

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 26
2020

A Truly Wise Person

The ending of today's Gospel speaks about "the new and the old." Jesus is saying that a person "instructed in the kingdom" has wisdom both old and new; in other words, that person learns from the past as well as from the present. Let's look at each of those.

We learn from the past by studying it. So the wisdom of the Kingdom comes first from the scriptures. The more familiar we are with the word of God, the more wisdom we possess. Along with studying the scriptures, we must pray over them and ask the Spirit to show us how they apply to our lives. We can also learn from the lives of the saints and writings of the Church. The saints may have lived extraordinary lives, but they all began as ordinary people who gave their lives to Christ. The writings of the Church, though sometimes very technical, contain the wisdom of centuries of living the faith. If you only have time to go to Mass on Sunday, just listening to the homily can help to apply the scriptures to your life.

One way we can learn from "the new" is to learn from our mistakes. That includes learning from our sins. When we are truly sorry, we make an effort to change our ways. You might say we have to learn a new way to respond to that situation. In the Bible, the word *repentance* itself means a change of heart, a new way of seeing and doing things.

We can also learn from the mistakes and the successes of our friends. As we share our faith with them, we share the stories of our lives, both good and bad.

Continued next column —>

Catholic Diocese of Charleston



Church of the Nativity

1061 Folly Road
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

**Seventeenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**
July 26, 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

Mon. through Fri.	11:30 am
Saturday Vigil	5:30 pm
Sunday	9:00 am and 11:30 am

Make reservations for Weekend Mass attendance.

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

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4:15 to 5:00 pm and by appointment

**Face Mask and Social Distancing guidelines
must be observed at all times.**

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.**

These stories can teach how to live our faith (or how not to!). One of the advantages of having friends whom we trust enough to confess our faults to is that we do not have to figure out life on our own. God can speak to us through a friend or relative whose advice we seek. A truly wise person is one who has received a lifetime of good advice.

...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

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



Please consider joining our parish family!

Love Thy Neighbor

May God our Lord never let me harm anyone
when I cannot help him!

...St. Ignatius Loyola whose feast is Friday, July 31

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 July 13 — July 19

Collections at Mass (Jul 18—Jul 19)	\$ 4,850.00
Mail in Offerings (Jul 13—Jul 17)	\$ 4,187.00
myEoffering (Jul 13—Jul 17)	\$ 3,020.12
Budget (1 weeks)	<u>\$ 13,653.85</u>
Difference	\$ + 1,596.73
Registered Households	668
Envelopes Used (Jul 18—Jul 19)	
Active myEoffering Families	154
MyEoffering Family Donations (Jul 13—Jul 17)	

Offerings for Infirm Priests: \$570.00

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 for August 1—2

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

5:30 pm Mass

Altar Servers:	Daniel Salceda
Eucharistic Ministers:	Dawn Clancy Blanchard
Lector:	John Warren
Ushers:	Kathy Wiley
	Brendan Reed, Patrick Kelley, Leroy Holseberg, Randall Lannie, Emmett Alphonse

9:00 am Mass

Altar Server:	Victoria Nguyen
Eucharistic Ministers:	Daniel Suggs
Lector:	Tamme Suggs
Ushers:	Ainsley Knight
	Jim Anderson, Richard Bragiel, Larry Fisk, Walter Machowski

11:30 am Mass

Altar Server:	Tomi Tran
Eucharistic Ministers:	Pam Everitt
Lector:	Christine Lewis
Ushers:	John Lavelle
	Lewis Doscher, Joe Ginn, 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

Recently Added: Rob Barker, John Wilson

From previous months: Allene Barans, Clydie Bevis, Beverly Blevins, Britt Lamarr Boswell, Joe Caraviello, Herman Connor, 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, Chet Nowak, 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.

Intentions

Mass: This Week

Sat	25	5:30 pm	Kim Wade Roberts+
Sun	26	9:00 am	Gilbert & Marion Molony O'Brien++
		11:30 am	James Langmeyer+
Mon	27	11:30 am	
Tues	28	11:30 am	
Wed	29	11:30 am	
Thurs	30	11:30 am	Soledad Torres+
Fri	31	11:30 am	Communion Service
Sat	1	5:30 pm	Arnold Bennett+
Sun	2	9:00 am	Muriel Eacock+
		11:30 am	Evelyn Thomas+

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.

**On Monday, July 20, SC Governor, Henry McMaster,
announced an exciting and important school funding opportunity.**

Safe Access to Flexible Education (SAFE) Grants is a program to address the educational needs of eligible K5-12 students who attend participating independent schools in South Carolina. Families with an adjusted gross household income of 300% or less of the federal poverty level may apply to receive a SAFE Grant of up to \$6,500 per student. This program is permitted up to 5,000 students statewide for a total of \$32 million in aid.

Parents may sign up to receive important program notifications at MySCeducation.org.

For more information, please contact Michael F. Acquilano, Director of the SC Catholic Conference at macquilano@charlestondiocese.org or at 843-709-2717.

Investing in your child's education as a Catholic shouldn't be limited by cost.

You can receive
\$6,500 per student
for Catholic School!

For families earning
less than 300% of the
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68% of S.C. households qualify!



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**Nativity School—dedicated to the academic
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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 will start soon (TBD) with all the safety precautions in place.
Enroll your child today.**

Parish School of Religion (PSR) Registration



for parish children who will attend non-parochial schools for the 2020-2021 school year is underway. Registration forms are available at the church entrances. PSR Registration information is also available at

www.NativityCharleston.org/Formation

Please register by July 31

so that we can order the needed materials and plan appropriately for COVID conditions that may impact our Religious Education Program.

There will be an additional \$20 late registration fee after July 31st to cover additional administrative and shipping costs for class materials.



Blessing of Expectant Parents

Your witness to our faith community is a wonderful Celebration of Life.

We appreciate the opportunity to extend our blessing during a weekend Mass. During this ceremony, the Nativity Respect Life ministry will also present you with a small prayer book.

Please let us share in this Celebration of Life with you.

To make arrangements, just contact Vicki at Office@NativityCharleston.org or at 843-795-3821.

**We need to see each child as a gift
to be welcomed and cherished.**

... Pope Francis

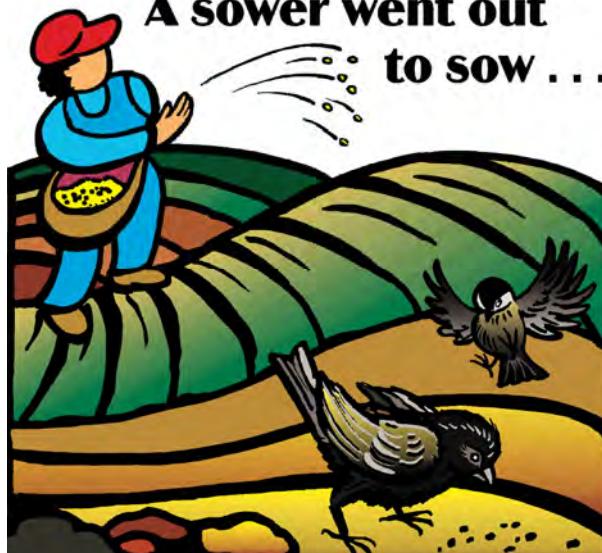
m Burrows



For those whom he foreknew, he also predestined to become conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. Rom 8:26

A sower went out

to sow . . .



Catechists Needed for School of Religion

for the upcoming school year. If you love your faith and are willing to share that blessing with the children of our parish, please contact Mary Smith at 843-795-3821 x 104 or at DRE@nativitycharleston.org.

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.

**Thank you for helping us teach
your children about their God.**

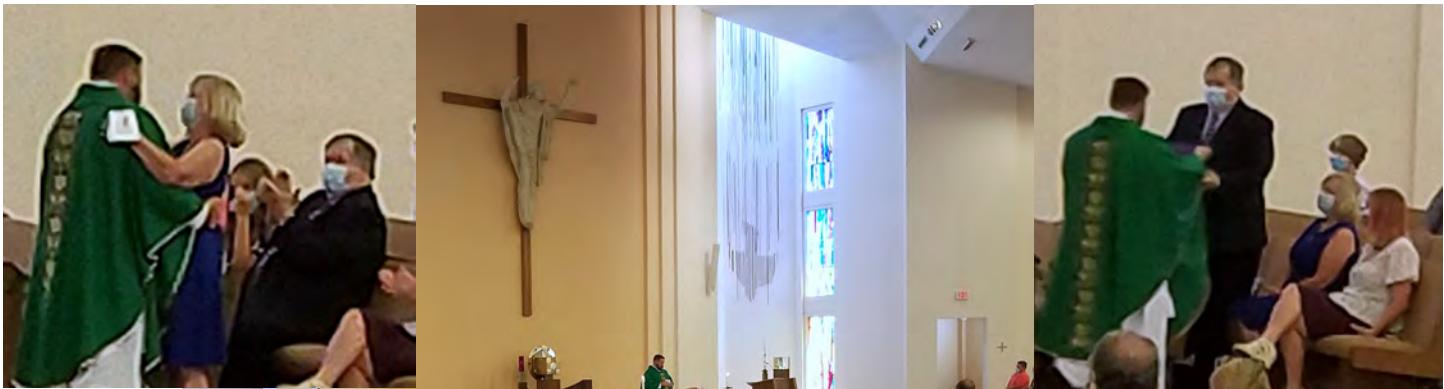
Vocation Chalice Program Every Sunday at the 9:00 Mass

A vocation is a call from the Holy Spirit, a gift from God that is nurtured in prayer. The purpose of this program is to encourage families to pray for and promote vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Praying for vocations is the most powerful way to support vocations. When we pray for vocations, we lift up to our Father those men and women whom He is calling to follow Him in a very special way.



Each week at Mass, a family is invited to take the gifts up at the Offertory Procession. At the end of Mass, the family is called by the priest to come forward and receive the chalice. The family takes the chalice home and puts it in a place of honor. Each day for a week, the family prays for an increase of and perseverance in vocations. The following Sunday the family returns the chalice for another family to take home.

Hopefully, those who bring the Chalice home will continue to pray daily for vocations.



Recently ordained Father Michael P. Cellars celebrated Mass at Nativity last Sunday. The Mass was followed by a 'masked and socially distanced' reception on the school grounds. Fr. Cellars left the Charleston area this week to take on his new ministry at Saint Mary Magdalene Church in Simpsonville, SC. Please keep Father Cellars in your prayers.

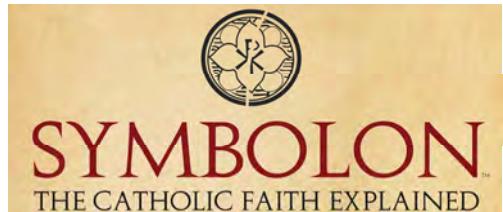


RCIA Teams Up with Symbolon The RCIA process (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

ARE YOU SOMEONE OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...

- Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
- Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

The Church of the Nativity offers an opportunity to come together in an online small group to learn more about our faith. We will use the Formed.org Symbolon Series Knowing the Faith and Living the Faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Church. The intent is to prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. All are welcome to participate in the process. Bring your questions, your insights, and your faith story and join us in a warm, welcoming, and accepting setting.



The RCIA classes are held online from 7:00—8:30 pm on Sunday evenings beginning September 13.

**This year's program kicks off on Sunday, August 30th at 5:30 pm
with a 'Meet and Greet' Outdoor Cookout!**

Masks and social distancing practices are required.

For more information, please contact Vicki Vázquez at admin@nativitycharleston.org or at 843-795-3821.



St Martha—A Call for Balance—Feast is July 25

Martha, her brother Lazarus and her sister Mary (sometimes confused with Mary Magdalene) lived in Bethany, a town not far from Jerusalem. These siblings were friends of Jesus when He was an adult. They seemed to be close and Jesus seems to have enjoyed relaxing with this family during his three year ministry.

At some point in His ministry, Jesus and his entourage of disciples were passing through town and Martha opened their home to him. The social order at the time was that the men sat together in the 'living room' and conversed with the Rabbi while the women busied themselves with the demands of hospitality. However, sister Mary joined in the discussion with the men. That left Martha to deal with the work at hand. She became more and more overwhelmed. Martha asked Jesus for help, likely expecting Jesus to suggest that Mary help Martha with the chores of hospitality. There is no indication in the scriptures that Jesus, Mary or any of the assembled disciples migrated to the 'kitchen' to lend a hand. We do not learn how this domestic conflict was resolved or if dinner was ever served.

So let's segue. Jesus's comments to Martha suggest the need for balance. It is easy for become so caught up with the tasks before us that we lose sight of our real goal—heaven. Usually, these are all good things and if we just push harder and work smarter we can get everything done. The problem is that we can become anxious, worried and distracted by the work before us. Perhaps we have spread ourselves too thin; our inclination for "good living" is on the verge of becoming a bad lifestyle.

However, like Mary, we all can choose the better part. We can simplify our lives and provide space in order to become more focused on God's love. This will lead us to maintain balance and keep all things in perspective.



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