

Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Roman Catholic Church

Sunday, September 19, 2021

The Feast Day of Saint Cyprian

(actual feast date: September 16th)

&

128th Anniversary of Saint Cyprian's Parish

1893–2021

*'This is Our Story. This is
Our Song.'*



Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Parish

1357 East Capitol Street, Southeast

Washington, District of Columbia 20003

202.546.1885

www.hcscchurch.org

Reverend Monsignor Charles Pope, Pastor



Artistic Rendition of Saint Cyprian of Carthage

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust do corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where thy treasure is, there will thy heart be also."

Saint Cyprian of Carthage



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings This Weekend:

Wis 2:12,17-20 James 3:16-4:3 Mark 9:30-37

Readings Next Weekend:

Nm 11:25-29 James 5:1-6 Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

Message from the Pastor

In today's gospel, the Lord is calling a crucial question. The gospel begins with a **Processional** and we are told that Jesus is beginning a journey through Galilee. This means he is heading south, into conflict, on his final journey, which will end with his cross, death and resurrection. Jesus' procession is not unlike our own, wherein, as we head toward our eventual death, we must increasingly confront the empty promises of this world, and set our eyes firmly on the kingdom of heaven. But note the **Pain**. Jesus gives the second prediction of his passion, death and resurrection. Jesus, who knew the torture that awaited him, expresses his pain. Sadly, his Apostles become avoidant, they are afraid to ask him any questions about this, and they seem to draw apart and become engaged in a foolish debate about who's the greatest. So, then comes the **Point**, the crucial, question. Jesus asked, "What were you arguing about on the way?" In other words, what is important in your life? What do you spend your time thinking and talking about? Is it really the things of God, or is it foolish and passing things of the world like who's the greatest, who's the big cheese, and how do I rank? Jesus answers their foolishness, (our foolishness), with a shocking paradox: the greatest, in God's eyes, is not those who are served, but those who serve. At the \$10,000 a plate fund raiser, God is not drawn to the head table, or to the dais. He is drawn to those who serve the table. God does not run to the rope line first, he walks into the kitchen and greets the cooks and dishwashers. And so, the crucial question for us is, "What are you discussing as you make your journey, what is important to you?" Is it important to God?

In our Parish this week we celebrate our patronal feast, St. Cyprian. By his death as a Martyr, St. Cyprian testifies to us of the need to endure the cross, but he also shouts the victory from his place in the great cloud of witnesses. For all of us, on this our feast day we are guided by this theme: *More about Jesus let me learn, of His holy will discern...More about Jesus! More of his saving fullness see, more of His love who died for me!*

† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

Sunday, September 19 *Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
 10:00am Maukia McPherson-McDowell (*birthday*)
 7:00pm For those in vocations in service to God
Monday, Sept. 20 *Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest, & Paul Chong Ha-sang, Martyrs*
 8:00am James Mazol (*birthday*)
Tuesday, September 21 *Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist*
 7:00am Eric Robinson †
Wednesday, September 22
 7:00am Msgr. John Brady †
Thursday, September 23 *Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest*
 7:00am For the People
Friday, September 24
 7:00am Charlena Addison †
Saturday, September 25
 8:00am Esther Akers †
 4:30pm Leon "Tony" Myrick (*birthday*) †

To submit a mass intention, call the rectory at (202) 546-1885.

DAILY READINGS

MONDAY Ezra 1:1-6 Luke 8:16-18
TUESDAY Ephesians 4:1-7,11-13 Matthew 9:9-13
WEDNESDAY Ezra 9:5-9 Luke 9:1-6
THURSDAY Haggai 1:1-8 Luke 9:7-9
FRIDAY Haggai 2:1-9 Luke 9:18-22
SATURDAY Zechariah 2:5-9,14-15a Luke 9:43b-45

Stay Connected



Visit our parish website (hscchurch.org) for updates from the pastor and events in the parish. Here are other ways to stay in touch:

Subscribe to Flocknote by texting "HCSC" to 84576 or visit <https://hscchurch.flocknote.com/> to receive emails with updates from the parish such as bulletins, recorded mass links, and homily notes. It's **FREE** and easy!

Download the **MyParishApp** onto your mobile device to stay in touch with what's happening at our parish. To get the app: visit your app store (*available for Android & Apple phones*). Turn on your notifications after you download so you can receive updates and information.

And, follow us on social media (**Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube**). Make sure you stay connected!

Mass Attendance—September 12, 2021

4:30pm	43
8:00am	81
9:30am	30
11:00am	103
7:00pm	85
Total:	342



eGiving or electronic tithing is a great stewardship habit – it streamlines your giving and lets you do even more to help Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian grow our

ministries that share the Good News. You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet, and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. It's **FREE, EASY, and CONVENIENT**, as your money will be automatically deducted each month for you. Sign up at faithdirect.net using our church **code DC59**, or pick up an enrollment form in the rear of the church. Questions? Contact Kim Peaks at pam@hscchurch.org or (202) 546-1885. Thank you for your continued support of our parish community.

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Monday (9/20) 7:00pm YAM Bible Study	Friday (9/24) 6:00pm Confessions / Holy Hour
Wednesday (9/22) 7:15pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom)	Saturday (9/25) 11:00am St. Peter Claver Mtg

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



On Sept. 14th, four of the sisters made their profession of perpetual vows at a beautiful liturgy held at our Church. We are very grateful for the support and service from the Servants of the Lord/Virgins of Matara community that resides at our convent building. We are honored to celebrate this special event and welcome these new sisters who have professed their faith to God and to the service of his people. Please keep them in your prayers.

UPDATE ON MASS INTENTIONS: The norm in the Archdiocese of Washington for mass intentions is that persons submitting a Mass intention make a sacrificial donation of \$10 per intention. Our own parish has been suggesting a donation of \$5 per intention but we would like to begin operating under the norm of the diocese. **As of September 5th** the requested donation is \$10 per intention. We understand it may be a financial hardship for some, so please note that this donation is suggested, not required.



SUNDAY SCHOOL 2021—22 for Pre-K through 12th grade will begin on **September 26, 2021**. Our program provides ALL youth with the authentic teaching of the Catholic faith and includes those youth who need their Sacraments (Penance, First Communion and Confirmation). Contact Shirley Austin, Minister of Religious Education, at mre@hscchurch.org or (202) 368-7231. Visit hscchurch.org for more information.



LEARN ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH by enrolling in Catholic education classes (RCIA) which begin **Sunday, September 26th at 9:30am** in the rectory basement. These classes provide adults the fundamental teachings of the Catholic faith. Although these classes are especially designed for non-Catholics who are considering becoming Catholic, they are also a wonderful opportunity for adult Catholics who missed receiving one or more of the sacraments, or who may be returning to the Church after a long absence. If interested, contact Liz Butler at ebutler717@gmail.com or (301) 379-5266.

COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

UPDATE: As of July 31, 2021, the DC Mayor reinstated the indoor mask mandate. Our church will remain open with the following protocol:

- ◆ Everyone who enters the church or rectory buildings, even if you have been fully vaccinated, are **required to wear a mask** or covering. If you do not have one, please see an usher.
- ◆ To allow for some social distancing, every other pew will remain roped-off until further notice.
- ◆ Automatic hand sanitizing units are available at doors.
- ◆ Sanitizing of minister's hands will remain in place for safe reception of Holy Communion.

We kindly ask everyone to be respectful of each other as we follow both diocesan and local health guidelines.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION / HOLY HOUR is held **EVERY FRIDAY** from **6—7PM** in the sanctuary. Parishioners are invited to attend a wonderful opportunity to gather and reflect in quiet prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Confessions are also heard during the holy hour.



TRY OUR TIME-OUT TUNNEL: Coming to Mass with little children can be a challenge, especially when they become restless. At times like these, try our time-out tunnel! In the vestibule (rear) of the church, we have benches for you to sit, speakers so that Mass can be heard and a little more room to attend to your children. It's great to have so many young children in the church but if you or they need a time-out, please try our time-out tunnel!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: On the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, **Mon., Oct. 4th**, Msgr. Pope and other clergy will bless our pets on the church plaza from **6pm—7:30pm**. Bring your pet and encourage your family, friends and neighbors to stop by for a special blessing!



SAVE THE DATE: 32nd Annual East of the River Revival—Mon., Oct. 4th at 7pm. This is a live and virtual event held at St. Luke Roman Catholic Church in Washington, DC. **Revivalist:** Fr. Robert Boxie. **Theme:** *In the Midst of it All*. A special session will be held for the youth on **Sat., Oct. 2nd** from 11am-4:30pm at Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Church. This annual revival features scripture, music and relevant inspirational preaching for all. See flyer for links and details.

HCSC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

OUR YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY meets **Mondays at 7pm in the rectory basement**, preceded by a short social at 6:30pm. Join other young adults with Msgr. Pope in the discussion of scripture. After subscribing to the YAM Bible Study on Flocknote at hscchurch.flocknote.com, you will be able to RSVP each week. For questions, call (202) 546-1885. We are studying **SONG OF SONGS**.



Bible Study everyone is welcome. Join Msgr. Pope for **Wednesday Evening Bible Study via Zoom at 7:15pm**. To receive the Zoom link via email, subscribe to Wednesday Night Bible Study on Flocknote at hscchurch.flocknote.com. We are studying the **BOOK OF BARUCH**.

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)

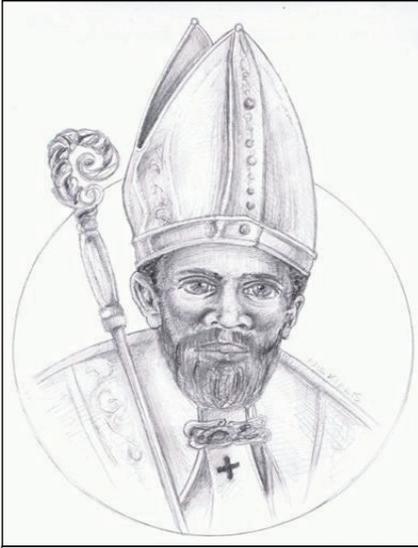
For information on membership, sacraments and funerals contact rectory staff at hscstaff@hscchurch.org or (202) 546-1885.

Mass Times: **Saturday** 8am & 4:30pm (vigil);
Sunday 8am, 9:30am 11am and 7pm;
Weekdays Mon—Fri: 7am (8am on holidays)

Rectory Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 10am—6pm
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.

At the same time, Miss Mary Atkins offered a plot of land at 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.

**THE SOUTHEAST DEANERY AND
PARTNERING CHURCHES PRESENT THE**

32ND ANNUAL EAST OF THE RIVER REVIVAL

"IN THE MIDST OF IT ALL"

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021 | 7 PM

LIVE AND VIRTUAL EVENT
REVIVALIST: FATHER ROBERT BOXIE III



To join the revival live stream, please go to
St. Luke Catholic Church's Washington DC
Facebook or YouTube page. Via phone dial:
(425)-436-6339 (access code: 269615).

**Contact Nicki Gebrehiwot at (202) 330-8302
or email errc.sedc@gmail.com**

THE SOUTHEAST DEANERY AND
PARTNERING CHURCHES PRESENT THE

32ND ANNUAL EAST OF THE RIVER REVIVAL

YOUTH RALLY
(AGES 6-17)

"COMING TOGETHER FOR THE
GLORY OF GOD"



Facilitator: Father Robert Boxie III

OCTOBER 2, 2021 | 11 AM TO 4:30 PM
CLOSING MASS AT 4:30 PM

Join us for activities, prizes & more!

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1600 Morris Road SE, Washington, DC 20020
in-person or via Zoom

Youth must submit a release form to attend.
Contact Nicki Gebrehiwot at (202) 330-8302
for more information.

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Clyde Fairfax Sr.
Clyde (Guy) Fairfax Jr.
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**OUR DECEASED
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 HCSC SODALITY

In Loving Memory of
 The Deceased Jenifers:

Oscar, Mary, Helena, Bay, David,
 Baby Sis, Beverly, Frankie, David,
 Neal, Kimberly, Cyprian Jr., Jovan

*Still Loved, Still Missed
 & Very Dear, The Family*

*In Loving
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OTHA JOHN HAMER JR.
OTHA JOHN HAMER III
 "ETERNAL LOVE"
 ~Anna, Othalene, Lataunya,
 Betty - wife and mother

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 Memory Of*

Vandy L. Jamison Sr.
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 Cornella & William B Simmons Sr.
 Marc E. Simmons Sr.
 William (Billy) B.
 Simmons Jr.

In Loving Memory

Austina H. Jones
Mother
We Love You Always
Willie, Lawrence & Maria

To Our Beloved
Kenyon E. Jones
Son & Father
*We'll always
 love you,
 Mom, Kids
 & Venita*



**IN LOVING
 MEMORY OF**
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 Maxwell Smart**
 (Tony)
 - The Family

In Memory of

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