

With Friends Like These

This year, we hear the Passion from the gospel of Mark. One thing unique about this reading is the emphasis on Jesus being abandoned by his disciples. First, the leaders of the disciples cannot even support Jesus in his agony in the garden: They fall asleep, three times. Then there is Judas, who seeks out the chief priests to make a deal with them, Peter, who denies Jesus three times, and the crowds who cried, "Hosanna!" a few days before, now call for him to be crucified.

What does this tell us? With friends like these, who needs enemies? No, the point is that Jesus died specifically for these people, not because they were once friends, but because they were sinners, who needed Jesus. When we find ourselves in sin, when we think that everything we do is wrong, or when we think we can't possibly deserve to be loved by God—that is when God can help us, if we just stop hating ourselves and start loving and trusting the Lord. It is not the time to pretend we have avoided the big sins, or to brag about some of the good we may have done. Instead simply agree that you need his help. God loves sinners who know they need his forgiveness and don't deserve it.

But maybe you have already been forgiven and wonder what's next. Remember the ones you would not expect to support Jesus: the centurion proclaiming him Son of God, Joseph giving him a burial place, the women who followed Jesus. These were people who did not claim to be worthy, just did what they could to show their love. Ask Jesus each morning when you wake up, "What can I do for you today?" and do what you can.

...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.

Holy Week Schedule

Mon. & Wed. Mass.	11:30 am
Tues. Communion Serv.	11:30 am
Holy Thurs. Mass	7:00 pm
Good Friday Serv.	3:00 pm
Sat. Easter Vigil	8:00 pm
Easter Sunday Mass	9:00 am and 11:30 am

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
Palm Sunday after the 9:00 am and 11:30 am Masses
and by appointment
Not available on Holy Saturday.

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

Holy Week Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
Thursday: 8:00 am to 12:00 noon
Phone: 843-795-3821 / Fax: 843-795-2714
e-mail: Office@NativityCharleston.org

Stay in touch with us at Nativity

Web page: <https://nativitycharleston.com/>
You Tube: <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>

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 5th 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 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

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!

Deserted

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

... Today's Psalm: Psalm 22

To advertise in our bulletin, please contact Pat Falco at falco@jspaluch.com or at 910-200-8383.
Please support our Advertisers whose funding makes this bulletin possible.

Liturgical Ministers for Apr 3—4

Assignments are listed on the sign-up sheets in the sacristy. If you are unable to fulfill the assignment for which you volunteered, Please arrange for a substitute.

Offerings Mar 15 — Mar 21

The weekly offerings information for Mar 15—Mar 21 was not available by the publishing deadline for this week's bulletin. This 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

Please make a Reservation for attendance at Weekend Mass.

Just visit the web page at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a4caaad29a2f58-confirm1>

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

The issue is the safety of our community. It has been determined that social distancing guidelines can be achieved if there are up to 150 people in our church.

We encourage all to attend Mass often.

Options are:

- Attend Mass on a week day.
- 5:30 Saturday and particularly 11:30 Sunday are less crowded than 9:00.

Let's work together to keep each other healthy and safe.



Once again, the Nativity Ladies Guild, will be collecting Grocery Gift Cards to donate to Neighborhood House who will purchase Easter meals for people in need.

Here is how this works:

1. Visit your favorite grocery store and purchase a gift card (any store, any amount).
2. Put the envelope in the collection at Mass between now and March 28.

It is that simple but if you want more information, please contact Marian Hoffman at m.hoffman@earthlink.net.

This is a great way to practice Lenten almsgiving.

Thank you for your generosity



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

Recently Added: Vivienne Thornton

From previous months: Allene Barans, Rob Barker, Clydie Bevis, Beverly Blevins, Britt Lamarr Boswell, Joe Caraviello, Anne Castelli, 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, Fr. Kingsley, Fred Kornahrens, Teresa LaTorre, Delores Lopez, Paul Madden, Paul & Carole Moran, Suzette Nowak, Mona O'Leary, Charlie Organ, Irene Parmenter, Ed and Terry Pop, Betty Ann Quinn, Kay Reynolds, James Romero, Rosemary Saari, Kyle Souza, Fran Taylor, Inge Thornley, Courtney Wilson, Sally Wojcik, Tomas B. Zeisel

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

Mar. 27—Apr 9 William Reed+

Mass: This Week

Sat	27	5:30 pm	Nancy Proctor Cruden+
Sun	28	9:00 am	Sonia Abayari+
		11:30 am	Gilbert & Marion Molony O'Brien+
Mon	29	11:30 am	James L. Maney+
Tues	30	11:30 am	Communion Service
Wed	31	11:30 am	Michael A. Caramanica, Jr.+
Thurs	1	7:00 pm	Sacraments of Initiation
Fri	2	3:00 pm	Good Friday
Sat	3	8:00 pm	RCIA
Sun	4	9:00 am	51st Wedding Anniversary of Richard & Mary Braigel
		11:30 am	Soledad Torres+

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



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Nativity School is accepting applications for the 2021-2022 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.

Easter Egg Hunt

SUNDAY, MARCH 28TH

AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NATIVITY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

All Ages Welcome!

Bring your Masks and your Baskets!!

Palm Sunday



Historically, this is the first day of the last week of Jesus' earthly life. He went to Jerusalem to celebrate the religious feast of the Passover.

For 100 years the Romans managed to subdue Palestinian uprisings and maintained a strained relationship with the Jewish people, particularly the religious leaders. Many questioned if there would be another Messianic rebellion if Jesus appeared in Jerusalem for the Passover.

The very manner in which He entered Jerusalem stirred controversy. As was prophesied of the Messiah (Zechariah 9:9), Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to the cheers of His followers. They waved palm branches and shouted, "Hosanna" (save us, we pray)!

Word spread quickly throughout the city (whose population had tripled with religious tourists) of the "King who comes in the name of the Lord" (Luke 19:38).

This was tremendously offensive to the religious establishment because it meant that Jesus was announcing that He was the long awaited Messiah. The religious leaders saw Jesus as a deluded religious fanatic who was misleading people. They perceived this Man from Galilee to be a threat to the precarious balance of authority with Rome and a dangerous test of Rome's patience. Because His ministry had become so controversial and threatening, the religious establishment was plotting to kill Him.

From a political perspective the crowds were eager to proclaim Jesus a king. Many were beginning to see Jesus as the Messiah. They expected Jesus to free the Jews from Roman dominance and restore the national freedom, independence and respect that was previously experienced during the kingships of David and Solomon.

So in Jerusalem that day, power structures were on 'high alert', tension was soaring, the crowds were agitated, diverse agendas were being pushed. The stage was set and action was already underway for the intense, tragic, unjust, sorrowful, violent, magnificent and glorious events that were to transpire throughout the week.

**Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna!**

LENT: THE TIME FOR PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMSGIVING



Holy Week Services Schedule

April 1, Holy Thursday
7:00 pm Mass

April 2, Good Friday
3:00 pm Passion of the Lord

April 3, Holy Saturday
8:00 pm Easter Vigil Mass

April 4, Easter Sunday
9:00 am and 11:30 am Masses

Space will be limited at all Holy Week Services. Please make your reservations early at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a4caaad29a2f58-confirm1>

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fast and abstinence.

All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation

is an excellent way to observe Lent and prepare for Easter. In addition to the normal Saturday afternoon times for Confession (4:15 to 5:00 pm), Father Kingsley will be available for the Sacrament after the 9:00 am and 11:30 am Masses on Sunday 28.



Living Stations presented by the students of Nativity School—a truly inspiring lenten devotion..

Easter Triduum



Easter is fast approaching. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that “Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the “Feast of feasts,” the “Solemnity of solemnities,” just as the Eucharist is the “Sacrament of Sacraments.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church topic 1169)

In an article entitled “Fire and Water: Preparing to Celebrate the Triduum” by Kate Ristow, we are struck by a very relevant point. Kate writes, “While Easter Sunday Masses are jam-packed with families, it is as if an audience has arrived for the last act. So much has been missed if that is the only part of the Triduum a family experiences.” How true this is! It is like skipping to the last few pages or the last chapter of a book and only reading that part of the story.

*The Easter Triduum, the heart of our liturgical year,
includes Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter.*

Holy Thursday is our entrance into the Triduum. The institution of the Eucharist is celebrated. Symbolically we wash the feet of the Apostles this night, yet the importance of the celebration rests in the reality of what it means to be a Christian. This is our commission – to follow the one who gave his life for all.

Good Friday we proclaim and celebrate the Lord’s Passion. We share the Liturgy of the Word, pray beautiful intercessions and venerate the Cross. We are also privileged to receive Holy Communion this day.

The Easter Vigil begins after nightfall on Saturday. We need to experience the power of darkness before the light of the Risen One can be fully appreciated. The Easter Vigil Liturgy is more beautiful and meaningful than words can explain. The symbolism of fire and water in harmony with the music and the sacred scriptures, combine to make this the most powerful and profound celebration that we can share.

The focus of this liturgy is the reception of the catechumens and candidates into full communion with the Church. The celebration of Baptism and Confirmation of the new Catholics as well as the opportunity to renew our Baptismal promises, intensify the sanctity of the Easter Vigil Liturgy.

Easter Sunday liturgy is a continuation of the Vigil and, as always, all are welcome to celebrate.

While we as parents often don’t think our kids can sit through added or longer church services, the rich symbolism and ritual that surrounds all these celebrations may actually be enough to keep their attention.

We invite All to attend our Triduum and Easter celebrations:

Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord’s Supper -- 7:00 pm, April 1

Good Friday Passion Service and Veneration of the Cross -- 3:00 pm, April 2

Easter Vigil Mass -- 8:00 pm, Saturday, April 3

Easter Sunday Masses -- 9:00 and 11:30 am, April 4

Come Celebrate God’s Great Work of Mercy!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 6250 APRIL GENERAL METING—NEW DAY AND TIME.

All members of the Knights of Columbus are encouraged to attend Holy Thursday Mass.
To facilitate this the April Monthly Meeting of Council 6250 has been rescheduled for
6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 31.

The meeting will be held at American Legion Post 147 (968 Folly Road)

All Knights of Council 6250 are encouraged to attend!

Nativity Parish Life Center

Work continues on getting the PLC closed in.





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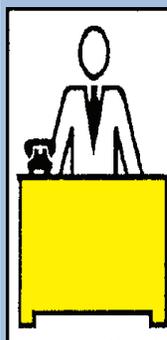
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WHY IS IT
A man wakes up after sleeping under an ADVERTISED blanket on an ADVERTISED mattress and pulls off ADVERTISED pajamas bathes in an ADVERTISED shower shaves with an ADVERTISED razor brushes his teeth with ADVERTISED toothpaste washes with ADVERTISED 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?