

Second Sunday of Advent

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

Readings Next Weekend:
 Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11



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. That's the message, "Jesus, not me."

† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

Sunday, December 8 *Second Sunday of Advent*
 8:00am Mable Henson (birthday—108th)
 11:00am For the intentions of Diane Tucker
 7:00pm Austin Roe Ketchum †

Mon., Dec. 9 *Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
 7:00am For the People

Tuesday, December 10
 7:00am Maria DiBenigno †

Wednesday, December 11 *Saint Damasus I, Pope*
 7:00am Antonio DiBenigno †

Thursday, December 12 *Our Lady of Guadalupe*
 7:00am Catarina Papalia †

Friday, December 13 *Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr*
 7:00am Franco Papalia †

Sat., Dec. 14 *Saint John of the Cross, Priest & Doc of the Church*
 8:00am For the intentions of Wadell & Zimar Jackson
 4:30pm For the intentions of Cliff Rowe

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

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Isaiah 40:1-11 Matthew 18:12-14
Wednesday: Isaiah 40:25-31 Matthew 11:28-30
Thursday: Rev 11:19; 12:1-6, 10 Luke 1:39-47
Friday: Isaiah 48:17-19 Matthew 11:16-19
Saturday: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11 Matthew 17:9-13

Music Schedule

Processional
 The King of Glory LMGM #341

Responsorial Psalm
 Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.

Offertory
 * Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord LMGM #237
 ** Soon and Very Soon LMGM #691

Communion
 O come, O come, Emmanuel LMGM #231

Post Communion
 *** O Come, O Come Emmanuel arr. Clark sisters

Recessional
 * Soon and Very Soon LMGM #691
 ** Emmanuel, Emmanuel LMGM #234

* Ruby Robertson, Cantor – George Stewart, Director of Music
 ** HCSC Youth Choir – L'Tanya Holley Director, Liuba Pupo, Accompanist
 HCSC Dance Ministry- Gail Bell, Director

Mass Attendance for December 1, 2019

4:30pm	38
8:00am	106
11:00am	179
7:00pm	138
Total:	461

Stewardship Report: Nov. 30—Dec. 6, 2019

Budgeted Tithes: Nov. 30 - Dec. 6, 2019	\$15,769
Actual Tithes Received: Nov. 30 - Dec. 6, 2019	\$9,992

ELECTRONIC TITHING (FAITH DIRECT): Consider using our secure electronic giving program, *Faith Direct*. Visit www.faithdirect.net and use church code: **DC59**.

2019 CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

will be used for the much needed renovation of our bathrooms in the rear of the church. Last year's Collection had to be re-directed to replacing the boiler. We are again soliciting designs and plans for the bathroom 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 (12/8) 9:30am RCIA 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am Holy Name meeting 1:00pm Youth Pageant rehearsal 8:00pm AA	Wednesday (12/11) 11:00am Friendly Seniors 6:30pm Dance Min rehearsal 6:30pm Advent Bible Study
Monday (12/9) 8:00pm YAM Bible Study	Friday (12/13) 6:00pm Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesday (12/10) 6:30pm Knights of Columbus mtg 7:00pm Adult Choir	Saturday (12/14) 9:00am Women's Min Fellowship 10:00am Dance Min rehearsal

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

TODAY IS YOUTH SUNDAY: At the 11am Mass we invite our youth and their parents to sit in front of the clergy.

SPECIAL COLLECTION on Dec. 7—8: Our special collection this 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 will help provide medications, nursing care, and more for the tens of thousands of elderly religious. Use the envelopes you received with your monthly tithing envelopes or pick up an envelope in the rear of the church. Put your donation in the regular collection basket since we will not have an actual second collection. Thank you.



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO MS. MABLE HENSON celebrating her **108th birthday**, Sun., Dec. 8th. As she continues to stand strong in her faith, may our Lord continue to bless and keep her in His love and care.

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. 15th**. Envelopes are in the rear of the church and the rectory office. **PLEASE PRINT NAMES!**



INVITATION TO LIFT YOUR VOICES TO THE LORD

If you have the gift of song, the HCSC Music Ministry invites you to participate in one of our Christmas liturgies.



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. 29th**. There is special emphasis on families and it would be wonderful to feature families leading us in song. If you are interested, contact George Stewart, Director of Music (240-401-4904 or gcsmusic@msn.com).

ADVENT 2019

ADVENT SOUP & SCRIPTURE: "Are Your Desires Divine or Devilish?" We'll 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 and holy for us. Come and learn the difference. We will meet on **Wednesdays** in the rectory basement, **December 11th and 18th**. A light meal is offered at 6:30pm with instruction at 7:15pm.



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 listed on the paper ornaments hanging on the Advent Tree (*in front of St. Joseph's statue*) for Christmas baskets. Please take one or more ornaments and return the item(s) by Mon., Dec. 16th. Monetary donations are also accepted. Please write "Advent Tree" in the memo of your check or envelope.

Youth Ministry News

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

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: The Youth Ministry needs youth actors of all ages for our Youth Christmas Pageant, **Christmas Eve, 6PM Family Mass. Rehearsals are Sundays following the 11AM mass.** Adults are needed to help with costumes, set design, and technical logistics. Contact the Youth Ministry Director.

BRUNCH WITH SAINT NICK will be **Sun., Dec. 22nd at 9:30AM** in the Center City Public Charter School cafeteria at 15th & East Capitol St., SE. Our youth and their families are invited to enjoy a delicious brunch while learning about Saint Nicholas. **Please RSVP—see flyer!**

APPEAR ON TV! HCSC youth and their families are invited to come join the taping of the Christmas Mass, **Wed., Dec. 11th at 6:30pm in the crypt church in the Basilica** of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Contact the youth director for further 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!



CATHOLIC STANDARD! Check out the article about our celebration of the 125th Anniversary of Saint Cyprian Parish written in the Nov. 28th copy of the Catholic Standard. Take home a copy and read for yourself all the faith-related news of the week. Copies are in each pew.

HCSC parish is part of the **Proverbs 24 Community** which was formed in response to the opening of a Planned Parenthood abortion facility in our community. **Join us for our next scheduled 'witness' event on Sat., Dec. 14th from 10:30am–12:30pm at St. Joseph's, 313—2nd St., NE.** Prayerfully consider participating in one of three ways: quietly praying with others in front of the facility; praying in the church in front of the Blessed Sacrament; or helping to prepare a lunch to conclude the event. Questions? Contact Kim Peaks at (202)546-1885 or P24community@gmail.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.

- Pastor's Media Links: MSGRPOPE.com
- HCSC App: myParishapp.com
- Follow us on Social Media: