

POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE: On the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes

'Jesus loves us so much and wants to be close to us.'

Rome, August 17, 2016. Zenit.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning! Today, we wish to reflect on the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves. At the beginning of Matthew's account (cf. 14:13-21), Jesus has just received the news of John the Baptist's death, and He crosses the lake in a boat, seeking "a deserted place by himself" (v. 13). The people, however, caught on and went ahead of Him on foot, so that "When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick." (v.14). Jesus was like this: always with compassion, always thinking of others. The determination of the people who feared to be left alone, as though abandoned, is impressive. John the Baptist, the charismatic prophet, being dead, they entrust themselves to Jesus, of whom John himself had said: "The one who is coming after me is mightier than I." (Matthew 3:11). So, the crowds follow Him everywhere, to hear Him and to bring the sick to Him. And, seeing this, Jesus is moved. Jesus is not cold; He does not have a cold heart. Jesus can be moved. On one hand, He feels bound to this crowd and does not want them to go away; on the other, He is in need of moments of solitude, of prayer, with the Father. He spends many nights praying with His Father.

So, that day also, the Master dedicated Himself to the people. His compassion is not a vague sentiment; instead, it shows all the strength of His will to be close to us and to save us. Jesus loves us so much and wants to be close to us.

When it was evening, Jesus was concerned to feed all those tired and hungry people, and He takes care of all those who follow Him. And He wants to involve His disciples in this. In fact, He says to them: "you give them something to eat" (v. 16). And He showed them that the few loaves and fish they had — with the strength of faith and prayer —, could be shared by all those people. Jesus wrought a miracle, but it is the miracle of faith, of prayer, aroused by compassion and love. So Jesus "broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds" (v. 19). The Lord goes to meet men's needs, but He wants to make each one of us concretely participant of His compassion.

Now, we pause on Jesus' gesture of blessing: He took "the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them" (v. 19). As can be seen, these are the same signs that Jesus carried out in the Last Supper; and they are also the same that every priest carries out when he celebrates the Holy Eucharist. The Christian community is born and reborn continually of this Eucharistic Communion. To live communion with Christ, therefore, is altogether other than remaining passive and estranged from daily life; on the contrary, it inserts us increasingly in our relation with the men and women of our time, to offer them a concrete sign of mercy and of Christ's care. While nourishing us with Christ, little by little the Eucharist we celebrate also transforms us into the Body of Christ and spiritual food for brothers. Jesus wants to reach everyone, to bring to all the love of God. Therefore, He renders every believer a servant of mercy. Jesus saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them and He multiplied the loaves; He does the same with the Eucharist. And we believers, who receive this Eucharistic bread, are driven by Jesus to bring this service to others, with His same compassion. This is the way.

The account of the multiplication of loaves and fish ends with the verification that all were satisfied and with the gathering of the left over pieces (cf. v. 20). When, with His compassion and His love, Jesus gives us a grace, He forgives us our sins, He embraces us, He loves us, He does not do things by half, but completely. As happened here, all are satisfied. Jesus fills our heart and our life with His love, with His forgiveness, with His compassion. Hence Jesus allowed His disciples to carry out His order. Thus they know the way to follow: to feed the people and keep them united; to be, that is, at the service of life and of communion. Therefore, we invoke the Lord, may He always render His Church capable of this holy service, so that every one of us is able to be an instrument of communion in our own family, at work, in the parish and in groups of memberships, a visible sign of the mercy of God, who does not want to leave anyone in solitude and in need, so that communion and peace and men's communion with God descend among men, because this communion is life for all.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Isaiah 66:18-21(123C)

Responsorial:

Psalm 117:1,2

Second Reading:

Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13

Gospel:

Luke 13:22-30

Today's Missal

Lectionary Readings for the week of August 21, 2016

Monday: Thessalonians 1:1-5,11-12;
Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday: Thessalonians 2:1-3a,14-17;
Matthew 23:23-26

Wednesday: Revelation 21:9b-14;
John 1:45-51

Thursday: Corinthians 1:1-9;
Matthew 24:42-51

Friday: Corinthians 1:17-25;
Matthew 25:1-13

Saturday: Corinthians 1:26-31;
Matthew 25:14-30

The Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time August 21, 2016

Mission Statement

Called to be a People for Others

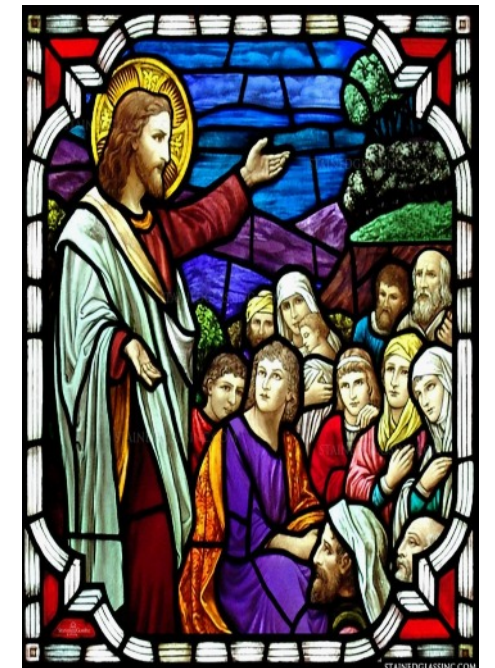
Vision Statement

*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

*'Then there will be weeping
and grinding of teeth, when
you see Abraham and Isaac
and Jacob and all the prophets
in the kingdom of God, and
yourselves thrown out.
And people from east and
west, from north and south,
will come and sit down at the
feast in the kingdom of God.
'Look, there are those now last
who will be first, and those
now first who will be last.'*

Luke 13:28-30



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

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, 7:00 AM Mass & 11:00 AM Mass
are all said for your own personal intentions

The Gathering Hymn 683 H
All Are Welcome
The Offertory Hymn is 405 H
How Great Thou Art
The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 759 H
I Receive the Living God
Our Song of Praise is 27 M
Now Thank We All Our God



Weekend Offering

August 13-14 2016

Collection \$1,574.00
Needed \$2,612.00
Short \$1,038.00
Attendance 121
Stewardship a way of life

Lay Ministers

	Saturday August 27 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Diane Begic E E Ministers: Joe Dennis/Pam Ziomek	Sunday August 28 7:00 AM Mass Denise Gelinis Joe Dennis/Roger Gelinis	Sunday August 28 11:00 AM Mass Cathy Ciani Joe Dennis/Jackie Brown
	Saturday September 3 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Tami Schaeffer E E Ministers: Joe Dennis/Jerry Schaeffer	Sunday September 4 7:00 AM Mass Mary Key L'Esperance Gerard L'Esperance	Sunday September 4 11:00 AM Mass Janet Menefee Jeanette Coleman
	Refreshments August 21 Jean Schodowski/Jeanette Coleman	Refreshments August 28 Jackie Brown/Rosa DiStefano	Refreshments September 4 Jackie Cobb/Rosa Johnson



This weekend we celebrate the baptism of Jonathan Zheng Wright, son of Greg and Rebecca Wright. Godfather Pacifico J. Perea, Godmother Yulina Bucheli

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.

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

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

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

Fall Festival Team Work



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.

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.

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.

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, or call 803.649.3800 for more information.

Next Sunday we will be asking those members of our parish family that have no contact information with the parish to be aware that we will be asking for their contact information at all the masses. Thanks for your cooperation in this effort.

Attention Parents CCD classes will begin on September 11 at 10:00 AM Jeanette Coleman will be in touch with you.

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.

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.

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

Please Volunteer Remember Time, Talent and Treasure

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.

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.

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.

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



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