

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings This Weekend:

Dt 18:15-20 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 Mark 1:21-28

Readings Next Weekend:

Job 7:1-7 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23 Mark 1:29-39



In today's Gospel we have a portrait of powerful preaching. Now the thing about powerful preaching is that it can make you mad, or sad, or glad, but it will not leave you unaffected. Let's look at three aspects of Jesus' preaching. First, it is **PERSONAL**. The text says that people were astonished at Jesus' teaching for he taught them as one having authority. The Greek work for authority is "exousia" meaning to speak out of one's own being or substance. Powerful preaching and teaching is when the preacher, or you, or I, go beyond merely quoting others or reciting texts and sayings, to speaking out of our own first hand experience and life. We do not make up our own religion (God forbid), but we are able to say that, in my own life I have come to see and experience as true what the Church has always proclaimed. Next, note that Jesus' preaching was **PROVOCATIVE**. For as he preaches, a man troubled with a demon is affected and the demon trembles. And so it is that good preaching should call forth repentance where necessary, should awaken in us a need for healing, should at times make us mad and sad. Yet again, note that Jesus' preaching was **POWERFUL**. By his preaching Jesus awakens the demon and drives it out. And thus, here comes the glad. For, having been set free, not only is the man glad, but so too is the whole congregation. Pray for personal, provocative and powerful preachers.

FUNERAL: Malika James (Mon., Feb. 5th)

† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

Sunday, January 28
 8:00am Lillian Yates † (birthday)
 11:00am Claude Thompkins, Jr. (birthday)
 7:00pm Martin Paczynski †
Monday, January 29
 7:00am For the intentions of Anthony Colbert
Tuesday, January 30
 7:00am For the intentions of Elizabeth Butler
Wednesday, January 31 *Saint John Bosco, Priest*
 7:00am For the People
Thursday, February 1
 7:00am Theresa West Point †
Friday, February 2 *The Presentation of the Lord*
 7:00am Tyrone Michael Armstrong †
Saturday, February 3 *Sts Blaise, Bishop & Martyr; and Ansgar, Bishop*
 8:00am John Parker (birthday-Feb. 2)
 4:30pm Jeraldine Smith †

If you'd like to place a Mass intention, call the rectory at 202-546-1885.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday: 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13 Mark 5:1-20
Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14, 24-25, 30-19:3 Mark 5:21-43
Wednesday: 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17 Mark 6:1-6
Thursday: 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12 Mark 6:7-13
Friday: Mal 3:1-4 Heb 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40
Saturday: 1 Kings 3:4-13 Mark 6:30-34

Music Schedule

Processional
 * A Mighty Fortress Is Our God LMGM #556
 ** In the Beauty of Holiness LMGM #456
Responsorial Psalm
 If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts
Offertory
 * Praise Him! LMGM #446
 ** Aint' A That Good News arr G. Stewart
Communion
 Blest Are They LMGM #602
Post Communion
 ** Total Praise LMGM #457
Recessional
 A Follower of Christ LMGM #628
 * 8:00am Ms. Ruby Robertson, Cantor—George Stewart, Music Director
 ** 11:00am Church Choir—George Stewart, Music Director

Mass Attendance for Jan. 21, 2018

4:30pm	45
8:00am	118
11:00am	294
7:00pm	113
Total:	570

Stewardship Report 2017—2018

Actual Tithes Collected (1/21)	\$16,034
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2018 CARDINAL'S APPEAL BEGINS: As in past years, the theme of the Appeal is **"Seek First the Kingdom of God."** (Matthew 6:33). As we seek first the Kingdom of God, we have the capability of helping it to be present in our lives and in the lives of those around us through our works of charity, our works of love, our works of compassion. Contributions to the Cardinal's Appeal offers each of us the opportunity to respond to the needs of others by enabling ministries and services that touch thousands of lives. Please prayerfully consider a generous pledge to the 2018 Cardinal's Appeal. God bless you for your concern for your fellow man.

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Sunday (1/28) 9:30am RCIA 9:30am Sunday School 2:00pm St. Thomas Aux #64 7:00pm Mass 8:00pm AA	Wednesday (1/31) 11:00am Friendly Seniors 6:30pm Liturgical Dance 7:00pm Bible Study
Monday (1/29) 8:00pm YAM Bible Study	Friday (2/2) 6:00pm First Friday Holy Hour
Tuesday (1/30) 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 7:00pm Adult Choir	Saturday (2/3) 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.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PARISH LIFE

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION AND DISASTER RELIEF:

This year, our Christmas collection is devoted to hurricane victims in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Diocese of St. Thomas is the sister diocese of our own Archdiocese of Washington. Bishop Brevard is well known to our parish and has celebrated several confirmations for our youth. They have indicated that there is still much damage and suffering due to the two hurricanes. We'd like to send a generous donation to our fellow citizens in the U.S. Virgin Islands so we are asking you to donate, if you have not done so, to the Christmas collection. All funds will be given directly to the diocese of St. Thomas. Please write "Christmas Collection" in the memo of your check or use a Christmas Collection envelope located in the rear of the church.



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION: All parishioners are invited to attend a wonderful opportunity to gather together and reflect in quiet prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on **Fri., Feb. 2nd, from 6—7pm.**

Come spend some quality time with Jesus in the church for a Eucharistic Holy Hour.



RECTORY OFFICE HOURS CHANGING:

Due to staff changes, starting **Wed., Feb. 7th**, the Rectory Office will close on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 5pm. All other office hours will remain the same.

SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT—All men are welcome to the Loyola Retreat House on **June 29—July 1, 2018** for an overnight retreat. Father Cornelius Ejiogu, S.S.J., will facilitate the retreat on the theme: "*A Rock in a Weary Land*". Rev. Msgr. Charles Pope, will celebrate the Vigil Mass on Saturday. The retreat is presented by the HCSC Holy Name Society in partnership with Saint Luke Church. Stay tuned for more details.

IS GOD CALLING YOU to the DIACONATE? Come and See! The Office of Permanent Diaconate Formation of the Archdiocese of Washington will begin a new cycle of recruitment and preparation of men for the diaconate. Permanent Deacons are ordained clergy who have received the sacrament of Holy Orders. Come and learn about the diaconate at an information session on **Wed., Feb. 7th, 7—9pm** (St. Josephs, Largo, MD) or **Thurs., Feb 15th, 7—9pm** (St. John the Evangelist, Clinton, MD). Other dates are also available. RSVP to Diane Biggs at 301-853-5345 or biggsd@adw.org and to find out about other dates. Also visit adw.org/permanent-deacons.

Important

END OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTION (Tithing) STATEMENTS will be available **ONLY UPON REQUEST.** Statements will not be automatically mailed. You must contact the rectory by phone (202-546-

1885) or email (hscstaff@hscchurch.org) to request your 2017 statement. You can have your statement mailed or left at the rectory for pick-up. Statements will be available no sooner than Feb. 5th. **NOTE:** only cash donations (submitted in an envelope) and checks payable to Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian are included in your statement. Loose cash (not in an envelope) cannot be reflected on your statement.

Youth Ministry News

Nicki Gebrehiwot, Director of Youth Ministry

202-546-1885 ext. 25 (voicemail) ♦ youthdirector@hscchurch.org

SAVE THE DATE: HCSC YOUTH RETREAT on March 17-18, at the Msgr. O'Dwyer Retreat House. Youth in grades 1—12 are invited to participate. Stay tuned for registration details.

VIRTUS TRAINING: If you are an adult and are interested in working with the youth in our parish, you must enroll and attend a workshop on child protection. This workshop is facilitated by the Archdiocese of Washington and HCSC will host a workshop on **Sat., Feb. 3rd at 9:30am** in the rectory basement. If interested in attending or if you have any questions, contact Shirley Austin on 202-368-7231 or at: mre@hscchurch.org.

HCSC Young Adult Ministry YAM@hscchurch.org

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



CELEBRATING AFRICAN—AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

HONORING UNKNOWN ENSLAVED MEN & WOMEN:



Commemorative plaques honoring unknown enslaved men and women buried in Archdiocese of Washington cemeteries will be blessed and dedicated at a Mass and ceremony sponsored by the ADW Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach, **Sat., Feb. 3rd, at 5:15pm** at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Mass celebrant will be Cardinal Donald Wuerl.

National Day of Prayer for the African-American and African Family is Sun., Feb. 4th—This is the 30th anniversary of this event which was founded in 1989 by Fr. Jim Goode, OFM. The theme is "Share the Journey". This is a special opportunity for the universal Catholic church to join in solidarity and pray for the needs of our African-American and African brothers and sisters and their families. A resource aid for this occasion contains a prayer composed by Fr. Goode, suggested activities to celebrate the day, and a catechetical reflection by Therese Wilson Favors, former Director of the Office of African-American Catholic Ministries for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. This resource aid can be found at: solidgroundministry.com.

PARISH CONNECTIONS: Visit our Parish-related social media links, websites and apps to help spread the word:

- ♦ Parish Website: www.hscchurch.org
- ♦ Fr. Pope's Sermons online: www.frpope.com
- ♦ Fr. Pope's Blog: <http://blog.adw.org>
- ♦ **NEW!!** HCSC App: myParishapp.com
- ♦ Follow us on social media

