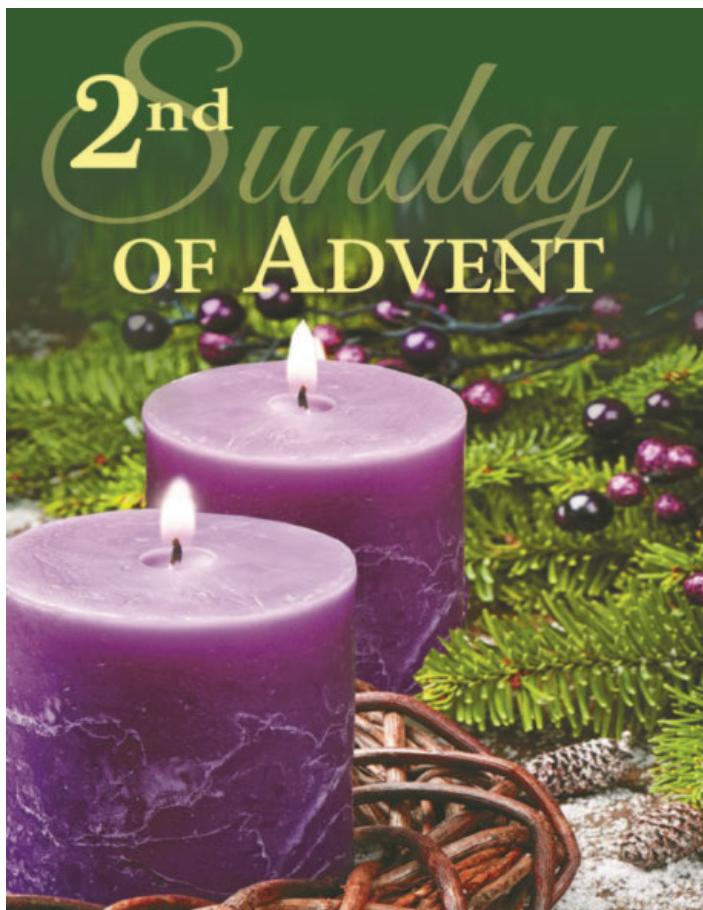


December 10, 2023



Set Yourself Free!

We like to think we are totally free, but the bitter truth is we simply are not. Or better put, our freedom is limited on every side — by governments, corporate giants, physical and mental frailties, genetic shortcomings, and even the boundaries of time and space, and above all, the burden of our sins and pending deaths. In our day, we are perhaps particularly aware that we are not free to disconnect from the technocratic rulers of the air. If you doubt me, try not paying your internet bill and see what happens. We are not totally free.

It's nothing new, of course. In Jesus' day, everyone felt the crushing weight of the Roman Empire. You can say you're free all you want. But try not paying your taxes and see what happens.

Once we feel this burden in our own lives — however it comes — we are ready to hear the stunning announcement that commences Mark's gospel, "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." It's not a simple perfunctory introduction, but a dramatic announcement of new freedom. The word "gospel" was a political, even military, term. It meant: a great victory has been won and a new king is in charge. This Jesus — not the Roman emperor — is God's son, and He has defeated all that crushes human freedom. It's time to follow Him and be truly free. This week let's refuse to submit our freedom to false rulers, especially to sin. And rejoice that Christ is coming to make us perfectly free from all our oppressors.

...Father John Muir

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. - Fri. 11:30 am
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

Church is open Daily for Private Prayer and Devotion.

Weekdays: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Weekly Hour of Eucharistic Adoration

Paused—Will Return after Advent

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
Sunday After the 9:00 am and 11:30 am Masses
and by appointment

Office Hours This Week

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
Office: 843-795-3821 / Fax: 843-795-2714

*Lord, let us see your kindness, and
grant us your salvation.*

...Today's Psalm PS 85

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 Dec. 16—Dec. 17

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

5:30 pm Mass	
Greeters:	Patrick Kelley & Kathy Wiley, Tom & Marcia McNamee
Altar Servers:	Jake Hoeft, Joe Hoeft,
Eucharistic Ministers:	Mary Bieda, Mike Bieda, Wendy Bergstrom, Barbara Coddington, Eileen Easler
Lector:	Carl Borick
Ushers:	Emmett Alphonse, Patrick Kelley, Leroy Holseberg, Lamar Watkins
9:00 am Mass	
Greeters:	Caughey Family, Becky Warriner
Altar Servers:	Alena Novak, Savanna Owens, Jacob Perry
Eucharistic Ministers:	Gary Hart, Mark Hollifield, Liisa Machowski, Kathy Murphy, Kirby Preston
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, Jackson Gintz, Tomi Tran
Eucharistic Ministers:	Irene Bennett, Jackie Doscher, Pam Everitt, Maier Runyon, Scott Runyon
Lector:	Sheila Elsey
Ushers:	Lewis Doscher, Chuck Everitt, Joe Ginn, Natalie Zanolli

Offerings November 27— December 3

Collections at Mass (Dec 2—Dec 3)	\$ 12,813.00
Mail in Offerings (Nov 27—Dec 1)	\$ 5,375.00
myEoffering (Nov 27—Dec 1)	\$ 4,071.60
Budget (1 weeks)	\$ 16,557.69
Difference	\$ 5,701.91
Registered Households	632
Envelopes Used (Dec 2—Dec 3)	176
Active myEoffering Families	176
MyEoffering Family Donations (Nov 27—Dec 1)	118

Second Collection for December:

December 10: Retirement Fund for Religious

December 17: Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa

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.**

From previous months: Allene Barans, Mary Bieda, Beverly Blevins, Ray Blevins, Don Carcone, Anne Castelli, Ron Connick, Herman Connor, Arlene & Bill Crosby, Ed Defourneaux, Vi Defourneaux, William Doherty, Jake DuPree, Angela Harbuta, Terry Harris, Darcy Hill, James Michael Huber, Dan & Mary Hughes, Myrtis Jenkins, Mariano LaVia, Delores Lopez, Ruthie Mallard, Paul Madden, Katherine and William Manning, John Minaudo, Paul & Carole Moran, Frances O. O'Leary, Charlie Organ, James Parker, Brenda Pearson, Ed and Terry Pop, James Romero, Jama Stilwell, Fran Taylor, Inge Thornley, Jerry Wade, Courtney Wilson, Sally Wojcik

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

**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.	9	5:30 pm	Brady Lee+
Sun.	10	9:00 am	Nancy Nixon+
		11:30 am	Brian J. O'Connor+
Mon	11	11:30 am	One year death anniversary of Mary Ngo+
Tues.	12	11:30 am	Sr. Mary Cyril (healing)
Wed.	13	11:30 am	Wendy Craven+
Thurs.	14	11:30 am	Norbert Adam+
Fri.	15	11:30 am	Our Lady of Mercy Associates
Sat.	16	5:30 pm	Brian James O'Connor+
Sun.	17	9:00 am	Nancy Nixon+
		11:30 am	Juanalita Bunado+

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 continues. Please pray for our students.



SANTA TEAMS UP WITH THE KNIGHTS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 FOR THE PANCAKE/SAUSAGE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS TEAMS UP WITH THE NATIVITY LADIES GUILD



FOR THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT WORKSHOP

This event will be in the Nativity Parish Life Center after the 9:00 Mass. Adults pay \$3.00 for the breakfast but **all children eat free**. Not only that, the children get to meet Santa, turn in their Christmas wish list and get a little treat from one of Santa's elves. Come make some memorable and treasured Christmas ornaments.

**THIS IS A REALLY FUN FAMILY EVENT
AND IT JUST WON'T BE THE SAME IF YOU'RE NOT THERE!**



ABOUT THE ADVENT WREATH

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL.

December Schedule for Mass and Reconciliation

Sunday Opportunities to Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sun. Dec 10 After the 9:00 and 11:30 am Masses
Sun. Dec 17 After the 9:00 and 11:30 am Masses

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also offered every Saturday at 4:15 pm .

You can also make an appointment to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please contact the parish office at 843-795-3821

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sat. Dec. 23 5:30 pm Advent Sunday Mass
Sun. Dec. 24 9:00 am Advent Sunday Mass
No 11:30 am Sunday Mass

Christmas Mass Schedule

Sun. Dec. 24 — 4:00 pm Christmas Mass
Mass video, audio and additional seating are available in the Parish Life Center. Ministers from the church will offer Eucharist.

Sun. Dec. 24 — 7:00 pm Christmas Mass
A concert of Christmas music will start at 6:30 pm.
Please come early and join in the singing.

Mon. Dec. 25 — 10:00 am Christmas Mass
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sat. Dec. 30 — 5:30 pm Holy Family Mass
Sun. Dec. 31 — 9:00 and 11:30 am Holy Family Mass

Regular Mass and Reconciliation will continue throughout December except as noted above.

Journey through Advent With Sacred Scriptures



continues Every Thursday of Advent

Sessions are in the Nativity Parish Life Center from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

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

The facilitator is Sister Kathy Adamski, OSF, a sister of St. Francis of the Neumann communities who has ministered in the Diocese for the last 15 years.

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 kathleen.adamski@gmail.com.

All are invited to attend these sessions as part of our spiritual preparations for Christmas.



Blue Christmas Remembrance

**Thursday, Dec. 21 at 4:30 pm
In the Parish Life Center**

The holidays can be a difficult time for anyone suffering loss. This service is offered to comfort and support those grieving the loss of a loved one.

This activity will begin with prayers and reflections and will be followed by a reception.

The church will also be open until 6:30 pm for private prayer.

This event is jointly sponsored by the Nativity Ladies Guild and the Nativity Bereavement Committee. For more information, please contact the Nativity Parish Office at 843-795-3821.

All are welcome to come and pray with those who are in sorrow.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

A few Christmas Wreaths are still available for purchase.

For more information, please contact Steve Molony at molonyplumbing@gmail.com

**LAST CHANCE TO GET YOURS
BEFORE THEY ARE ALL GONE!**

Blood Drive

Church of the Nativity - James Island

1061 Folly Rd, Charleston
Charleston, SC 29412

12/10/2023 | 08:00 AM–01:00 PM

**This Sunday in the Nativity Parking Lot.
You can donate even if you did schedule an appointment!**



2023 Annual First Christmas Fund

This year, the First Christmas Fund will support the new Holy City Mobile Pregnancy Center. This new ministry of Prolife Charleston takes care 'on the road' and delivers services directly to women in need throughout the local community. The services include pre and post natal care, ultra sound and other exams, education, counseling, referrals and support.

Your donations will provide services to pregnant women and their families who are in great need.

Make your tax deductible donation to:

Knights of Columbus Council 6250

On the memo line write:

First Christmas Fund

Please place your donation in the Nativity collection or snail mail it to:

First Christmas Fund

K of C Council 6250

**1061 Folly Road
Charleston, SC 29412**



For more information please contact Malcolm Brennan, Director of Prolife Ministries, K of C Council 6250 at 843-906-5511 or mbprolife@gmail.com

May God grant you a very Blessed and Peaceful Christmas!

Nativity "Baby Everything" Drive



A huge thank you to all who donated diapers, wipes, clothes, books and many other miscellaneous baby items. Your donations were delivered to the Lowcountry Pregnancy Center and Birthright of Charleston. Both organizations said their inventory was low and were so excited to receive all these needed items.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



Young Adult Ministry

Join us for an evening of faith, food, and fellowship.

Theology is on Tap in Charleston on Wed. Jan. 17 at 7:00 pm at

Henry's on the Market

All young adults are welcome.

Mark Your Calendar and Plan to Attend

For more information about the Young Adult Ministry and our events, please contact shillbc93@gmail.com



Baby Jesus Birthday Party on Dec. 2.

This is a great community activity.

Many thanks to all who assisted and participated

Feast of Our Lady of Guadelupe



Monday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, first appeared to Cuauhtlatzin (Juan Diego) on December 9, 1531. Juan Diego was on his way to a Eucharistic celebration.

The Virgin addressed him by his indigenous name. She asked him to go to the palace of Archbishop Zumárraga and request that a shrine be erected on the site of the apparition. The Virgin wanted to share her love and compassion for all believers.

Juan Diego did as requested, but the archbishop did not believe him. He demanded proof of Juan Diego's story.

Juan Diego returned to Our Lady daily, and on December 12, he conveyed to her the archbishop's request for proof. She pointed him toward Castilian roses blooming there through the stony ground and despite the winter's cold. He picked the flowers and carried them in his tilma (mantle) to the archbishop. When he unfolded his tilma to present the roses, Mary's image was imprinted on the mantle.

Her blue sash and the flower over her womb were traditional Aztec symbols of pregnancy and new life. But her features were those of a mestiza, indicating mixed Aztec-European heritage. Thus Our Lady of Guadalupe remains the enduring icon of unity-in-diversity, the fruit of our one baptism into Jesus, her Son.

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Everybody Enjoys Singing Seasonal Music And the Nativity Music Ministry could use your help.

Just sing with us for Advent and Christmas. We rehearse on Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

For more information, please contact Courtney Reed at Music@NativityCharleston.org or at 843-795-3821 x103.

We look forward to having you sing with us!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Next meeting:
Wednesday, Dec 13
at 1:00 pm in the Nativity
Parish Life Center Meeting
Room.

All are invited!

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 Charleston, SC 29412
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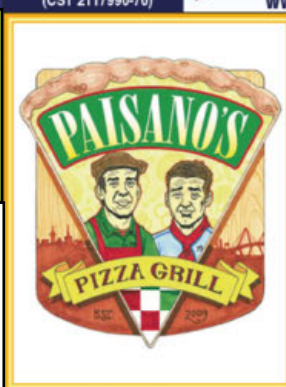
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