

A Lot of Nerve

The first reading from Acts of the Apostles takes place right after the disciples received the gifts of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Peter, the apostle who had denied knowing Jesus before he died, now comes out and accuses the crowd of killing Jesus, "using lawless men to crucify him" (Acts 2:23).

Considering that he was outnumbered three thousand to one, it took a lot of nerve. So the Spirit gave him the courage to face that crowd. But he did more than just stand up to the people. He offered them forgiveness and hope. He asked them to repent, but not just profess a rejection of sin. What we call repentance, in Peter's time meant a change of heart away from sin and toward a new way of acting or believing. He offered them the same gift of the Spirit that he and the disciples had received. As Peter says in our second reading, "free from sin, [they] might live for righteousness" (1 Peter 2:24). We too can make a change of heart. We can turn away from selfishness and begin to love as Jesus did. We can relinquish anger and begin to forgive. We can put aside fear and boldly proclaim our faith.

Peter also shows us another gift of the Spirit--the ability to suffer for doing good. That also takes a lot of nerve. It's hard enough to suffer for our sins; who wants to suffer for doing good? Yet that is just what Jesus did for us. It is what all disciples are called to do. Following the example of Jesus on the cross, we accept the suffering that comes to us. It may be ridicule for expressing our faith, the pain

Continued next column —>

Catholic Diocese of Charleston



Church of the Nativity

1061 Folly Road
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

Fourth Sunday of Easter May 3, 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.

Masses and other Services in the Church

All are Cancelled until further notice.

Church is open Daily for Private Prayer and Devotion.

**Weekdays and Saturday: 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.**

For Sacrament of Reconciliation

By appointment only.

Parish 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
e-mail: Office@NativityCharleston.org

Nativity Parish Website:
www.nativitycharleston.org

of losing someone we love, or the eventual pain of dying ourselves. We accept pain because we love the Lord and so love others enough to bear the pain of helping them.

As Jesus became flesh through the power of the Holy Spirit, so the same Spirit shows us that Jesus is present today in his disciples, in the poor, the homeless, the sick and dying. Let us ask the Spirit to help us repent from selfishness to a new life of love for God and our neighbor.

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

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!

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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.

Offerings Apr 20 — April 26

Collections at Mass (Apr 25—Apr 26)	\$ 0.00
Mail in Offerings (Apr 20—Apr 26)	\$ 13, 318. 30
myEoffering (Apr 20—Apr 26)	\$ 2, 156. 45
Budget (1 week)	<u>\$ 14, 326. 92</u>
Difference	\$ + 1, 147. 83
Registered Households	668
Envelopes Used (Apr 25—Apr 16)	
Active myEoffering Families	154
MyEoffering Family Donations (Apr 20—Apr 26)	

Easter Offerings: \$8, 479. 40

**All scheduled church services have been cancelled until further notice
But our needs continue.**

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

Thank you for your Generosity.

Intentions

**All Masses are Cancelled
until further notice.**

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.**



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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: Chet Nowak

From previous months: Allene Barans, 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, Brenda Kennerty, 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.**

Things you should know during this period!

Bishop Guglielmone has cancelled all Masses and scheduled services in the Diocese of Charleston until further notice.

During this period, Nativity Church remains open for private prayer and devotion.

Weekdays and Saturday: 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

When visiting the church, please abide by the recommended guidelines for social distancing and remember that no more than 10 people should be in the church at the same time.

Classes at Nativity School have been cancelled through May 31.

Recent copies of the Nativity Bulletins are always available at the Nativity Website.

www.nativitycharleston.org

New bulletins are usually posted on the Nativity Website on Tuesday afternoon.

or

You can have the bulletin emailed to you weekly. Just visit the website

<https://ebulletins.jspaluch.com/#/parish-bulletin/17Js5BrYrd?pid=> and Enter your email address.

Voila, you will receive the bulletin in your inbox every Saturday!

How cool is that?

Nativity School—dedicated to the academic and spiritual growth of our students

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.



The school teachers and staff send out student instruction materials and status updates to school families. You can also keep up with school activities by visiting the Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/NativitySchoolKnights/>

Nativity School remains closed through May 31.

Devotional Resources to Consider

during this period of Church Service Cancellations and Social Distancing

This list is certainly not an '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.

<https://virtualadoration.home.blog/>

Eternal Word Television Network

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

<https://www.ewtn.com/tv/schedule>

Daily Mass at EWTN

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

Diocese of Charleston

Live Streamed Liturgies and other devotional and informational resources.

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

Can not watch at the scheduled time? No Problem! You see, the internet is a huge video recorder and most of the videos are available on demand after the initial presentation. So time shift at will!

Communal church activities are temporarily cancelled but God is always available.

Stay informed

This situation is very dynamic and print media is always 'behind the times'. Also, some things you may see on the internet and other media sources may not be correct. Here are some tools that will provide accurate and timely information regarding our diocese and parish.

The latest messages and updates from the Diocese of Charleston are available at:

<https://charlestondiocese.org/covid-19-response/>

and

<https://www.facebook.com/DioceseChas/>

The latest messages and updates from the Church of the Nativity are available at:

The Nativity webpage: <https://nativitycharleston.com/>

and on the Nativity Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NativityCharleston/>

and on the Nativity You Tube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2Rc2HbRmKgHJO5yLI8QtnQ?>

The Church of the Nativity also sends frequent email updates to the members of Nativity Parish.

To receive these email updates, please send your email address to

office@nativitycharleston.org



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are isolated from one another right now due to the global pandemic, and as Catholics, it is particularly painful to be away from the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. It has been a time of loneliness for many, and that can lead us to despair.

This year we have experienced a real test of our beliefs, but, as St. John Paul II reminded us, "We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!"

When we focus on our risen Lord, it can lead us in our prayer life, help us to be grateful for this time with family, and draw us closer and closer to Christ Jesus.

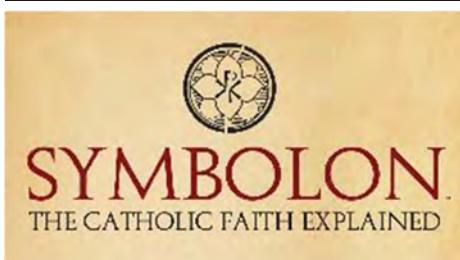
May the Lord's peace protect and sustain you in this Easter season.

+ Robert E. Guglielmone

Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmone,
Bishop of Charleston

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To sign up visit <https://formed.org/>. Click on "Sign up" and on the next page select "*I belong to a Parish*". Enter the zip code (29412) in the "*Find your Parish*" box. Select "Church of the Nativity". On the next page, your name and e-mail address and you are in. You will receive a link in your e-mail. For your convenience, the Formed.Org app is available for smart phones at the and the Apple App Store.



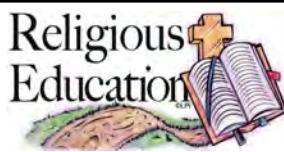
Online Bible Study Mondays 6:30 to 8:30 pm

We are viewing a series called Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained.
<https://watch.formed.org/symbolon-the-catholic-faith-explained>

In this series, there are deeper discipleship questions that help us reignite our passion for our Faith. It's also a great study for those seeking the Catholic Faith. To Sign Up please send an email to office@nativitycharleston.org to get added to the Google Classroom and Google Hangout.



Jesus said, "The sheep follow him because they know his voice. A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jn 10:4-5



30-day at Home Retreat: Ascending with Ignatius

Mark Thibodeaux, SJ, a popular author, is offering a virtual 30-day Ignatian Retreat that begins this Saturday, April 25, and ends on the Feast of the Ascension! (May 24). Check it out on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riU6QDPbifc>



Our Sympathy

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Arnold Bennett

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