

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Readings This Weekend:

Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-6 John 1:1-18

Readings Next Weekend:

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



In the Christmas story, there is something of the humor of God evident, if we have eyes to see it. Consider the shepherds in the field. Suddenly they are overwhelmed by an army of angels in the heaven. The text says they are struck with fear. And so, one of the angels says to them: "Do not be afraid for I Proclaim to you news of great joy!" The angel goes on to describe the birth of the Messiah and Lord Jesus and then says, "And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a feed box" (which is what a manger is). Now again, think of those terrified shepherds hearing this. And then, after an awkward pause, one shepherd says to another, "Did that angel say, 'lying in a feed box?'" And the other shepherd says, "Yep." It's sort of funny and anti-climatic. But God is so humble that he is willing to be found in a lowly feed box for animals. How crazy is that and yet how perfect. For Jesus is the bread of life, and feeds us with his flesh and blood. There he is, in a town called "House of Bread" which is what "Bethlehem" means, and he is lying in a food trough. Here is the humor and the humility of our God all wrapped up in one. Christian, recognize your God with a smile.



FROM DEACON KEVIN AND LIZ BUTLER: Liz reports that the Deacon's health is improving and they

would like to express their appreciation for all the prayers and well wishes offered by each HCSC parishioner and ministry on behalf of the Deacon's recovery.

† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

Sunday, December 25 *Nativity of the Lord*
10:00am Chauncey Jones † (birthday)
Monday, December 26 *Saint Stephen, The First Martyr*
8:00am William Robert Hawkins, Jr. † (birthday)
Tuesday, December 27 *Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist*
7:00am James O. Neale † (birthday)
Wednesday, December 28 *The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*
7:00am James Edelin (birthday-Dec. 29th)
Thursday, December 29 *St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr*
7:00am Jimmie Claire Walker (birthday)
Friday, December 30 *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*
7:00am Analisa Smith-Perez †
Saturday, December 31 *St. Sylvester 1st, Pope*
8:00am Cora Campbell (birthday-Dec. 30th)
4:30pm Fr. James Bradley (birthday-Jan. 4th)
11:15pm For the People

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: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Matthew 10:17-22
Tuesday: 1 John 1:1-4 John 20:1-8
Wednesday: 1 John 1:5—2:2 Matthew 2:13-18
Thursday: 1 John 2:3-11 Luke 2:22-35
Friday: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
Saturday: 1 John 2:18-21 John 1:1-18



PROVERBS 24 "WITNESS-PRAYSERVE 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 12th with our first witness event. The next scheduled event is Sat., Jan. 14th from **10:30am–12:30pm** at **Holy Comforter-St. 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@hscchurch.org.

Mass Attendance for Dec. 18, 2016

4:30pm	39
8:00am	97
11:00am	270
7:00pm	106
Total:	512

Stewardship Report 2016—2017

Weekly Budget Amount Needed	\$16,346
Actual Tithes Collected (12/18)	\$9,088
Actual Deficit (-)	-\$7,528

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. (**HCSC church code: DC59**). For more information, call Kim Peaks at the rectory office (202-546-1885).

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Sunday (12/25) 10:00am Mass 8:00pm AA RECTORY CLOSED	Thursday (12/29) RECTORY CLOSED
Monday (12/26) 8:00am Mass RECTORY CLOSED	Saturday (12/30) 4:30pm Mass 11:00pm Watch Night 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.

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

PARISH LIFE

RECTORY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Rectory closed Sun., Dec. 25th & Mon., Dec., 26th. The office will re-open Tues., Dec. 27th.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL is closed until January 8, 2017.


HCSC CHURCH TOUR: Sun., January 8th 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.

LEARN ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH: Classes will begin Sun., Jan. 8th at 9:30am in the rectory for those interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. These classes are especially intended for non-Catholics who are interested in becoming Catholic. This also includes adult Catholics who have missed receiving either First Holy Communion or Confirmation. This is your opportunity to inform relatives or friends who you know might benefit from these instructions and formation. Contact the rectory office at 202-546-1885 or hscstaff@hscchurch.org.

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.*

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: Your Christmas donation will benefit the HCSC Community Action Group (CAG) with furniture for their new building on 15th Street. CAG helps those suffering from addictions. Envelopes available in the rear of the Church or the rectory office. Thank you!

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

 **I'M NOT TEXTING, I'M PRAYING!** is the slogan for our very own app called *myParish*. With the myParish app you can receive parish messages, read bulletins, listen to homilies and much more. Enjoy useful faith-building resources such as, daily Mass readings, a full list of traditional Catholic prayers, and more. Visit MyParishApp.com to download to your phone.

New Year's Mass Schedule

Watch Night Mass

11:15pm Saturday, December 31st
(Note: There will be a 4:30pm Mass)

Mass on New Year's Day (Solemnity of Mary)

10am & 7pm Sunday, January 1st
(Note: There will not be an 8am, nor an 11am Mass)

Parking is available on the school lot on 15th 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

SAVE THE DATE: The annual "Walk in the Light Youth Retreat" is scheduled for **March 11-12, 2017** at Camp Maria. Stay tuned for details.

YOUTH NEWSLETTER: If you've participated in community service 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 ♦

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^{ish})! Check out the HCSC Young Adults Ministry on **Facebook** and follow us on Twitter at [HCSCYoungAdults!](https://twitter.com/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 (www.hscchurch.org) and in the Church. **Contact:** Debbie Vanzego at 202-408-4641 or dvanzego@cohenmilstein.com.



Please note that the choir's CD *"We Offer Praise"* is now available on popular download and streaming sites worldwide:

- ⇒ iTunes • <http://apple.co/2aOeJwY>
- ⇒ Amazon • <http://amzn.to/2axHd9x>
- ⇒ GooglePlay • <http://bit.ly/2aqflzz>
- ⇒ Spotify • <http://bit.ly/2aOmxix>

SAVE THE DATE: Free concert and liturgy celebrating the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington on **Sat., Jan. 14th** at **St. Thomas More**, 4275—4th St., SE.. Concert at 4pm, followed by Mass at 5pm.

Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Roman Catholic Church

1357 East Capitol Street, SE, WDC 20003
202-546-1885 ♦ 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 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

