August 20, 2023



Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour. - Mt 15:28

God is NOT a Genie in a Bottle!

When I was a child, my mother bought a book called "The Prayers that God Will Always Answer." I remember my anticipation as I turned to the first page. I had been spending a lot of time asking God — begging God, actually — over and over again for some specific things that were just not materializing. Frankly, I was beginning to feel that my faith In God had been ill-placed.

To my great disappointment, my mother's book was not a directory of magical phrases that God is compelled to obey. It was a list that included things like "Forgive me" and "Help me."

The Canaanite woman persists in begging Jesus to heal her daughter. She is ignored — but will not be deterred. The disciples try to dismiss her — still, she presses on. Christ himself challenges her, and her faith makes her ready with a reply.

Somehow, I am sure that even if Christ had said, "No, it cannot be done for you as you wish," she would have still dropped to her knees and worshiped him, She knew what I did not: God is not a vending machine, and he's not the genie from "Aladdin." Prayer is not a negotiation, but a relationship.

The story of the Canaanite woman is not a story about how to get God to give you what you want. It is a story about the prayers that God always answers.

...Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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 Weekly Mass Schedule

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

s 5:30 pm 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

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

Jwill praise your name for ever. ...Today's Psalm PS 67

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



To register in our parish, please fill out a registration form on our web site: www.nativitycharleston.org.

New to Our Community?

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 Aug 26—Aug 27

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 SmithAltar Servers:Emma Grace Turner, Daniel Salceda
Mary Bieda, Mike Bieda, Eileen Easler,
Patty Edwards, John Warren
Carl BorickLector:Carl Borick
Emmett Alphonse, Patrick Kelley,

Leroy Holseberg, Lamar Watkins

9:00 am Mass

Horner Family, Daniel & Tamme Suggs
Abram Delaney, Connor Richey,
Anna Tillman
Suzanne Decker, Gary Hart,
Mark Hollifield, Liisa Machowski
Kathy Murphy
Mary Catherine Dubois
Richard Bragiel, George Hill
Walter Machowski, Steve Molony

11:30 am Mass

Greeters:	Susan La Via, Natalie Zanolli
Altar Servers:	Rosalie Felix, Jackson Gintz,
	Kenji Tran
Eucharistic	Lynn Curry, Jackie Doscher,
Ministers:	Brian Dougherty, Kathy Hepner,
	Phu Tran
Lector:	Pam Everitt
Ushers:	Lewis Doscher, Joe Ginn,
	Sheila Griner, Natalie Zanolli

Offerings August 7 — August 13

Collections at Mass (Aug 12—Aug 13)	\$	10,236.00
Mail in Offerings (Aug 7—Aug 11)	\$	3,580.00
myEoffering (Aug 7—Aug 11)	\$	5,421.73
Budget (1 week)	\$	16,557.69
Difference	\$	+ 2,680.04
Registered Households		615
Envelopes Used (Aug 12—Aug 13)		162
Active myEoffering Families		158
MyEoffering Family Donations (Aug 7-	-Aug	g 11) 121

Second Collections for August are:

August 20: Disaster Assistance

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

If you are unable to attend Mass, please consider making your regular offerings by mail or online (myEoffering).



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: Ed Defourneaux, Jama Stilwell, Jerry Wade

From previous months: Allene Barans, Clydie Bevis, Beverly Blevins, Ray Blevins, Don Carcone, Anne Castelli, Ron Connick, Herman Connor, Wendy Craven, Arlene & Bill Crosby, Vi Defourneaux, William Doherty, Jake DuPree, Angela Harbuta, Terry Harris, James Michael Huber, Dan & Mary Hughes, Myrtis Jenkins, Fred Kornahrens, Delores Lopez, Katherine and William Manning, Paul Madden, John Minaudo, Paul & Carole Moran, Frances O. O'Leary, 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.

Intentions

Mass:	Ins	s week	
Sat.	19	5:30 pm	One Year Death Anniversary of Leslie McDermott+
Sun.	20	9:00 am	For the 58th wedding anniversary of Pat & Hal Perry
		11:30 am	Stephen Buffington+
Mon	21	11:30 am	Arnold Bennett+
Tues.	22	11:30 am	Erlene Riggs+
Wed.	23	11:30 am	Alice Herrmann+
Thurs.	24	11:30 am	Gilbert & Marion O'Brien++
Fri.	25	11:30 am	Marianna Egan+
Sat.	26	5:30 pm	Malcolm Hale+
Sun.	27	9:00 am	For the 72nd wedding anniversary of Esther & Walter Machowski
		11:30 am	Gladys Jones Richards+

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.

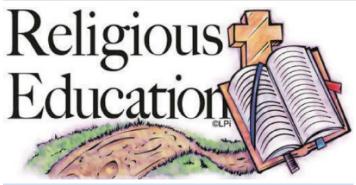




Nativity School—Teaching Values for Life! Discover Nativity School, James Island's best kept secret for K4-8 grades. Nativity School is accepting applications for admittance for the 23—24 School Year. To learn more about Enrollment and our School, please visit our website at

www.nativity-school.com or our FaceBook page at www.facebook.com/NativitySchoolKnights. or contact the School Office at 843-795-3975

The School Year is off to a great Start!



Nativity Parish School of Religion

PSR is offered for parish children, grades K4 through 8, enrolled in non-parochial schools. Nativity PSR is accepting applications for the 23–24 School Year.

Registration packets are available at the church entrances and online at <u>https://nativitycharleston.com/formation/</u>

Late registration of \$20 now applies.

For more information. please contact Mary Smith at 843-795-3821 x 104.

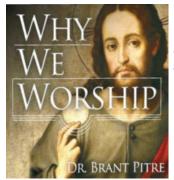
Catechists Needed!

LOVE YOUR FAITH? SHARE IT!

The word' catechesis' means 'to echo'. Literally, we are to echo the good news of Jesus Christ to others. This not a suggestion: it is a command of our Lord.

Specifically, we need more catechists in order to be able to offer the Nativity Parish School of Religion for the 2023-2024 school year. We need some class teachers, substitute teachers and class assistants.

If you love your faith and would be willing to share that blessing with the children of our parish, please contact Mary Smith at 795-3821ext 104.



Tuesday Daytime Bible Study 12:30 to 2:00 pm in the Parish Life Center

We have completed our study. However, this series was so full of inspiration and meaning that we will be having **'Replay Tuesday'** for the next few weeks.

These sessions are in person and online via ZOOM https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87244968092?pwd=cmRrd2kvTmpEQzgvNE1ubE00NGZxdz09

Meeting ID: 872 4496 8092 and the Passcode: Nativity

For more information, please contact Ryckie Watkins at ryckiewatkins1329@comcast.net

Contact Ryckie and vote to replay the episodes of you choice.

Join us for a Taste of Alpha

after the weekend Masses on Sept. 2 and 3 in the Parish Life Center. We will have food, a video presentation and some time for group comment and sharing. The 'Alpha Tasting' will last 1 hour.

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?

What is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explore the basics of the Christian faith. Alpha provides a relaxed setting for connecting with other people who are open to exploring life, faith, and meaning.

Alpha is an 11 week program.

Alpha is fun, relaxed and totally non-pressured

Alpha's Three Main Elements:



How does it work?

Each Alpha session begins with food, followed by a short video that explores a different aspect of the Christian faith. After that, there is a time for discussion in a friendly small group.

Who is Alpha for?

Alpha is for everyone, especially:

- Those who have given up on church
- Those wanting to investigate Christianity
- Those who are new to the Christian faith
- Those wanting to grow in understanding and faith

What is the cost?

There is no charge for the Alpha course, although your donations will be greatly appreciated.

View the Alpha at Nativity Fall Schedule at <u>https://nativitycharleston.com/alpha/</u> Join us by contacting Vicki Vázquez | <u>alpha@nativitycharleston.org</u> | 843-795-3821

> The fall Alpha program starts Tuesday, Sep.5, at 6:15 pm In the Nativity Parish Life Center Join us for Alpha and bring all your friends.



So what is RCIA anyway?

RCIA is an acronym that means the <u>**R**</u>ite of <u>**C**</u>hristian <u>I</u>nitiation of <u>A</u>dults. It is a series of lessons aimed at explaining to adults what it means to be Catholic. Nativity offers an opportunity to come together in a welcoming and accepting setting. Participants are encouraged to engage in the process with their questions, their insights, and their faith story. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of the Church and are intended to prepare the participants to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season.

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

This year's program begins Next Sunday, August 27 at 5:30 pm with a 'Meat and Greet' Cookout!

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



Choir Rehearsal Resumes Wednesday, Sep. 6 at 6:30 pm

The choir regularly rehearses on Wednesday evening. We usually finish by 7:30 pm.

And yes, we know you can't sing... FYI, none of us could sing either until we started coming to choir rehearsal.

Can't make a 10 month commitment? Consider "singing for a season". You might be able to join us in September and sing through Thanksgiving or join us in advent and sing through Christmas. (This is really a popular option because everybody likes to sing Christmas Carols).

For more information, please contact Courtney Reed (Director of Music) at 843-795-3821 x 103 or at <u>Music@NativityCharleston.org</u>

No Experience needed. Just show up!



Healing the trauma of abortion, one weekend at a time

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: Sep 29—Oct 1 (Greenville, SC).

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



Baptism Maelynn Herring

daughter of Sarah and Matthew Herring was welcomed into our faith community on Sunday, August 13

Congratulations to this new member of our church.

Stay in touch with us at Nativity



For the latest updates, sign up for FlockNote https://nativityfamily.flocknote.com/

Visit us at

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/



Flowers

at the altar are given in thanksgiving for the 58th Wedding Anniversary of

Pat and Hal Perry May you have many more!



The Nativity Ladies Guild Kicks Off a New Ministry Year!

Our first meeting of this new year is Monday, Aug 28th Refreshments at 6:30 pm followed by our meeting at 7:00 in the Parish Life Center.

Continued next column -----

LADIES GUILD SEWING GROUP NEEDS YOUR HELP.



We are starting to work on our craft items for sale at the Fall Craft fair. In order to make these items, we need small bud vases and small flower pots (up to 8 inches).

Please drop these off at the Parish Office or bring them to the Ladies Guild Meeting on August 28.

For more information, please contact Marion Hoffman at <u>m.hoffman@earthlink.net</u>

Thank you for your help.

Weekly Hour of Eucharistic Adoration is Every Thursday at 12:00 Noon.



In July 2022, the U.S. Bishops launched a 3-year Eucharistic Revival. The intent is to nudge Catholics toward a deeper personal relationship with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

All members of the Nativity Community are encouraged to participate.

Continuing Food Collection for James Island Outreach



James Island Outreach continues to need non-perishable food to stock their food pantry.

- All non-perishable and in date food items are welcome.
- We are a Wellness Client Choice Pantry. Low salt / low sugar items are preferred.
- Donations of cash, checks and grocery cards are greatly appreciated.

Place all items in the bins located at the Nativity Church entrances.

Thank you for continuing to help feed our hungry neighbors.

——— Continued from previous column

All ladies of the parish are invited to join us.

Our theme this year is "Let Your Light Shine" (Mt 5:16). We all have talents and skills. We encourage you to join us and share these skills with our parish community.

We are looking forward to a very full schedule full of faith, service, friendship and fun and would love to have you join us.

Please plan to attend on Aug 28th and bring a friend!

For more information please contact Jackie Doscher at 843-276-5002 or at jackiedoscher@gmail.com



Pregnant? Need Help? Nationwide Toll Free:

800-395-HELP www.pregnancycenters.org

Lowcountry Pregnancy Center

225-3010 in West Ashley or 553-3505 in North Charleston



Blessing of Expectant Parents

Your witness to our faith community is a wonderful Celebration of Life.

We appreciate the opportunity to extend our blessing during a weekend Mass. During this ceremony, the Nativity Respect Life ministry will also present you with a small prayer book.

Please let us share in this Celebration of Life with you. To make arrangements, just contact Vicki at <u>Office@NativityCharleston.org</u> or at 843-795-3821.

We need to see each child as a gift to be welcomed and cherished.



O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, to you we entrust the cause of life. Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy.

Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives, and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, a civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life.

...St. Pope John Paul II Evangelium vitae (105)



For ad info. call 1-800-477-4574 • www.4lpi.com