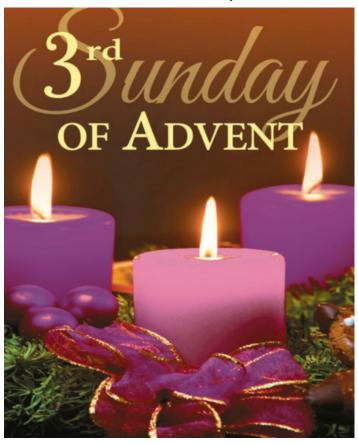
December 17, 2023



Just do your job!

John humbly recognized that his calling came from God and not from man. When John the Baptist announced the imminent coming of God's Anointed One, the Messiah, the religious leaders questioned his authority to speak so boldly in God's name. They asked him bluntly, "Who are you?" and "What do you say about yourself?" They wanted to know if he was really sent by God. Did he claim to be the Messiah or one of the great prophets who was expected to return and announce the Messiah's arrival (see Malachi 4:5, Deuteronomy 18:15)? John had no doubt and no mistaken identity about his call and mission. In all humility and sincerity he said he was only a voice bidding people to get ready for the arrival of the greatest Ruler of all, God's anointed King and Messiah.

John the Baptist bridges the Old and New Testaments. He is the last of the Old Testament prophets who points the way to the Messiah. He is the first of the New Testament witnesses and martyrs. He is the herald who prepares the way for Jesus and who announces his mission to the people: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! (John 1:29). John saw from a distance that the Messiah would come to accomplish our redemption from slavery to sin and our adoption as sons and daughters of God, our heavenly Father.

John was the greatest of the prophets, yet he lived as a humble and faithful servant of God. His job was to point others to Jesus, the true Messiah and Savior of the world. Our job is also to point others to Jesus Christ by the example and witness of our lives.

... adapted from Don Schwager at https://www.dailyscripture.net

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 No School Mass
School Mass Will Return on January 3

4th Sunday of Advent Masses

Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm Sunday 9:00 am No 11:30 Mass on Sun. Dec. 24

Christmas Masses

Sunday Dec 24 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Monday Dec 25 10:00 am

No 11:30 am Mass on Monday. Dec. 25

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

Sunday A

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

My soul rejoices in my God.
...Today's Psalm Is 61

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!

Liturgical Ministers for Dec. 23—Dec. 25

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

5:30 pm Sunday Vigil Mass

(Sat. Dec. 23)

Greeters: Patrick Kelley & Kathy Wiley

Timothy & Carolyn Smith

Altar Servers: Emma Grace Turner,

Daniel Salceda

Eucharistic Patty Edwards, Meg Hoeft, Ministers: Carolyn Smith, Mary Smith,

John Warren

Lector: Eileen Easler

Ushers: Emmett Alphonse, Patrick Kelley,

Leroy Holseberg, Lamar Watkins

9:00 am Sunday Mass

(Sun. Dec. 24)

Greeters: Cellars Family, Mary Catherine Dubois

Altar Servers: Abram Delaney, Jack Perry,

Connor Richey

Eucharistic Karen Cellars Matthew Cellars, Ministers: Kristi Roberts, Daniel Suggs,

Tamme Suggs Gary Warriner

Ushers: Richard Bragiel, Joe Dubois,

Walter Machowski, Steve Molony

4:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass

(Sun. Dec. 24)

Greeters: Patrick Kelley & Kathy Wiley,

Vázquez Family (PLĆ)

Altar Servers: Rosalie Felix, Eliza Cellars, Eucharistic Lynn Curry, Barbara Coddington, Ministers: Brian Dougherty, Donica Dennis,

Pam Everitt

Parish Life Center Overflow

Scott & Maier Runyon, Patty Edwards

Lector: TBD

Lector:

Ushers: Patrick Kelley, Chuck Everitt,

Joe Ginn,

Gilbert O'Brien (PLC)

7:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass

(Sun. Dec. 24)

Greeters: Jackie and Lewis Doscher

Others TBD

Altar Servers: TBD

Eucharistic Pat & Hal Perry, Kathy Hepner,
Jackie Doscher, others TBD

Lector: TBD

Ushers: Emmett Alphonse, Lewis Doscher, George Hill, Leroy Holseberg,

10:00 am Christmas Day Mass

(Mon. Dec. 25)

Greeters: Natalie Zanolli, others TBD

Altar Servers: TBD

Eucharistic Becky Warriner, Gary Warriner

Ministers: Others TBD Lector: Eileen Easler

Ushers: Joe Dubois, Richard Braigel, Steve Molony, Natalie Zanolli



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.	16	5:30 pm	Brian James O'Connor+
Sun.	17	9:00 am	Nancy Nixon+
		11:30 am	Juanalita Bunado+
Mon	18	11:30 am	Donald Crompton+
Tues.	19	11:30 am	Rev. Leland J. White+
Wed.	20	11:30 am	Juanalita Bunado+
Thurs.	21	11:30 am	Arnold Bennett+
Fri.	22	11:30 am	William O'Leary
Sat.	23	5:30 pm	Tina Myatt Melfi+
Sun.	24	9:00 am	Paul Aimar+
		4:00 pm	All the children
		7:00 pm	Ron Hanna, Jr.+
Mon.	25	10:00 am	Roy Ross+

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 Christmas Program on December 5.



...the Reason for the Season!



SANTA TEAMS UP WITH THE KNIGHTS
THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17
FOR THE PANCAKE/SAUSAGE
BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
AND

MRS. CLAUS TEAMS UP WITH THE NATIVITY LADIES GUILD



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!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 6250
TEAMS UP WITH THE NATIVITY LADIES GUILD
FOR 5TH SUNDAY ROSARY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31
AFTER THE 9:00 AM MASS.



A GREAT WAY TO CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE AND ALL ARE INVITED.

December Schedule for Mass and Reconciliation

Sunday Opportunities to Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation

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



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

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Mon. Jan. 1 — 11:30 am Feast Day Mass

This year, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, is not a Holy Day of Obligation and Mass attendance is not required.

But going to Mass is a great way to start the New Year!

Journey through Advent With Sacred Scriptures



Last Session is Thursday Dec. 21

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.

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 we 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!

In addition to Worship, Nativity Offers Many Other Opportunities to Get to Know Our God Better.

Sunday: The RCIA process (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

This program is for those who are considering to become Catholics. Sessions are from 10:00 am to 11:15 am in the Nativity Parish Life Center.

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

Monday: Mother's Morning Prayer Group

This is a program of prayer, devotions and support for moms. Sessions are from 8:00 am to 9:00 am in the Nativity Parish Life Center. For more information please contact Vicki Vázquez at admin@nativitycharleston.org or at 843-795-3821.

Tuesday: Afternoon Bible Study Group

This is a program of bible related studies using multi session audio/video presentations of renown scholars. Sessions are from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm in the Nativity Parish Life Center in person and via ZOOM For more information, please contact Ryckie Watkins at 843-795-4194 or at ryckie.watkins@gmail.com.

Tuesday: Evening Bible Study Group

The evening program is a repeat of the afternoon bible study session. Sessions are from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in the Nativity Parish Office in person and via ZOOM For more information, please contact Ryckie Watkins at 843-795-4194 or at ryckie.watkins@gmail.com.

Wednesday: Evening Bible Study Group

This is a program of faith and liturgy related studies using multi session audio/video presentations of renown scholars. Sessions are from 5:45 pm to 7:00 pm in the Nativity Parish Life Center.

For more information, please contact Andrea Gilliard at acgilliard@comcast.net or at 843-696-2161

Thursday: Men's Scripture Study Group

This program focuses on the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday and weekday Masses. Sessions are from at 7:00 am to 8:30 am in the Nativity Parish Life Center. For more information, please contact Ben Curry at ben.curry@curryfirm.com

Please give these Soul Foods a try.





The "O" Antiphons of Advent

There are seven short verses sung before the Magnificat during Evening Prayer of the Church on the seven days before the vigil of Christmas. They each begin with the exclamation "O". Each of them ends with a plea for the Messiah to come. As Christmas approaches the cry becomes more urgent.

The antiphons were composed in the seventh or eighth century when monks put together texts from the Old Testament which looked forward to the coming of our salvation. They form a rich mosaic of scriptural images. These seven verses, or antiphons as they are called, appear to be the originals although from time to time other texts were used. They became very popular in the Middle Ages. While the monastic choirs sang the antiphons, the great bells of the church were rung.

A curious feature of these antiphons is that the first letter of each invocation may be taken from the Latin to form an acrostic in reverse. So the first letters of Sapientia, Adonai, Radix, Clavis, Oriens, Rex, and Emmanuel, provide the Latin words: ERO CRAS. The phrase spells out the response of Christ himself to the heartfelt prayer of his people:

"I come tomorrow".

Although the "O" Antiphons only appear in the evening prayer during the last week prior to Christmas eve, the words and symbols have come to be used throughout advent as a sign of our anticipation of

The Incarnation of our God!



O Sapientia - December 17th

O Come. Thou Wisdom, from on high. and order all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.



O Adonai - December 18th

O Come, O Come, Thou Lord of might. who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe.



O Radix Jesse - December 19th

O Come, Thou Rod of Jesse's stem, from ev'ry foe deliver them that trust Thy mighty power to save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave



O Clavis David - December 20th

O Come, Thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home, make safe the way that leads on high, that we no more have cause to sigh.

Continued Next Column ---->>>



O Oriens - December 21st

O Come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.



O Rex Gentium - December 22nd

O Come. Desire of the nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind; bid every strife and quarrel cease and fill the world with heaven's peace.



O Emmanuel - December 23rd

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here EMMANUEL until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!



Our Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of

Leo L. Weber

whose funeral was held at Nativity on Saturday, December 9th.

May he rest in peace.



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

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