

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings This Weekend:

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11 1 Thes 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

Readings Next Weekend:

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



Today is called Gaudete (Latin for "rejoice") Sunday because the readings emphasize joy. Notice in the second reading the Prescription of Joy. The text of St. Paul says "Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I say it, rejoice!" You may wonder how scripture can command us to be happy. Can we just cause an emotion? Not usually. But it is a fact that our thoughts influence our emotions. To the degree that we count our blessings and stay rooted in God we have a much better chance of staying near joy where we can access it. That's why it is good to give thanks to the Lord and count your blessings every day. Never forget the works of the Lord! Not only does the second reading speak of the prescription of joy it also describes the Products of Joy. First, we become more pleasant—the text says: Your kindness should be known to all... Second, we become more prayerful—the text says: Have no anxiety at all but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Third, we become more peaceful—the text says: Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.



Sunday, December 14

4:30pm (Sat) Emma Tellier †
 8:00am Brianna Williams (birthday)
 11:00am James Outtz (birthday)
 7:00pm For the People

Monday, December 15

7:00am Helen Liistro †

Tuesday, December 16

7:00am Emma Tellier †

Wednesday, December 17

7:00am Ernestine Jackson (birthday) †

Thursday, December 18

7:00am Margaret Marie Temple (14th anniversary) †

Friday, December 19

7:00am For the Intentions of our Homebound & Sick

Saturday, December 20

8:00am Eric Lebow †
 4:30pm Eric Jackson, Sr. †

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 24:2-7, 15-17 Matthew 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13 Matthew 21:28-32
Wednesday: Genesis 49:2, 8-10 Matthew 1:1-17
Thursday: Jeremiah 23:5-8 Matthew 1:18-25
Friday: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25 Luke 1:5-25
Saturday: Isaiah 7:10-14 Luke 1:26-38

Music Schedule

Processional
 "We Must Work" LMGM #642
Responsorial Psalm
 "My soul rejoices in my God"
Gospel Acclamation
 "Alleluia!"
Offertory
 * "Soon and Very Soon" LMGM #691
 ** "Hallelujah, Hallelu!" M. Mahler
Communion
 "Emmanuel" arr. by K. Louis
 * 8:00am Ruby Robertson, Cantor—Gwen Myles, Music Associate
 ** 11:00am Youth Ensemble

Mass Attendance for December 7, 2014

4:30pm 51
 8:00am 140
 11:00am 225
 7:00pm 69
Total: 485

Stewardship Report 2014—2015

Weekly Budget Amount Needed	\$16,346
Actual Tithes Collected (12/7)	\$16,297
Actual Deficit (-)	-\$49



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. 21st** to the rectory. Envelopes are available in your envelope package or 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 are also available in the rear of the church. Thank you.

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Sunday (12/14) 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am RCIA 7:00pm Mass 8:00pm AA	Wednesday (12/17) 11:00am Friendly Seniors 6:30pm Liturgical Dance 7:00pm Bible Study
Monday (12/15) 7:00pm 25 th US Army Band	Thursday (12/18) 6:30pm Pageant Rehearsal
Tuesday (12/16) 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 7:00pm Adult Choir	Friday (12/19) 8:00pm NA
	Saturday (12/20) 10:00am Liturgical Dance 11:00am St John's Ladies Aux 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

YOUTH SUNDAY THIS WEEKEND—Every second Sunday we celebrate our parish youth at the 11am Mass. We invite our youth to sit together in the pews in front of the clergy. Parents are welcome to sit with their children.



The 257th U.S. ARMY BAND presents *The Holidays in Concert* at HCSC on **Mon., Dec. 15th at 7pm**. This **FREE** concert features traditional Patriotic, Christmas and Holiday classics. Bring your family and friends!



CONGRATULATIONS—to *Azzarie Brown, Rafael Fraga, Kevin Hart, Porter Jackson, Evan Lewis, Lauren Schafer and Lucia Shek* who were baptized into the family of Jesus Christ in November. May God bless each of them in their journey of faith.

CONGRATULATIONS—to Richelle Adams who graduated from Norfolk State on December 13th with a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies. May God continue to guide her steps.



LADIES OF CHARITY ANNUAL BAKE SALE—on **Sun., Dec. 21st** after the 8am and 11am Mass in the rectory basement. Come and purchase homemade baked goods and gifts while supporting this ministry's charitable efforts.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO DECORATE OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS—**Sun., Dec. 21st at 1pm**. With many helping hands, we can accomplish this in a short time. Refreshments will be served! Contact Kim Peaks at 202-546-1885.

ADVENT 2014



GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT "ADVENT" TREE—It is not too late to make your contribution to our Advent food drive for the needy. You can still take an ornament off the Advent tree and bring it to the rectory before **8pm on Mon., Dec. 15th**.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help pack and distribute the food baskets on Dec 16, 17 & 20. Call the rectory office at 202-546-1885 for info. Thank you.

FIND THE PERFECT GIFT ADVENT CAMPAIGN—Happy Gaudete (or Rejoice!) Sunday! Parishes across the Archdiocese of Washington continue to celebrate Advent through *Find the Perfect Gift*. This Advent we encourage you to share the Perfect Gift of Jesus with someone in your life who may be searching for meaning or friendship. As we encounter others we offer a glimpse of the love and joy of Jesus through our words and actions! Visit FindthePerfectGift.org to see our *Find the Perfect Gift* commercial and a listing of Christmas events across the Archdiocese of Washington to help us share joy with others!

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 **XXXL** coats are especially needed.

Youth Ministry News

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

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL—for "*The King is Coming!!!*" is **Thur., Dec. 18th at 6:30pm**. To participate, contact the Youth Director. Adults are also needed!

SAVE THE DATE—ANNUAL YOUTH RALLY & MASS for LIFE—at the Verizon Center is January 22, 2015. There 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

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY—meets every Monday evening at 8pm in the rectory. For info contact Stephanie Keene at sakeene@gmail.com.

We'd like to hear from our young adults (age 18 to 40^{ish})! Tell us what activities interest you. Check out the HCSC Young Adults Ministry on **Facebook** and tell us your thoughts, or send an email: yam@hscchurch.org. **Do you Tweet?** Follow us on Twitter for updates at [HCSCYoungAdults!](https://twitter.com/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. will be **Sat., Jan. 17th, at 3pm** here at Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Church. The concert will feature the Archdiocese of Washington Mass Gospel Choir directed by our own Mr. Kenneth Louis. Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, will be the celebrant and homilist for the 4:30pm Mass.

"CATHOLIC ANSWERS" ON SALE—In an effort to promote our continual faith formation, we are selling publications that will enhance our spiritual growth. The latest addition is the Catholic Answers series. Check out "*The Real Jesus*", "*Atheism*" and others on sale for \$1 each in the Candlelight Store.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SALE—The Oblate Sisters of Providence Alumnae Association is hosting a fundraiser featuring Afro-Centric Christmas Cards and other religious gift items after Mass this weekend in the rear of the Church. All proceeds will benefit the Oblate Sisters of Providence. The Sisters appreciate your support!

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, call the rectory at 202-546-1885 or 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>