

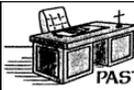
# First Sunday of Advent

**Readings This Weekend:**

Isaiah 2:1-5      Romans 13:11-14      Matthew 24:37-44

**Readings Next Weekend:**

Isaiah 11:1-10      Romans 15:4-9      Matthew 3:1-12



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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? The Scripture often emphasizes the suddenness of death and judgment: *Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.* (Matt 25:13). *So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.* (Matt 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 Thess 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?



If you were expecting a great guest in your home, what would you do to get ready? You probably start by cleaning and de-cluttering. You would also prepare the meal with care, use the best china and dress well. All of this is not bad advice for preparing to meet the Lord and advent is a time to focus on making those preparations. A good confession is the equivalent of a house cleaning, sweep your soul clean by going to confession. De-clutter by examining your life and considering if there are any things that tend to clutter your life and crowd out the spiritual. What meal does Jesus want? He once said, Doing the Father's will is the food that sustains me (John 4:31). So prepare a meal of obedience and deck yourself in the garments of righteousness.

**NOTE:** Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the publisher required early submission of the bulletin. No Stewardship figures nor Mass Attendance data for the weekend of November 24<sup>th</sup> are available for this week's bulletin. Updated figures will be posted next weekend.

**† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †**

**Sunday, December 1** *First Sunday of Advent*  
 8:00am Annise Yates †  
 11:00am Clementine & William McPherson †  
 7:00pm For the intentions of Barbara Szutkowski

**Monday, December 2**  
 7:00am For the People

**Tuesday, December 3** *Saint Francis Xavier, Priest*  
 7:00am Deacon Kevin Butler †

**Wed., Dec. 4** *St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church*  
 7:00am Coulter Nakamura †

**Thursday, December 5**  
 7:00am George T. Holton, III (birthday)

**Friday, December 6** *Saint Nicholas, Bishop*  
 7:00am Opal Hoff †

**Sat., Dec. 7** *Saint Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*  
 8:00am William Hoff †  
 4:30pm For the intentions of Barbara Szutkowski

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

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

**Monday:** Isaiah 4:2-6      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:** Isaiah 30:19-26      Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5-8

## AMAZING POSSIBILITIES

God Sees Them All. It's Time You See Them Too!

» Take the first step toward discovering your amazing future at BestAdventEver.com «

**Are You Ready to Get Ready?**

**SO... WHAT IS BEST ADVENT EVER?**

It's a totally free and totally awesome daily video program (sent straight to your email) that will help you prepare for Christmas like never before!

Visit **BestAdventEver.com** from Dynamic Catholic and **sign up**. Just check the **no** box when asked for parish. More details in next week's bulletin about this program.

**THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH**

<p><b>Sunday (12/1)</b>                  9:30am RCIA                  9:30am Sunday School                  1:00pm Pageant rehearsal                  8:00pm AA</p> <p><b>Monday (12/2)</b>                  8:00pm YAM Bible Study</p> <p><b>Tuesday (12/3)</b>                  6:30pm Youth Choir                  7:00pm Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>Wednesday (12/4)</b>                  11:00am Friendly Seniors                  6:30pm Dance Ministry                  7:00pm Advent Bible Study</p> <p><b>Friday (12/6)</b>                  6:00pm Eucharistic Adoration</p> <p><b>Saturday (12/7)</b>                  10:00am Dance Ministry                  10:30am Usher Ministry</p>
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**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

**SECOND COLLECTION—Dec. 7-8:** Our second collection next weekend is for the **Retirement Fund for the Religious**. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little or no pay. Your gift help provides medications, nursing care, and more for the tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Use the envelopes that you received with your monthly tithing envelopes or pick up an envelope in the rear of the church. Please be generous. Thank you.



**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** To include a loved one on the "In Memory/Honor of..." list included in the Christmas Mass program, return your Christmas Flower offering envelope to the rectory by **Sun., Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>**. Envelopes are in the rear of the church and the rectory office. **PLEASE PRINT NAMES!**

The **257<sup>th</sup> U.S. ARMY BAND** presents *The Holidays in Concert* at HCSC on **Mon., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**. 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 in their good works by purchasing some excellent baked goods **Sun., Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>** in the **rectory basement after each AM mass**.



**ST. JOSEPH 2020 SUNDAY MISSALS** are available in the Candlelight Store and the rectory office. **COST: \$3 each**. This missal is a companion guide for the Church year's Sunday masses and includes all mass readings.

### ADVENT 2019



**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 the listed item back to the church by **Mon., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>**. Monetary donations are also accepted. Please write "Advent Tree" in the memo of your check or envelope.

**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!*

**ADVENT SOUP & SCRIPTURE:** "Are Your Desires Divine or Devilish? We will explore the biblical teachings of desires and why we need God to repair our heart. And, the puzzling fact that we often desire things that are sinful and harmful for us in abundance and that we do not desire what is good for us and holy. Come and learn the difference. We will meet on three consecutive **Wednesdays** in the rectory basement, **December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**. A light meal is offered at 6:30pm with instruction at 7:15pm.

### Youth Ministry News

Nicki Gebrehiwot, Director of Youth Ministry

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

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** The Youth Ministry is looking for youth actors for our Annual Youth Christmas Pageant held on Christmas Eve at the **6PM Family Mass**. Youth of all ages are welcome! **Rehearsals will begin Sun., Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> following the 11AM mass.** We also need adults to help with costumes, set design, and technical logistics. For info and to participate, contact the Youth Ministry Director.

**BRUNCH WITH SAINT NICK** will be **Sun., Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30AM** in the Center City Public Charter School cafeteria at 15<sup>th</sup> and East Capitol St., SE. Our youth and their families are invited to enjoy a delicious brunch while learning about Saint Nicholas. Stay tuned for details.

### 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 **Book of Genesis**. Come and meet other young adults!



**COAT DRIVE** **ANNUAL COAT DRIVE:** The Gospel instructs us to clothe those without clothing. In partnership with DC Catholic Charities and the Knights of Columbus—St Cyprian Council #10008, our parish is taking part in the annual *Coats of Many Colors* drive. Please donate your lightly used coats to the less fortunate. The collection bin is in the vestibule of the Church. **Please contribute to this effort by January 19, 2020.**



**ATTENTION LECTORS:** The 2020 liturgical year begins **Sun., Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>** with the **First Sunday of Advent**. Personalized copies of the new **Lectors Workbook** have arrived and are **available in the rectory office**. There is one copy per household. Please take only your copy.



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION / HOLY HOUR** will be held **EVERY FRIDAY from 6—7PM** in the sanctuary. All parishioners are invited to attend a wonderful opportunity to gather and reflect in quiet prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.



### 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.

• Pastor's Media Links: [MSGRPOPE.com](http://MSGRPOPE.com)

• HCSC App: [myParishapp.com](http://myParishapp.com)

• Follow us on Social Media: