

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Readings This Weekend:**

Zep 2:3; 3:12-13      1 Cor 1:26-31      Matthew 5:1-12

**Readings Next Weekend:**

Isaiah 58:7-10      1 Corinthians 2:1-5      Matthew 5:13-16



In today's Gospel we hear the "Beatitudes" ... "Blessed are the poor in spirit the reign of God is theirs ..." and so forth. Now the word, "Blessed" or the word "Beatitude" deserves a little attention. The Greek word which is used throughout the beatitudes which we commonly translate "blessed" is makariois which also translates as "happy." But it is not just an emotional or passing happiness. It is an enduring happiness. It is a happiness independent of conditions. One can be in this state of happiness even in the midst of great struggle and hardship. Now, this understanding of the Greek word as a kind of serene and enduring happiness helps us to understand that the beatitudes are in many ways very topsy-turvy, very paradoxical. Happy are those who mourn? Happy are those persecuted for holiness' sake? Happy are the insulted and slandered for the sake of Christ? It all seems a little strange. And yet, that is precisely the point. Our happiness is not rooted in the passing values and norms of the world. The happiness of the world comes and goes. But our true happiness is rooted in doing God's will, in experiencing His life in us. That is why the martyrs could go to their deaths praising the Lord and in great happiness. So, viewed with the eyes of faith, these beatitudes are not topsy-turvy at all. In fact, they make great sense. And we only have to experience them one by one to know that.

**† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †**

**Sunday, January 29**  
 8:00am For the intentions of Fr. Michael Bryant  
 11:00am Mary Alice Baltimore †  
 7:00pm For the People  
**Monday, January 30**  
 7:00am Alice H. Williams (birthday)  
**Tuesday, January 31** *Saint John Bosco, Priest*  
 7:00am William & Janie Hawkins (65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniv)  
**Wednesday, February 1**  
 7:00am For mothers and babies at risk of abortion  
**Thursday, February 2** *The Presentation of the Lord*  
 7:00am John Parker (birthday)  
**Friday, February 3** *St Blaise, Bishop/Martyr; St Ansgar, Bishop*  
 7:00am For the Intentions of Fr. James Bradley  
**Saturday, February 4**  
 8:00am Mary Hunt †  
 4:30pm Lula Marshall Richards †

**MASS INTENTIONS:** It is a spiritual work of mercy to pray for others, both living and deceased. To offer a Mass for a friend or family, call 202-546-1885. Note that dates fill in quickly. The customary donation is \$5 per intention.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

**Monday:** Hebrews 11:32-40      Mark 5:1-20  
**Tuesday:** Hebrews 12:1-4      Mark 5:21-43  
**Wednesday:** Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15      Mark 6:1-6  
**Thursday:** Mal 3:1-4      Hebrews 2:14-18      Luke 2:22-40  
**Friday:** Hebrews 13:1-8      Mark 6:14-29  
**Saturday:** Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21      Mark 6:30-34



**HOPE AFTER ABORTION: Day of Prayer and Healing for Men.** Have you been impacted by abortion or do you know a man who lost a child through abortion?

Did you pressure someone or were you both pressured to abort? Were you against the abortion? On **Sat., Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>** from **9am-5pm**, Project Rachel Ministry of the Archdiocese of Washington is sponsoring an **Entering Canaan Men's Day of Prayer and Healing: Addressing Issues Unique to Men.** For more information, call **Project Rachel Ministry (301-982-2008)** or email: **hope@adw.org**. Location and contacts are confidential due to the personal nature of this experience.

**Mass Attendance for Jan. 22, 2017**

4:30pm	58
8:00am	126
11:00am	280
7:00pm	107
<b>Total:</b>	<b>571</b>

**Stewardship Report 2016—2017**

Weekly Budget Amount Needed	\$16,346
Actual Tithes Collected (1/22)	\$19,485
Actual Surplus (+)	+ \$3,139

**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, it's FREE** and it's a secure, convenient way to support your parish community. Enrollment forms are 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). Call Kim Peaks at the rectory office for more information.

**THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH**

<b>Sunday (1/29)</b> 9:30am RCIA 9:30am Sunday School 7:00pm Mass 8:00pm AA	<b>Wednesday (2/1)</b> 11:00am Friendly Seniors 6:30pm Liturgical Dance 7:00pm Bible Study
<b>Monday (1/30)</b> 8:00pm YAM Bible Study	<b>Friday (2/3)</b> 6:30pm First Friday Holy Hour
<b>Tuesday (1/31)</b> 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 7:00pm Adult Choir	<b>Saturday (2/4)</b> 10:00am Liturgical Dance 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



**FAREWELL & CONGRATULATIONS TO FR. JAMES BRADLEY:** Please join Fr. Bradley on **Thur., Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm** to celebrate a Solemn Mass at HCSC for Candlemas. This will be his final celebration with us before returning to his new assignment as Pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church in South Hampton, England. He is also receiving his doctorate in Canon Law from Catholic University.

**BLESSING OF THROATS:** Msgr. Pope will celebrate the Saint Blaise Mass for blessing of throats **Fri., Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7am** in the chapel, **12 noon** in the church, and at the **First Friday Adoration at 6pm**.



**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., Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6—7pm**. Both the **Music and Usher Ministries** will host. Come spend some quality time with Jesus in the church for a Eucharistic Holy Hour.

**AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM:** *"The Journey: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"* **Sun., Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>** at the school, **following 11am Mass**. Join us for a light meal and a celebration of African American History. RSVP to the rectory office is required. Stay tuned for info.

**LADIES OF CHARITY**—would like to thank all who supported and assisted with their Christmas Bake Sale last month. Also, a special thank you to their chairperson, Gracie Harris, for her dedication to their effort of giving. A host of charitable organizations received funds from this annual fund raiser.

**FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS:** Monsignor Pope is encouraging parishioners to commit to First Saturday devotions from March thru July. At the heart of this devotion is the Request of Our Lady, Mary, that we pray for the conversion of sinners and peace in the world. Your commitment involves attending 8am Mass in the church on the first Saturday of five consecutive months beginning **Sat., March 4<sup>th</sup>**. Your commitment also includes praying the rosary communally after that Mass and going to confession within the first week of each month. Please consider signing up and prayerfully assist in the conversion of souls! Monsignor will speak more on this commitment at Sunday Masses prior to March 4<sup>th</sup>. Flyers with more details on this devotion are available in the rear of the church.

**THE WORD AMONG US:** February issues are available in the Candlelight Store for \$2 each. 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!*

**SAINT ELIZABETH PROJECT:** The **Capitol Hill Pregnancy Center**, at 713 Maryland Ave., NE, **needs volunteers**. The Center especially welcomes those who can come one day a week to do light secretarial work (i.e., answer phones, type, and enter data). Please contact Mark Stricherz at 202.910.2720 or stricherz22@gmail.com

### Youth Ministry News

Nicki Gebrehiwot, Director of Youth Ministry  
202-546-1885 ext. 25 (voicemail) ♦ youthdirector@hscchurch.org

**ATTENTION!!! SAVE THE DATE!** The annual "Walk in the Light" Youth Retreat is **March 11-12, 2017**. **COST: \$125—**middle/high school (age 12+) **overnight; \$45—**elementary school (age 11 and under), **March 11<sup>th</sup>** (one day only). Registration fee includes transportation, meals, overnight accommodations at Camp Maria in Leonardtown, MD, and T-shirt. We are happy to report that Fr. Adam DeLeon will return as our retreat facilitator. Stay tuned for more details.

### HCSC Young Adult Ministry

YAM@hscchurch.org

**CATHOLIC DATE NIGHT:** the ADW Office of Family Life and Office of Young Adult Ministry are co-hosting "Catholic Date Night" for engaged and newly married couples. Catholic Date Night will meet monthly on Saturday nights from 6—7pm at Our Lady of Lourdes in downtown Bethesda, MD, on **Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, March 25<sup>th</sup>, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and May 13<sup>th</sup>**. These events are **FREE!** The night will begin with fellowship, free wine and cheese, prayer, and an inspiring talk on growing together in faith and love and focus on your relationship with one another with Christ in the center. **RSVP to: [www.dccatholic.eventbrite.com](http://www.dccatholic.eventbrite.com)**.



**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)! Check out the HCSC Young Adults Ministry on **Facebook** and follow us on Twitter at **HCSCYoungAdults!**

**FREE HEALTHCARE CLASSES**—for DC residents are now forming at United Medical Center. The University of the District of Columbia (UDC) Workforce Development Direct Healthcare programs is offering **FREE** personalized hands-on-training with specialist for: Certified Nursing Assistant; Dialysis Technician; EKG Technician; Medical Assistant; Patient Care Technician; Pharmacy Technician; and Phlebotomy Technician. For more information, call 202-574-6854 or email: [workforce@udc.edu](mailto:workforce@udc.edu).

**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 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) given at collection cannot be reflected on your statement.

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

- ♦ Parish Website: [www.hscchurch.org](http://www.hscchurch.org)
- ♦ Fr. Pope's Sermons online: [www.frpope.com](http://www.frpope.com)
- ♦ Fr. Pope's Blog: <http://blog.adw.org>
- ♦ **NEW!!** HCSC App: [myParishapp](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.hscchurch)

