



Great Expectations

Christmas can be disappointing. We remember the Christmases from our childhood, all the joy, the excitement, and the fun we had. When we grow up, we have to shop for gifts, write and mail the cards, put up the decorations, and do all the preparations that seem to stress us out. We may be sad that the day did not meet our expectations. Now that most of that is done, we can reflect on how the first Christmas upset all expectations.

I'm sure Joseph never expected to have a child so soon. And those Jews who looked forward to the coming of a Messiah never expected him to come as a baby. Yet God had his reasons for coming in this way. Jesus was born in a stable because no one had room for him. The first to see him were the shepherds, the migrant workers of the time. The political leaders (Herod and friends) wanted to kill him.

Jesus was born in this way to show that he came not for the important and wealthy, but for the poor and outcast. As an adult, he would continue to surprise: he ate with sinners and tax collectors; he challenged the religious leaders of Israel. He was executed as a criminal.

So today he continues to come to us in the homeless, the illegal alien, the sick, those in prison, the unborn infant, that we might find him where we least expect. Can we learn to see him in the unexpected, in our trials and difficulties, our own weaknesses? When we do, we will celebrate what Christmas is truly about.

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

Catholic Diocese of Charleston



Church of the Nativity

1061 Folly Road
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

The Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2020

and

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 27, 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.

See inside for Christmas Season Mass Schedule.

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

**Church is open Daily (9:00 am 4:00 pm)
for Private Prayer and Devotion.**

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.**

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>

**I proclaim to you
good news of great joy:
today a Savior is born for us, Christ
the Lord.**

THINGS TO KNOW

Have Difficulty Hearing Well in Church?

Nativity's personal listening devices work well and have been well received by the community. You might want to try one out for yourself. Just ask one of the ushers before Mass.

Please be sure to return the listening device after Mass.

Religious Education Programs Online: Nativity School serves students in grades K4 through 8th. The Parish School of Religion (PSR) is offered for other parish children, grades K4 through 8th, 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 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 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.

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

Religious Education: Mrs. Mary L. Smith
dre@nativitycharleston.org, 843-795-3821 x 104

Music Director: Mrs. Courtney Reed
music@nativitycharleston.org, 843-795-3821 x 103

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

Parish Office Holiday Schedule

So that our staff can spend time with their families, we will have limited office hours December 24 through January 3. To make sure that someone is available to assist you, please call the office (843-795-3821) before stopping by.

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:
<https://tinyurl.com/ycjtqb4j>

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!

Just Visiting? We are happy to see you!

Want to know more about our community, visit our web site:
<https://tinyurl.com/y95v9fxj>

If you leave us a note, we will follow up with you. For immediate access, just scan this image with your smart phone.————>>>



Thank you for spending part of your Christmas Holiday with us.

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 Dec 14 — Dec 20

The weekly offerings information for Dec. 7—Dec 13 was not available by the publishing deadline for this week's bulletin. The information will be provided in a future bulletin.

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 Jan. 2—3

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: Eileen Easler
Lector: John Warren
Ushers: Mary Hajny
Emmett Alphonse, Brendan Reed,
Patrick Kelley, Leroy Holseberg,
Randall Lannie

9:00 am Mass

Altar Server: Jacob Perry
Eucharistic Ministers: Becky Warriner
Lector: Gary Warriner
Ushers: Jimmy Craven
Jim Anderson, Richard Bragiel,
Larry Fisk, Walter Machowski

11:30 am Mass

Altar Server: Drue Gilreath
Eucharistic Ministers: Pam Everitt
Lector: Ed Defourneaux
Ushers: Michael Dennis
Lewis Doscher, Joe Ginn,
Sheila Griner, Gilbert O'Brien

Respect Life

Winter is a significant time for Pro-Life events.

Jan 8: Proudly Prolife Dinner: Columbia SC
<https://sccl.ticketspice.com/proudly-pro-life-dinner>

**Jan 9: Stand Up for Life March and Rally:
Columbia, SC**

**Jan 21: 9 days for Life: novena preceding the
anniversary of the SCOTUS Roe v Wade decision.**

Jan 29: National March for Life: Washington, DC
<https://marchforlife.org/>

**Feb. 17: Ash Wednesday and the start of the Spring
2021 Forty Days for Life program.**

For more information contact Malcolm Brennan at
843-906-5511 or at mbprolife@gmail.com
or Christine Lewis at lewischristined@att.net



Now available online at
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

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. 26—Jan. 1 Kern Guernesy+

Mass: This Week

Sat	26	5:30 pm	David Becker+
Sun	27	9:00 am	Chet Nowak+
		11:30 am	Evelyn Thomas+
Mon	28	11:30 am	Scott Mallard+
Tues	29	11:30 am	Michael Bender (For healing)
Wed	30	11:30 am	Jay Ginn+
Thurs	31	3:00 pm	For the people of Nativity
		5:00 pm	For the people of Nativity
Fri	1	10:00 am	For the people of Nativity
Sat	2	5:30 pm	Rachel Villeponteaux+
Sun	3	9:00 am	Rachel Villeponteaux+
		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.

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



Do you dream of a school where each child is accepted, included, and valued? Are you looking for a school that stands as the model of academic excellence, moral ideals, and spirituality? Have you searched for a values-based education in the Catholic tradition?

Look no further!

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.

Don't miss this great Catholic Education opportunity for your children.

**Christmas Eve Masses are
Dec. 24 at 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 and
9:00 pm**

**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.

Parish Office Holiday Schedule

So that our staff can spend time with their families, we will have limited office hours Dec. 22 — Jan. 3. To make sure that someone is available to assist you, please call the office (843-795-3821) before stopping by.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

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 or 803-810-9602.

Sign up today.



**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 at 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://nativetycharleston.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.**

May the Lord grant
you and your loved ones
love, joy and goodwill this
Christmas and all the New Year.



Wishing you a Blessed and Joyous Christmas.

Rev. Thomas Kingsley
And the staff of Nativity School and Parish.

Photos are from Advent 2019 (aka pre-covid-19. Hence no masks or distancing)... editor

Plans?

You are invited to
Alpha Online for a time
of great conversation
and talks that make you think.

Tuesday Evenings
beginning January 12, 2021
7:00 pm

Via Zoom 985 9432 3149
Password: Alpha



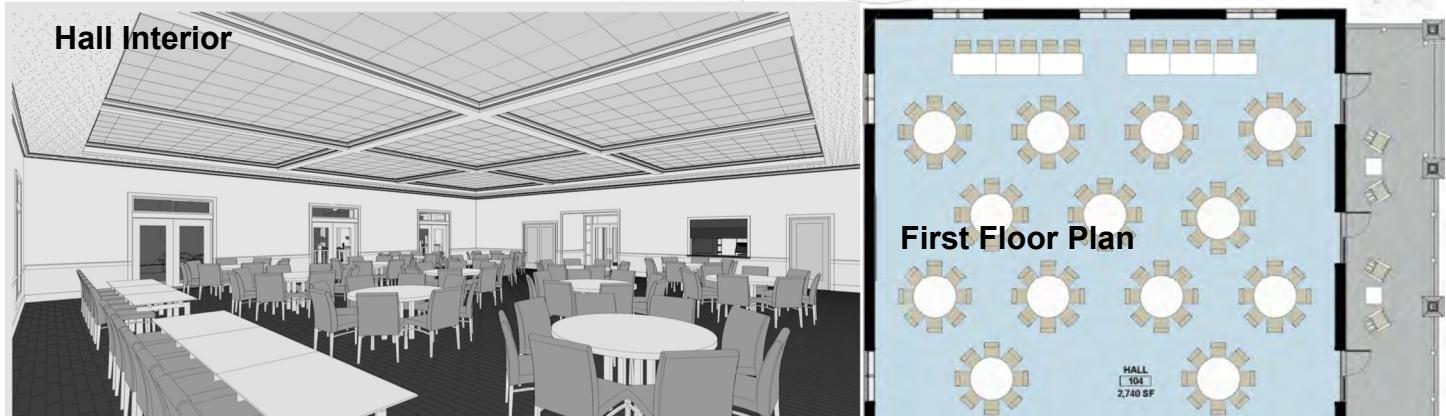
For More Information, visit
www.nativitycharleston.org/alpha
www.alphausa.org, or email
alpha@nativitycharleston.org

You're invited. #TryAlphaOnline

Nativity Parish Life Center

Under Construction – and soon to be a reality.

The Parish Life Center is a space for our community to meet for education, recreation, spiritual growth and parish fellowship.



The Catechism in a Christmas Song

The popular song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is usually seen as simply a nonsense song with secular origins. However, some have suggested that it is a song of Christian instruction, perhaps dating to the 16th century religious wars in England. They contend that the song is a mnemonic device with hidden references to teach the catechism to youngsters.

On the **1st day of Christmas** my true love gave to me **A Partridge in a Pear Tree. Jesus, the Son of God**, is symbolized as a mother partridge that feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings. "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered you under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but you would not have it so." Luke 13:34



On the **2nd day of Christmas... Two Turtle Doves are the Old and New Testaments**, which together bear witness to God's self-revelation and the creation of a people to tell the Story of God to the world.

On the **3rd day of Christmas... Three French Hens are the Three Theological Virtues**: 1) Faith, 2) Hope, and 3) Love. 1 Corinthians 13:13.

On the **4th day of Christmas... Four Calling Birds are the Four Gospels**: 1) Matthew, 2) Mark, 3) Luke, and 4) John, which proclaim the Good News of God's salvation of the world through Jesus, His Son.

On the **5th day of Christmas... Five Gold Rings are the first Five Books of the Old Testament**: 1) Genesis, 2) Exodus, 3) Leviticus, 4) Numbers, and 5) Deuteronomy, which give the history of humanity's sinful failure and tell of God's promise of redemption.

On the **6th day of Christmas... Six Geese A-laying are the Six Days of Creation** that proclaim God as Creator and Sustainer of the universe. Genesis 1.

On the **7th day of Christmas... Seven Swans A-swimming are the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit**: 1) Wisdom, 2) Understanding, 3) Counsel, 4) Fortitude, 5) Knowledge, 6) Piety, and 7) Wonder and Awe. Romans 12:6-8; cf. 1 Corinthians 12:8-11

On the **8th day of Christmas... Eight Maids A-milking are the Eight Beatitudes**: 1) Blessed are ...the poor in spirit, 2) ...those who mourn, 3) ...the meek, 4) ...those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, 5) ...the merciful, 6) ...the pure in heart, 7) ...the peacemakers, 8) ...those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. Matthew 5:3-10

On the **9th day of Christmas... Nine Ladies Dancing are the Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit**: 1) Love, 2) Joy, 3) Peace, 4) Patience, 5) Kindness, 6) Gentleness, 7) Goodness, 8) Faithfulness, 9) Self-control. Galatians 5:22

On the **10th day of Christmas... Ten Lords A-leaping are the Ten Commandments**: 1) I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before you; 2) You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain; 3) Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day; 4) Honor your father and mother; 5) You shall not kill; 6) You shall not commit adultery; 7) You shall not steal; 8) You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor; 9) You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; 10) You shall not covet your neighbor's goods. Exodus 20:1-17

On the **11th day of Christmas... Eleven Pipers Piping are the Eleven Faithful Apostles**: 1) Simon Peter, 2) Andrew, 3) James, 4) John, 5) Philip, 6) Bartholomew, 7) Matthew, 8) Thomas, 9) James bar Alphaeus, 10) Simon the Zealot, 11) Judas bar James. The list does not include the twelfth disciple, Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus to the religious leaders and the Romans. Luke 6:14-16

On the **12th day of Christmas... Twelve Drummers Drumming are the Twelve Beliefs stated by the Apostle's Creed**: 1) I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. 2) I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. 3) He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. 4) He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell [the grave]. 5) On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 6) He will come again to judge the living and the dead. 7) I believe in the Holy Spirit, 8) the Holy Catholic Church, 9) the communion of saints, 10) the forgiveness of sins, 11) the resurrection of the body, 12) and life everlasting.

**On the First Day of Christmas, My True Love Gave To Me
A Partridge In A Pear Tree.**



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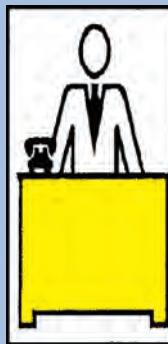


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