

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

**Readings This Weekend:**

Numbers 6:22-27 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21

**Readings Next Weekend:**

Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-6 Matthew 2:1-12



Time, and our understanding of our place in it, is mysterious and historically complex, but many answers to how we designate time in the western world are very Catholic and Christian. Why is this year designated 2012? It is clear that the world and human history stretch back much farther than 2,010 years. What we are announcing this year is that it is 2011 Anno Domini (usually abbreviated A.D. and meaning "the year of the Lord). What this clearly means is that it is 2,011 years since the Birth of Jesus Christ. As far as we know, the AD system was developed by a monk named Dionysius Exiguus in Rome in 525. It was especially at the time of Charlemagne (8th Century) that the AD dating system become widespread in Western Europe. However, the calculations as to the exact year of Christ's birth were not perfect and today, by surveying history and the data of Scripture, it now seems rather more certain that Christ was born closer to what we call today 6 B.C! Nevertheless, the current dating system remains a reference to Jesus Christ. Even the most secular of people calculate their place in time by Jesus Christ. It is usually claimed by secularists that God is nowhere mentioned in the U.S. Constitution. Actually He is, right at the very end there is a clear reference to Jesus: "Done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven." Yes, He is there. And every time we write a date, we reference Jesus. He changed history and all time belongs to him.

**† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †**

**Sunday, January 1** *Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God*  
 10:00am John Coleman †  
 7:00pm Analisa Smith-Perez †  
**Monday, January 2** *Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops*  
 7:00am For the homeless  
**Tuesday, January 3** *The Most Holy Name of Jesus*  
 7:00am For the People  
**Wednesday, January 4** *Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious*  
 7:00am Lawrence Jones (birthday)  
**Thursday, January 5** *Saint John Neumann, Bishop*  
 7:00am Virgie M. Hamilton †  
**Friday, January 6** *Saint André Bessette, Religious*  
 7:00am For Michael Beresheim †  
**Saturday, January 7** *Saint Raymond of Penyafort*  
 8:00am For mothers and babies at risk of abortion  
 4:30pm Maurice Austin, Sr. (birthday)

*If you want to place a mass intention, call the rectory at 202-546-1885.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

**Monday:** 1 John 2:22-28 John 1:19-28  
**Tuesday:** 1 John 2:29—3:6 John 1:29-34  
**Wednesday:** 1 John 3:7-10 John 1:35-42  
**Thursday:** 1 John 3:11-21 John 1:43-51  
**Friday:** 1 John 5:5-13 Mark 1:7-11  
**Saturday:** 1 John 5:14-21 John 2:1-11



**PROVERBS 24 "WITNESS-PRAY-SERVE EVENT"**

In response to the opening of a Planned Parenthood abortion facility in our community, HCSC has joined several other local parishes to form the Proverbs 24 Community. The new initiative began on November 12<sup>th</sup> with our first witness event. The next scheduled event is Sat., Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am–12:30pm at Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Church. Please prayerfully consider participating in one of three ways: by praying with others in front of the facility; by praying in the church in front of the Blessed Sacrament; or by helping to prepare a fellowship lunch to conclude the event. Sign up at Proverbs24.eventbrite.com. Questions? Contact P24community@gmail.com or call Linda Simpson at (301) 735-6432 or Kim Peaks at (202) 546-1885 or pam@hcscchurch.org.

**Mass Attendance for Dec. 25, 2016**

6:00pm	298
12:00am	280
10:00am	142
<b>Total:</b>	<b>720</b>

**Stewardship Report 2016—2017**

Weekly Budget Amount Needed	\$16,346
Actual Tithes Collected (12/25)	\$12,823
Actual Deficit (-)	-\$3,522

**ELECTRONIC TITHING:** Have you considered electronic tithing through the **Faith Direct** program here at HCSC? You can have your tithes deducted from your bank account **TWICE a month** or charged to a credit card. It's easy and **it's FREE!** It is a secure, convenient way to support your parish community. Enrollment forms are available in the rear of the church, the rectory office, or you can sign up online at [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net). (**HCSC church code: DC59**). For more information, call Kim Peaks at the rectory office (202-546-1885).

**THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH**

<b>Sunday (1/1)</b> 7:00pm Mass 8:00pm AA	<b>Wednesday (1/4)</b> 11:00am Friendly Seniors 7:00pm Bible Study
<b>Monday (1/2)</b> 8:00pm YAM Bible Study	<b>Thursday (1/5)</b> <b>Friday (1/6)</b>
<b>Tuesday (1/3)</b> 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 7:00pm Adult Choir	<b>Saturday (1/7)</b> 4:30pm Mass

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**

*Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Roman Catholic Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, exists to evangelize and to uphold Christian values by promoting the teachings of the Church in Word, Sacrament and Witness.*

**OUR VISION STATEMENT:**

*A welcoming, embracing and joyful faith family richly rooted in the community today, tomorrow and forever.*

## SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

### PARISH LIFE

#### RECTORY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Rectory closed Sun., Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> & Mon., Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The office will re-open Tues., Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL is closed until January 8, 2017.**



**FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION:** All parishioners are invited to attend a wonderful opportunity to gather together and reflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on **Fri., Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, 6—7pm.** The Community Action Group (CAG) will act as host for the evening. Come spend some quality time with Jesus in the church for a Eucharistic Holy Hour.

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION:** This year, your donation to the Christmas collection will benefit the HCSC **Community Action Group (CAG)** who are opening their new building on 15<sup>th</sup> Street and are in need of furniture. CAG helps those suffering from addictions and was originally started at our parish. Christmas collection envelopes are available in the rear of the Church or the rectory office.

**YOUTH SUNDAY NEXT SUNDAY:** Every second Sunday we celebrate our parish youth at the 11am Mass. We invite all our youth to come and sit together at Mass next week. You are welcome to bring a friend!

**HCSC CHURCH TOUR:** Sun., January 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am titled **"The Mass Encountering Jesus Christ"**. All are invited to attend this tour with Msgr. Pope and the Sunday School youth and parents to learn about the design of our church interior. Meet at the Church.

**FREE 2017 CALENDARS** are available after Mass in the rear of the church. *Limited supply!*

**GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT "ADVENT" TREE: THANK YOU** to the HCSC parish community for your wonderful outpouring of love for needy families. Through your generosity, the Social Concerns Ministry collected enough food to fill and distribute **78 Christmas baskets** to the needy. And, a very special thank you to all the volunteers who helped pack and distribute the baskets.

**ADULT and FAMILY RALLY & MASS** is an occasion for people of all ages to come together in prayer on the morning of the **March for Life, Fri., Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>, 9am** at the Cathedral of St. Matthew (1725 Rhode Island Avenue NW). Rally keynote speakers: Mary and Seamus Hasson, pro-life advocates and defenders of religious liberty. Mass celebrated by Bishop Mario Dorsonville with Msgr. Bill Parent as homilist. Departure for National March for Life around 11:30am. Questions? Visit [adw.org/familyrally](http://adw.org/familyrally).

**END OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** will be prepared **ONLY UPON REQUEST** beginning **Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**. Statements will not be automatically mailed. You must contact the rectory by phone or email to request your statement. You can have your statement mailed or left at the rectory for pick-up. **NOTE:** only checks payable to Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian and cash donations submitted in a pre-printed envelope are included in your statement. Unidentified loose cash cannot be reflected on your statement.

### Youth Ministry News

Nicki Gebrehiwot, Director of Youth Ministry  
202-546-1885 ext. 25 (voicemail) ✦ [youthdirector@hscchurch.org](mailto:youthdirector@hscchurch.org)

**THANK YOU**—to all the youth and adults who participated in making our production of the play **"A Simple Pageantry"** a memorable Christmas event. Holiday blessings and love to each of you and your families.

### HCSC Young Adult Ministry

[YAM@hscchurch.org](mailto:YAM@hscchurch.org)

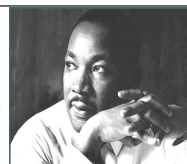


**YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY** meets **Mondays at 8pm** in the rectory. Join other young adults with Fr. Pope in the discussion of scripture. This is a good opportunity to meet other young adults in the parish.

We'd like to hear from our young adults (age 18 to 40<sup>ish</sup>)! Check out the HCSC Young Adults Ministry on **Facebook** and follow us on Twitter at [HCSCYoungAdults!](https://twitter.com/HCSCYoungAdults)

**THE WORD AMONG US:** January issues available in the Candlelight Store. This publication is designed to help Catholics find genuine renewal and refreshment in God's grace, encouragement to read the Word of God, and offers daily meditations based on the Mass readings. *Limited supply!* **Cost: \$2 each.**

**SAVE THE DATE: Free Concert & Liturgy** celebrating the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington, **Sat., Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>** at **St. Thomas More**, 4275—4<sup>th</sup> St., SE.. Concert at 4pm, followed by Mass at 5pm.



ROME

#### 2017 ITALY PILGRIMAGE:

HCSC Parish is hosting an 11-day pilgrimage to Italy, **Nov. 6—16, 2017**. Brochures are now available on our website ([www.hscchurch.org](http://www.hscchurch.org)) and in the Church. **Contact:** Debbie Vanzego at 202-408-4641 or [dvanzego@cohenmilstein.com](mailto:dvanzego@cohenmilstein.com).

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?** If you are visiting our church and interested in joining, stop by our rectory office next to the church to register. Contact our staff on 202-546-1885 or at [hscstaff@hscchurch.org](mailto:hscstaff@hscchurch.org).

#### Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Roman Catholic Church

1357 East Capitol Street, SE, WDC 20003  
202-546-1885 ✦ [www.hscchurch.org](http://www.hscchurch.org)  
Rev. Msgr. Charles Pope, Pastor

If you want to know more about our parish community or are interested in joining, contact us at [hscstaff@hscchurch.org](mailto:hscstaff@hscchurch.org) or call 202-546-1885.

**Mass Schedule:** Monday thru Friday at 7am (Chapel)  
Saturday 8am (Chapel) and 4:30pm (Vigil)  
Sunday 8am, 11am, and 7pm

**Office Hours:** Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri, 9am—8pm;  
Thursday, 9am—5pm;  
Saturday, 9am—1pm; and,  
Sunday, 9am—2pm.

For information on sacraments and funerals call the rectory office.  
Follow us on Social Media: Fr. Pope's Blog: [blog.adw.org](http://blog.adw.org)

