

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings This Weekend:

Baruch 5:1-9 Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 Luke 3:1-6

Readings Next Weekend:

Zephaniah 3:14-18 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:10-18



The Gospel today presents some Practical Principles of Prophecy as we focus on the ministry of John the Baptist. Note first, the **Portrait of Proper Prophecy**. Note the content of John's preaching: "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!*" Here is a balance to get right. The preacher and the prophet must speak frankly of sin but also of the grace available to conquer that sin. Hence, John the Baptist is willing and able to declare the reality of sin and the necessity of repenting from it. But he is also able to declare the availability of the Kingdom wherein one is able to find the grace to overcome sin. Too many preachers lack this balance. In the past it was all fire and brimstone. Today it is too often, the steady diet of "God is love" with little reference to the need to repent. Next, note the **Product of Powerful Prophecy**. The text describes how many came to John repenting of their sins. The truest measure of success in preaching is a long line for the confessional. Next, note the **Purity of Powerful Prophecy**. The text shows that John the Baptist had no fear of people's opinion and would not compromise the message based on his audience. All the credentials of the temple leaders did not impress him. Neither did the status of the Jews as the chosen people cause him to soften his message. Finally, note the **Person of Powerful Prophecy**. When his audience wants to know more about him, John talks instead about Jesus. And that's the message, "Jesus. Not me."

† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

Sunday, December 9 *Second Sunday of Advent*
 8:00am Rev. Deacon Kevin Butler †
 11:00am Bertha R. Vanzego †
 7:00pm Sr. Mary Joseph Padilla †
Monday, December 10
 7:00am Andrew J. Barnes, Jr. †
Tuesday, December 11 *Saint Damasus I, Pope*
 7:00am For the intentions of Gary Mayo
Wednesday, December 12 *Our Lady of Guadalupe*
 7:00am Pres. George H. W. Bush †
Thursday, December 13 *Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr*
 7:00am For the People
Friday, December 14 *St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church*
 7:00am For the intentions of Abbot Aidan Shea
Saturday, December 15
 8:00am For the intentions of Juanita Glover
 4:30pm For the intentions of L'Tanya Holley

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

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday: Isaiah 35:1-10 Luke 5:17-26
Tuesday: Isaiah 40:1-11 Matthew 18:12-24
Wednesday: Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6, 10 Luke 1:39-47
Thursday: Isaiah 41:13-20 Matthew 11:11-15
Friday: Isaiah 48:17-19 Matthew 11:16-19
Saturday: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11 Matthew 17:9-13

Music Schedule

Processional
 Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord LMGM #237
Responsorial Psalm
 The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.
Offertory
 * On Jordan's Bank LMGM #240
 ** Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord LMGM #235
Communion Hymn
 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel LMGM #231
Post Communion
 *** Dance Ministry
Recessional
 Soon and Very Soon LMGM #691
 * Ruby Robertson, Cantor – George Stewart, Director of Music
 ** Youth Choir – L'Tanya Holley, Director – George Stewart, Accompanist
 *** HCSC Dance Ministry – Gail Bell, Director

**Mass Attendance
December 2, 2018**

4:30pm 45
 8:00am 106
 11:00am 212
 7:00pm 130
Total: 493

Stewardship Report: December 1—8, 2018

Budgeted Tithes: Dec. 1—8, 2018	\$15,769
Actual Tithes Received: Dec. 1—8, 2018	\$14,500



2018 CHRISTMAS COLLECTION will be used for the much needed renovation of our bathrooms in the rear of the church. We are currently soliciting designs and plans for the renovation. Please use your

Christmas Collection envelope included with your monthly tithing envelopes for your donation. Additional Christmas Collection envelopes are available in the rear of the church or the rectory office. Thank you for your donation.

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Sunday (12/9) 9:30am Holy Name Society 9:30am RCIA 9:30pm Sunday School 8:00pm AA	Wednesday (12/12) 11:00am Friendly Seniors 6:30pm Liturgical Dance 7:00pm Soup & Scripture
Monday (12/10) 7:00pm US Army Band Concert 8:00pm YAM Bible Study	Friday (12/14) 6:00pm Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesday (12/11) 6:30pm Knights of Columbus 7:00pm Adult Choir	Saturday (12/15) 10:00am Liturgical Dance

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PARISH LIFE



CONGRATULATIONS! Joseph Maxwell Daly and Miranda Grace Mackey were Baptized on Nov. 24th into the family of the Sacrificial Lamb, Jesus Christ. May God bless them in their journey of faith.

YOUTH SUNDAY THIS WEEKEND: Every second Sunday we celebrate our parish youth at the 11am Mass.

HOLIDAYS IN CONCERT: The 257th U.S. ARMY BAND presents a seasonal concert **Mon., Dec. 10th at 7pm** here at HCSC. This **FREE** concert features traditional Patriotic, Christmas and Holiday classics. Bring your family and friends!



LADIES of CHARITY BAKE SALE: Please support the Ladies of Charity **Sun., Dec. 16th** in the rectory basement **after the 8 and 11AM masses.** Thank you!

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 by **Sun., Dec. 16th** to the rectory. Envelopes are available in the rear of the church or the rectory. **PLEASE PRINT!**



The **Proverbs 24 Community** is a collaborative effort formed of several Catholic parishes (including HCSC) in Washington in response to the opening of a Planned Parenthood abortion facility in our neighborhood. Proverbs 24 is hosting its next witness event **Sat., Dec. 15th**. We will gather at St. Dominic's Catholic Church (630 E St, SW) and then head to the clinic in carpools. See flyer in your bulletin. Send questions to P24community@gmail.com.

ANNUAL COAT DRIVE: The Gospel instructs us to clothe those without clothing. In partnership with DC Catholic Charities and Knights of Columbus, our parish is taking part in their annual *Coats of Many Colors* drive. Please donate your lightly used coats to the less fortunate. The collection bin is in the vestibule. **Please contribute to this effort by Friday, January 18th.**

ADVENT 2018

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT "ADVENT" TREE: If you have purchased your food items for the Advent Tree please bring them to the rectory before **12NOON, Mon., Dec. 10th**. Monetary donations are also accepted. Please write "Advent Tree" on your check memo line or envelope.



ADVENT SOUP & SCRIPTURE: We are exploring the Christmas accounts in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, "*The Infancy Gospels.*" There are many hidden surprises in these Gospel accounts that help to clarify the Christmas story for us which is often simplified and erroneously described in Christmas songs and modern culture. We meet on **Wednesdays** in the rectory basement **Dec. 12th and 19th**. A light meal is offered at 6:30pm and bible study begins at 7:15pm.

Youth Ministry News

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

BRUNCH WITH SAINT NICHOLAS is **Sun., Dec. 16th at 9:30am** at the school. Free for youth of all ages. Food, games and a visit from Saint Nick! **Please RSVP to:** youthdirector@hscchurch.org.

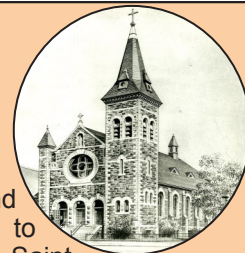
HCSC Young Adult Ministry

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY meets **Mondays at 8pm** in the rectory. Join other young adults with Msgr. Pope in the discussion of scripture. We are studying the **Gospel of John**. Come and meet other young adults!



CELEBRATING the 125TH 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 125th 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. See the featured brochure in your bulletin for a list of upcoming events. Questions? Contact Kim Peaks (pam@hscchurch.org, or 202-546-1885).

INVITATION TO LIFT YOUR VOICES TO THE LORD

The HCSC Music Ministry invites you to participate in one of our Christmas music services.



1. Seeking individuals to sing a song on **Christmas Eve** at the **11PM Song Service**.

2. Seeking families to sing a song at the **8 & 11AM masses on The Feast of the Holy Family, Sun., Dec. 30th**. There will be a special emphasis on families on this day, and it would be wonderful to feature families leading us in song for mass. If you are interested in participating in either event, contact George Stewart, Director of Music (240-401-4904 or gcsmusic@msn.com).

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

To learn more about our parish community or if you are interested in joining, contact us at: hscstaff@hscchurch.org or 202-546-1885.

Mass Schedule: Monday thru Friday at 7am (Chapel)

Saturday 8am (Chapel), 4:30pm (Vigil); Sunday 8am, 11am, and 7pm

Office Hours: Mon, Tues, and Fri, 9am—8pm;
Wed and Thurs, 9am—5pm; Sat, 9am—1pm; and, Sun, 9am—2pm.
For information on sacraments and funerals call the rectory office.

- Fr. Pope's Sermons online: www.frpope.com
- Fr. Pope's Blog: <http://blog.adw.org>
- HCSC App: [myParishapp.com](https://www.getty.com)
- Follow us on Social Media: