



## The Main Thing

What if we were really attuned to God's Presence in our lives? What difference would it make given the realities of the world we live in? How do we even begin to be aware of it?

Let's start with this: Jesus never goes back on his word. So, when he says in today's Gospel, "I will come to you" and "I will love him and reveal myself to him," we can be sure that Jesus intends to do this. This is faith. But there is a qualifying clause, "If you love me" (verse 15). IF ... That's a sobering thought. Peter says to Jesus, "You know I love you" (Jn 21:15). We might say the same. But when pressed further, Peter becomes distressed. The same should be said of us. A careful examination of our conscience might reveal that we might love Jesus, but there are also other 'loves' in our lives which attract us.

"The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing." It's not that Jesus is a liar, it's that our faith can be flimsy, easily persuaded (or justified) by the ephemeral possession, the esteemed reputation, the novel commodity, the socially acceptable position, the polarizing ideology, the unexpected opportunity, the seductive relationship, or the alluring activity. These may have some value in the short term, but they are not the main thing. The main thing is Jesus.

Perhaps, we can be honest with ourselves by saying that there are many loves that occupy our hearts and minds. And from that starting point, we can have a conversation with Jesus about what — or who — the 'main thing' in our lives should be.

... Br. John-Marmion Villa

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. 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 5:30 pm  
Sunday 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

### Office Hours This Week

Tuesday - Friday: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Office: 843-795-3821 / Fax: 843-795-2714  
e-mail: [Office@NativityCharleston.org](mailto:Office@NativityCharleston.org)

*Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.*

...Today's Psalm PS 16

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, must also have participated in a 1<sup>st</sup> grade PSR or Catholic school program. Children planning to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade must also have participated in a 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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

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### 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](mailto:cmummert@catholic-doc.org). All inquiries are handled in confidence.

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### 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](http://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!**



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### Liturgical Ministers for May 20—May 21

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

**5:30 pm Mass**  
**Greeters:** John & Meg Hoeft,  
Patrick Kelley & Kathy Wiley  
**Altar Servers:** Jake Hoeft, Daniel Salceda  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Wendy Bergstrom, Eileen Easler,  
Patty Edwards  
**Lector:** Kathleen Janech  
**Ushers:** Emmett Alphonse, Patrick Kelley,  
Leroy Holseberg, Randall Lannie

**9:00 am Mass**  
**Greeters:** Caughey Family, Becky Warriner  
**Altar Servers:** Abram Delaney, Wyatt Knight,  
Maisie Lewis  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Suzanne Decker, Daniel Suggs,  
Tamme Suggs  
**Lector:** Elena Smith  
**Ushers:** Richard Bragiel, Joe Dubois,  
Walter Machowski, Steve Molony

**11:30 am Mass**  
**Greeters:** Péchon Family, Natalie Zanolli  
**Altar Servers:** Zoe Cuzmar, Rosalie Felix,  
Kenji Tran  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Brian Dougherty, Pam Everitt,  
Phu Tran  
**Lector:** Sheila Elsey  
**Ushers:** Lewis Doscher, Chuck Everitt,  
Sheila Griner, Natalie Zanolli

### Offerings May 1 — May 7

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

#### Second Collections for May are:

#### May 21: Catholic Communications

#### 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>

### Stay in touch with us at Nativity



Sign up on our social media platform at FlockNote.  
<https://nativityfamily.flocknote.com/>

Visit us at

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

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/ChurchoftheNativity>

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and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NativityFamily>

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**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: William Doherty,  
Frances O. O'Leary**

**From previous months:** Allene Barans, Clydie Bevis, Beverly Blevins, Ray Blevins, 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, Paul Madden, Katherine and William Manning, John Minaudo, Paul & Carole Moran, Charlie Organ, James Parker, Brenda Pearson, Ed and Terry Pop, James Romero, 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

### Intentions

#### Mass: This Week

Sat.	13	5:30 pm	James McRae+
Sun.	14	9:00 am	Marianna Egan+
		11:30 am	Sr. Margaret O'Dwyer, D.C.+
Mon.	15	11:30 am	John Baptist Nguyen+
Tues.	16	11:30 am	Bernadette Richards Knisley+
Wed.	17	11:30 am	For the people
Thurs.	18	9:30 am	For the students
		11:30 am	Arnold Bennett+
Fri.	19	11:30 am	Mr. & Mrs. Dreher Gaskin++
Sat.	20	5:30 pm	McNamee & Nelson deceased family members+
Sun.	21	9:00 am	Larry Fisk+
		11:30 am	Susie DeLorme+

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](http://www.nativity-school.com) or our FaceBook page at [www.facebook.com/NativitySchoolKnights](https://www.facebook.com/NativitySchoolKnights).



## **Sunday, May 21 at 10:00 am in the Parish Life Center**

Here are some of our current activities  
that need your effort:

Greeters; Ushers; Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist; Homebound Visitation; Altar Servers; Cantors, Singers and Musicians; Bible Study; Children's Liturgy of the Word;

H.O.M.E. Works; Church Environment; Bereavement Ministry; Ladies Guild; Knights of Columbus; Nursery; Alpha; Support for Nativity School; Nativity School PTO; Meals on Wheels; Respect Life; James Island Outreach; Parish School of Religion; Vacation Bible School; Audio, Video and Lighting Technician; Information Network Specialist; Computer User Support; Facilities Maintenance; Youth and Young Adult Outreach.

We know we are not doing everything that could/should be done. Please email us your suggestions ([Admin@NativityCharleston.org](mailto:Admin@NativityCharleston.org)) and how you are planning to help.

**All are invited to this fantastic opportunity to learn more about "What's Happening" and how you can make a difference.**

## Bishop Fabre-Jeune Message to Mothers

My dear sisters in Christ,

Today, we celebrate Mother's Day, a day that is designated to honor and cherish the women that gave us the gift of life. As it is also the month of Mary, I want to reflect with you on the power of a mother's intercession for her children.

I thank God for my mother every day. Because of her devotion and the prayers she prayed for me when I was a baby, I survived a diagnosis that doctors said I would never recover from. My mother brought me before the Blessed Sacrament and consecrated me to the Immaculate Conception. I can truly say that I am a living miracle because of the protection and intercession of Our Lady and my earthly mother. I am sure you have your own testimony of that relationship with your mother. But also, if your relationship with your mother was not the best, it is time for reconciliation and healing. The world will be better when we have peace in each family, particularly between mother and children.

When the archangel announced that she would bear God's own son, Mary gracefully accepted her role and placed her trust in the will of the Father. Mary freely chose to devote her whole life to pursuing something greater than herself: a life of service and love for her family. She

Continued Fabre-Jeune next column —>

<— Fabre-Jeune continued from column 1

never ceased to pray for, nurture, guide and protect Jesus. Then, she also adopted each of us, and we are so fortunate to have her as our advocate before the throne of the almighty.

You, like Mary, have been given the gift of motherhood. This heroic vocation is a daily giving of yourself for the love and well-being of your children – not only for their physical well-being, but more importantly for their soul and life in Christ.

This vocation is not easy. It comes with heartache and hope, tears and joy. But I urge you to remember the power of your prayers for your family. Keep praying for your husbands, for your daughters and sons. The prayers of mothers have changed the course of history and brought about some of the greatest saints in our Church. As St. Augustine said, "If I am thy child O God, it is because you gavest me such a mother."

I wish you a blessed and Happy Mother's Day.

In Christ's love



Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS  
Bishop of Charleston



greeters

### Are needed for all Weekend Masses

Greeters are members of our Hospitality Ministry and they help to build a spirit of community among us.

Greeters have the opportunity to welcome members and visitors to the church, answer questions, and help guide them to their seats. This volunteer position is ideal for those who enjoy interacting with others and have a welcoming and friendly demeanor.

When they are scheduled to serve, greeters are asked to arrive approximately 15 minutes before the start of Mass.

For more information or to volunteer to be a Greeter, please contact Victoria at the parish office, 843-795-3821 or at [Admin@NativityCharleston.org](mailto:Admin@NativityCharleston.org).

**With your help, we can create a warm and welcoming environment for all who attend Mass**



## Alpha Team Interest Dinner

**Tue. May 16 at 6:15 pm  
In the Parish Life Center**

Alpha kicks off again this Fall and we are gathering our team of past Alpha participants to join together in preparation for it. Team roles include, hospitality, technology support, small group helper, and prayer.

For more information please contact Vicki Vazquez at [alpha@nativitycharleston.org](mailto:alpha@nativitycharleston.org) or 843-795-3821 to sign up to learn more.

**All interested people are encouraged  
to attend this Dinner.**

## Senior Adult Ministry



**Wednesday, May 17 at 12:30 pm  
in the Parish Life Center**

**Lunch is \$15 per plate.**

The catered lunch will be served at 12:30 pm, and will be followed by interesting and entertaining activities. This event will end at approximately 2:00 pm.

**Please contact the Nativity Parish Office  
by May 14 to order your lunch.**

For more information please contact Mary Smith at 843-670-7519





PSR May Crowning on May 7, 2023. Many Thanks to all who helped make this a fitting tribute to our Blessed Mother.



This summer our Wednesday Evening Nativity Bible Study group will switch gears and do a couple of book studies. The first book will be ***Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist*** by Dr. Brant Pitre. It is our hope that this book will stir in you a deeper understanding and love of the Eucharist.

Book study participants will gather on **May 31 at 6pm** in the Parish Life Center to receive the study materials. **There is a \$5.00.** Participants will read the book on their own and gather again on June 28 at 6:00 pm in the Parish Life Center for a potluck dinner and book discussion.

For more information, please contact Andrea Gilliard at [acgilliard@comcast.net](mailto:acgilliard@comcast.net) or Mary Smith at [dre@nativitycharleston.org](mailto:dre@nativitycharleston.org)



## My Handprint

Here is my handprint,  
Five fingers in all,  
Outside they are short,  
But the middle is tall.

You will find them on windows,  
You can find them on the wall,  
They will make a big mess,  
For something so small.

One day I will grow,  
And leave them no more,  
My handprints will be missed,  
Of that I am sure.

So here is one now,  
That you can't wipe away,  
My present to you,  
This Mother's Day.

~ Anon.

## Happy Mother's Day!





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