

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Readings This Weekend:**

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10      James 5:7-10      Matthew 11:2-11

**Readings Next Weekend:**

Isaiah 7:10-14      Romans 1:1-7      Matthew 1:18-24



In today's Gospel the Lord teaches on the Glory of Grace and what it means to find the perfect gift. The Gospel opens with the **DISCOURAGEMENT** of John the Baptist. He sends his disciples to Jesus asking if Jesus is the Messiah or not. This is a strange question in that John has already declared to others that Jesus **IS** the Messiah. Now he seems to have his doubts. Perhaps this is because John was expecting a wrathful and dramatic coming of the Messiah who would lay the axe to the root of the tree and destroy the wicked. But Jesus isn't doing this sort of thing, so John has doubt and discouragement. But next notice the **DISCLOSURE** by Jesus. He discloses God's plan to John, and us, and shows that he is in fact fulfilling Scripture as the blind see, the deaf hear, lepers are cleansed, the dead are raised and the poor hear the good news. John, and us, must come to accept God's ways, which are not always our ways. Judgment will come, but not before God offers the gift of grace to everyone. Jesus then gives the **DIRECTIVE** that we not be offended that he chooses to show mercy and give grace before the Judgment. Even John the Baptist, the greatest man born of woman is going to need this Grace. For great though he is in human terms, the least born into the Kingdom is greater than he. The greatest gift, the perfect gift, is grace. This Christmas, find the perfect gift, grace, and help others to do the same.



**THANK YOU** to the HCSC parishioners who participated in the Proverbs 24 Witness event at the Planned Parenthood clinic last Saturday. We are thankful to the parish of St. Peter's Church on Capitol Hill who hosted. We had a special surprise as Dr. Alveda King (*niece of Dr. Martin Luther King*) was also present. She greeted our group and sang a hymn (How Great Thou Art) with us. Dr. King is the Director of Civil Rights for the Unborn and the African American Outreach of Priests for Life and an avid supporter or pro-life.

Our parish will host the next Witness event on **Sat., Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-12:30noon**. Please consider joining the Proverbs 24 community in support of life from conception to death. **We need** parishioners to *Witness Pray and Serve*. Visit our website at [www.hcscchurch.org](http://www.hcscchurch.org) for information on how you can participate and support.

**Mass Attendance for Dec. 4, 2016**

4:30pm	60
8:00am	131
11:00am	280
7:00pm	130
<b>Total:</b>	<b>601</b>

**Stewardship Report 2016—2017**

Weekly Budget Amount Needed	\$16,346
Actual Tithes Collected (12/4)	\$19,217
Actual Surplus (+)	+ \$2,871

**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. Envelopes are available in the rear of the Church or the rectory office. Thank you!

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday, December 11** *Third Sunday of Advent*  
 8:00am For the intentions of Gary McPherson, Sr.  
 11:00am For the intentions of James "Pete" Duckett  
 7:00pm Analisa Smith-Perez †  
**Monday, December 12** *Our Lady of Guadalupe*  
 7:00am For the intentions of Lorenza Robinson  
**Tuesday, December 13** *Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr*  
 7:00am For the intentions of our Sick & Homebound  
**Wednesday, December 14** *St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of Church*  
 7:00am James L. Outtz † (birthday)  
**Thursday, December 15**  
 7:00am For the People  
**Friday, December 16**  
 7:00am For the intentions of Arnold Macon  
**Saturday, December 17**  
 8:00am Ernestine Jackson † (birthday)  
 4:30pm For the intentions of Patricia Jackson

*To place a Mass intention, please call 202-546-1885*

**THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH**

<b>Sunday (12/11)</b> 9:30am Holy Name Society mtg 9:30am RCIA 9:30am Sunday School 1:00pm Pageant rehearsal 7:00pm Mass 8:00pm AA	<b>Wednesday (12/14)</b> 6:30pm Soup & Scripture 6:30pm Liturgical Dance
<b>Monday (12/12)</b> 6:30pm Parish Council mtg 7:00pm Adult Choir 8:00pm YAM Bible Study	<b>Thursday (12/15)</b> 6:30PM Knights of Columbus
<b>Tuesday (12/13)</b> 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 7:00pm Adult Choir	<b>Saturday (12/17)</b> 10:00am Brunch with St. Nick 4:30pm Mass

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

<b>Monday:</b> Zechariah 2:14-17	Luke 1:46-38
<b>Tuesday:</b> Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13	Matthew 21:28-32
<b>Wednesday:</b> Isaiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-25	Luke 7:18-23
<b>Thursday:</b> Isaiah 54:1-10	Luke 7:24-30
<b>Friday:</b> Isaiah 56:1-3, 6-8	John 5:33-36
<b>Saturday:</b> Genesis 49:2, 8-10	Matthew 1:1-17

**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.*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### PARISH LIFE



**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Jacob Savoy Mitchell** was baptized into the family of Jesus Christ on December 4<sup>th</sup>. May God bless him in his journey of faith.

**YOUTH SUNDAY THIS WEEKEND:** Every second Sunday we celebrate our parish youth at the 11am Mass. We invite our youth to sit together in the pews in front of the clergy. Parents are welcome to sit with their children.

**ATTENTION LECTORS:** Your personalized copy of the **2017 Workbook for Lectors** is available in the sacristy. Please pick up your copy after Mass. Take only your copy.



**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** If you would like to include a loved one on the "In Memory/Honor of..." list included in the Christmas Mass program, return your Christmas Flower offering envelope no later than **Sun., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>** to the rectory. Envelopes are available in your envelope package or from any usher. **PLEASE PRINT ALL NAMES!**



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO DECORATE OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS: Sun., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> after 11am Mass.** With many helping hands, we can accomplish this in a short time. Refreshments will be served! Contact Kim Peaks at 202-546-1885.

**LADIES OF CHARITY ANNUAL BAKE SALE** is **Sun., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>** after the 8am and 11am Masses in the rectory basement. Come and purchase homemade baked goods and gifts while supporting this ministry's charitable efforts.

**CHRISTMAS GIFT SALE:** The Oblate Sisters of Providence (OSP) Alumnae Association will be selling Christmas cards and other gift items after Mass **Sun., Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>**. All proceeds benefit the OSP.

### ADVENT 2016

**ADVENT SOUP & SCRIPTURE** on **Wed., Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>** with a light meal at 6:30pm followed by bible study at 7pm. Msgr. Pope will lead bible study, **"Running to Meet the Lord"** based on the Song of Songs book of the bible. Open to all.



**GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT "ADVENT" TREE:** It is not too late to make your contribution to our Advent food drive for the needy. You can still take an ornament off the Advent tree and bring it to the rectory **no later than noon Mon., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>**. **VOLUNTEERS** are needed to help pack and distribute the food baskets on Dec. 16, 17 & 20. Call the rectory office at 202-546-1885 for info. Thank you.

**FIND THE PERFECT GIFT ADVENT CAMPAIGN:** Christmas celebrates the Perfect Gift of God's love in Jesus, and Advent is the time when we prepare our hearts to welcome this gift. This week, take time out of the busyness of the season to slow down and reflect on the miracle of God becoming man. After some quiet reflection, share your joy and inspiration with someone you love or on social media to spread the Perfect Gift of Jesus this Christmas season. Visit [FindthePerfectGift.org](http://FindthePerfectGift.org) to find Christmas resources and Mass times across the Archdiocese of Washington.

### Youth Ministry News

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

**YOUTH PAGEANT REHEARSAL** for **"The King is Coming!!!"** after 11am Mass in the church. To participate, contact the Youth Director. Adults are also needed!

**BRUNCH WITH SAINT NICHOLAS** for youth of all ages. **Sat., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 10—12:00 noon**, at the school. Come listen to Christmas music and learn the true story of this 4<sup>th</sup> century saint. Arts and crafts provided for younger children. **COST: a canned food item for the HCSC food pantry**

**NEWSLETTER:** If you've participated in a **Faith-In-Action** activity, please share your experience in an article for the Youth Newsletter. Also, if you **celebrate a birthday** during October, November or December and would like it posted in the Youth Newsletter, please contact the Youth Director.

### 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!**

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

**MEN OF HCSC!!** You are invited to the Holy Name Society's Annual Men's Retreat at **Loyola on the Potomac, Jan. 6—8, 2017**, facilitated by Deacon Timothy Tilghman. Special rates for first-time attendees and men up to age 30. Cost covers room, meals, and facilitator. Contact Richard Bennett: [hcscholyname@gmail.com](mailto:hcscholyname@gmail.com) or call 202-436-0425

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS:** Looking for an extra gift? Pick up **"Christmas, The Mystery and The Wonder"** an illustrated book of poems depicting the birth of Jesus, by Michael E. Russell (a member of St. Thomas More parish). **COST: \$10** in the Candle Light Store. *Limited supply!*

### 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)

