

The Reason for Our Hope

As Jesus prepared the apostles for the time when he would no longer be with them physically, and knowing that they would face hardship, trials, and persecution in the future, he promised them an Advocate, the Holy Spirit. Through baptism that same Spirit dwells within us, always with us to guide us in the truth of God's love and strengthen us so that we may know Christ and live as Christ's people. Now, as in every time, God knows it is not always easy to live as a Christian. With the assurance of the Holy Spirit's presence, we find the grace to love Jesus and to keep the Lord's commandments.

We might look at the world around us and conclude that this is the most challenging time in history during which to live as a person of faith. Yet we know this is not so. Throughout the ages, people of faith have faced mockery, persecution, and even death as a result of their commitment to Christ. Still, it is important for us to acknowledge the challenge of living as a Christian today, when faith is viewed with ambivalence at best, and often with antagonism. Some do not understand how faith and reason can sit side by side, even though many of the world's greatest scientific discoveries have been made by people of faith. Others see the failures of the Church or its leaders and discount faith as a result. We rely on the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit to be with us when we are mocked or simply misunderstood on account of our faith in Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, we will find the grace to live with conviction as Christian people.

Saint Peter admonishes us, "Always be ready to give an
Continued next column -->

Catholic Diocese of Charleston



Church of the Nativity

1061 Folly Road
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 17, 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. through Fri.	11:30 am

**Social distancing guidelines must be observed
at all times and it is advised to
make reservations for Mass attendance.**

**All other services in the church
are cancelled until further notice.**

**Church is open Daily for
Private Prayer and Devotion.**

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

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.**

explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope." One of the greatest gifts of faith in our lives is our hope in Christ Jesus. Through Christ, we keep our eyes on the wider view of life here on earth and everlasting life with God. We know that the trials and challenges of today do not have the final word, and do not have power over us. With the presence of the Advocate, we have the help we need to live as God directs and desires, so that the world might come to know Christ through the witness of our lives. This is a hope-filled, meaningful way of life. When so much of our surrounding culture speaks of impermanence and momentary distractions, we have the hope of meaning and purpose today and the promise of eternal life to come.

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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

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For more information, please call the parish office at 843-795-3821.



Please consider joining our parish family!

Delight

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy

...Today's Psalm: PS 66S

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 May 4 — May 10

Collections at Mass (May 9—May 10)	\$ 0.00
Mail in Offerings (May 4—May 10)	\$ 21, 953.00
myEoffering (May 4—May 10)	\$ 2, 151.37
Budget (1 week)	\$ 14, 326.92
Difference	\$ + 9, 777.45
Registered Households	668
Envelopes Used (May 9—May 10)	
Active myEoffering Families	154
MyEoffering Family Donations (May 4—May 10)	

Total Easter Offerings (to date): \$10, 384.40

Offerings for Catholic Charities: \$215.00

If you are unable to attend Mass,
Please consider making your regular offerings by
mail or online (myEoffering).

Thank you for your Generosity.

Please use your envelopes.

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

Liturgical Ministers

Regularly scheduled Masses will resume on Monday, May 11. The ministry lists are being revised to comply with the new Mass attendance guidelines.

The ministry schedules will be emailed to the ministers and posted in the bulletin when these changes have been integrated.

We are sorry for the inconvenience and appreciate your understanding during this period of change.

Intentions

Mass: This Week

Sat	16	5:30 pm	Rizalina Pangan+
Sun	17	9:00 am	Dr. Jim Hayes+
		11:30 am	Jannette Rakowski+
Mon	18	11:30 am	Veronica Eckert+
Tues	19	11:30 am	
Wed	20	11:30 am	
Thurs	21	11:30 am	
Fri	22	11:30 am	
Sat	23	5:30 pm	
Sun	24	9:00 am	Patrick Gibbons+
		11:30 am	

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.



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: 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.

TEXT AND EMAIL SCAMS

Some members of Nativity Parish continue to receive **SCAM email and text messages**, ostensibly from Fr. Kingsley.

- These emails are not from Fr. Kingsley (or any other member of the Nativity Staff.)
- Fr. Kingsley's email account has not been 'hacked'.
- There is no action we can take to prevent these types of scams.

Beware! You are receiving these messages from someone unknown to us who wants to steal from you.

What to do?

Delete the original email.

Do not click 'reply'. To do so will connect you directly to the thief. Father Kingsley's email address is Pastor@NativityCharleston.org. If you are uncertain, about messages you receive that appear to be from Father Kingsley or members of the Nativity staff, please contact the Nativity parish office for clarification. (Office@NativityCharleston.org or 843-795-3821).



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Discover Nativity School, James Island's best kept secret for K4-8 grades.

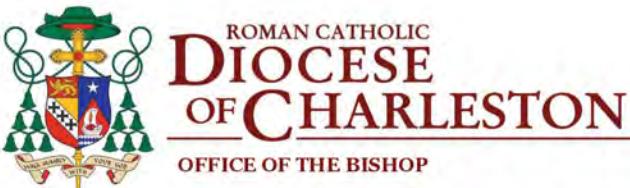
Nativity School is accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

Nativity School remains closed through the end of the school year.

Please check with the school teachers and staff regarding details and schedules for class assignments and further details regarding the close out of the school year.
You can also keep up with school activities by visiting the Facebook page at
<https://www.facebook.com/NativitySchoolKnights/>

Regularly Scheduled Masses resumed in Diocese of Charleston churches on May 11.



May 2, 2020

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As society moves forward with the reopening of public spaces, we must ensure that the Diocese of Charleston does all that it can to provide for your spiritual needs and welcome you home. Our primary goal is to approach the lifted restrictions with great care, keeping the safety of all our parishioners and our clergy at the forefront of our decision-making.

On Thursday, after conferring with the College of Consultors (the priests who advise me on many important matters), I decided to resume the sacraments with in-person daily Mass beginning on Monday, May 11. Our first Vigil/Sunday Masses will be held the weekend of May 16.

We want to have the freedom to participate in Mass together in a peaceful manner, but also in good health, so your pastor/administrator will spend the next several days developing a plan on how your parish will operate in the current climate and under the restrictions we have set forth. These restrictions have been developed based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, plus mandates from state government and recommendations from those dioceses that have already resumed Masses. Your pastor/administrator will communicate the specifics of his plan for your parish no later than May 10.

Although we will do all we can to provide a safe environment, the risk of contracting COVID-19 will still exist. Therefore, I am still granting dispensation to those who are uncomfortable attending weekend Mass and those who are high risk until further notice.

We are all hungry to receive the sacraments once again. This time away from the Eucharist has been painful. And, for so many, that struggle has been compounded by the loss of income and freedom for our families. These new guidelines may be challenging, so I ask everyone to do their very best to adjust to the new normal together as one family in faith.

May God continue to bless each of you in this season of the Resurrected Lord.

Most Rev. Robert E. Guglielmone
Bishop of Charleston



Church of the Nativity

1061 Folly Road
Charleston, SC 29412

843-795-3821
www.nativitycharleston.org

May 4, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I'm happy to share with you some good news. Beginning Monday, May 11, Bishop Guglielmone will allow limited celebrations of public Masses. The limitations are designed to protect your health. The main limitation will be the number of people who can attend each Mass. Our church has a seating capacity of 734. The Bishop has limited us to 25% of seating capacity. However, out of an abundance of caution, we will limit the number of people at each weekday Mass to 50, and the number at each weekend Mass to 125. That will allow plenty of room for social-distancing.

The Bishop's dispensation from attending Sunday Mass remains in effect during this transition period. Those with underlying health conditions and the elderly should consider not coming to Mass.

The sick and vulnerable should definitely not come to Mass. If you would feel more comfortable with a smaller number of people, then you may wish to attend a weekday Mass instead and use that as your "Communion day". Below is our **interim Mass schedule:**

Day	Time	Maximum number
Monday	11:30 am	50
Tuesday	11:30 am	50
Wednesday	11:30 am	50
Thursday	11:30 am	50
Friday	11:30 am	50
Saturday	5:30 pm	125
Sunday	9 am and 11:30 am	125 at each Mass

Once we reach our maximum number, then no one else can come to that Mass. We will send you a link so you can reserve places for you and your family at the weekend Masses. If we see the need, we will add additional weekend Masses. Those who are not signed up will only be allowed if spaces remain. If you cannot access the signup list via "SignUpGenius", please call the church office and leave a message with Mass time and number of attendees. We will register you and only call you back if spaces are full for requested Mass time.

Here is the link to Reserve your space at Mass.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a4caaad29a2f58-confirm>

Don't like to type that many characters? Try this shorter link

<https://bit.ly/2YR2mr6> (note that short links like this are case sensitive)

Or even easier, just scan the QR code at right with your smart phone.----->>>



**Pick the option that works best for you.
Just remember to sign up early and often!**

.....Continued next page

If you would like to schedule a Mass intention, then please put your Mass intention envelope in the basket at the back of the church, or through the mail slot in the parish office door, or email me at Pastor@NativityCharleston.org. The parish office will be manned at irregular times during this transition period so the staff can work from home as much as possible.

Other Safety Guidelines at Mass

- ⇒ You may wish to wear a protective mask.
- ⇒ Please use the restroom only when absolutely necessary.
- ⇒ Stay at least six feet away from non-family members at all times.
- ⇒ Please don't use the hymnals. We will provide disposable worship aids.
- ⇒ There will be no sign of peace.
- ⇒ Communion will only be distributed in the hand.
- ⇒ There will be no social events, such as coffee and doughnuts, before or after Mass.
- ⇒ We will ensure proper cleaning of frequently touched surfaces after each Mass.
- ⇒ There will be no Children's Liturgy, Nursery or Quiet Room available during this time.
- ⇒ Please take crying children outside if needed.

Other Sacraments

- ⇒ RCIA members will be welcomed into full communion with the Church on May 30, the vigil of Pentecost, at the 5:30 pm Mass.
- ⇒ Weddings and funerals may be celebrated with the limitations stated above.
- ⇒ We will inform you of the dates for First Communion and Confirmation once they are determined.
- ⇒ Confessions on Saturdays from 4:15 – 5 pm are tentatively scheduled to resume on June 6.
- ⇒ For Baptisms, contact Mary Smith at DRE@NativityCharleston.org.

Offertory

I want to sincerely thank all of you who have continued to generously support our parish during this quarantine period. You have used electronic giving, mailing in your collection envelopes, or else putting your envelopes through the mail slot in the office door. As you know, not even a pandemic can stop the bills from coming in. In the interests of your health, we will not be taking up a collection during the weekend Masses. However, there will be a basket in the back of the church by the restrooms where you can place your donation.

Final thoughts

The events surrounding this virus have been hard on all of us. Graduations and other family events have been cancelled. People have suffered financially and in terms of their health. Many people are lonely because they can't touch loved ones and embrace them. Also, I know that many of you have missed receiving the Eucharist and being with our parish community. By the Grace of God, it appears that this difficult time is almost over. Still, we need to keep praying. Please know that all of you are remembered in my prayers every day.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. S. Thomas Kingsley
Pastor



Beloved: Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts,
always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you
to give an account for the hope that is in you. 1 Pt 3:15

The bishop extended a dispensation to those who remain uneasy about attending public worship.

....."Although we will do all we can to provide a safe environment, the risk of contracting COVID-19 will still exist. Therefore, I am still granting dispensation to those who are uncomfortable attending weekend Mass and those who are high risk until further notice".....

Here are some additional devotional resources to consider.

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_eSxFBVn0pBj2Y0aOapQ/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! This remains a period of trial and change. Please try to use some new tools to strengthen and deepen your personal relationship with Our God. You will be glad you did!



Vacation Bible School — Cancelled

The plan was to offer Vacation Bible School Week at Nativity during the week of June 22 through June 26. Due to current Covid-19 distancing guidelines, we are unable to offer this program as initially planned. If circumstances change, we will consider options to offer this program at a later date. We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause you.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support!



A few scenes from Nativity's 'Drive By' Mother's Day Blessing on Sunday, May 10!.

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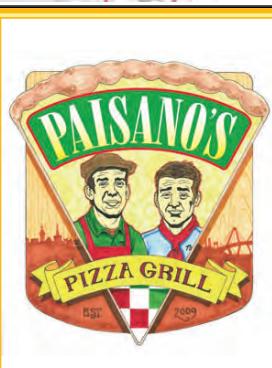
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