

**HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

**Readings This Weekend:**

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

**Readings Next Weekend:**

Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-6 Matthew 2:1-12



It is the Feast of the Holy Family today and we ought to meditate on the central purpose of marriage and family which is the birth and raising of children. In recent decades we have seen a shift in this understanding. Most people today see the happiness of the couple as the central purpose of marriage. But God set forth marriage with this central mission: Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it (*Gen 1:28*). While the happiness of the couple may be a nice goal and something to hope for, we all know that happiness has its ups and downs in every aspect of life. In the "old days" parents were often known to "stick it out for the sake of the kids." This is because children need stability and a dedicated mother and father to form them best. Job #1 in the family is children and their well-being. Notice, therefore, in today's Gospel that, when Jesus' life is threatened by Herod, Joseph and Mary set everything else aside and go to Egypt. Joseph, when instructed to go there did not protest about his comfort or his career. The text says that Joseph arose that very night and took Jesus and Mary away from harm. He stayed in Egypt as long as required for Jesus' safety. It is clear that his vocation as (foster) father and husband had priority over his career and his business prospects. And thus we are taught to have the same priorities.

**FUNERAL:** John Ford, III (December 27<sup>th</sup>)

**† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †**

**Sunday, December 31** *Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

10:00am For the intentions of Carolyn Campbell

7:00pm For the intentions of Miriam Townsend-Edelen

11:00pm For the People

**Monday, January 1** *Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

10:00am For mothers and babies at risk of abortion

**Tuesday, January 2** *Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen*

7:00am Warren Harvey †

**Wednesday, January 3** *The Most Holy Name of Jesus*

7:00am Barbara V. Ketchum †

**Thursday, January 4** *Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious*

7:00am For the intentions of our Clergy

**Friday, January 5** *Saint John Neumann, Bishop*

7:00am Carroll Jackson †

**Saturday, January 6** *Saint André Bessette, Religious*

8:00am Clarence Thomas †

4:30pm John Ford, III †

**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:** Numbers 6:22-27

Luke 2:16-21

**Tuesday:** 1 John 2:22-28

John 1:19-28

**Wednesday:** 1 John 2:29—3:6

John 1:29-34

**Thursday:** 1 John 3:7-10

John 1:35-42

**Friday:** 1 John 3:11-21

John 1:43:51

**Saturday:** 1 John 5:5-13

Mark 1:7-11

**Music Schedule**

**Processional**

Joy to the World

LMGM #249

**Responsorial Psalm**

The Lord remembers his covenant forever

**Offertory**

Once in Royal David's City

LMGM #270

**Communion**

What Child Is This

LMGM #277

**Recessional**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

LMGM #253

Ruby Robertson, Cantor  
George Stewart, Music Director

**NOTE:** Due to the Christmas holiday, the publisher required early submission of the bulletin. Therefore, we will not post Stewardship or Mass Attendance data for the weekend of December 24<sup>th</sup> in this week's bulletin. Figures will be updated later.

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION:** If you have not made a donation yet, you still have time. This year our Christmas collection will be devoted to hurricane victims in the U.S. Virgin Islands. As many of you know the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands 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 youngsters. There is still much damage and suffering due to the two hurricanes. Please be generous so that we can in turn be generous to our fellow citizens in the U.S. Virgin Islands. All funds will be given to the diocese of St. Thomas. Envelopes are included with your tithing envelopes, or you can get an envelope in the rear of the church.

**THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH**

**Sunday (12/31)**

10:00am Holy Family Mass

7:00pm Mass

8:00pm AA

11:00pm Watch Night Mass

**Friday (1/5)**

6:00pm Holy Hour

**Saturday (1/6)**

9:30 RCIA Sponsors Trng

10:00am Liturgical Dance

4:30pm Mass

**Monday (1/1)**

10:00am Solemnity of Mary Mass

**RECTORY CLOSED**

**OUR PARISH CALENDAR IS ONLINE:** Visit our website at [www.hcscchurch.org](http://www.hcscchurch.org) for our parish calendar which lists scheduled events for the year. The parish calendar is continually updated so check back often for changes.

**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.*

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

### PARISH LIFE



**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY:** This feast was instituted by Pope Leo XIII in 1893. It is a liturgical celebration in the Catholic Church in honor of Jesus of Nazareth, his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and his foster father, Saint Joseph, as a family. The primary purpose of this feast is to present the Holy Family as a model for Christian families. This Roman Catholic religious festival falls on the first Sunday after Christmas. Although feast days exist for each member of the Holy Family—Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—the **Feast of the Holy Family** commemorates their life together, celebrates and focuses on religious family life.

### RECTORY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

**Mon., Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> RECTORY CLOSED**

**Tues., Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular office hours resume**

**RCIA SPONSORS ARE NEEDED**—for adults and children joining the Catholic church at our parish. Please consider volunteering to accompany those seeking the Sacraments of Initiation. See flyer in the rear of the church for more details and to register for the Sponsor Training on **Sat., Jan 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.**

**FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION:** Here is a wonderful opportunity to begin the new year in prayer. All parishioners are invited to gather together in the church on **Fri., Jan., 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6—7pm** and reflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Holy hour is offered as a time for you to sit in the presence of the Risen Lord and silently pray and reflect and let the Lord speak to you.

**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.**



**CALENDARS FOR 2018:** A variety of FREE 2018 calendars will be available after Mass in the rear of the church. Limited supply!

**ATTENTION LITURGICAL MINISTERS:** The January—February schedule has been distributed via e-mail (or mailed to those without internet access. The schedule is also posted on our website. Limited hard copies are available in the sacristy. Please remember that each minister is responsible for making arrangements for any changes to their assigned schedule.

### New Year's Mass Schedule

#### Watch Night Mass

11:15 PM Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

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

10:00 AM Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

This is a holy day of obligation

(Note: There will **not** be a 7am Mass)

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL resumes on January 7, 2018.**

**THANK YOU**—to all the youth and adults who participated in making our production of the play "**A Simple Pageantry**" a memorable Christmas event. Holiday blessings and love to each of you and your families.

➔ **SAVE THE DATES** ⬅

**YOUTH RALLY & MASS FOR LIFE: January 19, 2018** at the Capital One Arena. Join thousands of youth from all over the country as we gather for a rally and mass to promote life. The rally/mass will be followed by the **Annual March for Life** on the national mall. Stay tuned for more details or contact the youth director if you are interested.

**HCSC YOUTH RETREAT: March 17-18, 2018** at the Msgr. O'Dwyer Retreat House. Youth in grades 1—12 are invited to participate. Stay tuned for registration details.

### 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.

**END OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** will be prepared **only upon request** beginning **Mon., Feb. 5, 2018**. Statements will **not** be automatically mailed. You must contact the rectory during office hours to request your statement and have it either 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. Your statement will **not** reflect loose cash donations not placed in an envelope.

### ATTENTION ALL MINISTRY/ORGANIZATION CHAIRS:

The Parish Council invites all chairs (or an appointed representative) to a gathering on **Mon., Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** in the rectory. If you have not responded, RSVP to 202-546-1885.

### 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.

♦ Fr. Pope's Sermons online: [www.frpope.com](http://www.frpope.com)

♦ Fr. Pope's Blog: <http://blog.adw.org>

♦ **NEW!!** HCSC App: [myParishapp.com](http://myParishapp.com)

♦ **Follow us on Social Media:**