

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Readings This Weekend:**

Jer 33:14-16 1 Thes 3:12—4:2 Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

**Readings Next Weekend:**

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



There is an old Gospel song that says, "Jesus says, 'Here I stand. Won't you please let me in?' And you said, I will, but tomorrow. Tomorrow? Who promised you tomorrow? Better choose the Lord today, for tomorrow very well might be too late." Today's Gospel warns of the possible suddenness of death or the Lord's second coming. Are you ready to die and face judgment? Scripture often emphasizes the suddenness of death and judgment: Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour. (Mt 25:13) So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come. (Mt 24:44) Watch, therefore, you do not know when the lord of the house is coming—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cock crow, or in the morning. May He not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: "Watch!" (Mk 13:35-37) When people are saying, "Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape. (1 Thes 5:3) An old spiritual says, "I would not be a sinner, I'll tell you the reason why. I'm afraid my Lord might call my name and I wouldn't be ready to die." Yet, another old Gospel song says, "My mother taught me how to pray. So, if I die and my soul be lost, it's nobody's fault but mine." OK, by now you get the point. Advent is not just a time to prepare for Christmas and the baby Jesus, it is also a time to prepare to meet a very adult Jesus who is Lord and God. Are you ready?

**† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †**

**Sunday, December 2** *First Sunday of Advent*  
 8:00am For the intentions of Sacred Heart Parish  
 11:00am Jesse Hooks †  
 7:00pm Edwards Sulzbach †  
**Monday, December 3** *Saint Francis Xavier, Priest*  
 7:00am Donald Greenfield †  
**Tuesday, December 4** *St. John Damascene, Priest & Doc. of the Church*  
 7:00am For the People  
**Wednesday, December 5**  
 7:00am George T. Holton, III (birthday)  
**Thursday, December 6** *Saint Nicholas, Bishop*  
 7:00am Lawrence J. Sanders †  
**Friday, December 7** *St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doc. of the Church*  
 7:00am Julius Thompson †  
 7:00pm For the intentions of Abbot Aidan Shea  
**Saturday, December 8** *Immaculate Conception of the BVM*  
 10:00am Lorraine E. Branham  
 4:30pm Mable Henson (107<sup>th</sup> birthday)

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

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

**Monday:** Isaiah 2:1-5 Matthew 8:5-11  
**Tuesday:** Isaiah 11:1-10 Luke 10:21-24  
**Wednesday:** Isaiah 25:6-10 Matthew 15:29-37  
**Thursday:** Isaiah 26:1-6 Matthew 7:21, 24-27  
**Friday:** Isaiah 29:17-24 Matthew 9:27-31  
**Saturday:** Gen 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Luke 1:26-38

**Music Schedule**

**Processional**  
 Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord LMGM #237  
**Responsorial Psalm**  
 To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.  
**Offertory**  
 \* The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns LMGM #236  
 \*\* Are You Ready? LMGM #243  
**Communion Hymn**  
 \* O Come, O Come, Emmanuel LMGM #231  
 \*\* Emmanuel / O Come, Emmanuel LMGM #234 / #231  
**Post Communion**  
 \* My Lord, What a Morning LMGM #693  
**Recessional**  
 \*\* Soon and Very Soon LMGM #691  
 \* Ruby Robertson Cantor – George Stewart, Director of Music  
 \*\* Church Choir – George Stewart, Director of Music

**Mass Attendance November 25, 2018**

4:30pm	43
8:00am	96
11:00am	205
7:00pm	110
<b>Total:</b>	<b>454</b>

**Stewardship Report: November 1—30, 2018**

Budgeted Tithes: Nov. 1—30, 2018	\$63,076
Actual Tithes Received: Nov. 1—30, 2018	\$60,971
Budgeted Goal Percentage: Nov. 1—30, 2018	97%

**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**

**Sunday (12/2)** **Wednesday (12/5)**  
 9:30am RCIA 11:00am Friendly Seniors  
 9:30pm Sunday School 6:30pm Liturgical Dance  
 8:00pm AA 7:00pm Soup & Scripture  
**Monday (12/3)** **Friday (12/7)**  
 8:00pm YAM Bible Study 6:00pm Eucharistic Adoration  
 7:00pm Vigil Mass  
**Tuesday (12/4)** **Saturday (12/8)**  
 6:30pm Youth Choir 10:00am Mass  
 7:00pm Adult Choir 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.*

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### PARISH LIFE

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** is a Holyday of Obligation celebrated on **Sat., Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>**. *What is the Immaculate Conception?* Incorrectly, many people think it refers to the conception of Christ through the action of the Holy Spirit. Correctly, the Immaculate Conception refers to the state Mary was in from the very moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne, allowing Mary to be free from Original Sin. **Vigil Mass, Fri., Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 7PM and Sat., Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 10AM.**



**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO MS. MABLE HENSON** celebrating her **107<sup>th</sup> birthday, Sat., Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>**. As she continues to stand strong in her faith, may our Lord continue to bless and keep her in His love and care.

**YOUTH SUNDAY NEXT WEEK:** Every second Sunday we celebrate our parish youth at the 11am Mass. All youth are invited to sit together in front of the clergy.

**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. 16<sup>th</sup>** to the rectory. Envelopes are available from any usher or the rectory office. **PLEASE PRINT!**



**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 a lightly used coat(s) to the less fortunate. The collection bin is in the vestibule. We ask you to **contribute to this effort by January 18<sup>th</sup>**.

## ADVENT 2018

**GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT "ADVENT" TREE:** HCSC Social Concerns Ministry has begun our annual Advent food drive for the needy. Parishioners are asked to donate food items for Christmas baskets. The food items are listed on the paper ornaments hanging on the Advent Tree (*in front of St. Joseph's statue*). Please take one or more ornaments and return item(s) to the church by Mon., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. Monetary donations are also accepted. Please write "Advent Tree" in the memo line of your check or envelope.



**ADVENT SOUP & SCRIPTURE:** We will explore the many hidden surprises in the Christmas accounts, "*The Infancy Gospels*" of Matthew and Luke. These Gospel accounts help to clarify the Christmas story for us which is often simplified and erroneously described in Christmas songs and modern culture. We'll meet on three consecutive **Wednesdays** in the Rectory basement, **December 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>**. A light meal is offered at 6:30pm and bible study begins at 7:15pm. All are welcome!

**THE WORD AMONG US: FREE** Advent issues of **The Word Among Us** are available in the rear of the church. 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!*

### Youth Ministry News

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

**SAVE THE DATE! BRUNCH WITH SAINT NICHOLAS** is **Sun., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am** at the school. Food, games and a visit from Saint Nick!

### HCSC Young Adult Ministry

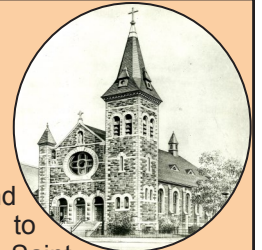
**YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY** meets **Mondays at 8pm** in the rectory. Join other young adults with Msgr. Pope in the discussion of scripture. We are studying the **Gospel of John**. Come and meet other young adults!



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



**SAINT JOSEPH 2019 SUNDAY MISSALS** are available in the Candlelight Store. **COST: \$3**

**CHRISTMAS GIFT SALE:** On **Sun., Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>** the Oblate Sisters of Providence (OSP) Alumnae Association will sell Christmas cards and other items to benefit the OSP.

**SAVE THE DATE: Ladies of Charity Bake Sale, Sun., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>** in the rectory basement, **7:30am—2:30pm.**

**The 257<sup>th</sup> U.S. ARMY BAND** presents *The Holidays in Concert* at HCSC on **Mon., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**. This **FREE** concert features traditional Patriotic, Christmas and Holiday classics. Bring your family and friends!



### 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

To learn more about our parish community or if you are interested in joining, contact us at: [hscstaff@hscchurch.org](mailto: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](http://www.frpope.com)
- Fr. Pope's Blog: <http://blog.adw.org>
- HCSC App: [myParishapp.com](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.myParishapp)
- Follow us on Social Media:   