

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Readings This Weekend:**

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-16      Romans 16:25-27      Luke 1:26-38

**Readings Next Weekend:**

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14      Colossians 3:12-21      Luke 2:22-40



Notice in this Gospel today several stages that in some ways remind us of a Mass. First, there is **Procession**. Mary proceeds in haste to be with her cousin Elizabeth. And when they gather, there is **Praise!** Mary and Elizabeth are having church. Then there is **Proclamation**: word that is exchanged. Mary's word of greeting does not merely convey her voice, with Jesus in her womb the presence of God accompanies her voice and Elizabeth is filled with joy. During Sunday service, when the presence of the Lord is in the lector, the deacon and the preacher you know that not only are they speaking, but also God, and you are filled with joy! Then, comes **Perception**. Elizabeth understands that Mary is Mother of the Lord and carries in her the Lord Jesus. John also leaps for joy, recognizing Christ. At Mass we too fall to our knees with joy as the priest says, "Behold the Lamb of God" and we recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread. So, in today's Gospel, there's just a little Mass going on, just havin' a little Church up in there.



**Sunday, December 21** *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

4:30pm (Sat) Eric Jackson, Sr. †  
 8:00am Mary Plater Gordon (100<sup>th</sup> birthday—12/23)  
 11:00am Intentions of the McPherson Family  
 7:00pm For the People

**Monday, December 22**

7:00am Bonnie Singletary †

**Tuesday, December 23** *Saint John of Kanty, Priest*

7:00am Intentions of Aaron S. Brown

**Wednesday, December 24**

7:00am Intentions of Ruby L. Roberts  
 6:00pm Intentions of Candis & Mark Stretcher

**Thursday, December 25** *The Nativity of the Lord*

12:00am Rita Shorter †  
 10:00am Cheryl Walker Ross †

**Friday, December 26** *Saint Stephen, The First Martyr*

7:00am Intentions of Melvin H. Lowry

**Saturday, December 27** *Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist*

8:00am James O. Neale (birthday) †  
 4:30pm William & Catherine Miles †

**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:** 1 Samuel 1:24-28      Luke 1:46-56  
**Tuesday:** Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24      Luke 1:57-66  
**Wednesday:** Is 62:1-5      Acts 13:16-25      Matthew 1:1-25  
**Thursday:** Isaiah 52:7-10      Hebrews 1:1-6      John 1:1-18  
**Friday:** Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59      Matthew 10:17-22  
**Saturday:** 1 John 1:1-4      John 20:1, 2-8

**Music Schedule**

**Processional**  
 "We Must Work"      LMGM #642  
**Responsorial Psalm**  
 "Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord"  
**Gospel Acclamation**  
 "Alleluia!"  
**Offertory**  
 \* "Come O Long Expected Jesus"      LMGM #238  
 \*\* "When Jesus Comes Again"      arr. by K. Louis  
**Communion**  
 "Emmanuel"      arr. by K. Louis  
 \* 8:00am Ruby Robertson, Cantor—Gwen Myles, Music Associate  
 \*\* 11:00am Church Choir

**Mass Attendance for December 14, 2014**

4:30pm      53  
 8:00am      131  
 11:00am      230  
 7:00pm      54  
**Total:**      468

**Stewardship Report 2014—2015**

|                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Weekly Budget Amount Needed     | \$16,346 |
| Actual Tithes Collected (12/14) | \$15,226 |
| Actual Deficit (-)              | -\$1,120 |



**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. 21<sup>st</sup>** to the rectory. Envelopes are in your envelope pack or available from any usher. **PLEASE PRINT ALL NAMES!**

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**—Our school roof needs to be replaced and we will incur some debt to make the repair to our building. Your generosity to the Christmas collection will allow us to replenish our Maintenance/Repair Account used for building upkeep. Please use your Christmas collection envelope to support this effort. Envelopes also available in the rear of the church. Thank you.

**THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Sunday (12/21)</b><br>7:45am Ladies of Charity Bake Sale<br>9:30am Sunday School<br>9:30am RCIA<br>7:00pm Mass<br>8:00pm AA | <b>Wednesday (12/24)</b><br>3:00pm <b>Rectory Closes Early</b><br>6:00pm Family Mass<br>11:00pm Song Service & Mass |
| <b>Monday (12/22)</b><br>7:00pm Adult Choir<br>8:00pm YAM Bible Study  | <b>Thursday (12/25)</b><br><b>Rectory Closed</b><br>10:00am Mass  |
| <b>Tuesday (12/23)</b><br>6:30pm Youth Ensemble<br>7:00pm Adult Choir  | <b>Friday (12/26)</b><br><b>Rectory Closed</b><br>8:00pm NA   |
|  | <b>Saturday (12/27)</b><br>S.O.M.E. (off-site)<br>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.*

**PARISH LIFE**

**HOLIDAY CLOSINGS**

**RECTORY OFFICE**—will close early on **Wed., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** at 3pm, and remain closed through **Fri., Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>**.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**—will not be held on **Sun., Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>**. Classes will resume Sunday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SUN., DEC. 21<sup>st</sup> at 1PM TO DECORATE OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS**—With many helping hands, we can accomplish this in a short time. Refreshments will be served! Please remain in the sanctuary after Mass.

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO MARY VELMA PLATER GORDON**—who will celebrate her **100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Tues., Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>**. May the Lord continue to bless and keep her in his love and care.



**SOLEMN LATIN HIGH MASS**—for Epiphany celebrated **Tues., Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:30pm**. You are encouraged to experience this Mass featuring Gregorian chant and choral singing as it was celebrated for over 1000 years.

**CHRISTMAS TV MASS**—will be celebrated by Donald Cardinal Wuerl on **Wed., Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> at noon** and televised from the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

**ADVENT 2014**

**FIND THE PERFECT GIFT ADVENT CAMPAIGN**—Is there someone in your life who has been away from Church for a while or may not have a place to celebrate faith this Christmas? Christmas Mass is a beautiful moment to help others reconnect to the Catholic faith and many people are waiting for a personal invitation from someone like you! Visit [FindthePerfectGift.org](http://FindthePerfectGift.org) to find Christmas events and Christmas Mass times across the Archdiocese of Washington!

**WINTER COAT DRIVE**—The Knights of Columbus in conjunction with Catholic Charities is holding a coat drive for the needy. Bring your clean/gently used winter coats and drop in the barrel in the vestibule. All coats are appreciated but **XL** coats are especially needed.

Christmas Mass Schedule

**Family Mass and Youth Pageant**  
6:00pm Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

**Midnight Mass**  
Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
(Music Service begins at 11:00pm—doors open at 10:30pm)

**Christmas Day Mass**  
10:00am Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

**Watch Night Mass**  
11:15pm Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

**Mass on New Year's Day (Solemnity of Mary)**  
10:00am Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

Parking is available on the school lot on 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
**DO NOT DOUBLE-PARK OR IN REAR OF RECTORY!**

**Youth Ministry News**

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

**YOUTH VOLUNTEERS for S.O.M.E.**—The Youth Ministry will perform its monthly community service at S.O.M.E., Inc. on **Sat., Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>**, from **10am until 1pm** at 71 "O" St., NW. Any youth age 13 or older interested in volunteering, contact Youth Director.

**SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL YOUTH RALLY & MASS FOR LIFE**—at the Verizon Center **Thur., Jan. 22, 2015**. There is a limited number of tickets for youth for the event. Please contact the Youth Director for further information.

**HCSC Young Adult Ministry**

**Paula Lancaster/Felicia Miller ♦ [YAM@hscchurch.org](mailto:YAM@hscchurch.org)**

**Caring for Our Homeless**—Join us on **Tues., Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm** in the rectory as we pack bagged meals to deliver to the homeless on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>. Light refreshments served.

**YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY**—meets every Monday evening at 8pm in the rectory. For info contact Stephanie Keene at [sakeene@gmail.com](mailto:sakeene@gmail.com).

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** or on **Twitter #HCSCYoungAdults!**

**SAVE THE DATE: 2015 MASS CELEBRATING REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**—The annual concert and liturgy celebrating the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is **Sat., Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, at 3pm** at Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Church. The concert features the Archdiocese of Washington Mass Gospel Choir directed by our own Mr. Kenneth Louis. Donald Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, is celebrant and homilist for the 4:30pm Mass.

**S.O.M.E. (So Others Might Eat): Volunteers Needed**—HCSC parishioners are invited to help prepare and/or distribute meals at S.O.M.E. located at 71 "O" St., NW, on **Sat., Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>**. Your cooked chicken is desperately needed (see flyer for recipe and info). Drop off your non-frozen chicken to the rectory by 7pm. on **Tues., Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>**.



**2015 HCSC PILGRIMAGE TO PORTUGAL, SPAIN and FRANCE**—HCSC parishioners are planning a 10-day pilgrimage in October of 2015. If you are interested in participating in the experience contact Deborah Vanzego at 202-277-1823 or [DVanzego@cmht.com](mailto:DVanzego@cmht.com).

**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, call the rectory at 202-546-1885 or [hscstaff@hscchurch.org](mailto:hscstaff@hscchurch.org).

**Mass Schedule:** Monday thru Friday at 7:00am (Chapel)  
Saturday at 8:00am (Chapel) and 4:30pm  
Sunday at 8:00am, 11:00am, and 7:00pm  
**Office Hours:** Monday thru Wednesday, 9:00am—8:00pm, Thursday, 9:00am-5:00pm; Friday, 9:00am-8:00pm; Saturday, 9:00am—1:00pm; and Sunday, 9:00am—2:00pm.

For information on sacraments & funerals call the rectory office.  
Follow us on Facebook! Fr. Pope's Blog: <http://blog.adw.org>