

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Of all the things Jesus says which seem totally bat-crazy, this one might take the cake: "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you." An enemy is someone who desires the destruction of you, your projects, or those you care about. To love and pray for them is to want their health, strength, and flourishing. But if they thrive, they are more likely to hurt you and others. So, aren't you indirectly willing your own destruction, or that of your friends? If you doubt that this problem is embedded in this teaching, when was the last time you actually prayed honestly for the people you really hate?

How can we solve this riddle so we might actually live this command? Recall that enemy-love is the surest sign that you love someone with God's love, and not with indirect egotism. After all, if my love for my enemy ends up hurting me or my loved ones, it can't be for me. Enemy-love costs more because there are no tit-for-tats. No reciprocity — just loved poured out, and often pain in return. That's why it is so precious and rare. "What is unusual about that?" asks the Lord about love for our friends. Jesus wants us to experience the unusual love which only comes from him.

When Jesus was being killed on the cross, he was loving his executioners. In fact, he was holding them in being as they nailed him to the cross. He loved those who were spiritually piercing his Mother's heart, while they were doing it. And when he rose from the dead, he showed us that this kind of love is always worth it. It's stronger than death. Real love is unusual.

....Father John Muir ©LPi

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.

Mass Schedule This Week

Mon. and Tues. 11:30 am Weekday Mass

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22

9:30 am School Mass

All are welcome and invited to attend the School Mass. Attendees who are not affiliated with Nativity School are requested to please sit toward the back of the church and away from the students.

> 12:00 noon and 6:30 pm Ashes will be distributed after all Masses

Thurs. No Mass at 9:30 am

Thurs and Fri. 11:30 am Weekday Mass

Saturday Vigil Mass 5:30 pm Sunday Mass 9:00 am and 11:30 am

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

Regular Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Office: 843-795-3821 / Fax: 843-795-2714 e-mail: Office@NativityCharleston.org

The Lord is kind and merciful.

...Today's Psalm PS 103

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. **The Nursery is temporarily closed while the school is under construction.**

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. This ministry is currently unavailable as we assess space and volunteer needs.

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, enrolled in non-parochial schools. For more information. 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 express your own thoughts and 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. **Online option available.**

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. Online option available.

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 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. 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

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!

Please support our Advertisers whose funding makes this bulletin possible.

Liturgical Ministers for Feb. 25—Feb. 26

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

5:30 pm Mass

Greeters: John & Meg Hoeft

Tom & Marcia McNamee

Altar Servers: Isabella Cunningham,

Jake Hoeft

Eucharistic Mary Bieda, Mike Bieda, Ministers: Wendy Bergstrom

Lector: Eileen Easler

Ushers: Emmett Alphonse, Brendan Reed,

Randall Lannie, Lamar Watkins

9:00 am Mass

Greeters: Knight Family, Becky Warriner Altar Servers: Eliza Cellars, Anna Tillman,

Lillie Zolman

Eucharistic Judy Daugomah, Gary Hart,

Ministers: Kristi Roberts
Lector: Andrew Preston

Ushers: Richard Bragiel, Walter Machowski,

Steve Molony, Joe Dubois

11:30 am Mass

Greeter: Natalie Zanolli Altar Servers: Kenji Tran,

Megumi Tran

Eucharistic Jackie Doscher, Pam Everitt,

Ministers: Phu Tran Lector: John Lavelle

Ushers: Chuck Everitt, Joe Ginn

Sheila Griner, Gilbert O'Brien

Offerings Feb 6 — Feb 12

Collections at Mass (Feb 11—Feb 12) Mail in Offerings (Feb 6—Feb 10)	\$ \$	9, 824. 00 3. 020. 00
myEoffering (Feb 6—Feb 10)	\$	4, 263. 81
Budget (1 week)	\$	<u>16, 367. 31</u>
Difference	\$	+ 740.50
Registered Households		668
Envelopes Used (Feb 11—Feb 12)		162
Active myEoffering Families		172
MyEoffering Family Donations (Feb 6—	Feb	10) 109

Second Collections for February are:

Feb 26: Church in Central & Eastern Europe

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: Don Carcone, John Minaudo

From previous months: Allene Barans, Clydie Bevis, Beverly Blevins, Ray Blevins, Britt Lamarr Boswell, Anne Castelli, Ron Connick, Herman Connor, Wendy Craven, Arlene and Billy Crosby, 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 our service men and women and their families throughout the world.

For our parishioners who daily struggle with chronic and/or life-threatening burdens.

Intentions

Sanctuary Candle:

Feb 18 — Feb 24 Philip Eacock+

Mass: This Week

Sat. 18 5:30 pm Joann Frederick+
Sun. 19 9:00 am Eugene J. Witchger+
11:30 am Higgins Family
Mon 20 11:30 am Malia Myers+
Tues. 21 11:30 am Arnold Bennett+
Wed. 22 9:30 am

12:00 pm Philip Eacock+ 6:30 pm

Thurs. 23 11:30 am One Year Death Anniversary of

Annette Snyder+ Fri. 24 11:30 am Souls of the deceased

Sat. 25 5:30 pm Ann Puchir+

Sun. 26 9:00 am Michael Caramanica+

11:30 am Joseph Tran+

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.



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 yo<mark>u 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?</mark>

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 23—24 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

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Note that this fund raiser is sponsored and conducted by the Knights of Columbus Council 6250. All proceeds will be donated to the Mobile Pregnancy Center, which is operated by Pro-Life Charleston.



Our Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of

Karen M. Cwynar

whose funeral was held at Nativity on Tuesday, February 7th.

May she rest in peace.

Flowers

at the altar this weekend are in loving memory of

Joe Roche.

May he rest in peace.





Presidents' Day is celebrated Monday, Feb. 20.

Presidents' Day is a federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February. Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, the holiday became popularly known as Presidents' Day after it was moved as part of 1971's Uniform Monday Holiday Act. Presidents' Day is now popularly viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents, past and present.

The Nativity Parish Office will be closed on Mon. Feb. 20

HELP SAVE LIVES IN CHARLESTON!

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

Vigil location: Outside Planned Parenthood @ 1312 Ashley River Rd.

(Corner of Fuseler Ave.) Charleston 29407

Vigil hours: 7 am to 7 pm, 7 days/wk

For more information, please contact us.

Susan @ (703) 328-2334 or szeleniak2@gmail.com and Alexander @ (843) 810-7517 or charleston40daysforlife@gmail.com

get involved ... and sign up for prayer times at by visiting our campaign at our website!

https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/Charleston





You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results in 30 coordinated campaigns:

Over **20,000 babies** saved from abortion Over **200 abortion** workers converted Over **100 abortion** centers closed

James Island Outreach Oyster Roast

FEB. 26 @ 2-5PM | AMERICAN LEGION

Join your friends & neighbors for an afternoon of fun & support the JIO. Enjoy live music by Wildflower Station while feasting on local oysters & chili by Swig & Swine.



TICKETS:

Regular: \$50

Youth (7-12): \$25

6 & Under: Free

Scan here to purchase



LENT: THE TIME FOR PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMSGIVING



Is this Wednesday, February 22. Holy Mass will be Celebrated at 9:30 am, 12:00 (noon) and 6:30 pm

Ashes will be distributed at each Mass.

All are encouraged to attend!

Lenten Penitential Requirements:



Fasting allows a person to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may also be taken, not to equal one full meal. Fasting is obligatory for all who have completed their 18th year and have not yet reached their 60th year.

<u>Abstinence</u> (from meat) is observed on all the Fridays of

Lent in addition to Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. It is obligatory for all who have reached their 14th year.

The Exceptions:

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence include the physically or mentally ill, individuals suffering from chronic illness such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.

Information from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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

In addition, all Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

LADIES GUILD CRAFTS WORKSHOP

Sat. Feb. 25 from 9:00 am to 12 noon in the Nativity Parish Life Center

We will be doing simple projects for sale at the Spring Craft Fair. All ladies

of Nativity parish are invited to join us for fellowship and refreshments.

For more information, please contact Marion Hoffman at m.hoffman@earthlink.net

Friday Evening Stations 5:30 pm Feb. 24 through Mar 31.



Please join us for the stations followed by dinner (6:15 pm) in the Nativity Parish Life Center.

The Friday evening menus:

Feb 24: Father Kingsley leads stations and the Nativity Ladies Guild will provide dinner.

March 3: The Lector Ministry leads stations will provide dinner.

March 10: The Music Ministry leads stations and the Nativity Ladies Guild will provide dinner.

March 17: The Respect Life Ministry leads stations and will provide a Shrimp & Grits dinner.

March 24: RCIA Ministry leads stations and will provide a Salad Bar dinner.

March 31: Father Kingsley leads stations and the Knight of Columbus will provide a Fish Fry.

Except for the Fish Fry, All dinners are free. However, your donations will be great appreciated.

All are invited to Attend Stations and Stay for Dinner and Fellowship.

A Journey Through Lent with Sacred Scripture

The Diocese of Charleston and the Office of Spiritual Direction is offering a Lenten Series at the Church of the Nativity.

Thursday Afternoon from noon to 1:30 pm (Feb 23, Mar. 2, Mar. 9, Mar 16, Mar. 23, and Mar. 30) in the Nativity Parish Life Center

The Facilitator is Sister Kathy Adamski, OSF, Director of the Diocese of Charleston Office of Spiritual Direction.

There is no charge and you do not need to be a member of the Nativity parish to attend this series of presentations.

Refreshments will not be provided but you can bring your own lunch if you prefer.

Please register if you plan to attend.

For more information or to register for please contact Sr. Kathy at kadamski@charlestondiocese.org.

Please join us for as many sessions as you are able.





LET'S BE TOGETHER.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Catholic Appeal of South Carolina?

The Catholic Appeal of South Carolina (CASC), is a primary source of funding to help sustain and expand the ministries of the 94 parishes, 21 missions, 33 Catholic schools, and multiple agencies throughout the Diocese of Charleston.

Why should people give to the Appeal?

We are stewards of the gifts God blesses us with, and this includes our money. Yes, we might EARN it, but only because God has first given us our talents and gifts to utilize in the world. We are called to share what we have been given. Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

Why do we need these ministries and programs?

The Catholic Church offers outreach and serves the needs of so many people in our diocese and beyond – Catholic or not. We are called to serve others and to invite them into communion with Jesus Christ and His Church by living out the Gospel. The ministries supported by the Appeal provide tangible ways to help so many who are in need, offer education and formation to build up strong disciples in the faith, education for our future priests, and so much more.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Please contact the Office of Stewardship and Mission Advancement (843) 261-0438 | CatholicAppeal@charlestondiocese.org

Does my gift make a difference, even if it's small?

Yes! Each of us must discern what we can give in response to God's generosity to us. If our gift is intentional, even though small, it is a gift of good stewardship and an act of faith. Together, everyone in the diocese makes a tremendous difference — accomplishing far more than any one of us could on our own. Your participation and the joy and love that you share by supporting your brothers and sisters in Christ is what's most important.

Can the funds raised by the Catholic Appeal be used for anything other than their stated purpose?

No, donations to the CASC are restricted. The diocese has designated these funds to be used only for the purpose in which the donations were intended. The diocese has an obligation to honor the wishes of the donors and use these funds for the purpose they were collected.

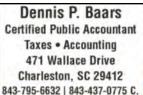
What's the difference between the Catholic Appeal of South Carolina and the Bicentennial Campaign?

The Church's mission is advanced in important ways through both the Catholic Appeal of South Carolina and the Bicentennial Campaign. In some areas, the Appeal supports the daily operation of critical ministries throughout our diocese, while the Bicentennial Campaign funds more strategic, comprehensive, longrange, and larger scale initiatives to help the Church serve its people and prepare for doing the Lord's work in the future.

Pledge Forms are available at the church entrances or Scan this QR Code to Donate









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