

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Readings This Weekend:**

Isaiah 35:4-7      James 2:1-5      Mark 7:31-37

**Readings Next Weekend:**

Isaiah 50:5-9      James 2:14-18      Mark 8:27-35



Note first the **PLACE** of the Gospel. It says that Jesus went into the "Decapolis" region, an area of ten Gentile (or pagan) cities. In other words, Jesus is in a region of non-believers. Clearly, this also describes our current culture which increasingly manifests not only unbelief, but even outright hostility to our faith. But notice that Jesus does not hesitate to go there or to engage the culture, and neither should we. Next, note the **PROBLEM** that emerges. A man who is deaf and has a speech impediment is brought to Jesus. This is like a lot of us. In the midst of an increasingly unbelieving culture, many of us have also become deaf to God's truth and because of that deafness have the speech impediment of being silent in the face of this unbelief and sin. Our speech impediment is rooted not only in weak faith, but in fear of what others might say or do to us if we speak. We need healing. Next, note the **PROCESS** when Jesus takes him aside from the crowd. In this we see that the healing is personal. Too many of us wait for the Lord to anoint a leader to speak powerfully, but what if it is you whom the Lord wants to personally heal? Charismatic leaders are a fine gift, but those leaders don't sit at your dinner table each night. Ultimately, we ALL have to be prophets of God. The text says Jesus touched the man's tongue and ears, by this action we see him putting his word in us to empower us to speak. For it is not our word that heals, it is the Lord's word that heals. Finally, note the **PURITY** of the man's healing, for the text says he began to speak plainly. The Greek word is "orthos" from which we get the word orthodoxy, meaning correct doctrine. Thus, the man is not enabled to talk merely that he may gossip or spread error, but rather that he speak correct and clear doctrine, the healing Word of the Lord.

**† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †**

- Sunday, September 9**  
 8:00am Nathaniel & Nannie Williams †  
 11:00am For the intentions of Ruby Roberts  
 7:00pm Martin Paczynski †
- Monday, September 10**  
 7:00am For the intentions of Delores Butler
- Tuesday, September 11**  
 7:00am Reba L. Neale † (19<sup>th</sup> anniversary)
- Wednesday, September 12** *The Most Holy Name of Mary*  
 7:00am For the intentions of Marcia Wooden
- Thursday, September 13** *St. John Chrysostom, Bishop*  
 7:00am Joseph N. Campbell †
- Friday, September 14** *The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*  
 7:00am Mary E. Colbert Smith †
- Saturday, September 15** *Our Lady of Sorrows*  
 8:00am For the People  
 4:30pm Catherine E. Graham †

If you'd like to place a Mass intention, call the rectory at 202-546-1885.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

- Monday:** 1 Corinthians 5:1-8      Luke 6:6-11  
**Tuesday:** 1 Corinthians 6:1-11      Luke 6:12-19  
**Wednesday:** 1 Corinthians 7:25-31      Luke 6:20-26  
**Thursday:** 1 Corinthians 8:1-7, 11-13      Luke 6:27-38  
**Friday:** Nm 21:4-9      Phil 2:6-11      John 3:13-17  
**Saturday:** 1 Corinthians 10:14-22      John 19:25-27

Music Schedule	
<b>Processional</b>	
* Holy God, We Praise Thy Name	LMGM #465
** Praise Him!	LMGM #446
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	
Praise the Lord, my soul	Psalm 146
<b>Offertory</b>	
* Amazing Grace!	LMGM #495
** Healer in the House	Joy Gardner
<b>Communion Hymn</b>	
* Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior	LMGM #767
** Taste and See	LMGM #750
<b>Post Communion</b>	
** Dance Ministry	
<b>Recessional</b>	
A Follower of Christ	LMGM #628
* Ruby Robertson, Cantor—George Stewart, Director of Music	
** Youth Choir—Tammy Holley, Director—George Stewart, Director of Music	
*** Dance Ministry – Gail Bell, Director	

Mass Attendance September 2, 2018	
4:30pm	53
8:00am	105
11:00am	212
7:00pm	115
<b>Total:</b>	<b>485</b>

**Stewardship Report: Sept. 1—7, 2018**

Budgeted Tithes: Sept. 1—7, 2018	\$15,769
Actual Tithes Received: Sept. 1—7, 2018	\$10,996



**ELECTRONIC TITHING (FAITH DIRECT):**

We are thankful for all the generous gifts that you provide to our parish, but we realize that you cannot be with us every Sunday of the year. Please consider using our secure electronic giving program, *Faith Direct*. *Faith Direct* will automatically process any offertory or second collections donation of your choosing. Visit [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) and use our church code: **DC59**. If you have questions, you can call Kim Peaks at 202-546-1885. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

**THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH**

<b>Sunday (9/9)</b>	<b>Tuesday (9/11)</b>
9:30am RCIA	7:00pm Adult Choir
9:30am Holy Name meeting	<b>Wednesday (9/12)</b>
8:00pm AA	7:00pm Bible Study
<b>Monday (9/10)</b>	
8:00pm YAM Bible Study	

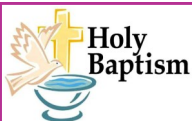
**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**

*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



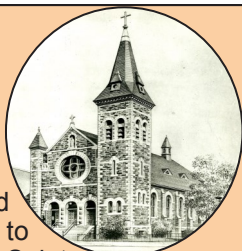
**BLESSINGS** upon *Lucia Annette Madden* who was Baptized here at HCSC into the family of Jesus Christ on Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>. May God bless her in her journey of faith with the love and guidance of her parents.

**TODAY IS YOUTH SUNDAY:** On the second Sunday at the 11AM Mass, all youth are invited to sit together in front of the clergy. Parents are invited to join your child in the front pews.



**REGISTER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** The first day of school for Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade is **Sun., Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30am at the school.** Sunday school is for all youth, including youth who need to receive the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Registration forms are available in the rear of the church, in the rectory office, and on the website. Questions? Contact Shirley Austin 202-546-1885 or at: mre@hscchurch.org.

**CELEBRATING the 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY of the ESTABLISHMENT of SAINT CYPRIAN PARISH**  
*"How Firm A Foundation"*



We are planning various activities and events throughout 2018-2019 to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Saint Cyprian Catholic Church. Displays of photos and artifacts from Saint Cyprian Church, prior to the merger with Holy Comforter in 1966, are featured in the HCSC vestibule and throughout the church. **You are invited to submit photos and memorabilia from Saint Cyprian Parish for display.** All items will be handled with care and returned to the owner. Questions? Contact Kim Peaks (pam@hscchurch.org, or 202-546-1885).



**HCSC ANNUAL FRIENDS & FAMILY PICNIC** is **Sat., Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>** in Watkins Park in Upper Marlboro, MD. If you can help with set-up, games, serving or to donate food, call Annette Brooks (202-361-4699). Free for all! See flyer for more info. Souvenir T-shirts commemorating the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Saint Cyprian Parish on sale after mass.

Join us as we celebrate our patron *Saint Cyprian Feast Day* on **Sun., Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>**. We will have one Mass in the morning at 10am. Masses at 4:30pm on Saturday and 7PM on Sunday will still be held. We are commemorating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Saint Cyprian parish in 1893. All are welcome.



**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Deacon Ralph Cyrus** will be celebrated on **Sun., Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> at the 10AM Mass.** Due to Deacon Cyrus' health issues, we were unable to commemorate his anniversary last year, so it was rescheduled. If you would like to give a gift or blessing to Deacon Cyrus, please see letter in bulletin.

Youth Ministry News

Nicki Gebrehiwot, Director of Youth Ministry

202-546-1885 ext. 25 (voicemail) ♦ youthdirector@hscchurch.org

**COMMISSIONING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL CATECHISTS: Sunday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at the 11am Mass.** We will introduce and commission our Sunday School and Liturgy of the Word teachers. Pray for a fruitful and joyful year.

HCSC Young Adult Ministry

**YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY** meets **Mondays at 8PM** in the rectory. Join other young adults with Msgr. Pope in the discussion of scripture. We have started studying the **Book of Job**. This is a good opportunity to meet other young adults in the parish.

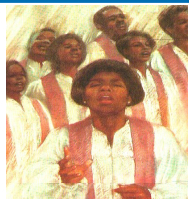


**CANNED GOODS COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND:** On the second weekend we invite you to bring nutritious, non-perishable, high protein canned foods for our food pantry. If you were unable to bring canned food this weekend consider donating to a Poor Box on the wall near the exits, as these donations are used for the same purpose.

**LEARN ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH:** For those interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, classes are held on **Sundays at 9:30am in the rectory.** These classes are especially intended for non-Catholics who are interested in becoming Catholic. This also includes adult Catholics who have missed either First Holy Communion or Confirmation. This is your opportunity to inform any relatives or friends who might benefit. Pick up a flyer in the rear of the church.

**SAVE THE DATE: HCSC CHURCH CHOIR 46<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY CONCERT, Sun., Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, at 4pm.**

Theme: *"The Spirit of an Awesome God."* Stay tuned for when tickets go on sale and information on placing a program ad. Tickets will be \$20 and available from any choir member, online, or in the rectory.



**EAST OF THE RIVER REVIVAL: Oct. 1—3, 2018 at 7pm nightly.** Theme: *"Jesus, Heal Our Land: What We Must Do"*. Revivalist: Rev. Sydney Speaks, of St. Matthew the Apostle Church, River Ridge, LA. Closing Mass is on Thursday with Bishop Roy Campbell. Revival takes place at Holy Family Catholic Church, 2210 Calloway St., Hillcrest Heights, MD., 20748, 301-894-2222.

**Walk In the Footsteps of Saint Paul the Apostle** through Greece with Msgr. Pope and other HCSC pilgrims on an **11-day pilgrimage, November 5—15, 2019.** Walk the streets of Athens, Corinth, Mykonos, Ephesus, Patmos and many more. Also, enjoy a **3-day cruise of the Greek isles.** COST: **\$3399.** For information, pick up flyer in rear of church or visit our website (www.hscchurch.org).

**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 Blog & Homilies online: [www.msgrpope.com](http://www.msgrpope.com)
- ♦ HCSC App: [myParishapp.com](https://myParishapp.com)
- ♦ Follow or Like us on social media: