

Greater Than You Expect

Sometimes a prophet says more than he intended. Ezekiel in the first reading is talking about restoring Israel after the Babylonian exile. The Jews saw the Exile as punishment for their sins. God demonstrates forgiveness by bringing them back to Israel; God also shows them divine power and glory so that they return to the Lord for their protection.

Jesus came to show us God in a new way and to fulfill the promises of all previous prophecies. Notice how the first reading repeats two phrases: "open your graves" and "know that I am the LORD." Jesus demonstrates that God's promise is much greater than anything Ezekiel expected.

When Jesus went to the tomb of Lazarus, he knew that he was going to raise Lazarus from death to help his disciples believe. So why was he "perturbed and deeply troubled"? It could be that he was disappointed that his friends did not seem to believe that he could do this. Like Ezekiel, the people of Jesus' time did not expect him literally to raise the dead. But God used the prophet's message to prepare for Jesus' message that not only would he rise from the dead, but we will also. And like the friends and relatives of Lazarus, we too may question how it could be possible. Fortunately, Jesus helps with that, too.

Look at the second reading to the Romans. Because we have God's Spirit living in us, we who are sinners can be raised to new life by that Spirit. When our sins are forgiven, we begin to live a new life by loving the people we hurt by our sins, forgiving people who have hurt us, being more concerned for the poor than for our own comfort. We are freed from worrying about the future, all because we have experienced the new life of God's Spirit and, as Ezekiel says, know that God is the LORD.

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Catholic Diocese of Charleston



Church of the Nativity

1061 Folly Road
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

Fifth Sunday in Lent March 29, 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

All Masses are Cancelled
until at least April 1.

Stations of the Cross During Lent

Stations are Cancelled
for the rest of lent.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By appointment only.
Scheduled Reconciliation is Cancelled
until further notice.

Weekday Rosary in the Church

Weekday Rosary is Cancelled
until further notice.

Regular Office Hours

The parish office remains open but
Many of the staff are working remotely.
Please call before you visit to make sure
someone is available to assist you.

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

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption

Today's Psalm PS 130

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 104.

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 x 104.

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 104.

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 104

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.

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.

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.

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.

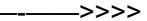
These criteria are used to verify parishioner status for Weddings, Sacramental Preparation, Parish School of Religion enrollment, Sponsor Certificates for Baptism and Confirmation, and to receive parishioner tuition rates at Catholic schools. An extended time with no activity will place a person or family 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!

We are God's People

I will open your graves, have you rise from them,
and settle you on your land.
Then you shall know I am the LORD

... Today's First Reading:: Ezekiel 37

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

Devotional Resources to Consider during this time of Social Distancing

This list is certainly far from being all inclusive but offers some great options.

Adoration

There are many perpetual adoration chapels around the world who livestream for devotion. Pick a chapel and spend some quiet time with Jesus.

virtualadoration.home.blog

Eternal Word Television Network

Mass is broadcast on its television network. Check the schedule for your local times.

ewtn.com/tv/schedule

Diocese of Charleston

Live Streamed Liturgies and other devotional and informational resources.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR_eSxFBVn0pBjj2Y0aOapQ/videos

Offerings

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

Our community activities have been temporarily cancelled but our needs continue.

Please consider making your regular offerings by mail in or online (myEoffering).

Thank you for your Generosity.

Intentions

Mass: This Week

**All Masses are Cancelled
Until at least April 1.**

Mass intentions will be rescheduled.

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.**

Stations of the Cross

<http://www.catholictv.org/shows/stations-of-the-cross>

Daily Mass with Bishop Barron

<https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/>

Daily Mass at EWTN

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/daily-readings>

Can not watch at the noted time?

This is usually not a problem because most of the videos are available on demand after the initial presentation.

The point here is that church activities are temporarily cancelled but God is always available. This is a period of trial and change. Try to use some new tools to strengthen and deepen your personal relationship with Our God.

LENT: THE TIME FOR PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMSGIVING



Now available online at
www.nativitycharleston.org

For immediate access, just scan this QR code with your smart phone ----->



**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: Brenda Kennerty

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

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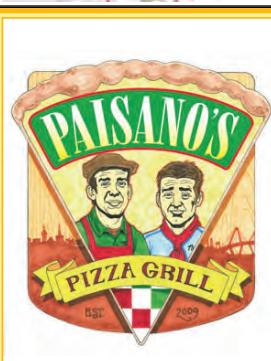
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