

Just Look at the Cross

The common theme of today's readings is forgiveness. The Gospel is one familiar to us all, and in the second reading Paul highlights his story of receiving God's mercy. But the first reading might cause us to wonder if God was always so forgiving. God and Moses come across like a couple of parents deciding whether they should punish their children. (Notice how the Lord says "your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt" [Exodus 32:7] and Moses says "your own people" in verse 11.) One, the Lord, points out how bad Israel has been. The other, Moses, points out how good God is, in the promise to make them a great nation. The important point is that God relented and forgave the people.

In each case, great sins are forgiven. The people of Israel were guilty of idolatry, worshiping the golden calf. Paul was guilty of blasphemy and persecuting Christians. The prodigal son insulted his father by asking for his inheritance while the man was still alive and then squandered it all. Each was forgiven, not because they deserved it, but because they were loved.

My favorite line in the second reading is "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1Timothy 1:15)—not to find the wealthiest people to build his kingdom, or the nicest, or the holiest; he came to save sinners. The Pharisees and scribes did not get this. They thought God wanted them to avoid sinners and to cast them out of the community. So they were scandalized when Jesus would associate with sinners. That was one of the reasons they

Continued next column -->

Catholic Diocese of Charleston



Church of the Nativity

1061 Folly Road
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

**Twenty-Fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
September 15, 2019**

Mission Statement

We strive to be a faith-centered, Catholic community. By virtue of Baptism, we are called forth to minister to one another the Gospel message of Jesus Christ through education, evangelization, social justice and ecumenism. We reach out in love, respect and support for all as we seek to do the will of God.

Weekly Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil	5:30 pm
Sunday	9:00 and 11:30 am
Mon. Tues., Wed.,	4:15 pm
Thursday	9:30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4:15 to 5:00 pm and by Appointment

Weekday Rosary in the Church

Mon, Tues, Wed 3:50 pm

Regular Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
Office: 843-795-3821 / Fax: 843-795-2714
website: www.nativitycharleston.org
e-mail: Office@NativityCharleston.org

wanted to kill Jesus. And yet, when they did just that, Jesus' death on the cross brought forgiveness for us all.

Remember the story in Genesis 18, of Abraham bargaining with God not to destroy Sodom if he could find a few good people? Maybe he should have "reminded" God of that divine mercy instead of hoping to find enough good people to spare the town. Sometimes we can't believe that God would love us so much as to forgive any sin. Just look at the cross if you need a reminder.

...Tom Schmidt, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co

Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.

~ Today's Psalm PS 51.

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 on the right side of the school's breezeway entrance. For more information or to volunteer to help, please contact Vicki Vázquez at admin@nativitycharleston.org or at 843-795-3821.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Is offered to children age 4 years through 5th grade during the 9:00 am Mass on Sundays. The children are dismissed after the opening prayers and re-join their family for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Religious Education Programs: Nativity School serves students 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 children at Nativity Parish or School are required to complete the Safe-Haven Online Abuse Prevention Training program. To complete this program, please visit <http://charleston.CMGconnect.org>. For more information please contact Vicki Vázquez at 843-795-3821.

Baptism: To schedule a Baptism preparation class, a parent should be an active parishioner. For more information please 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. Children planning to receive First Reconciliation and First Eucharist in the 2nd grade, must also have participated in a 1st grade PSR or Catholic school program. Children planning to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the 8th grade must also have participated in a 7th grade PSR or Catholic school program. For more information please contact Mary Smith at 843-795-3821 x 24

Alpha: is a series of sessions that explore the Christian faith. These sessions provide an opportunity to explore life's big questions, to say what you think and to hear other people's points of view. Each session considers a different question of our faith via a video presentation and interactive discussion designed to create conversation. All are welcome and encouraged to participate. For more information and/or to sign up, please visit www.nativitycharleston.org/alpha.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): is a program to prepare adults for entry into the Catholic Church. For information or to register please contact Vicki Vázquez at 843-795-3821.

FORMED.org: is a online service that provides access to electronic media (video studies, feature films, eBooks, audio presentations) from the Church's foremost presenters. Unlimited free access is provided to members of Nativity parish. Sign up at www.nativitycharleston.formed.org.

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

Sacrament of the Sick: Anointing of the Sick is the sacrament that is received by those who are suffering from a potentially life-threatening illness, those planning to have serious surgery and those in advanced years. Please do not wait until the 'last minute' to request the Anointing of the Sick. For more information or to request this sacrament, contact the parish office at 843-795-3821 x 21.

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Kingsley
Pastor@NativityCharleston.org, 843-795-3821 x 105

Director of Administration: Mrs. Vicki Vázquez
Admin@NativityCharleston.org, 843-795-3821 x 101

Financial Secretary: Mrs. Carolyn Miller
Finance@NativityCharleston.org, 843-795-3821 x 102

Music Director: Mrs. Courtney Reed
Music@NativityCharleston.org, 843-795-3821 x 103

Religious Education: Mrs. Mary L. Smith
DRE@NativityCharleston.org, 843-795-3821 x 104

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

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



New to Our Community?

To register in our parish, please fill out a registration form on our web site: 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.



Please consider joining our parish family!

It's the Truth

This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance:
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

... Today's Second Reading 1 Timothy 1

To advertise in our bulletin, please contact Jim Zupancic at zupancicj@jspaluch.com or at 708-764-0044.
Please support our Advertisers whose funding makes this bulletin possible.

Stewardship

Christian Stewardship takes a positive view on money. It sees money not only as a medium of exchange, but as a symbol of the person who has it. The way we acquire it, use it, and share it, we are revealed in those actions.

Offerings August 26 – September 8

Collections at Mass (Aug 31-Sep 1)	\$ 13,067.00
Collections at Mass (Sep 7-Sep 8)	\$ 11,162.00
Mail in Offerings (Aug 26–Sep 6)	\$ 4,715.00
myEoffering (Aug 26-Sep 6)	\$ 3,027.00
Budget (2 weeks)	<u>\$ 28,653.84</u>
Difference	\$ + 3,317.16
Registered Households	659
Envelopes Used (Aug 31-Sep 1)	234
Envelopes Used (Sep 7-Sep 8)	251
Active myEoffering Families	129
MyEoffering Family Donations (Apr 15-Apr 19)	53
MyEoffering Family Donations (Apr 22-Apr 26)	49

Thank you for your Generosity.

Liturgical Ministers for Sept. 21-22

Please arrange for a substitute if you are unable to fulfill your ministry as scheduled

5:30 pm Mass

Greeters:	Patrick Kelley & Kathy Wiley, Tom & Marcia McNamee
Altar Servers:	Nathanael Borick, Jake Hoeft, John Hoeft
Eucharistic Ministers:	Claire Bergstrom, Ernest Bergstrom, Patty Edwards, Carolyn Smith, Mary Smith, Alice Veyera, Maritza Zeisel
Lector:	Eileen Easler
Ushers:	Emmett Alphonse, William Jensen, Patrick Kelley, Leroy Holseberg

9:00 am Mass

Greeters:	Pat Palmer, Vazquez Family
Altar Servers:	Eliza Compton, Mary Compton, Matilda McElroy
Eucharistic Ministers:	Patricia Palmer, Hal Perry, Pat Perry, Kirby Preston, Kristi Roberts, Daniel Suggs, Tamme Suggs, Jimmy Craven
Lector:	Jim Anderson, Richard Bragiel, Jerry English, Michael O'Neale
Ushers:	

11:30 am Mass

Greeters:	Ann & Joe Ginn
Altar Servers:	Finn Duffy
Eucharistic Ministers:	Sharon Doniphant, Jackie Doscher, Lewis Doscher, Pam Everitt, Kathy Hepner, Mariano La Via, Susie Delorme
Lector:	Chuck Everitt, Joe Ginn,
Ushers:	Sheila Griner, Gilbert O'Brien



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**Don't forget to update your account
with your current credit card expiration date.**

For more information, please contact the parish office.

Let Us Pray

For members of our community who have requested our prayers

From previous months: Allene Barans, Arnold Bennett, Clydie Bevis, Beverly Blevins, Britt Lamarr Boswell, Joe Caraviello, Cathy Clarey, Herman Connor, Jake DuPre, Jo Ann Frederick, Ellen Pate Futrell, Ruby Inez Germroth, Malcolm Hale, Angela Harbuta, Terry Harris, James Michael Huber, Ronnie & Myrtis Jenkins, Fred Kornahrens, Teresa LaTorre, Delores Lopez, Paul Madden, Paul & Carole Moran, Suzette Nowak, Charlie Organ, Irene Parmenter, Brenda Pearson, Ed and Terry Pop, Betty Ann Quinn, James Romero, Rosemary Saari, Michael Scarborough, Kyle Souza, Fran Taylor, Inge Thornley, Lois Ulichnie, Rachel Villeponteaux, Courtney Wilson, Sally Wojcik

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

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

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

Intentions

Mass: This Week

Sat	14	5:30 pm	Mary Ann Biancotti+
Sun	15	9:00 am	For the people of Nativity
		11:30 am	Gilbert & Marion Molony O'Brien
Mon	16	4:15 pm	
Tues	17	4:15 pm	
Wed	18	4:15 pm	
Thurs	19	9:30 am	For the students of Nativity School
Sat	21	5:30 pm	Michael LaTorre+
Sun	22	9:00 am	For the people of Nativity
		11:30 am	For the people of Nativity

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.**

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



Nativity School is accepting applications for grades K4 through 8
for the 2019-2020 school year.

To learn more about us please visit our website at www.nativity-school.com
or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NativitySchoolKnights.

Don't miss this great Catholic education opportunity for your children.

Baptism

Oliver Asher Kitch,

son of Christine and Sean Kitch,
was welcomed into our faith community
on Saturday, September 7th.



**Congratulations to this
new member of our church.**

Are needed for
5:30 Sat. and 11:30
Sun. Masses

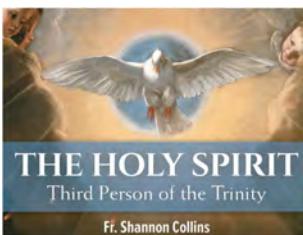


Greeters

Greeters are members of our Hospitality Ministry and they help to build a spirit of community among us. When they are scheduled to serve, greeters are asked to arrive approximately 15 minutes before the start of Mass. They welcome the people as they come in the door and offer them a worship aid. Individuals, couples, and families can serve as greeters.

For more information or to volunteer to help, please contact Victoria at the parish office, 843-795-3821 or at Admin@NativityCharleston.org.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study



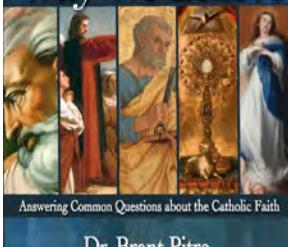
This is a 2 part video series. In this captivating presentation Fr. Shannon Collins discusses the essential character of the Holy Spirit and the role the forgotten Person of the Blessed Trinity has played since the creation of the world.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study is held 5:45 to 7:00 pm in the Nativity Parish Office. For more information, please contact Andrea Gilliard at 843-696-2161 or at acgilliard@comcast.net.

Please join us. All are welcome

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Why We Believe



This is an 8 part video series that explores the most commonly asked questions about the Catholic faith and provides clear and compelling biblical answers.

Thursday Night Bible Study is held 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the home of Ryckie Watkins. For more information please contact

Ryckie at ryckiewatkins1329@comcast.net or at 843-795-4194.

Please join us. All are welcome!

Ladies Guild Activities

Monday, September 23—Monthly Meeting

in the Nativity Parish Office.

Food at 6:30 pm

Meeting at 7:00 pm

Please Plan to Attend!

Movie Night at Nativity School

Friday, September 20 at 7:00 pm in the Nativity School Hall

See You There!

This is a collaborative effort of the Churches of James Island to help our neighbors in need. The people of Nativity help support this ministry with their volunteer effort and food donations.



We are now a Wellness Client Choice Pantry. Low-salt/low-sugar items are preferred but all **non-perishable and in date** food is welcome.

Please place items in the containers at the Nativity Church entrances before 12:30 pm on Sunday.

You help feed a lot of our hungry neighbors.

Thank You for your generosity!!

Rosary for Life

Monthly Rosary: Sat, Sep 21 at 8:00 am: at Planned Parenthood Charleston Health Center (1312 Ashley River Road Hwy. 61). For more information call Stephen Boyle at 843-763-0681.

Pregnant? Need Help?

Nationwide Toll Free:

800-395-HELP

www.pregnancycenters.org

Lowcountry Pregnancy Center

225-3010 in West Ashley or

553-3505 in North Charleston

Parish Life Center

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Nativity Parish Life Center Capital Campaign

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. How can I make my contributions?

You will be asked to make a gift or pledge that represents a sacrifice to support God's work. The total amount you pledge may be given over a three-year period. There are several ways you can meet your pledge:

- A one-time contribution. Please make your check out to the Nativity Parish Life Center Capital Campaign.

- Use Capital Campaign monthly envelopes. They will be in your monthly envelope packet and in the foyers of the church.

- If you are already signed up for electronic giving to Nativity via myOffering, you can choose the Capital Campaign as an option along with the other second collections. Please go to our website www.nativitycharleston.org and select the "Online Donations" button.

- Donate appreciated stock and avoid capital gains taxes. Please contact Father Kingsley at Pastor@NativityCharleston.org for information on how to do this.

- Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) using your Required Minimum IRA distribution. For this distribution not to be included in your income for tax purposes, it must go directly from your financial institution to the Church of the Nativity Capital Campaign. Nativity is eligible to receive tax-free IRA distributions through the QCD process. If needed, please contact the parish office for our tax I.D. number.

Q. Can I give without signing a pledge card?

Yes. The pledges are used to help us plan for when we can start construction.

Q. When will construction begin?

We must have at least half the construction cost in the bank and the other half in pledges prior to construction. Meanwhile, our Building Committee and Architect are moving through the multiple steps necessary to get our building design approved by the City of Charleston and the Diocese.

Q. If I have already pledged, can I increase my pledge?

Absolutely. Simply fill out a new pledge card on which you indicate both your old pledge and your new updated pledge.

Q. Are pledge contributions tax deductible?

Everyone's tax situation is different. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. In January of every year we send a tax letter to our parishioners. This letter will list all of your donations to the parish, including your pledge contributions.

Q. Is my pledge in addition to my regular offerings?

Yes. Our annual budget depends on your regular offerings so our parish can continue to do Christ's work on earth.

Q. How will donors be recognized?

In several ways:

- We have opportunities for donors to name the entire Parish Life Center, the Main Event Hall, or the Life Center office in memory of/ or in honor of/ an individual of one's choosing. This is a wonderful way to honor a deceased family member and keep their legacy alive. Please contact Father Kingsley if you are interested in learning more about these naming opportunities.
- All donors who give \$10,000 and above will have their name placed on the Donor's Wall in the Parish Life Center.
- All donors, regardless of the size of their gift, will have their name placed (if desired) in the Book of Donors. This Book will be on permanent display in the Parish Life Center.

Q. Why was the Capital Campaign goal increased?

Because construction costs in Charleston have gone up dramatically since the time we started our Capital Campaign. Our architect estimates a 30% increase in just the last three years. So in order to get the building we need that will serve our parish for many years to come, and avoid taking out a loan or using limited parish savings, we had to increase our goal.

Q. Can I support our Capital Campaign in other ways?

Yes, especially with your prayers. You may also want to remember Nativity in your will.

Cash on Hand	\$1,533,855.24	Goal	\$2,000,000.00
Pledges to be Paid	\$187,388.82	Balance to reach our goal	\$278,805.94
Total	\$1,721,194.06		



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