM Mass Denise Gelinas Joe Dennis/Roger Gelinas	<b>Sunday August 28</b> 11:00 AM Mass Cathy Ciani Joe Dennis/Jackie Brown
<b>Refreshments August 14</b> Shirley Paige/Anna Marie Key	<b>Refreshments August 21</b> Jean Schodowski/Jeanette Coleman	<b>Refreshments August 28</b> Jackie Brown/Rosa DiStefano



Correction: August 15 is not a Holy Day. There will be no Mass at St. Gerard on that day. Sorry for the error.

**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.

*Thank you and bless your gifts for Feed The Valley Weekend*

America needs Fatima rosary rally is on 15 October this year. Please mark it in your calendar. We had a small group show up last year. The prior year we had a large group. More info will be coming.

**Second Collection For: Youth Ministries**  
 Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Tuesdays at the 8:15 Mass



The Legion of Mary schedule is flexible. If you want to know if they are meeting at 1:30 on any Friday call the office on Thursday and we can tell you. Please continue to pray the Rosary.

**Finance Council meeting Tuesday 16 August at 4:00 PM**

Dear friends and members of St Gerard Parish Family, I wish to express my profound gratitude and thanks to all of you and especially to those that contributed ideas, or took leadership role or participated in the planning or gave their time to preparing the beautiful and delicious dishes we shared on my birthday. I also thank those that gave cards or expressed warm thoughts and kind wishes to me at my birthday celebration. I wish you all God's abundant blessings and mercy as your reward. Thanks once again and God bless.  
 Sincerely yours,  
 Fr. Emmanuel Andinam.

**ST Gerard Fall Festival**  
**Odell Weeks Center, October 8, 9 AM to 1 PM**



**October 8, 2016 beginning at 9:00 AM at the Weeks Center, Whiskey Road, Aiken SC**  
 We need the support of all St Gerard parishioners to make this a successful event. VENDORS, volunteers, raffle items/baskets, books and items for a silent auction are still needed.

Showcase and sell your creations. Clean out your house of items no longer wanted and sell them at the fall festival. Spread the word to family and friends. All spots are free to St Gerard parishioners. We ask for at least 10% donation from your sales. You may bring your own tent and set up at one of the outside spots; however, we have one shelter rented for this event with power, water, grill and eleven picnic tables.

For business vendors the spots are \$50.00 for a 14 ft. X 14 ft. spot.  
 Bake sale, book sales, raffles and silent auction will be held inside the Weeks Center in room #4.

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP**

**Fall Festival meeting August 16 at 5:00 PM**

**Wanted: New items that would be useful for the silent auction. Last year that was our big profit item.**

**Volunteer Corner: We need a fund raising committee and we need some people to chair certain committees for the Fall festival. Please contact the office or someone one the parish council to volunteer.**

If you have used books in decent condition, please bring them to church for the book sale at the Fall Festival. In addition we need to have someone in charge of the book sale. Please contact the office or a parish council member.

When we get closer to the date of the Fall Festival we will need bake goods for the bake sale.

**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.

**2016 Catholic Young Adult Leadership Training: 'Go and Bring Christ to the World!'**  
 August 19-21, 2016 @ the Diakonia Retreat Center  
 'Go and bring Christ to the world!' A rephrasing of 'The Great Commission' (Matthew 28:16-20), was a lasting reminder and call to Swiss Guards as they retired from their posting under the papacy of Pope St. John Paul II. This mission, to bring the message of Jesus Christ to the world, has fueled and engulfed the hearts and minds of Christian disciples for over two-thousand years.  
 In a world seeking to know the true love of Jesus Christ, the role and witness of the Disciple is greatly needed. As baptized and confirmed members of the Body of Christ, we are equipped with the graces needed to bring this message of peace, love, and mercy to humanity. Join young adult leaders from across the Diocese on August 19-21 at the Diakonia Retreat Center in Salem, SC, as we re-equip ourselves to answer the Great Commission, and go into our homes, work places, parishes, and communities to go and bring Christ to the world.  
 For more information contact the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry [rmeubauer@catholic-doc.org](mailto:rmeubauer@catholic-doc.org) or 843.261.0445. Online registration can also be found: <http://ow.ly/lksa302mDzq>  
 Thank you for your service to Jesus Christ and His Church! We are so very grateful for you.  
 We will be keeping you all and your intentions in our prayers as we pilgrimage to the 2016 WYD in Krakow.  
 In His Abundant Peace & Joy,  
 Rachel Neubauer,  
 Associate Director of Young Adult Ministry

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. It's not only rewarding but fun, as well!  
 Just e-mail [usatvolunteer@actsofaiken.org](mailto:usatvolunteer@actsofaiken.org), or call 803.649.3800 for more information.

**BINGO**  
**Columbus Club Hall Every Monday at 7:10 PM till 9:00 PM**  
**5 Cards \$ 10.00**  
**Each Additional Card \$2.00**



**15 Regular Games \$20 Payout**  
**1 Coverall Jackpot \$150 Payout**