

2021 AD

Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Parish  
Reverend Monsignor Charles Pope, Pastor

## Black Catholic History Month 2021 On the Road to Sainthood: Mother Mary Lange, O.S.P.

The legacy of blacks in the history of the Catholic Church is a journey of difficult struggles, challenges, uplifting spirit and enduring faith. November has been designated as Black Catholic History Month and our parish is recognizing the spiritual journey of one Catholic of African descent who is traveling the path toward sainthood. And, has a connection to our very own parish. This bio will be presented as a series over the next couple of weeks.



**MOTHER MARY LANGE** (born Elizabeth Clarisse Lange circa 1784) was the foundress and first Superior General of the **Oblate Sisters of Providence**. We do not know very much about Elizabeth Lange's early life. Recent research points to Santiago de Cuba as her birthplace. Most likely she grew up in the French speaking area of the city. Because she was well educated, we believe that she came from a family of some means and social standing. In the early 1800's young Elizabeth left Cuba to seek peace and security in the United States. Providence directed her to Baltimore, Maryland where great influxes of French-speaking Catholic refugees from the Haitian Revolution were settling.

By 1813, Elizabeth Lange, living in Baltimore, was a courageous, loving and deeply spiritual woman. She was a strong, independent thinker and doer. It did not take Lange long to recognize that the children of her fellow Caribbean immigrants needed education. She was determined to respond to that need in spite of being a black woman in a slave state long before the Emancipation Proclamation. She used her own money and home to educate children of

color. Elizabeth, with a friend, Marie Magdelaine Balas, offered free education to children in their home in the Fells Point area of the city.

Early in 1828, providence intervened through the person of Reverend James Hector Joubert, S.S. who, encouraged by then Archbishop James Whitfield, presented Elizabeth with the challenge to start a school for girls of color. While Elizabeth talked to Father Joubert, she confessed that for over ten years she had wanted to commit her life to God and was waiting for His call. She asked Father Joubert if they should start a women religious order too. He decided it was a very worthwhile idea and would provide the direction, solicit financial assistance and encourage other "women of colour" to become members of this, the first congregation of women of African heritage. Elizabeth joyously acquiesced. But, how was this to be? Black men and women could not aspire to religious life at that time. But now God was providing a way! On July 2, 1829, Elizabeth and three other women pronounced promises of poverty, chastity, and obedience to Archbishop Whitfield and the chosen superior of the order.

Elizabeth, henceforth, was known as Sister Mary and became Superior General of the Oblate Sisters of Providence from 1829 to 1832, and again from 1835 to 1841. She helped to nurse the sick during the Cholera Epidemic in the early 1830s and in the mid 1840s, when Sister Frances died, she took her place working as a domestic at Saint Mary's Seminary, and from 1850 -1860 she was the novice mistress for the fledgling Oblate order.

Mother Mary's early life had prepared her well for the turbulence that followed the death of Fr. Joubert. She suffered violence of soul as she was buffeted by poverty and racial injustice. There was a sense of abandonment at the dwindling number of pupils and defections of her closest companions and co-workers. Yet, through it all Mother Mary never lost faith in Providence.

Mother Mary practiced faith to an extraordinary degree and it enabled her to persevere against all odds. She gave of herself and her material possessions until she was empty of all but Jesus, whom she shared generously with all by being a living witness to his teaching. Mother Lange lived to celebrate the golden anniversary of the order. In close union with her God, she lived through disappointment and opposition until God called her to himself February 3, 1882. She is an example of how we may all aspire to be.

In 1991, William Cardinal Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, with the approval of Rome, officially opened formal investigation into her life of union with God and works of charity which could lead to her canonization as saint in the Catholic Church.

**STAY TUNED FOR MORE ON THE LIFE AND CAUSE FOR CANONIZATION OF MOTHER MARY LANGE IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN.** Visit [www.motherlange.org](http://www.motherlange.org) and [www.oblatesisters.com](http://www.oblatesisters.com) for more.

**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Readings This Weekend:**

1 Kings 17:10-16 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44

**Readings Next Weekend:**

Daniel 12:1-3 Hebrews 10:11-14, 18 Mark 13:24-32

*Message from the Pastor*

The first reading from First Kings speaks to us of the paradox of poverty. The paradox is that often our poverty, our neediness provides a doorway for God to bless us with true riches. It is our emptiness that provides room for God to work. The first reading opens with a **Desire Portrayed**. The prophet Elijah encounters a widow in the city of Zarepath, which means "refining fire." Both of them are hungry due to a famine in the land. But Elijah, as God's prophet, speaks not only for himself, but for God when he asks this very poor woman to share her meager food with him. For, truth be told, God has a desire, a hunger for us. The woman too as many desires, but her desire needs to be purified in this place called "refining fire." Notice next, the **Destitution of Poverty**. The woman articulates her poverty, that she has only a small amount of food for herself and her child, that starvation is near at hand. We may wonder why God allows poverty. The quick answer is because there is such a grave risk in riches. In riches we trust in ourselves, in poverty we can only trust God. And it is only by trusting faith that we can ever be saved. So, next notice the **Demand that is Prescribed**. God's prophet, Elijah, summons her to trusting faith. He tells her not to be afraid to share, and in effect, teaches her the Lord will not be outdone in generosity. At a merely human level, Elijah's request may seem almost cruel. But from a spiritual perspective, Elijah is summoning her to the faith that can truly save her. We too must come to realize that merely looking to our own self-interest will only feed us for one day. Only in openness to God and to others can we procure a super-abundant food, that will draw us to life eternal. Finally, note the **Deliverance Produced**. Having little to lose, she trusts in God's word through Elijah and shares her food. And sure enough God is not outdone in generosity. From that day forward her jar of flour did not go empty nor the jug of oil run dry. If we learn to trust God, we come to discover that God never fails.

**FUNERAL:** Richard Day — Fri., November 12<sup>th</sup>

**† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †**

**Sunday, November 7** *Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
 8:00am Edgell Fairfax (birthday) †  
 9:30am Coulter Nakamura †  
 11:00am Lillian Myrick (birthday 11/8) †  
 7:00pm Beatrice Edelin (birthday) †  
**Monday, November 8**  
 7:00am ALL SOULS  
**Tuesday, November 9**  
 7:00am William A. Barnes (birthday) †  
**Wednesday, November 10** *St. Leo the Great, Pope & Dr of the Church*  
 7:00am ALL SOULS  
**Thursday, November 11** *St. Martin of Tours, Bishop*  
 7:00am Larry Schafer (birthday)  
**Friday, November 12** *St. Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr*  
 7:00am ALL SOULS  
**Saturday, November 13** *St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin*  
 8:00am Intentions of Sister Aletheias  
 4:30pm Esther Rose Muse †

**DAILY READINGS**  
**MONDAY** Wisdom 1:1-7 Luke 17:1-6  
**TUESDAY** Ez 47:1-2,8-9,12 1Cor 3:9c-11,16-17 Jn 2:13-22  
**WEDNESDAY** Wisdom 6:1-11 Luke 17:11-19  
**THURSDAY** Wisdom 7:22b—8:1 Luke 17:20-25  
**FRIDAY** Wisdom 13:1-9 Luke 17:26-37  
**SATURDAY** Wisdom 18:14-16;19:6-9 Luke 18:1-8

**Stay Connected**

Visit our parish website ([hscchurch.org](http://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—October 31, 2021**

4:30pm	43
8:00am	52
9:30am	39
11:00am	152
7:00pm	61
<b>Total:</b>	<b>347</b>

**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](http://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](mailto:pam@hscchurch.org) or (202) 546-1885. Thank you for your continued support of our parish community.

**THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH**

<b>Monday (11/8)</b> 7:00pm YAM Bible Study	<b>Friday (11/12)</b> 6:00pm Confessions / Holy Hour
<b>Tuesday (11/9)</b> 6:00pm HNS Retreat Comm. Mtg	<b>Saturday (11/13)</b> 12:00pm Women's Ministry Fellowship (Zoom)
<b>Wednesday (11/10)</b> 7:15pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom)	

**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.*

## THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### PARISH LIFE



In honor of Veterans Day (11/11), we ask blessings on those who serve our country in the armed forces. We ask for healing for veterans wounded in body and soul. We pray especially for the men and women in active combat coming home with injured bodies and traumatized spirits. Bring solace to them, O Lord. We pray for them when they cannot pray. Have mercy on all our veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Bring peace to their hearts and peace to the regions they fought in. Bless all the soldiers who served in non-combatative posts. May their calling to serve continue in their lives. Give us creative vision to see a world that, growing weary with fighting, moves to affirming the life of every human being beyond war. Through Christ our Lord.

### BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH 2021

In July 1990, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus of the U.S. designated November as Black Catholic History Month to celebrate the long history and proud heritage of Black Catholics. This month provides opportunities to learn and share the whole history and rich heritage of Christian Catholicism. Stay tuned for upcoming events in our archdiocese:

**HCSC WOMEN'S MINISTRY NOVEMBER FELLOWSHIP:** Sat., Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> (via Zoom) at 12noon-2pm. "We've Come This Far By Faith" - Join us as we celebrate Black Catholic History Month with Sr. Rita Michelle Proctor, OSP (Oblate Sisters of Providence). See flyer for details.

**"WE'VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH" ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH MASS:** Sat., Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm (praise & worship at 4:30pm) at Nativity Catholic Church (6001—13<sup>th</sup> St, NW, WDC). Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Celebrant and Homilist.

**COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN-ADW** presents **Rawn Harbor** on Sun., Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:30-4:30pm. Mr. Harbor is the composer of "Psalms of the Souls" (OCP). This is a presentation on the history & development of Black Catholic Liturgical Music in the years 1964-80. Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/19899124177>.

### 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.



**PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD:** One of the spiritual works of mercy is to pray for the dead. November is the Church's traditional month to pray for our deceased family and friends. Mass will be celebrated every other day for the *Poor Souls*. **To include your relatives and friends**, list names on the All Souls Day envelope (included with tithing envelopes or in rear of church) and drop in the collection or the rectory office. A donation is not needed to submit names but is appreciated. The envelopes will be placed on the altar throughout the month of November. **FAITH DIRECT eGIVING:** If you tithe via Faith Direct, email your names to [hscstaff@hscchurch.org](mailto:hscstaff@hscchurch.org) or call (202) 546-1885.

**OUR CHURCH IS OPEN FROM 8AM—8PM** every day for you to come in for private prayer. This is a time for all to consider spending quiet, personal time in the presence of our Lord and pray for healing, strength, courage and for each other as we face many challenges and struggles during this pandemic and other difficulties. All are welcome.

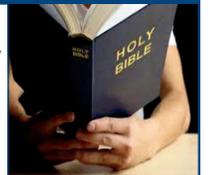
**THE WORD AMONG US:** The **November** issue is available in the Candlelight Store and the rectory office. **COST: \$2** each. This monthly publication is designed to help Catholics find genuine renewal and refreshment in God's grace, encouragement to read the Word of God, and offers daily meditations based on the Mass readings.



**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.

### 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](http://hscchurch.flocknote.com), you will be able to RSVP each week. For questions, call (202) 546-1885.



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](http://hscchurch.flocknote.com). We are studying the **BOOK OF DANIEL**.

**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 ([www.msgrpope.com](http://www.msgrpope.com))

For information on membership, sacraments and funerals contact rectory staff at [hscstaff@hscchurch.org](mailto: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

# Let us help you plan your family Thanksgiving Dinner from Honey Baked Ham



Sponsored by

## Holy Comforter—Saint Cyprian Women's Ministry

Order your Honey Baked Ham, Turkey, Side Dishes, Delicious Desserts and more  
Use the order form on the back. All orders and payments must be submitted no  
later than **November 10, 2021** to a member of the  
Women's Ministry listed below or the Rectory Office.

***Make checks payable to Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian  
(Write Honey Baked Ham in the memo)***

All orders must be picked-up on **Saturday, November 20th**  
at the Center City Public Charter School (Parking in the Rear) at  
15th & East Capitol St., SE between 12:00 noon and 2:00 pm

**All orders that are not picked up by 2:00 pm  
will be donated**



For ordering information, contact

Shirley Austin (202) 368-7231

Robin Brooks (202) 271-2940

Bertha Colbert (301) 567-9786

Miriam Townsend-Edelen (301) 219-7986

June Holton-Johnson (301) 529-7114

Wanda ross (301) 523-1017

Linda Simpson (301) 735-6432

Laura Stanton (301) 326-9467



**Customer Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDER SHEET**

Ham				Sides Selection (If not paired with item, single sale is \$10.99 each)			
Item	Price	Quantity	Total	Item	Price	Quantity	Total
8lb Honey Baked Ham	\$ 63.00			Loaded Mashed Potatoes	\$ 10.99		
9lb Honey Baked Ham	\$ 69.00			Turkey Gravy	\$ 10.99		
10lb Honey Baked Ham	\$ 76.00			Maple Sweet Potato Souffle	\$ 10.99		
4lbs Boneless Half Ham	\$ 46.00			Green Bean Casserole	\$ 10.99		
9lb Boneless Whole Ham	\$ 92.00			Double Cheddar Macaroni & Cheese	\$ 10.99		
<b>Turkey</b>				Tuscan-Style Broccoli	\$ 10.99		
Smoked Turkey Breast	\$ 30.00			Baked Cinnamon Apples	\$ 10.99		
Roasted Turkey Breast	\$ 30.00			Cheesy Potatoes Au Gratin	\$ 10.99		
<b>Popular Pairs</b>				Cornbread Stuffing	\$ 10.99		
8lb Honey Baked Ham & Smoked Turkey Breast	\$ 93.00			Creamery Russet Mashed Potatoes	\$ 10.99		
8lb Honey Baked Ham & Roasted Turkey Breast	\$ 93.00			<b>Sweet Treats</b> (If not paired with a meat, each price is listed)			
4lbs Boneless Half Ham & Roasted Turkey Breast	\$ 76.00			Cinnamon Walnut Coffee Cake	\$ 20.99		
4lbs Boneless Half Ham & Smoked Turkey Breast	\$ 76.00			Blueberry Coffee Cake	\$ 20.99		
<b>Sweetest Duos: (select pie on other side)</b>				New York Style Cheesecake	\$ 18.99		
Honey Baked Ham (8lb) & Pie	\$ 75.99			New York Style Cheesecake Sampler	\$ 23.99		
Boneless Half Ham (4lb) & Pie	\$ 59.00			Pumpkin Pie	\$ 13.99		
<b>The Perfect Gifts: Select sides on other side</b>				Apple Walnut Caramel Pie	\$ 13.99		
Honey Baked Ham (8lb) & 2 Sides	\$ 85.00			Southern Pecan Pie	\$ 13.99		
Boneless Half Ham (4lb) & 2 Sides	\$ 68.00			Whole Rum Cakes: Circle each flavor: Vanilla, Cinnamon, Chocolate, Coconut	\$ 24.99		
<b>Whole Turkey</b>				Rum Cake Sampler: Contains all flavors as mini bundt cakes	\$ 22.99		
Cajun Whole Turkey (10-12lbs)	\$ 49.99						
Smoked Whole Turkey (10-12lbs)	\$ 49.99						
Roasted Whole Turkey (10-12lbs)	\$ 49.99						
<b>Other Items</b>							
Ribs	\$ 27.99						
Bacon: (circle selection) Peppered Bacon Or Sweet Bacon	\$ 12.99						
Hawaiian Rolls	\$ 4.99						
COMBO #5 SIGNATURE SAUCES	\$ 29.99						
COMBO 3 SIGNATURE	\$ 12.99						
Visit Honey Baked Ham website to sauce choices.							

TOTAL	
TAX 6%	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	

Acceptable Forms of Payment: Cash, Money Order/Cashier Check, or Credit Card. We do not accept checks.



# Celebrating Black Catholic History

## “We’ve Come this far by Faith”

Join the Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Roman Catholic Church  
Women’s Ministry

for a virtual fellowship (via Zoom)

Saturday, November 13 , 2021

12:00 noon—2:00 pm

Guest Speaker



*Sister Rita Michelle Proctor, OSP*  
Superior General of the Oblate Sisters of Providence

If using your computer,  
IPAD/Tablet, go to  
Zoom.com  
Click join a meeting  
Meeting ID: 820 9534 9777  
Meeting Password: 774062

If using your cellphone download the Zoom  
app. Click join a meeting.  
Meeting ID 820 9534 9777  
Meeting Password 774062  
Or dial in at 1-301-715-8532

Invite others, bring your Bibles. We ask all participants to find a quiet place with the least amount of background distractions and mute your microphones when not speaking.

For additional information, contact one of the following members

Laura Stanton (301) 326-9467  
Bertha Colbert (301) 567-9786  
Robin Brooks (202) 271-2940  
Shirley Austin (202) 368-7231

Wanda Ross (301) 523-1017  
Miriam Townsend-Edelen (301) 219-7986  
Linda Simpson (301) 735-6432  
June Holton-Johnson (301) 529-7114

## Meet Our Guest Speaker:

### *Sr. Rita Michelle Proctor, O.S.P.*

Superior General, Oblate Sisters of Providence  
[www.oblatesisters.com](http://www.oblatesisters.com)

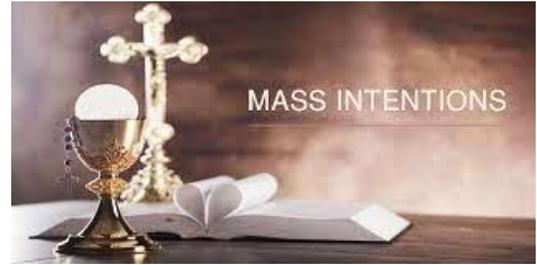
Sister Rita Michelle Proctor is a native Washingtonian. She is one of seven children and a product of Catholic education: Saint Cyprian School and Academy of Our Lady High School in Washington, DC. Sister Rita Michelle holds a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Towson State University, a Master of Arts in Administration and Counseling from Towson State University, and post graduate credits in Theology from Xavier University in New Orleans Louisiana.

Sister Rita Michelle has been in the ministry of Catholic education for more than 40 years. She has taught at St. Frances Day Care in St. Louis, Missouri; St. Philip the Apostle in New Orleans, Louisiana; Father Charles A. Hall, St. Frances Academy, St. James and John and Archbishop Borders Catholic Schools in Baltimore, Maryland. She has also served as Principal at Father Charles A. Hall Catholic School, Mother Mary Lange Catholic School and Cardinal Shehan Catholic School in Baltimore, MD. In her years of service at St. Frances Academy, Sister Rita Michelle taught Physical Education, Theology and served as Campus Minister. She was also the coach of the girls' basketball and volleyball teams

Sister Rita Michelle has also served on many Archdiocesan Committees and Boards as well as the Governor's Commission on Quality Education Committee. She is a member of the Archdiocesan School Board, the Archdiocesan Board of Black Catholic Ministries, and Spiritual Advisor for the Catholic Daughters of the Americas at St. Veronica's Catholic Church. Sister Rita Michelle believes that like her Foundress, Mother Mary Lange and the Oblate Sisters of Providence on whose shoulders she stands, "Providence Will Provide", and that we are called to be of "Service to Others." She is currently serving her second term as Superior General of the Oblate Sisters of Providence. The Sisters have served at both Saint Cyprian School and the combined school of Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian).



# WHY DO CATHOLICS DO THAT?



## MASS INTENTIONS: Praying for those who have died is a Work of Mercy

(A teaching from Msgr. Charles Pope)

What is the value of one prayer? I suspect it is far greater than any of us imagine. Prayer changes things, sometimes in obvious ways, but more often in subtle and even paradoxical ways. But prayer is surely important, even when we don't experience its immediate effects. Perhaps this is why Jesus taught us to pray always and never to lose heart (*cf* Luke 18:1). St. Paul echoed this with the simple exhortation, "*Pray without ceasing*" (1 Thess 5:17). St. James also warned, "*You have not because you ask not*" (James 4:2).

**Praying for the living is a great and wondrous spiritual work of mercy;** its value is beyond that of gold or pearls. What is the value of one prayer? *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man is powerful in its effects* (James 5:16). Prayer can avert war, bring healing, cause conversion, bestow peace and serenity, and call down mercy—sweet, necessary, and beautiful mercy. Prayer is a treasure of inestimable value.

**Perhaps one of the greatest joys of Heaven will be** seeing how much of a difference our prayers made, even the distracted and perfunctory ones. Maybe our simple utterance at the end of a decade of the rosary to "Save us from the fires of Hell" and to "Lead all souls to Heaven" will reach the heart of one lost soul, prompting him to answer the gentle call of God to return. Imagine that in Heaven that very sinner comes up to you and says, "Though we never met, your prayer reached me and God applied His power to me." Imagine the joy of many such meetings in Heaven. Imagine, too, whom *you* will joyfully thank for their prayers, people you know and some you never met. But they prayed and the power of their prayers reached you.

**While the value of praying for the living is not widely disputed, praying for the dead is a spiritual work of mercy that has suffered in recent decades.** Too many Catholics today "miss a step" when a loved one dies. There are often immediate declarations that the deceased is "in Heaven" or "in a better place." But Scripture doesn't say that we go right to Heaven when we die. No, indeed. First, there is a brief stopover at the judgment seat of Christ.

**The Letter to the Hebrews says,** *It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment* (Heb 9:27). St. Paul writes, *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad* (2 Cor 5:10).

Our deceased loved ones go to the judgment seat of Christ, and *that* is worth praying about!

**What is the judgment for those who lived faithful lives?** In such cases, the judgment is not merely about the ultimate destination of Heaven or Hell. The judgment would seem to be “Is My work in you complete?”



**Indeed, the Lord has made all of us a promise:** *You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect* (Mat 5:48). Such a beautiful promise! Yet most of us know that we are not in such a state now. If we were to die today it is clear that much work would still be required. Thus when we send our faithful loved ones to judgment, although we send them with hope, we are aware that finishing work may be necessary. Purgation and purification are necessary before entering Heaven, of which scripture says, *Nothing impure will ever enter it* (Rev 21:27).

**Again, this is worth praying about. It is a great work of mercy we can extend to our deceased loved ones,** to remember them with love and to pray, in the words of St. Paul, *May God who has begun a good work in you bring it to completion* (Phil 1:6). Pray often for the souls in Purgatory. Surely there are joys there for them, knowing that they are on their way to Heaven, but there are also sufferings that purgation must cause. St. Paul says of Purgatory, *Each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire* (1 Cor 3:13-15). Yes, there is fire, but thank God it is a healing fire. There are tears, too, for Scripture says (regarding the dead) that *Jesus will wipe every tear from their eyes* (Rev 21:4).

**How consoling and merciful our prayers must seem** to our beloved who have died! Our prayers must seem like a gentle wind that speeds them along, onward and upward toward Heaven!

**Praying for the dead, then, is the last and greatest spiritual work of mercy.** By the grace of it, and through its help, souls attain the glory God has prepared for them from the foundation of the world.

## How to offer a Mass Intention at our Parish

Mass intentions are offered for every Mass (daily, weekends and Holy Days) celebrated in our parish. They are listed in the weekly bulletin. Contact the HCSC rectory office at 202-546-1885 or [hscstaff@hscchurch.org](mailto:hscstaff@hscchurch.org). We will try to accommodate your request for the date you prefer if it is available. Usually a small donation (\$10) is attached to your request as a way for the one requesting the Mass to share in the Sacrifice of Praise. However, it is a donation, not a fee. Sometimes due to poverty or other reasons the monetary donation is not possible or appropriate. If you are placing a mass intention for someone and you want to send a card to the family indicating the date/time of the mass, please request a Mass Intention card when you place your intention.

*In Memory of*  
**John N. Graham**  
**Catherine E. Graham**  
**Joan M. Graham**  
**Ernestine C. Jackson**  
*Always Loved,  
 Remembered,  
 Missed*

 **Pope**  
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