

Greater Than You Expect

Sometimes a prophet says more than he intended. Ezekiel in the first reading is talking about restoring Israel after the Babylonian exile. The Jews saw the Exile as punishment for their sins. God demonstrates forgiveness by bringing them back to Israel; God also shows them divine power and glory so that they return to the Lord for their protection.

Jesus came to show us God in a new way and to fulfill the promises of all previous prophecies. Notice how the first reading repeats two phrases: "open your graves" and "know that I am the Lord." Jesus demonstrates that God's promise is much greater than anything Ezekiel expected.

When Jesus went to the tomb of Lazarus, he knew that he was going to raise Lazarus from death to help his disciples believe. So why was he "perturbed and deeply troubled"? It could be that he was disappointed that his friends did not seem to believe that he could do this. Like Ezekiel, the people of Jesus' time did not expect him literally to raise the dead. But God used the prophet's message to prepare for Jesus' message that not only would he rise from the dead, but we will also. And like the friends and relatives of Lazarus, we too may question how it could be possible. Fortunately, Jesus helps with that, too.

Look at the second reading to the Romans. Because we have God's Spirit living in us, we who are sinners can be raised to new life by that Spirit. When our sins are forgiven, we begin to live a new life by loving the people we hurt by our sins, forgiving people who have hurt us, being more concerned for the poor than for our own comfort. We are freed from worrying about the future, all because we have experienced the new life of God's Spirit and, as Ezekiel says, know that God is the Lord.

...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

Mon. through Fri. 11:30 am Mass
Thurs. 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.

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

Weekday Rosary in the Church

Mon. through Fri. 12:00 noon

School Living Stations

Wednesday 2:00 pm

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

Evening Stations

Friday 5:30 pm

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

*With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.*

...Today's Psalm PS 33

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 Apr. 1—Apr. 2

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

5:30 pm Mass
Greeters: Patrick Kelley & Kathy Wiley,
Timothy & Carolyn Smith
Altar Servers: Emma Grace Turner
Daniel Salceda
Eucharistic Ministers: Carolyn Smith, Mary Smith,
John Warren
Lectors: Carl Borick, Eileen Easler
Ushers: Emmett Alphonse, Brendan Reed,
Patrick Kelley, Leroy Holseberg

9:00 am Mass
Greeters: Knight Family, Becky Warriner
Altar Server: Maisie Lewis, Liam Manning,
Jack Perry
Eucharistic Ministers: Jimmy Craven, Wendy Craven,
Judy Daugomah
Lectors: Michael Dennis, Andrew Preston
Ushers: Richard Bragiel, Walter Machowski,
Steve Molony, Joe Dubois

11:30 am Mass
Greeter: Susan La Via
Altar Servers: Zoe Cuzmar, Tomi Tran
Eucharistic Ministers: Lynn Curry, Pam Everitt,
Kathy Hepner
Lectors: Betsy DesNoyer, David Knab
Ushers: Lewis Doscher, Joe Ginn,
Sheila Griner, Gilbert O'Brien

Offerings Mar. 6 — Mar. 19

Collections at Mass (Mar 11—Mar 12)	\$ 12,440.00
Collections at Mass (Mar 18—Jan 19)	\$ 10,474.00
Mail in Offerings (Mar 6—Mar 17)	\$ 5,650.00
myEoffering (Mar 6—Mar 17)	\$ 8,214.91
Budget (2 weeks)	\$ 32,734.62
Difference	\$ + 4,044.29
Registered Households	677
Envelopes Used (Mar 11—Mar 12)	194
Envelopes Used (Mar 18—Mar 19)	182
Active myEoffering Families	172
MyEoffering Family Donations (Mar 6—Mar 17)	219

The weekly offerings information for Mar 6—Mar 12 was not available by the publishing deadline for this week's bulletin. The Offerings information will be provided in a future bulletin.

Offerings for Catholic Relief Services: \$737.00

Second Collections for April:

Apr 7: Good Friday—Holy Land

Apr 23: Catholic Home Missions

Thank you for your Generosity.

Please use your envelopes.

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



**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, Clydie Bevis, Beverly Blevins, Ray Blevins, Britt Lamarr Boswell, Don Carcone, 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, John Minaudo, 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.**

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.	25	5:30 pm	Ann Puchir+
Sun.	26	9:00 am	Rebecca Gilliard+
		11:30 am	Margaret R. Sullivan+
Mon.	27	11:30 am	Funeral Mass—Arthur T. Connor, Jr.
Tues.	28	11:30 am	Special Intention
Wed.	29	11:30 am	In honor of Sally Wojcik—Birthday
Thurs.	30	9:30 am	Students of Nativity School
		11:30 am	Don Blevins+
Fri.	31	11:30 am	Anna Karlyk+
Sat.	1	5:30 pm	James L. Maney+
	2	9:00 am	Larry Fisk+
		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 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



Holy Week Services Schedule

April 6, Holy Thursday

(No 11:30 am mass)

7:00 pm Mass

Adoration after mass until 9:00 pm
in the Parish Life Center

April 7, Good Friday

3:00 Passion of the Lord

April 8, Holy Saturday

8:00 pm Vigil Mass

RCIA Sacraments during Mass

April 9, Easter Sunday

9:00 am and 11:30 am Masses

9:00 am additional Seating
in the Nativity Parish Life Center



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The Hour of Our Death | Eternal Rest | Episode 3

The Anointing of the Sick is one of the seven sacraments of the Church. This session, we discover the role of this sacramental anointing in the spiritual struggle during serious illness, the final stages of our temporal life, and the hour of our death.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish. Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and gratias press



Nativity School is Hosting a Reception

Sun, Mar 26 at 10:00 am
In the Parish Life Center.

This event is being conducted by Nativity School in appreciation for the support provided by the Nativity Ladies Guild and the generous donations of the Nativity Community during Catholic Schools Week, 2023.

Refreshments will be provided.

There is no charge.

All members of the Nativity Community are invited to attend.

Thank you for
Supporting Nativity School.

Easter Egg Hunt

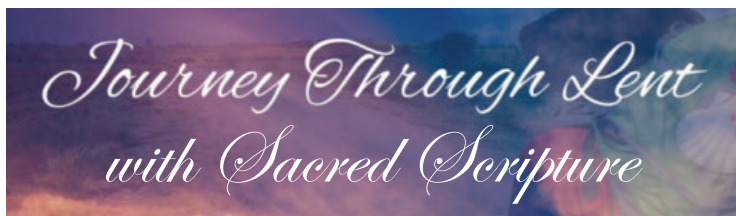


10:00 am Next Sunday (April 2)
at the Nativity School Playground.

This event is for children age 10 and younger and is presented by the Nativity Ladies Guild.

*Bring your Easter Basket and
join us for friendship, games and fun!*

LENT: THE TIME FOR PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMSGIVING



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.
in the Nativity Parish Life Center
Through Mar. 30**

These sessions present reflections and discussion on the Sunday Mass readings of Lent.

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.

Note: 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, please contact Sr. Kathy at kadamski@charlestdiocese.org.

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

**Good Friday is an obligatory day of
fast and abstinence.**

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

Friday Evening Stations

5:30 pm through Mar 31.

These are traditional stations led
by Nativity Ministers.



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

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

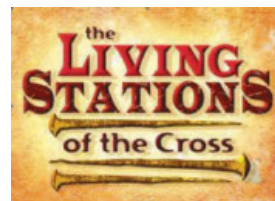
All dinners are free.

But, your donations will be greatly appreciated.

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

Led by Nativity School Students

**2:00 pm Wednesdays
through Mar. 29
in Nativity Church**



All are invited to this inspiring devotion.

Guests are requested to sit behind the student sections

Grocery gift card



Once again, the Nativity Ladies
Guild, will be collecting Grocery
Gift Cards. The cards will
be delivered to Neighborhood
House and James Island
Outreach. These ministries will

distribute your donations to families in need of food for
Easter.

Here is how this works:

1. Visit your favorite grocery store and purchase a gift card (any store, any amount).
2. Write the value of the card on the front of the card (this is really important).
3. Put the card in an envelope and write "Ladies Guild" on the outside of the envelope.
4. **Put the envelope in the collection at Mass between now and April 2 (Palm Sunday).**

It is that simple but if you want more information, please
contact Jackie Doscher at jackiedoscher@gmail.com

This is a great way to practice Lenten almsgiving.

Thank you for your generosity



**Nativity Ladies Guild
Monthly General Meeting
Mon. Mar. 27 in the
Nativity Parish Life Center**

We are asking members to donate candies, trinkets and
plastic eggs for Easter Egg Hunt. Eggs will be assembled
at the meeting.

All Women of Nativity are Encouraged to Participate.



**The Thursday noon
Weekly Hour of Eucharistic
Adoration is PAUSED
until after Easter.**



February 22 to April 2

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

PRAYER VIGIL

This Thurs, Mar 30 and Fri, Mar 31
From 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

All members of the Nativity community are invited to join us at the Planned Parenthood—Charleston Health Center (1312 Ashley River Road Hwy. 61) as we pray for all those who are wounded by their participation in abortion.

For more information or to sign up, please contact

Christine Lewis at lewischristined@att.net or
 Malcolm Brennan at 843-906-5577 or mbprolife@gmail.com

**Thank you for your care
 and concern for the unborn!**



Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

is a supportive, confidential, non-judgmental weekend retreat for women and men who have had an abortion experience. The retreat offers an opportunity to find healing and peace.

Our next retreat: Apr 14—16 (Greenville, SC).

For more information or registration please contact Christy at 803 554 6088 or Kathy at 803 546 6010 or email us at Grace4healing@gmail.com



Rediscover Your Marriage

Retrouvaille simply means 'rediscovery'. Our program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Many couples have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Retrouvaille is not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, not a social gathering. It is anchored in Christian accord.

Our next weekend is Apr. 14—16 in Charlotte, NC

For more information or to register, please contact Bill and Lyn Folsom at 727-343-6701 or email: 3062ac@helpourmarriage.org or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.org

HELP SAVE LIVES IN CHARLESTON!

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

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

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

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



**CATHOLIC ENGAGED
 ENCOUNTER**

Falling in love is easy

but staying in love is a challenge. Learn about the cycle of marriage: romance, disillusion, and unity.

The next Engaged Encounter Weekend is Aug. 19-20.

All weekends are at St. Mary Magdalene in Simpsonville.
Registration is \$160.00 per couple. Lodging is not included.

For more information or to register please contact contact Bob and Mary Reimer 864-420-2633 or visit <https://southcarolina.engagedencounter.com>

Please sign up Early!

Our Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of

**Claudia Mahler
 "Susie" Delorme**

whose funeral was held at Nativity on Friday, March 24

**May she rest
 in peace.**



The Suffering of Christ from a Physician's Perspective

A Lenten Reflection

Based on the book by Thomas W. McGovern, MD
"What Christ Suffered: A Doctor's Journey
Through the Passion"

Presented by

Elizabeth Higgins, MD

Hospice & Palliative Care Physician
Associate Professor of Medicine
Parishioner at the Church of the Nativity

Sophia Urban, MD, MPH

Hospice & Palliative Care Fellow
Parishioner at the Cathedral

Tuesday, April 4, 2023
7:00 PM

Light refreshments at 6:30 PM

Parish Center
Cathedral of St. John the Baptist
120 Broad Street
Charleston, SC 29401

This program is open to all and free of
charge. Parking is available in the church
lot or in the Queen Street parking garage.

Questions? Contact Linda Baranoski
843-795-0027



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