

Well Pleased

The first reading from Isaiah is a pretty good description of Jesus. It begins by describing the servant "with whom I am well pleased" (Isaiah 42:1). These are the words of the voice from the heavens that was heard at Jesus' baptism. The most significant difference is that the voice calls Jesus "beloved Son," not just servant. And Isaiah gives us more hints about who Jesus is.

The verses that say that he will not break the bruised reed or quench the smoldering wick (Isaiah 42:3) are descriptive of Jesus' mercy toward sinners. The reed and the wick were disposed of because they were useless. But God, out of love for us, never sees sinners as useless. God is always ready to forgive them and give them another chance, so God sent Jesus to forgive sinners, not reject them. In the Gospel, John at first refuses to baptize Jesus, because John's baptism was a sign of repentance for sin. He knew Jesus was not a sinner, so he had no need to repent. But Jesus identified himself with sinners and welcomed them back to God's love. We can ask God to help us see our sinfulness and bring it to God for healing.

Isaiah also says that the servant is a "covenant of the people." A covenant was an agreement between unequal partners, in which the stronger one agreed to protect or defend the weaker one, while the weaker agreed to pay taxes or obey laws required by the stronger. God is

Continued next column —>

Catholic Diocese of Charleston



Church of the Nativity

1061 Folly Road
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

The Baptism of the Lord January 12, 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 Communion Service |
| Thursday | 9:30 am Prayer Service |

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

offering a new covenant through Jesus, not just for the Jews, but for all peoples. In this covenant, God has forgiven our sins before we were even born, much less committed any sins. But we still have to live that covenant, by loving God and our neighbor. When we teach others about God's love and mercy, "we open the eyes of the blind", as Isaiah says. When we forgive each other, we are setting free prisoners of sin. When people see God's love acted out in our lives, we are a light to the world. As we learn to do these things, we will find that God is also well pleased with us.

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

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

~ Today's Psalm PS 29

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!

Eye Witness

Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.
... Today's Communion Prayer, cf. JN 1: 32, 34

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

Stewardship is a way of life, a way of thanking God for all His blessings by returning a portion of the time, talent and treasure entrusted to us.

Offerings December 9—15

The weekly offerings information was not available by the publishing deadline for this week's bulletin. The information will be provided in a future bulletin.

Thank you for your Generosity.

Please use your envelopes.

If you need envelopes, call the parish office.
at 843 795-3821.

Liturgical Ministers for Jan. 18-19

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

5:30 pm Mass

Greeters: Terry Harris,
Patrick Kelley & Kathy Wiley
Altar Servers: Nathanael Borick, Michael Smith,
Phillip Smith
Eucharistic Ministers: Paula Ballo, Claire Bergstrom,
Ernest Bergstrom, Carolyn Smith,
Mary Smith, Alice Veyera, John Warren
Lector: Ushers: Mary Hajny
Emmett Alphonse, Patrick Kelley,
Leroy Holseberg, Randall Lannie

9:00 am Mass

Greeters: Knight Family, Sandy O'Neale
Altar Servers: Christina Dake, Jack Perry, Jacob Perry
Eucharistic Ministers: Jimmy Craven, Wendy Craven,
Donica Dennis, Mark Hollifield,
Kirby Preston, Kristi Roberts,
Becky Warriner
Lector: Ushers: Robert Horner
Jim Anderson, Richard Bragiel,
Larry Fisk, Steve Molony

11:30 am Mass

Greeters: Sheila Griner
Altar Servers: Jackson DeLoach, Caryn Hasenberg,
Emma Jakubowski
Eucharistic Ministers: Irene Bennett, Karen Cellars,
Lynn Curry, Ed Defourneaux,
Jackie Doscher, Lewis Doscher,
Phu Tran
Lector: Ushers: Molly Cawley
Chuck Everitt, Joe Ginn,
Sheila Griner, Gilbert O'Brien



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www.nativitycharleston.org

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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, John Cordray, Jake DuPree, Jo Ann Frederick, Ellen Pate Futrell, Ruby Inez Germroth, Malcolm Hale, Linda Hames, 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

Sanctuary Candle:

Jan 11 — Jan 17 Philip Eacock+

Mass: This Week

| | | | |
|-------|----|----------|----------------------------|
| Sat | 11 | 5:30 pm | Michael La Torre+ |
| Sun | 12 | 9:00 am | Philip Eacock+ |
| | | 11:30 am | Veronica Eckert+ |
| Mon | 13 | 4:15 pm | No Mass, Communion Service |
| Tues | 14 | 4:15 pm | No Mass, Communion Service |
| Wed | 15 | 4:15 pm | No Mass, Communion Service |
| Thurs | 16 | 9:30 am | No Mass, Prayer Service |
| Sat | 18 | 5:30 pm | Margaret O'Keefe+ |
| Sun | 19 | 9:00 am | Paul Aimar+ |
| | | 11:30 am | William Francis Cahalane+ |

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.



John tried to prevent him, saying,
“I have need to be baptized by you,
and do you come to me?” Mt 3:14

James Island Outreach Food Collection is Next Weekend (Jan 18—19).



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 1:30 pm on Sunday.

**Members of Nativity donated funds and 462 pounds of Thanksgiving food.
Your donations enabled James Island Outreach to provide holiday dinners to 177 hungry local families.**

Thank You for your generosity!!

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.



is a multi-faceted novena for the respect and protection of human life. Each day, a different intention is accompanied by a short reflection, suggested actions, and related information. Sign up to receive the novena by email, text message, or an app at www.9daysforlife.com.



Friday, January 24, 2020

The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, young people and children from all across the country. Tens of thousands of pro-lifers gather on the National Mall in Washington D.C and march on Capitol Hill. This event recurs annually on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling which legalized abortion in all 50 states. It's the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. But this is not just a protest...

WE GATHER TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE LIFE

from the moment of conception. We envision a world where every life is celebrated, valued, and protected.

For more information or to make arrangements to attend, please contact Malcolm Brennan, Director of Prolife Ministries, K of C Council 6250 at 843-906-5511 or at mbprolife@gmail.com



Rachel's Vineyard

Upcoming Weekend Retreats

Rachel's Vineyard weekend offers women and men who have had an abortion, or participated in one, a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental retreat where they can find spiritual healing and strengthening of faith!

January 17-19, 2020 Bluffton area (Spanish)

March 20-22, 2020 in Greenville (English)

April 17-19, 2020 in Rock Hill (English)

November 6-8, 2020 in Charleston (English)

For more information on retreats, please contact Christy 803-554-6088

Ladies Guild
Sewing Group: Monday, Jan. 13 at 6:00 pm in the Nativity Parish Office

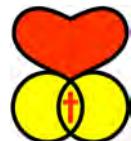
Monthly Meeting: Monday, Jan. 27 in the Nativity Parish Office. Refreshments at 6:30 pm and Meeting at 7:00 pm.



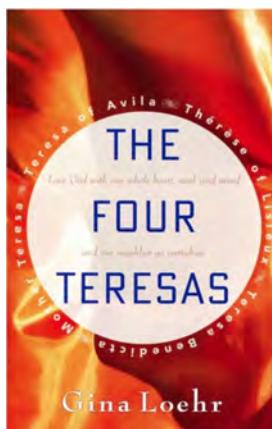
Council 6250 Officers' Meeting Thursday, Jan. 16 at American Legion Post 147 at 7:30 pm.

START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT!

Give the gift of time to each other this year! On the Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend, learn to prioritize the important things. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend can help you do that! Marriage Encounter is 44 hours where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones, and focus just on each other. Attend one of the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends. Jan 31—Feb 2, 2020 in North Myrtle Beach, SC and Jul 17—19, 2020 in Beaufort, SC. Early sign up is recommended.



For more information visit <https://SCMarriageMatters.org> or contact us at applications@scmarriagematters.org or 803-810-9602.



Wednesday Evening Bible Study Continues

The Series on the 4 Teresas.

Using the Great Commandment this study focuses on how four of the greatest women of the Church lived out one particular aspect of the command to love God with heart, mind, and soul and neighbor as self. The study offers practical suggestions for imitating St. Teresa of Avila, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein), and St. Teresa of Calcutta.

The sessions are held at the Nativity Parish Office. We begin at 5:45 pm by saying a Rosary for Healing. The presentation starts at about 6:00 pm. For more information, please contact Andrea Gilliard at 843-696-2161 or at acgilliard@comcast.net.

All are welcome.

The Nativity Music Ministry needs more singers!



We rehearse on Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Rehearsals during the Advent and Lent seasons are a bit longer but never last beyond 9:00 pm.

For more information, please contact Courtney Reed at Music@NativityCharleston.org or at 843-795-3821 x103.

We look forward to having you join us!

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



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PANCAKE/SAUSAGE BREAKFAST THIS SUNDAY (JANUARY 12TH)!

in the school hall after the 9:00 Mass. The price is still only \$3.00 for adults; Sugar free syrup is available.

JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST AND COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP.



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 you to be more than just a believer — He wants you to be his disciple and friend. ***Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John*** is your guide to a personal encounter with Christ. As the Good Shepherd, 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. ***Follow Me*** invites you to experience the joy of a renewed friendship with Christ.

This is an 8 part video series presented by Dr. Brant Pitre . The sessions are 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 as often as you are able!



Wise People at Nativity last Sunday helped us better understand and celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany

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