Who Needs Love?

Part of the first reading from Acts that we don’t hear is a vision Peter has, in which God tells him that all foods are OK to eat; no longer are some unclean. He later realizes that the vision was a symbol that all people are “clean,” Gentiles as well as Jews. Not all of the early Christians understood. The Jewish Christians were shocked that the Holy Spirit would give gifts, such as speaking in tongues, to Gentiles. Especially Gentiles who had not been baptized.

Now the distinction between Gentile and Jewish Christians doesn’t seem very important today. But we still need to follow St. Peter’s example of sharing our faith in Jesus. Does that mean we should drag any non-believers we meet to church on Sunday? Should we brag about how much we love God?

Today’s gospel gives us a hint at what we can do to bring others to Christ. Jesus makes it sound simple: Love one another as I love you. (Jn 15:12) The second reading from John tells us that love is not people loving God; it’s that God loved us first, enough to send his Son to die for us. We may think that we have chosen to love and follow Jesus, but as the gospel tells us, Jesus chose us before we ever chose him. So maybe that part about loving others as Jesus loves us is this: are we willing to love others without requiring that they love us first?

How can we do that? I can introduce myself to someone new to the parish that I see in church. I can offer to help the poor without waiting for the pastor to beg. I can make a priority of seeing what I can do for others, instead of what they can do for me. Perhaps part of our daily prayer can be asking God to show us who needs our love today.

...Continued next column —>>
**THINGS TO KNOW**

**Nursery:** Is available for children age 6 weeks to 4 yrs. old during the Sunday 9:00 am Mass. It is located at the right hand side of the school’s breezeway entrance. For more information or to help, please contact Vicki Vázquez at Admin@NativityCharleston.org or at 843-795-3821.

**Children’s Liturgy of the Word:** Is offered to 4 year olds through 5th graders during the 9:00 am Mass on Sundays. Children are dismissed after the opening prayers and re-join their parents for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

**Religious Education Programs:** Nativity School serves students enrolled in grades K4 through 8. The Parish School of Religion (PSR) is offered for other parish children, grades K4 through 8. PSR classes are held in the School Building from 10:00 to 11:15 am on Sunday mornings during the school year. To register, please contact Mary Smith at 843-795-3821 x 24.

**Creating Safe Environments:** All volunteers who minister in programs involving the children at Nativity Parish/School are required to complete the Safe-Haven Online Abuse Prevention Training program. Please visit http://charleston.CMGconnect.org to complete this program. For more information, please contact Vicki Vázquez at Admin@NativityCharleston.org or at 843-795-3821.

**Baptism:** To schedule a Baptism preparation class, a parent should be an active parishioner. For more information, contact Mary Smith at 843-795-3821 x 24.

**Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation:** A two year preparation period is required for these sacraments. If you would like to have your child receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation and Eucharist in the 2nd grade, the child must have participated in a 1st grade PSR or Catholic school program. If you plan to have your child receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the 8th grade, the child must have participated in a 7th grade PSR or Catholic school program. For more information please contact Mary Smith at 843-795-3821 x 24.

**Sacrament of Marriage:** Couples need to contact the priest at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date. Please contact the parish office at 843-795-3821 x 27.

**Care of the Sick and Homebound:** We care about you. To arrange for a pastoral visit, please contact the parish office at 843-795-3821 x 21.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA):** is a program for adults who wish to become Catholics. For information or to register please contact Vicki Vázquez at Admin@NativityCharleston.org or at 843-795-3821.

**Sacrament of the Sick:** The Anointing of the Sick can be received by Catholics who are “in danger of death” (e.g. undergoing treatment for cancer, surgery, other life-threatening conditions) or “advanced in years”. Please do not wait until the last minute to request the Anointing of the Sick. If a person waits until the last minute, a priest may not be available. For more information or to request this sacrament, please contact the parish office at 843-795-3821 x 21.

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**STAFF**

**Pastor:** Rev. Thomas Kingsley
Pastor@NativityCharleston.org, 843-795-3821 x 27

**Director of Administration:** Mrs. Vicki Vázquez
Admin@NativityCharleston.org, 843-795-3821 x 21

**Financial Secretary:** Mrs. Carolyn Miller
Finance@NativityCharleston.org, 843-795-3821 x 22

**Music Director:** Mrs. Courtney Reed
Music@NativityCharleston.org, 843-795-3821 x 23

**Religious Education:** Mrs. Mary L. Smith
DRE@NativityCharleston.org, 843-795-3821 x 24

**School Principal:** Mrs. Patti Dukes
pdukes@nativity-school.com, 843-795-3975

**Diocesan Office of Child Protection Services:**
843-853-2130 x 209

**Diocesan Victim Assistance Minister:**
800-921-8122

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**Note from the Finance Council**

You can provide for the needs of future generations of Catholics by remembering Nativity in your will. You may also choose to make a gift through a charitable trust or an annuity. For more information about joining the newly established Catholic Heritage Society or to learn more about legacy gifts, please contact Carrie Mummert at (843) 261-0435 or email cmummert@catholic-doc.org. All inquiries are handled in confidence.

**An Active Parishioner**

- is registered with the parish for at least 3 months,
- attends liturgies weekly
- makes regular and identifiable contributions by using parish envelopes or myEoffering.

These criteria are used to verify parishioner status for Weddings, Sacramental Preparation, Parish School of Religion enrollment, Sponsor Certificates for Baptism and Confirmation, and to receive parishioner tuition rates at Catholic schools. An extended time with no activity will place a person or family on inactive status.

**Please be an active parishioner**

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**New to Our Community?**

To register in our parish, please fill out a registration form on our website: www.NativityCharleston.org.

Forms are available at the church entrances. However, for immediate access, just scan this image with your smart phone ——>>>>

For more information, please call the parish office at 843-795-3821.

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**Please consider joining our parish family!**

**Chosen**

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit.

...John 15:16
Let Us Pray
For members of our community who have requested our prayers

Recently Added: Edward H. Jordan

From previous months: Allene Barans, Rose Boxx, Margaret Anne Brown, Irene Burr, Joe Caraviello, Herman Connor, Doris Davis, Carrie Farmakis, Nora Faust, Jo Ann Frederick, Pate Futrell, Ruby Inez Germroth, Joseph Gorman, Madelyn Graf, Charlotte Hanna, Ron Hanna, Angela Harbuta, Carrie Farmakis, Nora Faust, Jo Ann Frederick, Pate Futrell, Ruby Inez Germroth, Joseph Gorman, Madelyn Graf, Charlotte Hanna, Ron Hanna, Angela Harbuta, Terry Harris, Barbara Hayes, Josh Higgins, Bridget Hinson, Ronnie & Myrtis Jenkins, Berndette Knisley, Fred Kornahrens, Charlie Kroeger, Delores Lopez, Joe Lopez, Bea Lucie, James Lyon, Jr., Sharon McLemore, Jeannie Moore, Paul & Carole Moran, Daniel B. Nail, Irene Parmenter, Ed and Terry Pop, Armine Richardson, James Riley, Michael Scarborough, Marie Smith, Kyle Souza, Suzy Stalker, Rosemary Sueverkrupe, Fran Taylor, Inge Thornley, David Tyser, Lois Ulichnie, Michael S. Van Nostrand, Courtney Wilson, Sally Wojcik, Delores Wrenn, Ronald and Kathie Zigli

For Members of our Community who have recently lost loved ones.

For our service men and women and their families throughout the world.

To have names added or removed from these lists, please contact the parish office at 843-795-3821

Intentions for this Week

Mass:
Sat 5 5:30 pm Alice Herrmann+
Sun 6 9:00 am Mary Ellen Maguire+
       11:30 am Suzanne Patmore+
Mon 7 4:15 pm No mass (Confirmation at 7:00pm)
Tues 8 4:15 pm Roger Joseph Wilkie+
Wed 9 4:15 pm Leon deBrux+
Thurs 10 9:30 am For the people of Nativity
Sat 12 5:30 pm Carlos De la Ossa+
Sun 13 9:00 am For the people of Nativity
       11:30 am Lisle Ulichnie+

Envelopes for Sanctuary Candle and Mass Intentions are at the church entrances. Please fill one out and put it in the collection basket. Please include your telephone number in case your requested date is unavailable.

Intention requests cannot be accepted more than 3 months in advance.
If we give ourselves to God and let Him use our talents to serve others, we will be amazed by the results. Not only will our lives be changed but so will the lives of others.

Nativity School—dedicated to the academic and spiritual growth of our students

Do you dream of a school where each child is accepted, included, and valued? Are you looking for a school that stands as the model of academic excellence, moral ideals, and spirituality? Have you searched for a values-based education in the Catholic tradition?

Look no further!

Discover Nativity School, James Island’s best kept secret for K4-8 grades.

For more information, please visit us at www.facebook.com/NativitySchoolKnights, or please call the school office at 843-795-3975.

First Communion
Saturday, May 5th at 10:00 am

Confirmation
Monday, May 7th at 7:00 pm

Nativity PSR and School students will celebrate Confirmation with our Bishop, the Most Rev. Robert Guglielmone.

All are invited and encouraged to attend! Please keep these young members of our faith community and their families in your prayers.

Scenes from the First Communion Retreat on Saturday, April 28th. Special thanks to Ryckie Watkins, Julia Walsh, and Meg Hoeft who served as Retreat Catechists.

May Procession and Crowning
The Parish School of Religion May Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be in the Nativity School Hall on Sunday, May 6 at 10:45 am.

This devotion is the closing event for the 2017-2018 PSR year.

All are invited to attend

Nativity’s Nursery Ministry Needs your Help.

This is a valuable and well used ministry for our community. However, we need more volunteers to be able to continue to provide this service. The nursery is in operation during the 9:00 am Mass on Sundays. If you think you can help at least one Sunday per month, please contact Vicki Vázquez at 843-795-3821 or at Admin@NativityCharleston.org.

Note: All Nativity volunteers who minister in programs involving the children of Nativity Parish/School are required to complete the Safe-Haven Online Abuse Prevention Training program.

If we give ourselves to God and let Him use our talents to serve others, we will be amazed by the results. Not only will our lives be changed but so will the lives of others.
Carmelina Staino and Kevin Tyler were married at Nativity on Saturday, April 28, 2018.

May God grant them many years of happiness together.

Our Sympathy
We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Walter LaTorre, whose funeral was held at Nativity on Wednesday, April 25th.

May he rest in peace.

Thursday Evening Bible Study

FULFILLED
Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism – PART ONE

Fulfilled, an 8 part study, explores the biblical roots of the Catholic Faith. It uncovers God’s consistent design for our worship of him and his relationship with us. Learn how the Old Testament Tabernacle can be used as a blueprint for the Catholic Faith and how Jesus fulfilled it in the New Testament. Part One focuses on the elements found in the outer sanctuary of the Tabernacle and how they connect to the liturgical calendar, the priesthood, purgatory, baptism, and more.

Classes are 6:30 pm to 8 pm. This is an 8 week study at the home of Ryckie Watkins on James Island. For more information, please contact Ryckie at 843-795-4194 or at ryckiewatkins1329@comcast.net.

All are welcome! Come once or many times.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH THE MASS
continues weekly at 6:00 pm in the Nativity Parish Office. During this 5 episode DVD based study, you will come to know and understand the Mass like never before. See, perhaps for the first time, why we say what we say, and do what we do as Catholics. With freshly awakened eyes of faith, the words and gestures will be seen in a new light, leading to a richer, more fruitful worship experience.

For more information, please contact Andrea Gilliard at acgilliard@comcast.net or at 843-696-2161.

Come to as many sessions as you are able!

Nativity Staff Email Addresses have Changed!

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Kingsley
Pastor@NativityCharleston.org.

Director of Administration: Mrs. Vicki Vázquez
Admin@NativityCharleston.org.

Financial Secretary: Mrs. Carolyn Miller
Finance@NativityCharleston.org.

Music Director: Mrs. Courtney Reed
Music@NativityCharleston.org.

Religious Education: Mrs. Mary L. Smith
DRE@NativityCharleston.org.

Please update your email directories as needed!

Bishop England High School Summer Sports Camps during June & July

For more information and/or to sign up please visit us at https://www.behs.com/athletics/sports-camps/
**Baptism**  
Ernest Etchegaray Murray VII, son of Beth and Ernest Murray, was welcomed into our faith community on Sunday, April 29.  
Congratulations to this new member of our church.

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**Vacation Bible School at Nativity.**

Mon. June 25 through Fri. June 29 from 9:00 am to noon.

Anchor kids in the truth that Jesus carries them through every storm in life. They’ll learn to hold onto God’s promises when they struggle and feel powerless.

Registration forms are now available at the church entrances.

**Registration Deadline is May 31st.**
For more information, please contact Mary Smith at 843-795-3821 x 24 or email DRE@NativityCharleston.org

Our Vacation Bible School will be even better if you help us!
To volunteer or for more information please contact Ryckie Watkins at 843-795 4194 or at ryckiewatkins1329@comcast.net.

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**James Island Outreach**

is the collaborative effort of the Churches of James Island to help our neighbors in need. The current facility is located at 1853 Maybank Highway (Bethany United Methodist Church). One of the Outreach ministries is a food pantry for the poor of James Island. The **Food Pantry is open 3 days a week** (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30 am). The people of Nativity help support this ministry.

**Our Next Food Collection is The weekend of (May 26-27)**

All non-perishable food is welcome. Please place items in the containers at the church entrances. Moreover, there is work to be done! Maybe you can lend us a hand. For more information please contact Claire Bergstrom at clairebergstrom@bellsouth.net or at 843-795-5265.

Thank you for your care of our neighbors in need!
Nativity Ladies Guild
Coffee and Donuts This Sunday (May 6).
following 9:00 Mass. There is no charge but your donations will help support the Good Works of the Ladies Guild. Please stop by, enjoy the snacks and talk to us to learn more about the Ladies Guild.

All Are Invited!!

Nativity Ladies Guild Sewing Group
Saturday, May 26th from 9:00 am to noon
In the Nativity Parish Office
All Are Welcome.
Even if you don’t sew you can help out with this ministry.
For more information please call Courtney Wilson at (843) 452-6474.
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