

The Star of Bethlehem

Almost every year at Christmastime, you can find a newspaper article or TV documentary about the star of Bethlehem. Astronomers give various theories about whether the magi saw a new star, perhaps a supernova, or a comet, or a conjunction of two or more planets. Since the magi are generally believed to be astrologers, the conjunction seems most likely.

More important is the meaning of the star. In Matthew's Gospel, light is used as a symbol of the good news of Jesus coming into the world. Jesus is the light of the world, so the magi follow that light to get to Jesus. That's why verse 9 of the Gospel has the image of the star preceding the wise men and stopping over the house where Jesus was. By following the star, they become followers of Christ. So what do the magi show us about following Jesus?

First, they take the initiative. They saw the star, figured out what it meant, and made their journey. As followers of Jesus, we can look for what needs to be done (in our family, parish, or community) and do it. We don't have to wait for the pastor to call us and beg for help—there are probably articles in this bulletin asking for help.

Second, they expressed their faith in Jesus by the gifts they brought: gold—a gift for a king, who is worthy to be followed; frankincense—Jesus is worthy to be worshiped as Son of God; and myrrh—Jesus becomes king by dying for us all. We can express our faith in many ways. We can

Continued next column -->

Catholic Diocese of Charleston



Church of the Nativity

1061 Folly Road
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

The Epiphany of the Lord January 5, 2020

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

volunteer to help the poor, the elderly, or the disabled. We can teach our children how to pray and tell them about all that God has done for us.

Third, they were not afraid to take risks for Jesus. When they went back home without telling Herod where they found the child, Herod was furious (Matthew 2:16). For all they knew, he could have come after them. How often do we take risks for the Lord, by openly speaking about our faith or giving God credit for the good that we do? Let the star of Bethlehem remind us that Jesus is the star of our lives.

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

The Word of God became man and lived among us.

~ Today's Psalm PS 146

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 digital platform that gives our parish access to video-based study programs, feature films, audio presentations, and eBooks from the Church's foremost presenters. You just need an e-mail to sign in. No password.

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!

Sisters and Brothers

To all who would accept him,
He gave the power to become children of God.
... Today's Communion Prayer, cf. JN 1: 12

To advertise in our bulletin, please contact Pat Falco at falcop@jspauch.com or at 910-200-8383.
Please support our Advertisers whose funding makes this bulletin possible.

Stewardship

Have you ever taken a moment to figure out how much time, on the average, you spend a week volunteering in your church or in your community?

Offerings December 9—15

Collections at Mass (Dec 14—Dec 15)	\$ 11, 569. 00
Mail in Offerings (Dec 9—Dec 13)	\$ 1, 125. 00
myEoffering (Dec 9—Dec 13)	\$ 2, 564. 97
Budget (1 week)	<u>\$ 14, 326. 92</u>
Difference	\$ + 932. 05
Registered Households	655
Envelopes Used (Dec 14—Dec 15)	243
Active myEoffering Families	100
MyEoffering Family Donations (Dec 9—Dec 13)	64

Thank you for your Generosity.

Please use your envelopes.

If you need envelopes, call the parish office.

Liturgical Ministers for Jan. 11-12

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

5:30 pm Mass

Greeters:	Marina Churchill
	Daniel Forsberg Family
Altar Servers:	Emmett Roche, Angel Salceda, Daniel Salceda
Eucharistic Ministers:	Dawn Clancy, Terry Harris, Gene McDermott, Carolyn Smith, Mary Smith, Alice Veyera, John Warren
Lector:	Eileen Easler
Ushers:	Emmett Alphonse, Patrick Kelley, Leroy Holseberg, Randall Lannie

9:00 am Mass

Greeters:	Maureen Hinson, Horner Family
Altar Servers:	Wyatt Knight, Lauren Snipes, Anna Yonce
Eucharistic Ministers:	Judy Daugomah, Suzanne Decker, Gary Hart, Hal Perry, Pat Perry, Daniel Suggs, Tamme Suggs,
Lector:	Larry Fisk
Ushers:	Jim Anderson, Richard Bragiel, Jerry English, Walter Machowski

11:30 am Mass

Greeters:	Ann & Joe Ginn
Altar Servers:	Drue Gilreath, Gavin Gilreath, Sharon Doniphant, Brian Dougherty, Pam Everitt, Kathy Hepner, Mariano La Via, Christine Lewis, Liisa Machowski
Eucharistic Ministers:	Eric Zolman
Lector:	Chuck Everitt, Joe Ginn, Sheila Griner, Gilbert O'Brien
Ushers:	



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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**

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.

Intentions

Mass: This Week

Sat	4	5:30 pm	Paul Aimar+
Sun	5	9:00 am	Risa White+
		11:30 am	Gilbert & Marion Molony O'Brien+
Mon	6	4:15 pm	Bob Rosol+
Tues	7	4:15 pm	
Wed	8	10:00 am	
Thurs	9	9:30 am	
Sat	11	5:30 pm	Michael La Torre+
Sun	12	9:00 am	Philip Eacock+
		11:30 am	Veronica Eckert+

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



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.

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

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

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

Catholic Youth Stand Up for Life Rally

Saturday, January 11

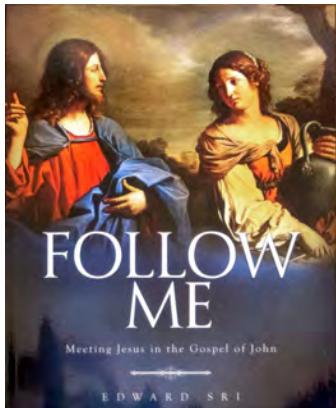
Township Auditorium, Columbia SC
Key Note Speaker—Sean Forrest.



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 or at 843-795-3821 x 104.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Thursday Evening Bible Study Returns January 23.



Following Christ takes more than simply believing in him or doing what he asks of us. Jesus wants us to be more than just believers — He wants us to be his disciples and friends. This study is our guide to a personal encounter with Christ. Jesus seeks after us. He comes to meet us and beckons us to follow him. He calls us to be his disciples, to trust him, to open ourselves to his merciful love, and to love others as he has loved us.

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!

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 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

View the Alpha at Nativity Schedule at nativitycharleston.org/alpha

Join us by contacting Vicki Vázquez | alpha@nativitycharleston.org | 843-795-3821

**This is the time for new beginnings—So why not help out with one of our ministries?
Helping others is good for the soul (and our community will really appreciate your talents and assistance).**

Liturgical Ministry

Liturgical ministries serve the community during Mass. These ministries include lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, altar servers, ushers, and greeters. The liturgical ministry schedule is published every three months. For more information please contact Father Kingsley at pastor@nativitycharleston.org.

Communion to the Hospitalized and Homebound: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion bring the Eucharist to patients in the downtown hospitals of Roper and M.U.S.C. Members of this ministry also bring the Eucharist to the homebound and those in assisted-living facilities on James Island. For more information please contact Vicki Vázquez at admin@nativitycharleston.org.

Church Environment Committee: Members enrich our worship space with flowers and liturgically appropriate decorations. For more information please contact Vicki Vázquez at admin@nativitycharleston.org.

Music Ministry

Music Ministry includes musicians, cantors, choir and audio management for the weekend, holyday and other Masses. For more information please contact Courtney Reed at music@nativitycharleston.org.

Evangelism Ministry

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. Volunteers serve as discussion leaders, facility preparation, meal planning and preparation, audio visual support and child care. For more information, please contact Vicki Vázquez at Admin@NativityCharleston.org.

Religious Education

Parish School of Religion (PSR): Catechists teach children in grades 1 through 8 about the Catholic Faith and prepare them to receive the sacraments of Holy Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation. PSR is held from 10:15 to 11 am on Sundays during the school year. For more information, please contact Mary Smith at dre@nativitycharleston.org.

Children's Liturgy of the Word is offered during the 9:00 am Sunday Mass. It provides children an opportunity to gather in separate spaces and hear the Word of God proclaimed in simpler language. Catechists facilitate a child friendly, interactive reflection on the readings. For more information, please contact Mary Smith at dre@nativitycharleston.org.

Nursery is offered during the 9:00 am Sunday Mass. For more information, please contact Vicki Vázquez at Admin@NativityCharleston.org.

Note: All volunteers who work with children must complete background screenings and receive Safe Haven child protection training.

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is an educational and spiritual journey for adults seeking to become full members of the Catholic Church. Volunteers serve as discussion leaders, sponsors, and in a variety of support functions. For more information, please contact Vicki Vázquez at Admin@NativityCharleston.org.

Community Building

Nativity Ladies Guild sponsors social events, service projects, and spiritual opportunities for the parish. For more information, please contact Vicki Vázquez at Admin@NativityCharleston.org.

Leisure Club promotes fellowship among parishioners age 50 and above. Leisure Club members get together once a month for lunch in a local restaurant. For more information, please contact Mary Smith at dre@nativitycharleston.org.

Bereavement Ministry prepares meals for parishioners who have suffered the death of a family member. The meal is brought to the family home on the day of the funeral. For more information, please contact Vicki Vázquez at Admin@NativityCharleston.org.

Respect Life Committee promotes respect for human life from the first moment of creation until the point of natural death through prayer, educational programs, and other activities. For more information, please contact Vicki Vázquez at Admin@NativityCharleston.org.

Service Organizations

Knights of Columbus is a service and fraternal organization of Catholic men. Their core principles are charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. The Knights of Columbus Council 6250 is based on James Island. Among their activities are pancake breakfasts at Nativity, charity golf tournaments, and participating in the Downs Syndrome Buddy Walk and the 40 Days for Life Campaign. For more information, please contact Vicki Vázquez at Admin@NativityCharleston.org.

Our Lady of Mercy Outreach Center: Established in 1989 by the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy, the Outreach Center encourages self-sufficiency and self-worth for people in need through education, wellness, and outreach services. Please see their website at www.olmoutreach.org for information about volunteer opportunities.

James Island Outreach is a collaborative effort by several Churches on James Island to offer help to those in financial need. Among the services offered is a food pantry for the poor. James Island Outreach is located at 1872-C Camp Rd. For more information, please contact Vicki Vázquez at Admin@NativityCharleston.org.

Meals on Wheels: Meals are prepared at the Charleston Area Senior Center and brought to the James Island Presbyterian Church. Volunteers deliver the meals to seniors on James Island. For more information, please contact Vicki Vázquez at Admin@NativityCharleston.org.

Barrier Islands Free Medical Clinic provides free medical care for low income, uninsured adults who live or work on Johns, James or Wadmalaw Island. The Free Clinic has numerous health care volunteer positions open. Please visit their website at www.bifmc.org for information about volunteer opportunities.

JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00 AM Mass 10:00 AM No PSR 10:00 AM No RCIA 11:30 AM Mass	30 Office Closed 3:30 PM Rosary 4:15 PM Mass	31 Office Closed 3:30 PM Rosary 4:15 PM Vigil Mass - Solemnity of Mary	1 Office Closed 10:00 AM Mass - Solemnity of Mary - Holy Day of Obligation	2 9:30 AM Mass	3	4 4:15 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:30 PM Mass
5 Epiphany 9:00 AM Mass 10:00 AM Coffee & Donuts 10:00 AM PSR 10:00 AM RCIA 11:30 AM Mass	6 3:50 PM Rosary 4:15 PM Mass	7 3:50 PM Rosary 4:15 PM Mass	8 3:50 PM Rosary 4:15 PM Mass 5:45 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM First Communion Parent Meeting 7:00 PM Choir Practice	9 9:30 AM Mass	10	11 9:45 AM Youth Rally for Life 4:15 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:30 PM Mass
12 Baptism of the Lord 9:00 AM Mass 10:00 AM KofC Pancakes 10:00 AM PSR 10:00 AM RCIA 11:30 AM Mass	13 3:50 PM Rosary 6:30 PM Ladies Guild Sewing Group	14 3:50 PM Rosary 6:15 PM Alpha Opening Night	15 3:50 PM Rosary 5:45 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	16 9:30 AM Liturgy of the Word	17	18 James Island Outreach Food Collection 4:15 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:30 PM Mass
19 James Island Outreach Food Collection 9:00 AM Mass 10:00 AM No PSR 10:00 AM RCIA 11:30 AM Mass	20	21 Office Closed - MLK Day 3:30 PM Rosary 4:15 PM Mass	22 3:50 PM Rosary 4:15 PM Mass 5:45 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	23 9:30 AM Mass 6:30 PM Bible Study (off- site)	24	25 10:00 AM First Reconciliation 4:15 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:30 PM Mass
26 Catholic Schools Week 9:00 AM Mass 10:00 AM PSR 10:00 AM RCIA 11:30 AM Mass	27 Catholic Schools Week 3:30 PM Rosary 4:15 PM Mass 7:00 PM Ladies Guild Meeting	28 Catholic Schools Week 3:50 PM Rosary 4:15 PM Mass 6:15 PM Alpha	29 Catholic Schools Week 3:50 PM Rosary 4:15 PM Mass 5:45 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	30 Catholic Schools Week 9:30 AM Mass 6:30 PM Bible Study (off- site)	31 Catholic Schools Week	1 Catholic Schools Week 8:30 AM Teddy Bear Breakfast 4:15 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:30 PM Mass 6:30 PM Blessing of the Throats after each Mass



Many worshippers participated in the 4:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

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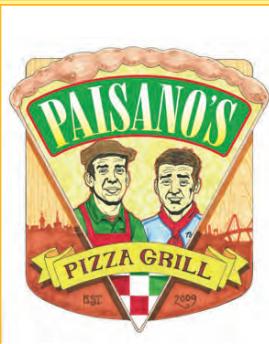
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