

## Passive Aggression or Active Love?

I wonder how many people read today's Gospel and said, "You expect me to do that?" Aren't we supposed to resist evil? Yes, we are; but Jesus makes an important distinction between evil acts and the person who commits them. Why? Because God does just that. As Jesus says, God sends sunshine and rain on both good and bad people. So how do we resist evil? We do as Jesus did; we conquer it with love.

When Jesus died on the cross, this was the victory over sin and death because he gave his life for us out of love. This love was for everyone, especially those sinners who need it. You might say he loves sinners most of all. Why? Because they need his love the most. All he asks of us is to show love to everyone, even our enemies.

Now when we read the examples in the Gospel (Matthew 5:39-42), we may be tempted to say that they just encourage people to be bad, that the way to stop evil is to make people suffer for doing evil. But Jesus didn't say to let people run over you. Instead of a weak passivism, we actively offer the other cheek, hand over the cloak, or go the extra mile. And that's just for the ones who occasionally annoy us. Later in the same Gospel, Jesus tells us to love and pray for our enemies—those who hate us and continually try to harm us.

But notice what he doesn't say. He never promises that we will change these people, that our actions will eventually cause them to repent or become our friends. No, he only asks his disciples to change, to become "perfect" as the Father is perfect. Of course, we can never be infinitely good, all-knowing, and all-powerful like God.

Continued next column -->

Catholic Diocese of Charleston



## Church of the Nativity

1061 Folly Road  
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

**Seventh Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
February 23, 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.    | 4:15 pm                                |
| Ash Wednesday  | <b>9:30 am, 12:00 noon<br/>6:30 pm</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

### Regular Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm  
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)

But Jesus calls us not to perfectionism but to holiness. That kind of holiness comes only from God, just as changing evil-doers or enemies is up to God. God can work through us to change the hearts of others, but God always respects their freedom. Perhaps the love we show to our enemies will at least open their hearts to the possibility of receiving the love of God, who can help them to become holy, too.

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

*The Lord is kind and merciful.*

~ Today's Psalm PS 103

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, must also have participated in a 1<sup>st</sup> grade PSR or Catholic school program. Children planning to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade must also have participated in a 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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!**

### Foolishness

Take no revenge and cherish no grudge;  
love your neighbor as yourself.

... Today's First Reading: Leviticus 19.

To advertise in our bulletin, please contact Pat Falco at [falcop@jspaluch.com](mailto:falcop@jspaluch.com) or at 910-200-8383.  
Please support our Advertisers whose funding makes this bulletin possible.

## Offerings February 10—February, 16

|                                              |                     |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Collections at Mass (Feb 15—Feb 16)          | \$ 9,716.00         |
| Mail in Offerings (Feb 10—Feb 14)            | \$ 1,555.00         |
| myEoffering (Feb 10—Feb 14)                  | \$ 2,746.76         |
| Budget (1 week)                              | <u>\$ 14,326.92</u> |
| Difference                                   | \$ - 309.16         |
| Registered Households                        | 668                 |
| Envelopes Used (Feb 15—Feb 16)               | ???                 |
| Active myEoffering Families                  | 154                 |
| MyEoffering Family Donations (Feb 10—Feb 14) | ???                 |

**Offerings for Catholic Schools:** \$2,395.00

**50% Diocese Reimbursement for Exceeding  
2019 Bi9shop Annual Appeal Target:** \$8,867.48

**Thank you for your Generosity.**

**Please use your envelopes.**

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

## Liturgical Ministers for Feb. 29—Mar. 1

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

### 5:30 pm Mass

|                               |                                                                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Greeters:</b>              | Marina Churchill                                                           |
| <b>Altar Servers:</b>         | Daniel Forsberg Family                                                     |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b> | Angel Salceda, Daniel Salceda,<br>Phillip Smith                            |
| <b>Lector:</b>                | Patty Edwards, Terry Harris,                                               |
| <b>Ushers:</b>                | Gene McDermott, Carolyn Smith,<br>Mary Smith, Alice Veyera,<br>John Warren |

### 9:00 am Mass

|                               |                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Greeters:</b>              | Maureen & Joshua Begley,<br>Buffington Family                                                                   |
| <b>Altar Servers:</b>         | Matilda McElroy, Lauren Snipes,<br>Anna Tillman                                                                 |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b> | Jimmy Craven, Wendy Craven,<br>Donica Dennis, Cathy Marino,<br>Kirby Preston, Kristi Roberts,<br>Becky Warriner |
| <b>Lector:</b>                | Gary Warriner                                                                                                   |
| <b>Ushers:</b>                | Jim Anderson, Richard Bragiel,<br>Steve Molony, Michael O'Neale                                                 |

### 11:30 am Mass

|                               |                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Greeters:</b>              | Susan La Via                                                                                                   |
| <b>Altar Servers:</b>         | Kenji Tran, Megumi Tran, Tomi Tran                                                                             |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b> | Lynn Curry, Ed Defourneaux,<br>Sharon Doniphan, Jackie Doscher,<br>Lewis Doscher, Brian Dougherty,<br>Phu Tran |
| <b>Lector:</b>                | Cava Riley                                                                                                     |
| <b>Ushers:</b>                | Chuck Everitt, Joe Ginn,<br>Sheila Griner, Gilbert O'Brien                                                     |



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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, 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, 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

### Sanctuary Candle:

Feb 22 — Feb 28 Philip Eacock+

### Mass: This Week

|       |    |            |                                  |
|-------|----|------------|----------------------------------|
| Sat   | 22 | 5:30 pm    | Gaspare Renda+                   |
| Sun   | 23 | 9:00 am    | Gilbert & Marion Molony O'Brien+ |
|       |    | 11:30 am   | Frank DiFiglio+                  |
| Mon   | 24 | 4:15 pm    |                                  |
| Tues  | 25 | 4:15 pm    |                                  |
| Wed   | 26 | 9:30 am    |                                  |
|       |    | 12:00 noon |                                  |
|       |    | 6:30 pm    | Jim Bowers+                      |
| Thurs | 27 | 9:30 am    |                                  |
| Sat   | 29 | 5:30 pm    | Rosemary Bolla+                  |
| Sun   | 1  | 9:00 am    | Mary Ann Garcia+                 |
|       |    | 11:30 am   | Carmen Tovar Diaz+               |

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](https://www.facebook.com/NativitySchoolKnights) or call us at 843-795-3975.

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



**February Monthly Meeting:** Mon., Feb. 24

in the Nativity Parish Office.

Refreshments at 6:30 pm and Meeting at 7:00 pm.

**All Women of Nativity are Welcome. Please Plan to Attend!**

**Sewing Group:** Sat., Mar. 14 at 10:00 am in the Nativity Parish Office.

Please bring your sewing machine if you have one. We will be making Baptismal garments. There is much work to do even if you do not sew.

**All members of the parish are invited.**

For more information please contact Marian Hoffman at [m.hoffman@earthlink.net](mailto:m.hoffman@earthlink.net).

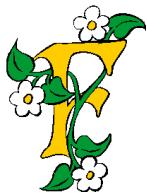


## UPCOMING K OF C ACTIVITIES

**CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT:** Sunday, May 3 at Oak Point Golf Course (Kiawah Island)

**ALL ARE INVITED—SAVE THE DATE**

Sponsoring this event is a great way to support Local Charities. For more information about sponsorships, please contact Joe TedersJoe@charlestontridentpartners.com or at (843) 939-0333



### Flowers

at the altar this weekend are in memory of

**Frank DiFiglio**

**May he rest in peace.**



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Jesus said to his disciples:  
“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Mt 5:44



**Is this Wednesday, February 26.  
Holy Mass will be Celebrated at  
9:30 am, 12:00 (noon) and 6:30 pm**

Ashes will be distributed at each Mass.

**All are encouraged to attend!**

**Lenten Penitential Requirements:**



**Fasting** allows a person to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may also be taken, not to equal one full meal. Fasting is obligatory for all who have completed their 18th year and have not yet reached their 60th year.

**Abstinence** (from meat) is observed on all the Fridays of Lent in addition to Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. It is obligatory for all who have reached their 14th year.

**The Exceptions:**

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence include the physically or mentally ill, individuals suffering from chronic illness such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.

Information from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

**Ash Wednesday and Good Friday  
are obligatory days of  
fast and abstinence.**

**In addition, all Fridays in Lent are  
days of abstinence.**



**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!

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 at 803-554-6088

**Friday Evening Stations**

**5:30 pm Feb 28 through Apr 3.**



These are traditional stations led by Nativity Ministers.

Please join us for the stations and stay for dinner in the Nativity School Hall.

The Friday evening menus:

Feb. 28: Lenten Soup – Ladies Guild

March 6: Pasta Bar – Ladies Guild

March 13: Shrimp & Grits – Respect Life Ministry

March 20: Casseroles – Ladies Guild

March 27: Salad Bar – RCIA Ministry

April 3: Fish Fry – Knights of Columbus

Except for the Fish Fry, all dinners are free. However, your donations will be greatly appreciated.

**All are invited!**

**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY  
EVANGELIZATION—THE  
ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**



There is no better place to look for guidance in the New Evangelization than the Acts of the Apostles. This chronicle of the Church in action gives us the blueprint for the life and mission of the Church today.

**Evangelization and the Acts of the Apostles** is an 8 session video series. It combines Bible study with Church teaching and practical wisdom to show you how modern Catholics can effectively lead people to Jesus Christ.

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 acgilliard@comcast.net or at 843-696-2161.

**All are welcome and invited to attend.**



**Thursday Evening Bible Study**

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** invites you to experience the joy of a renewed friendship with Christ.

This is an 8 part video series. The sessions are held at the home of Ryckie Watkins and begin at 6:30 pm. For more information please call Ryckie Watkins at 843-795-4194 or email ryckiewatkins1329@comcast.net

**Please join us as often as you are able!**



## Get on board!... Volunteers Needed!

We are evaluating our ability to offer Vacation Bible School Week here at Nativity on the week of June 22-26 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. This is such a wonderful way for us to proclaim the Gospel, the basic truth of our faith:

*God loves us, died for us and rose to life to give us the hope of eternal life with him forever in heaven!  
God wants to walk this journey of life with us.*

This is a message that our children need to hear! And often not only our children, but also us adults and teen volunteers! VBS requires a lot of volunteers to run smoothly. If you are able to commit to helping with VBS this year, please contact Ryckie at ryckiewatkins1329@comcast.net or at 843-795-4194 or contact Mary Smith at dre@nativitycharleston.org to find out more and volunteer!

*Your ticket is waiting!*



Raphael Ghattas



Michael P Cellars



Nick Shiver



### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 6250 SAINT JOHN XXIII

## Barbeque for Seminarians!

*Saturday, March 7 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm*

*In the Nativity Parish Hall*

*Price: \$10 per plate (dine in or carry out).*



Three men studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Charleston have ties to Nativity Parish.  
All the proceeds from this event will help provide for their financial support.

Menu: Pulled pork, macaroni & cheese, coleslaw, beverage and dessert.

Tickets available at Nativity Church entrances after Masses beginning this weekend.

Tickets can also be purchased online at

<https://squareup.com/store/knights-of-columbus-council-6250>.

Better yet, just scan this image with the QR reader on your smart phone —>>



*Join us for a great event and bring your family and friends!*

Letting go  
of the past.  
Reclaiming the  
wonder. Sharing  
the legacy.

# Saying Yes to the call of Aging.



## AGING... OUR PERSONAL JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

Facilitator: Ann Billard, OLM, Ph.D.

9:45 am to 2:00 pm on March 10, 2020 at May Forest  
OLM Mother House at 424 Fort Johnson Road, James Island.

**THE PRICE IS \$10 PER PERSON AND INCLUDES LUNCH/**

As people of faith we are called to transformation. Lent provides an opportunity for us to put our focus on the gospel imperative to enter into the paschal mystery of dying and rising. This program is designed to offer older adults (60+) a spiritual model of aging and support them in their desire to embrace Christ's call to let go and to live in the promise of resurrection. Discover ways to integrate your journey with Christ's journey to the cross.

Re-vision / re-vitalize your Baptismal call. / Find meaning and purpose in retirement. / Become a spiritually transcendent elder.

**Session themes include:**

- ◆ Aging: Your Call is waiting
- ◆ A way of transformation: Spiritual tasks of aging
- ◆ Reclaiming the wonder: Tools for the journey
- ◆ Mission: Share the legacy

**REGISTRATION WILL BE AFTER THE MASSES ON FEB 22 / 23.**

For more information or to pre-register, please contact the Nativity Parish Office at 843-795-3821 or at [Office@NativityCharleston.org](mailto:Office@NativityCharleston.org).



February 26 - April 5

## HELP SAVE LIVES IN CHARLESTON!

Local Events: All events are at Planned Parenthood (1312 Ashley River Road Hwy. 61) except as noted.

- ⇒ Sat. Mar. 14 at 9:00 to 10:00 am: **Mid-Way Rally** with Matt Britton. General Counsel for National 40 Days for Life
- ⇒ **Thur. Mar. 19 at 6:00 am to 10 pm: Nativity's Vigil Day 1.**
- ⇒ **Fri. Mar 20 at 6:00 am to 10 pm: Nativity's Vigil Day 2.**
  - ◆ K of C Council 6260 Thur. and Fri from 6:00 am to 10:00 am and from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm
  - ◆ Nativity Ladies Thur. and Fri. from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.
- ⇒ Sun. Apr. 05 at 1:00 to 3:00 pm: **Victory Celebration** with pot luck luncheon. Details in later bulletin.
- ⇒ Fri. Apr. 10 at 9:00 am to 11:00 am: **Good Friday Prayer Service** with various religious & church leaders.

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Employment Opportunity, please contact [Martha@MHRC.US](mailto:Martha@MHRC.US)

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