



Great Expectations

On 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. 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

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.

Christmas Mass Schedule

- Sat. Dec. 24 4:00 pm Christmas Mass
Sat. Dec. 24 7:00 pm Christmas Mass
Sun. Dec. 25 10:00 am Christmas Mass

9:00 am and 11:30 am Sunday Masses
are cancelled on Christmas Day.

Weekly Mass Schedule

Mon. through Fri. 11:30 am Mass

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Sat. Dec. 31 at 5:30 pm: Feast Day Mass

Sun. Jan. 1 at 9:00 and 11:30 am: Feast Day Mass
The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God is a Holy Day of Obligation. All Catholics are required to attend Mass.

Weekly Hour of Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday 12:00 noon

Weekday Rosary in the Church

Mon. through Fri. 12:00 noon

Church is open Daily for Private Prayer and Devotion

Weekdays: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

The whole world has seen God's salvation.

...Today's Psalm PS 98

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: 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. 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: 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 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

Office Manager: Mrs. Vicki Vázquez
Admin@NativityCharleston.org, 843-795-3821 x 101

Financial Secretary: Mrs. Carolyn Miller
Finance@NativityCharleston.org, 843-795-3821 x 102

Maintenance Supt: Mr. Scott Smith
Office@NativityCharleston.org, 843-795-3821 x 101

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

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/ycitqb4j>

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 Vince Liberto at LibertoV@jspaluch.com or at 504-250-9697.
Please support our Advertisers whose funding makes this bulletin possible.

Liturgical Ministers for Dec. 31—Jan. 1

5:30 pm Mass

Greeters:	Tom & Marcia McNamee, Timothy & Carolyn Smith
Altar Servers:	Isabella Cunningham Daniel Salceda
Eucharistic Ministers:	Eileen Easler Mary Smith
Lector:	Claire Bergstrom
Ushers:	Emmett Alphonse, Brendan Reed, Patrick Kelley, Leroy Holseberg

9:00 am Mass

Greeters:	Knight Family
Altar Servers:	Maisie Lewis, Connor Richey, Anna Tillman
Eucharistic Ministers:	Mark Hollifield Liisa Machowski
Lector:	Gary Warriner
Ushers:	Richard Bragiel, Walter Machowski, Steve Molony, Joe Dubois

11:30 am Mass

Greeters:	Susan La Via, Natalie Zanolli
Altar Servers:	Rosalie Felix, Gavin Gilreath
Eucharistic Ministers:	Lynn Curry Phu Tran
Lector:	Betsy DesNoyer
Ushers:	Lewis Doscher, Chuck Everitt, Sheila Griner, Gilbert O'Brien

Offerings Dec 5 — Dec. 11

Collections at Mass (Dec 10—Dec 11)	\$ 9, 383. 00
Mail in Offerings (Dec 5—Dec 9)	\$ 3, 084. 00
myEoffering (Dec 5—Dec 9)	\$ 3, 116. 25
Budget (1 week)	\$ 16, 367. 31
Difference	\$ - 755. 00
Registered Households	668
Envelopes Used (Dec 10—Dec 11)	N/A
Active myEoffering Families	172
MyEoffering Family Donations (Dec 5—Dec 9)	100

Additional Offerings:

Immaculate Conception Holy Day: \$1, 984. 00

Retirement Fund for Religious: \$755. 00

Thank you for your Generosity.

Please use your envelopes.

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

If you do not use envelopes or you are unable to attend Mass, please consider contributing to the needs of the parish. Please place your offering 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. <https://members.myeoffering.com>



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: Arlene and Billy Crosby

From previous months: Allene Barans, Clydie Bevis, Beverly Blevins, Ray Blevins, Britt Lamarr Boswell, Joe Caraviello, Anne Castelli, Ron Connick, Herman Connor, Wendy Craven, Vi Defourneaux, Jake DuPree, Angela Harbuta, Terry Harris, James Michael Huber, Dan & Mary Hughes, Myrtis Jenkins, Fred Kornahrens, Delores Lopez, Katherine and William Manning, Paul & Carole Moran, Charlie Organ, James Parker, Brenda Pearson, Ed and Terry Pop, James Romero, Rosemary Saari, Kyle Souza, Fran Taylor, Inge Thornley, Courtney 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.

To have names added or removed from these lists, please contact the parish office at 843-795-3821 or at Office@NativityCharleston.org.

Intentions

Mass: This Week

Sat.	24	4:00 pm	For the children of Nativity
		7:00 pm	For the people of Nativity
Sun.	25	10:00 am	Ann Puchir+
Mon.	26	11:30 am	
Tues.	27	11:30 am	
Wed.	28	11:30 am	
Thurs.	29	11:30 am	60th Wedding Anniversary of John & Susan Tiedemann
Fri.	30	11:30 am	For all families of Nativity
Sat.	31	5:30 pm	Michael Bledsoe+
Sun.	1	9:00 am	For the people of Nativity
		11:30 am	For the people of Nativity

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 admittance for the 22–23 School Year.

To learn more about Enrollment and the School Year Start Up activities please visit our website at www.nativity-school.com or our FaceBook page at www.facebook.com/NativitySchoolKnights. or contact the School Office at 843-795-3975

Teaching Values for Life!



The Catechism of the Catholic Church in a Year Podcast Series begins January 1, 2023

Fr. Mike Schmitz guides you through the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 episodes, providing explanation, insight, and encouragement along the way.

- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter.
- Understand how Church teaching is rooted in Sacred Scripture.
- Absorb over 2,000 years of Sacred Tradition.
- Encounter God's plan of sheer goodness for your life.

Each 15-20 minute episode includes: a guided prayer to help you enter into each episode, a reading from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and an explanation from Fr. Mike Schmitz about the reading.

For more information please visit: <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear>

This is an easy way to learn more about our Faith!

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Perhaps You or someone you know

- ? Are interested to know more about our Catholic Faith.
- ? Have pondered the notion of becoming a Catholic but do not know where to start?
- ? Was baptized Catholic as a child, but may not have received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

Well then, RCIA may be just the thing for you!

So what is RCIA anyway? RCIA is an acronym that means the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. It is a series of lessons aimed at explaining to adults what it means to be Catholic.

The Church of the Nativity offers an opportunity to come together in a small group in person (with an online option) to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of the Church. These sessions prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. You are encouraged to participate in the process with your questions, your insights, and your faith story in a warm, welcoming, and accepting setting.

The RCIA classes are held from 10:00 am to 11:15 am on Sunday morning in the Parish Life Center Meeting Room.

**Everyone is on a different spiritual journey,
so you can begin the RCIA Process anytime.**

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

A photograph of a group of diverse individuals sitting around a table in a bright room, engaged in conversation. The scene is set against a backdrop of large windows. Overlaid on the top left is the text "Pause Netflix. Try Alpha." in large, bold, white letters. On the right side, there is a large red graphic element consisting of a circle and a stylized question mark shape. In the bottom right corner, the word "Alpha" is written in white inside a red circle. The overall theme is one of community and exploration.

**Explore life, faith, and meaning
Join us Tuesday evenings at 6:15 pm
beginning September 5, 2023.**

In the Nativity Parish Life Center.

alphausa.org

#TryAlpha

Alpha

We're all searching for more.

**What is the point of life? / Why is there suffering in the world? /
What happens when we die? / Is forgiveness possible?**

**For more information or to sign up, please contact Vicki Vázquez
alpha@nativitycharleston.org or at 843-795-3821**

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



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



The Meaning of Christmas – God Became One with Us!

The feasts that make up Christmas Time all illuminate in their own way the fundamental mystery of the Incarnation that stands at the heart of this sacred season. Each celebration sheds its own distinct light on our conviction that, in the birth of Jesus, earth and heaven have been wedded together for the sake of our salvation. The feasts of the Holy Family, Mary the Mother of God, Epiphany, and the Baptism of the Lord all have their own particular histories. But they have been joined together in a single seasonal flow that invites us to trace the unfolding meanings of the Incarnation from myriad perspectives. As we follow the successive meanings of Jesus' birth, his participation in family life, the meaning of Mary's motherhood, the significance of the Magi's visit, and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, we are invited to explore in deeper and deeper fashion the staggering truth that Jesus has shared completely in our human experience, has truly become one with us, fully human while remaining fully divine.

The Reason for the Season



JESUS CHRIST

the only Son of God,
God from God, Light from Light

Through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven and was made man.

 *For our sake
he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.*

**ON THE THIRD DAY
HE ROSE AGAIN**
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

*He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,*

AND HIS KINGDOM
will have no end!

Dennis P. Baars
Certified Public Accountant
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Charleston, SC 29412
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