

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Readings This Weekend:**

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

**Readings Next Weekend:**

Isaiah 7:10-14      Romans 1:1-7      Matthew 1:18-24



In today's Gospel the Lord teaches on the Glory of Grace and what it means to find the perfect gift. The Gospel opens with the **DISCOURAGEMENT** of John the Baptist. He sends his disciples to Jesus asking if Jesus is the Messiah or not. This is a strange question in that John has already declared to others that Jesus **IS** the Messiah. Now he seems to have his doubts. Perhaps this is because John was expecting a wrathful and dramatic coming of the Messiah who would lay the axe to the root of the tree and destroy the wicked. But Jesus isn't doing this sort of thing, so John has doubt and discouragement. But next notice the **DISCLOSURE** by Jesus. He discloses God's plan to John, and us, and shows that he is in fact fulfilling Scripture as the blind see, the deaf hear, lepers are cleansed, the dead are raised and the poor hear the good news. John, and us, must come to accept God's ways, which are not always our ways. Judgment will come, but not before God offers the gift of grace to everyone. Jesus then gives the **DIRECTIVE** that we not be offended that he chooses to show mercy and give grace before the Judgment. Even John the Baptist, the greatest man born of woman is going to need this Grace. For great though he is in human terms, the least born into the Kingdom is greater than he. The greatest gift, the perfect gift, is grace. This Christmas, find the perfect gift, grace, and help others to do the same.

**FUNERAL: Gary McPherson, Jr. (Tues., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>)**

**† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †**

**Sunday, December 15** *Third Sunday of Advent*

8:00am Robert Wilson †  
11:00am Gail Young (birthday—Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>)  
7:00pm Gary McPherson, Jr. †

**Monday, December 16**

7:00am Lawrence & Emma Tellier †

**Tuesday, December 17**

7:00am Ernestine Jackson †

**Wednesday, December 18**

7:00am Lynne Fairfax (birthday)

**Thursday, December 19**

7:00am Reba L. Neale †

**Friday, December 20**

7:00am Alice Thornton †

**Saturday, December 21**

8:00am Walter Francis McGovern †  
4:30pm For the People

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

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

**Monday:** Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17      Matthew 21:23-27  
**Tuesday:** Genesis 49:2, 8-10      Matthew 1:1-17  
**Wednesday:** Jeremiah 23:5-8      Matthew 1:18-25  
**Thursday:** Judges 13:2-7      Luke 1:5-25  
**Friday:** Isaiah 7:10-14      Luke 1:26-38  
**Saturday:** Zephaniah 3:14-18      Luke 1:39-45

**Music Schedule**

**Processional**  
The King of Glory      LMGM #341  
**Responsorial Psalm**  
Lord, come and save us.      Psalm 146  
**Offertory**  
\* While We Are Waiting, Come      LMGM #233  
\* \* Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!      LMGM #235  
**Communion**  
Come, O Long-Expected Jesus      LMGM #238  
**Post Communion**  
\* \* I Don't Mind Waiting/Soon and Very Soon      LMGM #691  
**Recessional**  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel      LMGM #234  
\* 8:00am Ruby Robertson, Cantor—George Stewart, Music Director  
\* \* 11:00am Church Choir—George Stewart, Music Director

**Mass Attendance  
for December 8, 2019**

4:30pm      54  
8:00am      123  
11:00am      229  
7:00pm      116  
**Total:**      **522**

**Stewardship Report: December 2019**

Budgeted Tithes: December 1-13, 2019	\$31,538
Actual Tithes Received: December 1-13, 2019	\$37,673

**ELECTRONIC TITHING (FAITH DIRECT):** Consider using our secure electronic giving program, *Faith Direct*. Visit [www.faithdirect.net](http://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 (12/15)**  
9:30am Ladies of Charity Sale  
9:30am RCIA  
9:30am Sunday School  
8:00pm AA

**Monday (12/16)**  
7:00pm Holiday Band Concert  
8:00pm YAM Bible Study

**Tuesday (12/17)**  
6:30pm Youth Choir  
7:00pm Adult Choir

**Wednesday (12/18)**  
11:00am Friendly Seniors  
6:30pm Dance Ministry  
7:00pm Bible Study

**Friday (12/20)**  
6:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

**Saturday (12/21)**  
10:00am Dance Ministry

**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.*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### PARISH LIFE



**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** Would you like to have a family member remembered at Christmas? 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 **Mon., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>**. Envelopes are in the rear of the church and the rectory office. **PLEASE PRINT!**

**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**. Thank you for your support!



**SOUNDS OF THE SEASON:** Come out and hear the **257<sup>th</sup> U.S. ARMY BAND** here are HCSC, **Mon., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**. This annual **FREE** concert features traditional Christmas, holiday, and patriotic classics. Bring your family and friends for this festive event of song and music! (See flyer.)



**HCSC CHOIR CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** Come and join in with the HCSC choir as they sing Christmas carols at **FRAGER'S HARDWARE** on Capitol Hill, 1115 Penn. Ave., SE, **Fri. Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:30—6:30PM**.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: PLEASE PLAN TO HELP DECORATE OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS on Sun., Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1PM.** With many helping hands, we can accomplish this in a short time. Refreshments will be served! Meet in the church near the altar following the 11AM Mass. If you can help, please contact Kimberly Peaks (202-546-1885 or [pam@hscchurch.org](mailto:pam@hscchurch.org)).

### 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 item(s) by Mon., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. Monetary donations are also accepted. Please write "Advent Tree" in the memo line of your check or on the envelope.

**FINAL ADVENT SOUP & SCRIPTURE:** "*Are Your Desires Divine or Devilish?*" We're exploring the biblical teachings of desires and why we need God to repair our heart. And, the puzzling fact that we often desire things in abundance that are sinful and harmful for us, rather than what is good and holy for us. Come learn the difference. Our last Advent Bible study is **Wed., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>** in the rectory basement. 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](mailto:youthdirector@hscchurch.org)

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

**YOUTH CHRISTMAS EVENT:** Assemble care-packages **Fri., Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-9PM** at **Holy Name Church**, 920-11<sup>th</sup> St., NE. Please bring a pair of socks for the homeless and cookies to share with each other. Call the Youth 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> & 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!**

### 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**.



**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.

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

**NATIONAL SHRINE'S CHRISTMAS DINNER:** The Basilica of the National Shrine will sponsor dinner on **Christmas Day, Dec., 25<sup>th</sup> from 12:15—2:30PM** for those who are alone or in need. Volunteers are needed to assist in preparing, serving, and delivering meals. If interested in volunteering call (202-526-8300) or sign-up at [www.nationalshrine.org/christmasdinner](http://www.nationalshrine.org/christmasdinner). (See flyer.)

#### 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:   