

**Commemorating the
Feast Day of Saint Cyprian
and
126th Anniversary
of
Saint Cyprian Roman
Catholic Church**

Sunday, September 20, 2020

Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Church
1357 East Capitol Street, Southeast
Washington, District of Columbia
202-546-1885 ❖ www.hcscchurch.org

Reverend Monsignor Charles Pope, Pastor



*“No one is strong
in his own strength,
but he is safe by
the grace and
mercy of God.”*

St. Cyprian of Carthage

Go in the wilderness, leaning on the Lord

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings This Sunday:

Isaiah 55:6-9 Phil 1:20-24, 27 Matthew 20:1-16

Readings Next Sunday:

Ezekiel 18:25-28 Phil 2:1-11 Matthew 21:28-32



The Gospel today offers five teachings on Christian Discipleship. **First**, the **AVAILABILITY** of Christian Discipleship. The workers who are hired are day laborers. As such they are well acquainted with the "rough side of the mountain" and face each day with uncertainty, "Will I be hired and eat, or not?" But it is their emptiness that makes them available, their hunger that keeps them ready for work. So too for us who often find that it is our concerns that keep us close to the Lord. **Second**, the **CALL** of Christian Discipleship. The workers cannot go into the vineyard until they are called. And, so too for us. We must wait for the Lord's direction before launching out in all sorts of ways. **Third**, there is the **TIMING** of Christian Discipleship. The workers were sent into the vineyard at different times each day. We may have any number of good ideas, but the Lord says, "Not yet." Sometimes too he says, yes, now. Other times he puts things on us for which we may not feel ready, but he says "now." Here too, we ask for the grace to accept the Lord's timing in our life. **Fourth**, we see the **PERSEVERANCE** of Christian Discipleship. Some were not hired until late in the day. But notice, they were still there to be hired. And so must we often wait for the Lord and be able to be found ready when he calls. **Fifth**, there is the **GIFT** of Christian Discipleship. Note how the early workers claimed it was unfair that they were paid the same as others who worked less. But this is our failure to understand that discipleship is a gift, and the earlier you get the gift the better. Being a Christian and a disciple is not a burden to be delayed as long as possible. It is a delight to be sought after.

FUNERALS: **Cornelia Hamilton** (Fri., Sept. 11th)
Dean Curtis Armstrong (Mon., Sept. 14th)
John Willis Ferguson (Fri., Sept. 18th)

† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

Sunday, September 20
 8:00am Norma B. Jackson † (birthday)
 11:00am For the intentions of Doretha Holley
 7:00pm Dean Curtis Armstrong †
Monday, September 21 *Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist*
 7:00am Ann Bailey †
Tuesday, September 22
 7:00am Walter Lee Willoughby †
Wednesday, September 23 *Saint Pius of Pietrelcina*
 7:00am For the People
Thursday, September 24
 7:00am For the intentions of Brenda Worthy
Friday, September 25
 7:00am Leon "Tony" Myrick † (birthday)
Saturday, September 26 *Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs*
 8:00am For the intentions of Dorothy Taylor
 4:30pm Beatrice C. Hall †

MASS INTENTIONS: It is a spiritual work of mercy to pray for others, living and deceased. To offer a mass intention in honor or memory contact the rectory (202-546-1885). The customary stipend is \$5 per intention.

PARISH NEWS

 Our parish is currently using an online communication tool called **FLOCKNOTE** to send messages to our parishioners via email during this pandemic. Flocknote allows you to choose the news you want, and direct access to manage your **FREE** subscription. Currently, bible study and general parish news are sent via **Flocknote**. If you have not done so, **subscribe and stay connected**. It's quick and easy! Text **HCSC** to **84576** or visit <https://hscchurch.flocknote.com/> to receive emails with updates from the parish.

COMMUNICATIONS AT HCSC: Visit our parish website (hscchurch.org) for updates from the Pastor and on the parish during this pandemic.

 Download **MyParishApp** onto your mobile device to stay in touch with what's happening at our parish. Visit your app store (*available for android & Apple phones*). Make sure to turn on your notifications after you download so you can receive updates and information.

HCSC is also on social media (**Facebook, Instagram and Twitter**). Make sure you stay in touch!

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Monday (9/21) 8:00pm Bible Study (ZOOM)	Friday (9/25) 6:00pm Holy Hour/Confessions
Wednesday (9/23) 6:15pm Confessions 7:15pm Bible Study (ZOOM)	Saturday (9/26) 10:00am Confirmation rehearsal

FAITH DIRECT Fall is here along with our traditional season of stewardship. This year people throughout our community have turned to us for help. However, Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian can only continue to meet that need with your assistance. Your valuable online donations/tithes help us to continue our ministry to answer the call for help. We prayerfully request that you consider signing up for eGiving from your computer, smartphone, or tablet and set up a recurring donation, or make a one-time gift. Sign up by visiting faith.direct/DC59 or pick up a brochure in the rear of the church. Call the rectory office if you have questions.

DAILY READINGS

Monday	Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13	Matthew 9:9-13
Tuesday	Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13	Luke 8:19-21
Wednesday	Proverbs 30:5-9	Luke 9:1-6
Thursday	Ecclesiastes 1:2-11	Luke 9:7-9
Friday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-11	Luke 9:18-22
Saturday	Ecclesiastes 11:9—12:8	Luke 9:43-45

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.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PARISH LIFE



CONFIRMATION: HCSC Sacrament of Confirmation for seven of our youth will be **Sun., Sept. 27th at 1:30PM.** Confirmation builds on what was begun in Baptism and what was nourished in Holy Eucharist. This sacrament is called Confirmation because the faith given in Baptism is now confirmed and made strong.



We are coordinating a plan to host our **Sunday School online** starting in October for Pre-K through 12th grade. Sunday School is for both youths and adults, especially youth who need to receive their sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Registration forms available on our website (hscchurch.org) and the rear of the church. For more information, contact Shirley Austin (mre@hscchurch.org).



Join with us in prayer every Friday for **Holy Hour with Eucharistic Adoration** at 6PM in the church. Clergy will be available to hear confessions. Let us continue to pray for the 'healing of our land'.



Under the Archdiocese of Washington and local health officials' guidelines we are celebrating Mass in the sanctuary. **The sanctuary is open daily from 8AM—8PM for private prayer and meditation.**

Restrictions allow up to 100 people in attendance at any of our **Public Masses.** Our regular Mass schedule is: **Saturday-8:00AM and 4:30PM (vigil); Sunday-8AM, 11AM & 7PM and daily Mass (Monday-Friday) at 7AM in the sanctuary.**

Please note there are still a number of restrictions and protocols that we must continue to follow at each Mass:

- ◆ To enter the sanctuary, only the middle front doors and the handicap ramp will be open.
- ◆ To allow for social distancing some pews have been blocked off and our Ushers will escort you to a seat.
- ◆ Attendees must social distance themselves and wear a facial mask or covering. Hand sanitizer is available.
- ◆ Attendance at Mass will be on a first-come, first-serve basis until the 100 attendee count is reached.
- ◆ Instructions will be given at Mass for safe reception of Holy Communion.
- ◆ Ushers will dismiss by pew at the end of Mass. Please refrain from congregating out on the plaza.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: If you are able to serve as an usher at a weekend Mass, contact us with your name, email/phone number at hscstaff@hscchurch.org or 202-546-1885.

We are being prudent and cautious because we care for you and your family's safety and well-being. We continue to ask for your patience and prayers during these challenging times. God bless you all.



HCSC FOOD PANTRY: If you or someone you know needs food, contact the rectory at 202-546-1885 or hscstaff@hscchurch.org. **If you can donate food**, please call to find out what we need.

SAVE THE DATE—31ST ANNUAL EAST OF THE RIVER REVIVAL, A ONE-NIGHT VIRTUAL EVENT: "Things Change But God Remains the Same"



hosted by St. Luke Catholic Church, **Mon., Oct. 5th at 7PM.** Revivalist: Father Cornelius K. Ejiogu, SSJ, Pastor, St. Luke. See flyer in the rear of the church.

Bible Study
everyone is welcome

Msgr. Pope hosts his weekly bible studies online via Zoom. To receive the link, please subscribe to the Bible Study of your choice

on Flocknote at hscchurch.flocknote.com.

⇒ **Monday Young Adult Bible Study** group begins at **8PM.** The current topic is **Acts of the Apostles.**

⇒ **Wednesday Bible Study** group begins at **7:15PM.** The current topic is **The Book of Philemon.**



LEARN ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH: Enroll in Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) **virtual** classes which provide adults the fundamental teachings of the Catholic faith. Although RCIA classes are designed for non-Catholics considering becoming Catholic, they also offer an opportunity for adult Catholics who missed receiving a sacrament, are looking to enrich their faith, or returning to the Church after a long absence. For more information, call 202-546-1885 or rciahsc@gmail.com.

SUNDAY MASS LIVE-STREAMED: If you are unable to attend Mass in person, there are several opportunities to view mass online on Sundays:

- ◆ **Sunday TV Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine** at 10:30AM on WDCW-50 (or view the taped Mass at any time at adw.org/tvmass)
- ◆ **View a listing of live-streamed Masses around the Archdiocese** at [https://adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/or facebook.com/adw.org/](https://adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/or/facebook.com/adw.org/)

WHAT IF I CAN'T ATTEND MASS?: The dispensation issued by Archbishop Gregory from the obligation to attend Mass during this time **remains in effect.** All persons who are subjects of the Archbishop of Washington no matter where they may be, and all other persons who are actually present in the Archdiocese of Washington who are under the obligation, are dispensed from the obligation until further notice (cann. 87 §1, 91).

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 (www.msgrpope.com)

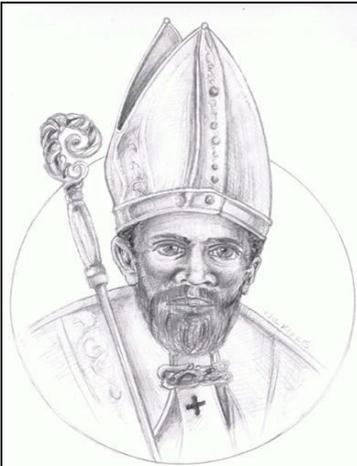
For information on membership, sacraments and funerals contact the rectory staff at hscstaff@hscchurch.org or 202-546-1885.

Mass Hours: Saturday: 8AM & 4:30PM (vigil); Sunday: 8AM, 11AM and 7PM; Weekdays: Monday—Friday 7AM

Rectory Office Hours (during pandemic):

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10AM—4PM; Thursday, Saturday & Sunday—Closed

SAINT CYPRIAN of CARTHAGE – BISHOP & MARTYR



Artistic rendering of
Bishop Cyprian of Carthage

Saint Cyprian's full name was **Thascius Caecilius Cyprianus**. He was an African nobleman born in Carthage, North Africa, about 200 A.D. Cyprian was born of a wealthy noble family. He was a skilled master of rhetoric and had taken up a career in law before his conversion to the Christian faith from paganism. Despite his high social rank and seemingly carefree life, he was besieged by a feeling of emptiness and, as he described it, a "hidden desperation." It was in these circumstances that, at the age of 35, he embraced the Christian faith and was baptized on Easter Day of 246 A.D. He marveled over the dramatic change the faith brought about in his life and so impressed the Christians of Carthage that a mere three years later, when their Bishop Donatus died, they requested Cyprian as his successor. No sooner was he elected than a savage persecution broke out against the Christians throughout all the Roman Empire, and Carthage was no exception.

Nevertheless, Cyprian took the helm and held his community together. From a self-imposed exile he wrote hundreds of encouraging letters to those enduring the ordeals and gave them a shepherd's care. Within two years Cyprian was able to return to Carthage where he zealously and pastorally led the Church of Carthage. Cyprian was a dedicated student of the Scriptures and read closely the works of the theologians and philosophers of his time. Cyprian himself was a writer and addressed some extremely important issues in the early Church. Many of his works were very influential on the teachings of the Catholic Church, and his Treatise on the "Our Father" was considered by many to be a work of genius. He is numbered among the "Father's of the Church." This term describes those, who, through the exercise of their pastoral office and by their teaching and preaching, decisively influenced the development of Christian doctrine and the understanding of Sacred Scripture in the first centuries of the Church.

In the year 257 A.D. persecutions once again broke out against the Church. Cyprian was arrested and then exiled. Refusing to recant his faith, Cyprian knew his time had come to make his supreme witness to Christ. When the death sentence was pronounced, he cried out "Thanks be to God!" and that same day September 14, 258, he was beheaded. He was the first African Bishop to be martyred for the faith.

All Christ did, all he taught, was the will of God. Humility in our daily lives, an unwavering faith, a moral sense of modesty in conversation, justice in acts, mercy in deed, discipline, refusal to harm others, a readiness to suffer harm, peaceableness with our brothers, a whole-hearted love of the Lord, loving in him what is of the Father, fearing him because he is God, preferring nothing to him who preferred nothing to us, clinging tenaciously to his love, standing by his cross with loyalty and courage when there is any conflict involving his honor and his name, manifesting in our speech the constancy of our profession and under torture confidence for the fight, and in dying the endurance for which we will be crowned – this is what it means to wish to be a co-heir with Christ, to keep God's command; this is what it means to do the will of the Father.

From a Treatise on the Lord's Prayer by Saint Cyprian of Carthage

THE HISTORY OF SAINT CYPRIAN PARISH

The parish known as Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian can trace its beginnings to two distinct churches – St. Cyprian, established in 1893, and Holy Comforter established in 1904. This is a brief history of St. Cyprian's parish.

After the Civil War, there were large movements of African-Americans from the south into cities, especially to the north, and many came to Washington, DC. Some settled in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. These Black Catholics began to attend St. Peter's Church at Second & C Streets, SE, and it is here that this story begins.

Throughout the latter half of the 19th Century, St. Peter's parish continued to grow and prosper, yet the African-Americans who worshipped there were never fully accepted as members of the church community. They were made to sit in the back of the church, use different doors from the white church members, and eventually excluded from the main sanctuary and forbidden to be married or baptized at the main altar. Though there was precedent for African-Americans to break away and form their own churches, the blacks at St. Peter's became frustrated when they were unable to establish their own church because there were so few black priests in the United States.



Fr. James Matthews

In 1887, Fr. James R. Matthews (who was not African-American) came to St. Peter's as assistant pastor and began to work diligently with the African-American Catholics to create their own parish where they would feel welcomed. Before eventually being transferred, he convinced Fr. J. M. O'Brien to write the Archdiocese of the Catholic Diocese in Baltimore asking to establish St. Cyprian parish.

In 1892, Cardinal Gibbons agreed that the time for such a move was right and he had Fr. Matthews transferred back to Capitol Hill. Thus, he was able to keep his word and work with the Black Catholics to establish a new church.

At the same time, Miss Mary Atkins offered a plot of land on 8th Street to Fr. Matthews to be used for a school for African-American children. Fr. Matthews invited the Oblate Sisters of Providence to take charge of the school that was established. By 1894, a larger school building was erected at 310 – 8th Street and named St. Ann's Academy. (In 1964, the school eventually merged with Holy Comforter School, the process went very smoothly.)

On March 12, 1893, the group of African-Americans who had been meeting in St. Peter's hall were officially organized as St. Cyprian Parish and recognized by the Archdiocese of Baltimore. By April 18, 1893, a tract of land at 13th & C Streets, SE, was purchased for the sum of \$12,480 with funds raised through donations by parishioners, and loans from the Cardinal, as well as from societies who assist the Black community. The church and rectory were built on this land. Ground was broken on July 1, 1893, and the cornerstone was laid on September 24, 1893. A ceremony to celebrate the laying of the cornerstone of the new church included a parade witnessed by more than 10,000 people. Cardinal Gibbons marched with the parishioners to the site and spoke at the dedication. The pioneering members of St. Peter's Church, who had the courage and vision to establish the parish of St. Cyprian, were rewarded for their dedication when St. Cyprian's opened the door to its new church building on June 2, 1894, just eight months after the laying of the cornerstone.

St. Cyprian became a thriving force in the community. During the church's first year, there were 1500 members, with 250 children attending Sunday School. That same year over 200 people were baptized. St. Cyprian became the only Catholic parish in the country to provide its members with an adult night school.

During those early years, the parish was blessed by the efforts of many dedicated parishioners who worked closely with the founding Pastor, Father (later Monsignor) James Matthews who served the parish for 41 years from 1893-1934. In 1943, St. Cyprian was transferred to the Josephites (organized in 1893 as an American missionary group devoted to evangelizing African-Americans). Throughout the years, St. Cyprian continued to be the focal point of the Capitol Hill African-American community.

However, in 1966, this pivotal force faced a serious challenge when its magnificent buildings needed extensive repairs that proved too expensive to undertake. Fr. Burke, the pastor at the time of the closing, explained that over \$350,000 was needed to repair the buildings and he approached Cardinal O'Boyle and suggested a possible merger with Holy Comforter since this parish had suffered a serious decline in membership. After much deliberation, Cardinal O'Boyle, with reservation, agreed to merge the parishes.

It must be said that things did not go smoothly and many parishioners even today still express concern over the way the whole matter was handled. The announcement of the closing came suddenly on a Sunday in late August 1966. Parishioners were told that within two weeks their parish buildings would be closed and with only two weeks notice, there was no time to raise funds. So, they had to move to the Holy Comforter Parish building.

The St. Cyprian Parish buildings stood empty for five years until 1971 when they were demolished. A plaque commemorating the site of St. Cyprian is located at that site today. In 1966, the blended parish of Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian was formed and run by the Josephites. In 1984, the parish was returned to the care of diocesan priests and continues to serve the community today. The merged school, unfortunately, closed in 2007.