



## Loving Obedience

One theme common to all three readings on Sunday is obedience. Sirach commands the son who obeys his father. St. Paul tells children to obey their parents "in everything." And the Gospel shows Joseph obedient to the warnings of the angel. Yet all three put obedience in terms of a larger relationship.

Sirach says that obedience is part of what makes a happy family. As we saw last Sunday, it shows trust in the one who is obeyed. Children trust that their parents have good reason for telling them to do something. Children also learn both discipline and how to contribute to family life. Spouses trust each other not to ask them to do something harmful. Obedience is also a sign of respect for an older family member. Americans tend to look at older people as if they were useless, but Sirach reminds us of the wisdom they can share with us.

St. Paul continues this theme in the second reading. He shows how love of Christ transforms a family. When he talks about wives being subordinate and husbands loving them, he means that husbands and wives should defer to each other and love each other. Children and parents have duties to each other: Children are to obey parents and parents are to be reasonable ("do not provoke") and loving.

Parents might look at the Gospel for support in encouraging obedience. Joseph obeyed the messages from the angel and saved the life of the infant Jesus. So families can learn that stressing obedience can protect the child as well as teach. Parents can also remind children that God asks for obedience for our good, not on a whim. When we obey God's law, we learn to trust God more deeply and to appreciate that God's law enables us

Continued next column —>

Catholic Diocese of Charleston



## Church of the Nativity

1061 Folly Road  
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

**The Nativity of the Lord  
(Christmas)  
December 25, 2019  
and the Holy Family of  
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph  
December 29, 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.	4:15 pm
<b>Wed. (Jan. 1)</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
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

### Office Hours

**During the Christmas Holidays, please call to make sure that someone is available to assist you.**

Office: 843-795-3821 / Fax: 843-795-2714

website: [www.nativitycharleston.org](http://www.nativitycharleston.org)

e-mail: [Office@NativityCharleston.org](mailto:Office@NativityCharleston.org)

to live more freely. As children we think that rules restrict us, but as we mature, we learn that we are more restricted by our misguided desires and beliefs. We learn to adjust those desires to be in line with God's plan for us. We grow by replacing misguided beliefs (i.e., that material things bring true happiness, that revenge is sweet, etc.) with faith in a loving God who wants the best for us and who doesn't magically take away our sufferings, but supports us through them.

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

## THINGS TO KNOW

### Quiet Room is Available

For parents and their young children. It is located just inside the church entrance nearest the school building. The room is equipped with a half bathroom, audio, and closed circuit video.

**The Quiet Room is available during all Masses and events in the church.**

### Have Difficulty Hearing Well in Church?

Nativity's personal listening devices work well and have been well received by the community. You might want to try one out for yourself. Just ask one of the ushers before Mass.

**Please be sure to return the listening device after Mass.**

**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. The nursery is not available Christmas Eve or Day.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Is offered during the **9:00 am Sunday Mass** for children 4 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Children are dismissed after the opening prayers and rejoin 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 Sundays during the school year.

**Baptism:** To schedule a Baptism preparation class, a parent should be an active parishioner.

**Alpha:** is a series of sessions that explore life's big questions, to express your own opinions and hear other people's points of view. Each session considers a different question of our faith via a video presentation followed by small group discussions 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](http://www.nativitycharleston.org/alpha).

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA):** is a journey in faith for adults who wish to become Catholics.

**FORMED.org:** is a digital platform that gives our parish access to video-based study programs, feature films, audio presentations, and eBooks from the Church's foremost presenters. To sign up, visit [nativitycharleston.formed.org](http://nativitycharleston.formed.org).

**Care of the Sick and Homebound:** We care about you. To arrange for a pastoral visit, please contact the office.

**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.

### Expectant Parents May Request a Blessing:

Expectant Parents/Couples may contact the parish office to request a special blessing during Mass. Your witness to our faith community is a wonderful celebration of Life! The Respect Life Committee will also present couples with a small prayer book.

**Nativity School:** is dedicated to the academic and spiritual growth of its students in a culturally diverse environment. Each child is educated in the Catholic faith and its values and is given opportunities to achieve one's overall potential. We are accepting registrations in K4 through 8th grades. For more information, please call the school office at 843-795-3975 or visit [nativity-school.com](http://nativity-school.com).

## STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. Thomas Kingsley  
[pastor@nativitycharleston.org](mailto:pastor@nativitycharleston.org), 843-795-3821 x 105

**Director of Administration:** Mrs. Vicki Vázquez  
[admin@nativitycharleston.org](mailto:admin@nativitycharleston.org), 843-795-3821 x 101

**Financial Secretary:** Mrs. Carolyn Miller  
[finance@nativitycharleston.org](mailto:finance@nativitycharleston.org), 843-795-3821 x 102

**Religious Education:** Mrs. Mary L. Smith  
[dre@nativitycharleston.org](mailto:dre@nativitycharleston.org), 843-795-3821 x 104

**Music Director:** Mrs. Courtney Reed  
[music@nativitycharleston.org](mailto:music@nativitycharleston.org), 843-795-3821 x 103

**School Principal:** Mrs. Patti Dukes  
[pdukes@nativity-school.com](mailto: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

### Parish Office Holiday Schedule

So that our staff can spend time with their families, we will have limited office hours December 24 through January 3. To make sure that someone is available to assist you, please call the office (843-795-3821) before stopping by.

### 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](http://www.nativitycharleston.org).

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

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

### Please consider joining our parish family!

### Just Visiting? We are happy to see you!

Want to know more about our community, visit our web site: [www.nativitycharleston.org](http://www.nativitycharleston.org).

If you leave us a note, we will follow up with you. For immediate access, just scan this image with your smart phone.

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### Stewardship

*The first reading today provides a challenging blueprint for the good stewardship of our family relationships.*

*How do I measure up?*

### Liturgical Ministers for Jan. 4-5

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

#### 5:30 pm Mass

**Greeters:** Patrick Kelley & Kathy Wiley

Timothy & Carolyn Smith

**Altar Servers:** Nathanael Borick, Jake Hoeft,

Alexandra Lannie

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Paula Ballo, Claire Bergstrom, Ernest Bergstrom, Eileen Easler, Patty Edwards, Terry Harris, Gene McDermott

**Lector:** Carl Borick

**Ushers:** Emmett Alphonse, Patrick Kelley, Leroy Holseberg, Randall Lannie

#### 9:00 am Mass

**Greeters:** Caughey Family, Decker Family

**Altar Servers:** Matilda McElroy, Charlie Morton, Fisher Morton

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Jimmy Craven, Wendy Craven, Donica Dennis, Mark Hollifield, Kirby Preston, Becky Warriner, Gary Warriner

**Lector:** Jerry English

**Ushers:** Jim Anderson, Richard Bragiel, Steve Molony, Michael O'Neale

#### 11:30 am Mass

**Greeters:** Susan La Via

**Altar Servers:** Kenji Tran, Megumi Tran, Tomi Tran

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Irene Bennett, Karen Cellars, Lynn Curry, Ed Defourneaux, Jackie Doscher, Lewis Doscher, Phu Tran

**Lector:** Keith Tapscott

**Ushers:** Chuck Everitt, Joe Ginn, Sheila Griner, Gilbert O'Brien

### Let Us Pray

**For members of our community who have requested our prayers**

**Recently Added:** John Cordray, Linda Hames

**From previous months:** Allene Barans, Arnold Bennett, Clydie Bevis, Beverly Blevins, Britt Lamarr Boswell, Joe Caraviello, Cathy Clarey, Herman Connor, Jake DuPree, 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, Tommy Lavelle, 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, 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](mailto:Office@NativityCharleston.org).

### Intentions

#### Mass: This Week

Sat	28	5:30 pm	Eldon (Skip) Dyer+
Sun	29	9:00 am	Marti Turner+
		11:30 am	Alfred E. Bevis+
Mon	30	4:15 pm	
Tues	31	4:15 pm	Gilbert & Marion Molony O'Brien+
Wed	1	10:00 am	Ann Condon Kingsley+
Thurs	2	9:30 am	
Sat	4	5:30 pm	Paul Aimar+
Sun	5	9:00 am	Risa White+
		11:30 am	Gilbert & Marion Molony O'Brien+

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.**

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Click "Sign In" and Enter your email  
Click the link in your email  
You're in! No more passwords!

For more information please contact Mary Smith at [DRE@NativityCharleston.org](mailto:DRE@NativityCharleston.org) or at 843-795-3821

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Nativity School is accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year.

For more information, please visit us at [www.facebook.com/NativitySchoolKnights](https://www.facebook.com/NativitySchoolKnights) or call us at 843-795-3975.

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

### Holiday Mass Schedule

#### Christmas Masses

**Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm**

**Wednesday, Dec. 25 at 10:00 am**

(There will be no Mass at 4:15 pm on Dec 25)

#### Feast of the Holy Family (Weekend Masses)

**Saturday, Dec. 28 at 5:30 pm**

**Sunday, Dec. 29 at 9:00 and 11:30 am**

#### Feast of the Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God

This a Holy Day of Obligation and Masses are:

**Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 4:15 pm**

**Wednesday, Jan. 1 at 10:00 am**

(There will be no Mass at 4:15 pm on Jan 1)

### Catholic Youth Stand Up for Life Rally

**Saturday, January 11**

**Township Auditorium, Columbia SC**  
**Key Note Speaker—Sean Forrest.**



This activity includes a Rally at the State House with speakers, Citizens for Life, followed by the march to the Youth Rally Program at Township Auditorium, Music & Keynote Message, and Mass w/ the Bishop. All 6 through 12 grade students are invited and encouraged to participate. Registration forms and more information are available at the Nativity Church entrances. For more information, please contact Mary Smith at [DRE@NativityCharleston.org](mailto:DRE@NativityCharleston.org) or at 843-795-3821 x 104.

**Mark your calendars and plan to attend.**

### Diocese of Charleston Statewide Campus Ministry Retreat

**February 7-9, 2020**

*White Oak  
Conference Center  
Winnsboro, SC*



**Theme:  
What  
We  
Believe**

#### Who Should Attend:

Any college or graduate student attending a school in South Carolina.

#### Cost:

\$20 per person.

Do not let money keep you from going.

Scholarships are available if needed

#### Registration Deadline:

**January 24, 2020**

For more information, please contact Mary Smith at [DRE@NativityCharleston.org](mailto:DRE@NativityCharleston.org) or at 843-795-3821 x 104.

# who will you invite?



## We're all searching for more.

What is the point of life? / Why is there suffering in the world? /  
What happens when we die? / Is forgiveness possible?

### What is Alpha?

The Alpha course is a practical introduction to the Christian faith that gives guests an opportunity to explore the meaning of life. Alpha is fun, relaxed and totally non-pressured (that's probably why over 19 million people around the world have participated in Alpha!)

Listen, learn, discuss, and discover. Ask anything. Alpha is a place where no question is off limits.

### Alpha's Three Main Elements:



Good Food



Alpha Talk



Discussion

### How does it work?

Each Alpha course session begins with food, followed by a short talk looking at a different aspect of the Christian faith. After that, there is a time for discussion in a friendly small group.

### Who is Alpha for?

Alpha is for everyone, especially:

- Those who have given up on church
- Those wanting to investigate Christianity
- Those who are new to the Christian faith
- Those wanting to grow in understanding and faith

### What is the cost?

There is no charge for the Alpha course, although there will be a basket out if you are able to donate toward the cost of food.

Alpha is conducted worldwide. See what it's all about at [alphausa.org/stories](http://alphausa.org/stories)

View the Alpha at Nativity Schedule at [nativitycharleston.org/alpha](http://nativitycharleston.org/alpha)

Join us by contacting Vicki Vázquez | [alpha@nativitycharleston.org](mailto:alpha@nativitycharleston.org) | 843-795-3821



A few of the scenes from the Nativity Ladies Guild/Knights of Columbus Christmas party. Not a member of the Guild or the Knights? No problem. Sign up soon so you do not miss the festivities next year. Please contact the parish office for more information...



May the Lord grant  
you and your loved ones  
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Christmas and all the New Year.



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