

## Reasons to Rejoice

Saint Paul seems to be throwing out a handful of sayings that may sound overly optimistic, but are actually very practical. "Rejoice always"? If we pray constantly and thank God for all that happens to us, we have reason to rejoice. Even the things we don't like can be turned to good by God. God allows sin because it leads to forgiveness, an experience of God's love for us. And God allows even death, because God can bring us to eternal life.

When Paul tells us not to quench the Spirit he means we should be open to what the Holy Spirit moves us to do. "Prophetic utterances" refer to things that other people were inspired to proclaim. If we pray constantly (1 Thessalonians 5:17), the distractions of this world will not keep us from hearing the Spirit within us. We won't be so critical of others that we miss what the Spirit is telling us through them.

How do we know if something really is from the Spirit? Saint Paul says, test everything. Retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Use the scriptures, the teachings of the Church, and your conscience to decide whether the Spirit is moving you, or if advice you hear is worthwhile. Trust God to make us holy if we only allow it. Then we will be ready for the coming of the Lord, whether through the sacraments, the celebration of Christmas, or God's final coming in glory. I'd say that's a reason to rejoice.

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

Catholic Diocese of Charleston



## Church of the Nativity

1061 Folly Road  
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

### 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

Monday through Friday: 11:30 am  
Thursday: 9:30 am School Mass  
**Due to Covid precautions, 9:30 Mass is for  
Nativity school students and staff only.**  
Saturday Vigil: 5:30 pm  
Sunday: 9:00 am and 11:30 am

**Please make reservations for Weekend  
and Holy Day Mass attendance.**

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

**Weekdays and Saturday: 9:00 am to 4:00 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

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Phone: 843-795-3821 / Fax: 843-795-2714  
e-mail: [Office@NativityCharleston.org](mailto:Office@NativityCharleston.org)

### Stay in touch with us at Nativity

Web page: <https://nativitycharleston.com/>  
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/ChurchoftheNativity>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NativityCharleston>  
and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NativityFamily>  
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/NativityCharleston/>

**"Friend" Father Kingsley on Facebook**  
<https://www.facebook.com/thomas.kingsley.12576>

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.*

...Today's Opening Prayer: Philippians 4: 4-5

## THINGS TO KNOW

**Nursery:** Is offered to 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. **Currently unavailable pending the end of the COVID epidemic.**

**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. **Currently unavailable pending the end of the COVID epidemic.**

**Religious Education Programs Online:** Nativity School serves students in grades K4 through 8<sup>th</sup>. The Parish School of Religion (PSR) is offered for other parish children, grades K4 through 8<sup>th</sup>, enrolled in non-parochial schools. **PSR virtual classes are currently available.** Please register by contacting 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 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 104

**Alpha Online:** 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) Online:** is an opportunity to come together in a small group online to learn more about our faith with sessions focused on the teachings and experience of Church and prepare adults to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. To inquire, 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](mailto: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

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



### Please consider joining our parish family!

#### Happiness

I rejoice heartily in the Lord,  
in my God is the joy of my soul;

... Today's First Reading, Isaiah 61

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 Nov 30 — Dec 6

Collections at Mass (Dec 5—Dec 6)	\$ 7,460.00
Mail in Offerings (Nov 30—Dec 4)	\$ 3,075.00
myEoffering (Nov 30—Dec 4)	\$ 3,638.91
Budget (1 week)	<u>\$ 13,653.85</u>
Difference	\$ + 520.06
Registered Households	635
Envelopes Used (Dec 5—Dec 6)	113
Active myEoffering Families	173
MyEoffering Family Donations (Nov 30—Dec 4)	107

**Second Collections for December are:**

#### Dec 12—13: Retirement Fund for Religious

If you do not use envelopes and want to contribute to these needs, please place your check in the collection baskets in the rear of the church, mail your donation to the parish office or make a donation via your myEoffering account.

**Thank you for your Generosity.**

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

**Please use your envelopes.**

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

### Liturgical Ministers for Dec. 19-20

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

#### 5:30 pm Mass

Altar Servers:	Alexandra Lannie
Eucharistic Ministers:	Patty Edwards
Lector:	Carolyn Smith
Ushers:	Carl Borick
	Emmett Alphonse, Brendan Reed, Patrick Kelley, Leroy Holseberg, Randall Lannie

#### 9:00 am Mass

Altar Server:	Victoria Nguyen
Eucharistic Ministers:	Mark Hollifield
Lector:	Kirby Preston
Ushers:	Gary Warriner
	Jim Anderson, Richard Bragiel, Steve Molony, Michael O'Neale

#### 11:30 am Mass

Altar Server:	Megumi Tran
Eucharistic Ministers:	Brian Dougherty
Lector:	Phu Tran
Ushers:	Cava Riley
	Lewis Doscher, Joe Ginn, Sheila Griner, Gilbert O'Brien



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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

**From previous months:** Allene Barans, Rob Barker, Clydie Bevis, Beverly Blevins, Britt Lamarr Boswell, Joe Caraviello, Herman Connor, Sharon Doniphan Jake DuPree, Jo Ann Frederick, Ellen Pate Futrell, Helen Gaskin, Malcolm Hale, Angela Harbuta, Terry Harris, James Michael Huber, Ronnie & Myrtis Jenkins, Fred Kornahrens, Teresa LaTorre, Delores Lopez, Paul Madden, Paul & Carole Moran, Robert Nixon, Suzette Nowak, Mona O'Leary, Charlie Organ, Irene Parmenter, Ed and Terry Pop, Betty Ann Quinn, James Romero, Rosemary Saari, Kyle Souza, Fran Taylor, Inge Thornley, Courtney Wilson, John Wilson, Sally Wojcik

### For members of our community who have requested our prayers

### For our service men and women and their families throughout the world.

### Intentions

#### Sanctuary Candle:

Dec 12 — Dec 18 Jay Ginn+

#### Mass: This Week

Sat	12	5:30 pm	Mark Hairfield+
Sun	13	9:00 am	Chet Nowak+
		11:30 am	Gilbert & Marion Molony O'Brien+
Mon	14	11:30 am	Scott Mallard+
Tues	15	11:30 am	Gene Santos+
Wed	16	11:30 am	William Owens+
Thurs	17	11:30 am	John Eckert+
Fri	18	11:30 am	Elmo Neal+
Sat	19	5:30 pm	Luis Alberto & Cecilia Tovar Diaz+
Sun	20	9:00 am	Gerard Baldwin+
		11:30 am	Florence Hennessy+

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

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.**



### Baptism

**Kathryn Malone Wilson,**

daughter of Allison and Sean Wilson,  
was welcomed into our faith community  
on Saturday, November 21.

**Congratulations to this  
new member of our church.**



### Our Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy  
to the family and friends of

**Joseph W. (Jay) Ginn,**

whose funeral was held at Nativity  
on Monday, December 7.

**May he rest in peace.**



### Baptism

**Eleanor Allyse Kniesler,**

daughter of Lauren and Pete Kniesler  
was welcomed into our faith  
community on Sunday, December 6.

**Congratulations to this  
new member of our church.**



### Reconciliation

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Advent is the season of preparing for Christ's coming. One way to spiritually prepare oneself for the Lord's coming at Christmas is to go to confession and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

This sacrament is offered at Nativity as follows:

Sat, Dec. 12:	4:15 to 5:00 pm
Sun, Dec. 13	10:00 to 11:00 am
	12:30 to 1:30 pm
Weekdays Dec. 14 Through 18	12:00 noon to 12:30 pm
Sat, Dec. 19:	4:15 to 5:00 pm
Sun, Dec. 20	10:00 to 11:00 am
	12:30 to 1:30 pm

**All are encouraged to repent and  
receive God's merciful forgiveness.**



There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.

He came as a witness, to testify about the Light,  
so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light,  
but he came to testify about the Light. Jn 1:6-8



### Baptism

**Joshua Robert Begley Jr.,**

son of Maureen and Josh Begley,  
was welcomed into our faith  
community on  
Saturday, December 5.

**Congratulations to  
this new member  
of our church.**



### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

**Christ gave us a great gift of Himself  
on Christmas.**

He calls us to give of ourselves to everyone, especially our spouse. Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and learn how to be the best gift you can be for your spouse. Our next Marriage Encounter weekend in this area is Jan 29—Jan 31, 2021 in North Myrtle Beach

For more information visit <https://SCMarriageMatters.org>  
or contact us at  
[applications@scmarriagematters.org](mailto:applications@scmarriagematters.org) or 803-810-9602.

**Sign up today.**

**Additional Mass at  
9:00 pm on Christmas Eve.  
Reservations are Required for  
ALL Christmas Masses.**

If you have reservations for Christmas Masses please bring the confirmation with you when you come to Mass.

Please double-check your quantity. If you only selected a total of 1 and you wrote in 2 or 3 names, the system does not recognize that you selected 3 people.

Please keep an eye out for weekly updates through our website and social media on available options closer to Christmas. We are working diligently to accommodate those who desire to attend a Mass on Christmas.

If you have reservations that you cannot use, please contact the Parish Office. We can cancel your un-needed reservations and make them available to others.

If you have any difficulty making/changing your Christmas Mass reservations, please contact the Nativity Parish office.

**Thank you for your consideration.**



**A Flashback to  
Respect Life Month  
(October 2020)**

**Rosaries for Life**

During Respect Life Month our parish prayed 614 Rosaries for Life. These prayers were offered by students at Nativity School and PSR (and their parents), the Wednesday Rosaries group, the Respect Life Committee, the Nativity Ladies Guild, the Knights of Columbus and other parishioners

**And Don't forget the Diaper Drive**

During the month of October, our Parish collected and donated: 16 large/extra large boxes of diapers, 21 packs of diapers, 2 large boxes of wipes, 6 small packets of wipes, miscellaneous baby items (which included the Ladies Guild handmade bibs and clothes) and cash donations. These items were delivered to the Lowcountry Pregnancy Center and Birthright of Charleston:

**Other Respect Life Month Activities**

Members of Nativity covered two full days of prayer at the planned Parenthood facility, added awareness flyers into Nativity bulletins, promoted respect life awareness and activities via Nativity social media and printed communications and participated in the Walk 4 Life.

**Thank you for your spiritual and practical support for these mothers and their babies.**

**Services for December**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass**

Saturday, Dec 19 at 5:30 pm

Sunday, Dec 22 at 9:00 and 11:30 am

**Weekday Mass**

Mon, Tues, Wed, Dec, 21 — 23: 11:30 am

**Reservations are required  
at all Sunday  
and Holyday Masses.**

**Please contact the Nativity Parish  
office if you are having difficulty with  
the online sign up process.**

**Christmas Masses**

**Thurs, Dec. 24 at 3, 5, 7 and 9:00 pm**

**Fri, Dec. 25 at 10:00 am**

If you have reservations for Christmas Masses please bring the confirmation with you when you come to Mass.

**Feast of the Holy Family (Weekend Masses)**

**Sat, Dec. 26 at 5:30 pm**

**Sun, Dec 27 at 9:00 and 11:30 am**

**Weekday Mass**

**Mon, Tues, Wed, Dec. 28 — 30: 11:30 am**

**Feast of the Solemnity of Mary  
the Holy Mother of God**

**This a Holy Day of Obligation and Masses are:**

**Thurs, Dec. 31 at 3:00 and 5:00 pm**

**Fri, Jan. 1 at 10:00 am**

To reserve your seat visit the Nativity web page at  
<https://nativitycharleston.com/> and click the  
SignUpGenius button

Or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/y244z3eb>

(If you are reading this on a computer or smart phone  
just click the link.)

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

**Rosary for Life**

**Monthly Rosary: Sat, Dec. 19 at 8:00**

**am: at Planned Parenthood Charleston  
Health Center (1312 Ashley River Road Hwy.  
61).Please join, Deacon Tom Baranoski,  
from the Cathedral of St John the Baptist,  
who will lead a pro-life Rosary and  
prayers. Masks and social distancing are required.**



For more information call Stephen Boyle at 843-763-0681.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 6250

## 2020 Annual First Christmas Fund

The First Christmas Fund supports Charleston's non-profit pro-life organizations that provide aid to new and expectant mothers who are struggling with the challenges of new life.

Donating to the First Christmas Fund is a very tangible way for you support these help families coping with new life.

**100 percent of all donations go to support:  
Birthright of Charleston,  
Low Country Pregnancy Centers, and  
Florence Crittenton Programs of SC.**

Make your tax deductible donation payable to:  
**Knights of Columbus Council 6250**

On the memo line write: **FCF**

If you prefer to have your entire donation go to one of the above pregnancy centers, please include the name of that pregnancy center on the memo line. Otherwise your donation will be divided evenly among the three ministries.

Please mail your donation on or before **December 31st** to:

**First Christmas Fund  
c.o. Knights of Columbus Council 6250  
Attn: Malcolm Brennan  
1061 Folly Road  
Charleston, SC 29412**

If you want to save a stamp, you can put your donation in the offerings basket in the rear of the church or deliver it to the Nativity Parish Office.

For more information contact Malcolm Brennan, Director of Prolife Ministries, Knights of Columbus Council # 6250 at mbprolife@gmail.com or at 843-906-5511

*Thank you for your support of these Mothers and their Babies.*

In addition to collecting donations, we are also selling

### **The 12 Days of Christmas Cards**

Based on the well known song "The 12 Days of Christmas", each package contains 13 different cards. Each card has a fun illustration on the front, and an explanation of the hidden meanings contained in the song on the back.

**The price is only \$7.00 per package and all profits will be donated to the First Christmas Fund.**



Sample Card: A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE



**Teams up with**



The Nativity Ladies Guild is reaching out to our parishioners for help  
for MUSC's Coastal Connections.

<https://muschealth.org/medical-services/coastal-connections>

This is a program through MUSC's Case Management Department that works with sick children, adults and families that are with great financial need.

The Ladies Guild is asking us to assist these patients with donations of gift cards in any amount. (Walmart, Amazon, gas, grocery etc.) Your gifts will assist our neighbors in need with gas, food, clothing, household items, medication, and transportation.

Here is how this works: Please purchase an extra gift card during your holiday shopping and drop it in the collection basket at the rear of the church or drop it off at the parish office by December 20th.

For more information, please contact Christine Lewis at lewischristined@att.net

**Thank you for your support.**

# Nativity Parish Life Center

## Site Preparation Work Continues



### An Update!

Over the past 3 months the dirt on the PLC site compressed by about 0.2 inches.  
(Missed it? Me too, and I was watching.)

Now work is underway to put in the footings and concrete foundation.

Thank you for your generosity and enthusiastic support!



### The Shape of the Mass

In the renewal of the liturgy that followed the Second Vatican Council, the full, conscious, and active participation of the assembly was the primary consideration. By participation, the Council Fathers did not mean just joining in the singing and the spoken responses, but **active engagement and prayerful understanding** of the rites. They envisioned a transparent liturgy, a worship that spoke so directly to the hearts and minds of the faithful that it would require no explanation at all.

The liturgy itself is the best possible catechesis on the liturgy. What does the liturgy teach us? It shows us the ministry of Jesus continuing in the present. He gathers a community. He calls us to prayer and repentance and praise. He teaches us with the very word of God. He does not send us away empty, but sets before us a marvelous banquet, feeding us with his very body and blood. Then he sends us forth to do what he has done; to give ourselves for others, not just in words, but in deeds. The Mass is the pattern of our Christian lives.

...Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



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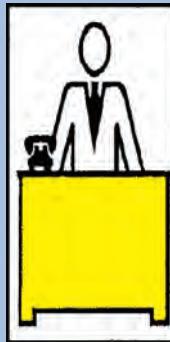


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and pulls off ADVERTISED pajamas  
bathes in an ADVERTISED shower  
shaves with an ADVERTISED razor  
brushes his teeth  
with ADVERTISED toothpaste  
washes with ADVERTISED soap  
puts on ADVERTISED clothes  
drinks a cup  
of ADVERTISED coffee  
drives to work  
in an ADVERTISED car  
and then . . .  
refuses to ADVERTISE  
believing it doesn't pay.  
Later if business is poor  
he ADVERTISES it for sale.

### WHY IS IT?