

Year 2022

Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Catholic Church
Celebrating African-American History Month
through the Spirituals



Weekly Theme: February 13 - HOPE

"All God's Children Got Shoes"

"Ain't gonna let nobody turn me 'round"

"I've Heard of a City Called Heaven"

"I am Free"

"Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel"

"Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham"

"There's a Balm in Gilead"

"Walk together Children"



Always in the black spirituals there's
that promise that things are going to
be better, by and by.

— *Maya Angelou* —

AZ QUOTES



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings This Weekend:

Jer 17:5-8 1 Cor 15:12,16-20 Lk 6:17,20-26

Readings Next Weekend:

1 Sm 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23 1 Cor 15:45-49 Lk 6:27-38

Message from the Pastor

The well known Beatitudes in the Gospel today should be seen as a portrait more than a prescription. In effect, Jesus is painting a picture of what a transformed human person looks like. It is not possible for us to simply do all these things under our own unaided flesh power. We may make a little progress but in the end we will tend to slide back in what the flesh wants to be: selfish, rich in what this world offers, and quite well liked by the world. Only with grace is it possible to become truly poor in spirit. Specifically, to prefer God to the things of this world that we stop acquiring endlessly and live more simply and with austerity. The flesh does not want to do this. The flesh wants to acquire, to be abundant with the world's blessings and good favor. Only grace can make us prefer God to what this world offers and to be willing to be hated and persecuted by this world. The more we are transformed by God's grace, the less we resemble the world and the more we resemble the picture that Jesus paints today.

 **FUNERALS** — Everett Coleman (Tues., Feb. 15th)

 **MASS INTENTIONS:** It is a spiritual work of mercy to pray for others, both living and deceased. To offer a Mass in memory of a friend or family, call 202-546-1885 or cherrera@hscchurch.org. The customary stipend is \$10 per intention.

 **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK** 

Sunday, February 13 *Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
 8:00am Gilbert Johnson, Sr. †
 9:30am Delores Theresa Martin †
 11:00am Sylvia Hall (B'day)
 7:00pm Christopher Nesmith †
Monday, February 14 *Saints Cyril, Monk, & Methodius, Bishop*
 7:00am Deon Rush (19th B'day)
Tuesday, February 15
 7:00am Darryl Graham (B'day)
Wednesday, February 16
 7:00am Evelyn Brown (98th B'day)
Thursday, February 17 *Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order*
 7:00am Chris Boehmler (B'day)
Friday, February 18
 7:00am Jovan Jenifer (6th Anniversary) †
Saturday, February 19
 8:00am For the People
 4:30pm Intentions of Tsige Girmay

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: JAS 1:1-11 Mk 8:14-21
TUESDAY: JAS 1:12-18 Mk 8:14-21
WEDNESDAY: JAS 1:19-27 Mk 8:22-26
THURSDAY: JAS 2:1-9 Mk 8:27-33
FRIDAY: JAS 2:14-24, 26 Mk 8:34-9:1
SATURDAY: JAS 3:1-10 Mk 9:2-13

 **FAITH DIRECT** (Electronic Tithing): For the New Year, consider electronic tithing to make it easier to send your tithes. Many of our parishioners currently use Faith Direct. By enrolling, you have one less thing to remember each week—no more envelopes to find before you go to Mass or checks to write. Pick up a brochure in the rear of the church or go online to faith.direct/DC59 for more information and to register for this **FREE** service. Your tithes will be automatically deducted from your bank account or credit card. And, you can change your deduction with an email or phone call. **Questions?** Contact Kim Peaks at 202-546-1885 or pam@hscchurch.org. Thank you for your support.

Stay Connected 

- Visit our parish website (hscchurch.org) for news.
- **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, and homily notes. It's **FREE** and easy!
- Download the **MyParishApp** onto your mobile device. To get the app: visit your app store (*available for Android & Apple phones*). Turn on your notifications so you can receive parish news. **And**, follow us on social media (**Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube**).

MSGR. POPE'S SUNDAY HOMILY: Did you know you can receive and listen to Msgr. Pope's pre-recorded Sunday homilies by subscribing to *Parish News* on **Flocknote**? See **Stay Connected** box to subscribe.

MASS ATTENDANCE FOR FEB. 6, 2022

4:30pm	26
8:00am	56
9:30am	28
11:00am	177
7:00pm	46
Total:	333

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Monday (2/14) 7:30pm YA Bible Study	Friday (2/18) 6:00pm Holy Hour/Confession
Wednesday (2/16) 7:15pm Bible Study (Zoom)	

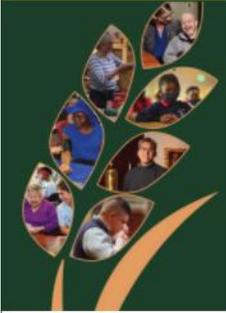
 **OUR CHURCH SANCTUARY IS OPEN FROM 8AM—8PM** every day for you to come in for private prayer. This is a time for all to consider spending quiet, personal time in the presence of our Lord and pray for healing, strength, courage and for each other as we face many challenges and struggles during this pandemic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

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.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PARISH LIFE

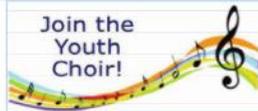


THE 2022 ANNUAL APPEAL IS HERE! This year's theme is *From God's Abundance, Our Gifts of Charity to remind us that everything we have and share with others is from our loving Father.* Through our collective support of the Annual Appeal, we strengthen the Body of Christ that is our local Church, and we sustain her many charitable works that serve the spiritual and other needs of all those within and

beyond our parish boundaries. Please consider a commitment to the 2022 Annual Appeal. Your gift will be credited toward our parish goal. **We will hold commitment weekend next week (Feb. 19-20).** You are welcome to take home a brochure (located in your pew) and learn more about the Annual Appeal and the many people it helps in this archdiocese. You can also visit: appeal.adw.org.

CALLING ALL YOUTH SINGERS!

We need youth ages 6 and up for our youth choir that sings at the 11:00am Mass every second Sunday of the month. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings at the church. If you know of a youth who is interested or need more details, contact Carolyn Campbell at 202-657-3813 or ecarolyncampbell@hotmail.com.



SAVE THE DATE: All men are invited to the Annual Parish Men's Retreat hosted by the Holy Name Society on **July 29-31, 2022** at the Claggett Retreat Center, Adamstown, MD. The facilitator is our very own **Rev. Msgr. Charles Pope**. The theme is: *"Power of Prayer"*. **Cost:**

\$260 (double occupancy) or \$290 (single occupancy). Fee includes accommodations, meals and materials. For more information or to register: contact Cyprian Jenifer at 301-580-4273.



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.

COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

UPDATE: As of Dec. 20th, the Mayor has reinstated the indoor mask mandate. You **MUST** wear a mask while in the church and rectory buildings. If you forget your mask, ask an usher. The following protocols will remain in place:

- ◆ To allow for some social distancing, every other pew will remain roped-off until further notice.
- ◆ Automatic hand sanitizing units are available at doors.
- ◆ Wearing of masks and sanitizing of hands by minister's will remain in place for safe reception of Holy Communion.

We kindly ask everyone to be respectful of each other as we continue to navigate these changing policies.



Since we have shorter rectory office hours due to the pandemic, we have noticed that some parishioners have been dropping their payments (*mass intentions, retreat payments, ministry dues, etc.*) into the offertory basket during Mass. Please know that the office staff does not receive the payments that are dropped in the offertory basket since we have volunteers who handle the offertory independently. Please mail your payment (1357 E. Capitol St., SE, WDC, 20003) or slide an envelope through the rectory front door mail slot. You are also welcome to contact us at 202-546-1885 or hscstaff@hscchurch.org to make arrangements. This will allow us to make sure your payment is received by the appropriate person. Thank you.

UPDATE!



The software used by the Archdiocese of Washington for our church membership and tithing was upgraded this past summer and has caused a delay in our providing your tithing statement in a timely manner. We are currently working on this issue but are uncertain as to when we find a solution. We kindly ask for your patience.

HCSC YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS—are prepared only upon request. Statements will not be automatically mailed. Please contact the rectory during office hours to request your statement and have it either mailed or left at the rectory for pick-up. **NOTE:** only cash donations (submitted in an envelope) and checks payable to Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian are included in your statement. Your statement will not reflect loose cash donations not placed in an envelope.

FAITH DIRECT YEAR-END STATEMENTS for HCSC parishioners who tithe through Faith Direct will automatically receive their 2021 year-end giving statement directly from Faith Direct as part of their tithing program.

HCSC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

OUR YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY meets in-person on **Mondays at 7:30pm** in the **rectory basement**, preceded by a short social at 7:00pm. To receive email notifications, sign up at hscchurch.flocknote.com. Come and see!



Join Msgr. Pope (via Zoom) for **Wednesday Evening Bible Study at 7:15pm**. Sign up to receive the Zoom link and information at hscchurch.flocknote.com. Call the rectory office for more details if you are new to the bible study.

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



CELEBRATING AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH THROUGH THE SPIRITUALS

Brief Overview of the History of the Spirituals

To reflect on the **second** week of African-American History Month, following is a review of some of the general history of the Spirituals and then, we look to this week's theme of **HOPE**

The Spirituals of the African-American tradition, sometimes called the "Negro spirituals" are songs created by enslaved Africans in the decades prior to the Civil War. They do not have individual composers, but emerged from the whole community. They were passed orally from person to person and improvised as suited the singers. They were crafted in the fields where the slaves would sing to pass the day and ease the often tedious work of planting, tending and harvesting the crops. Some were simple work songs that were sung in a call and response style.

Over the years, the slaves and their descendants adopted Christianity, the religion of their masters, and they began to include religious themes into their field songs. They re-shaped it into a deeply personal way of dealing with the oppression of their enslavement. These songs, became known as spirituals and reflected the slaves' expression of their faith. The songs told stories, from Genesis to Revelation: Adam and Eve in the Garden, Moses and

the Red Sea. They sang of the battle of Jericho, Ezekiel seeing a wheel, Mary, Jesus, the blind man seeing, God troubling the water, and yes, the Devil, as one to avoid!

Some of the best known spirituals include: "*Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*," "*Nobody Knows The Trouble I've Seen*", "*Steal Away*," "*Swing Low, Sweet*



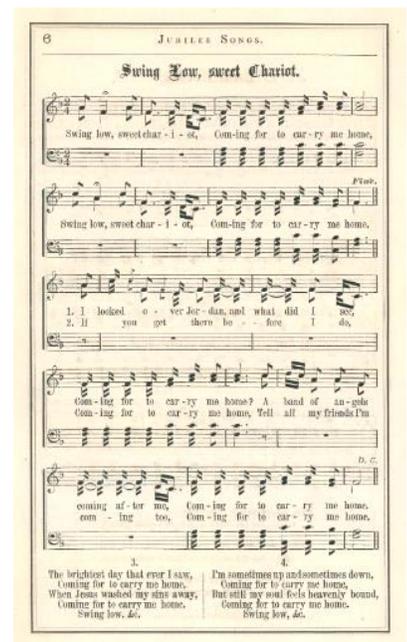
Chariot," "*Go Down, Moses*," "*He's Got the Whole World in His Hand*," "*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*," "*Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees*," and "*Wade in the Water*."

The Spirituals have great authority since they were written in the cauldron of great suffering. If any people might be excused from thinking that the Lord had forsaken them or, that they would be exempt from judgment day, it was surely the enslaved in the Deep South. If any people might be excused from crying out for vengeance, it was those enslaved in the South. And yet the spirituals are almost wholly devoid of condemning language. Enslaved blacks sang in ways that

looked also to their own sins and need to be prepared. If they were prepared, God, who knew their trouble, would help them to steal away to Jesus. They did not see themselves as exempt from the need to be ready and to persevere in the faith.

In the years following Slavery, these songs were collected and given choral form that included elaborate harmonies and swift rhythms.

The spirituals are wonderfully creative and contain a wisdom that comes from suffering and a hope that comes from faith in God's promises. The African American Spirituals are a national treasure and gift to the Church of immeasurable value.



How we are celebrating the 'Spirituals' at our Parish this African-American History Month 2022

During the month of February 2022, our parish will focus on the 'Spirituals' and the impact they have on our lives and faith. Each week, we will look at a specific theme and provide some history and clarity in relations to scripture.

WEEK 2 – February 13th - This week we focus on songs of **HOPE**.

There is an old story told of a young slave girl who lamented to her mom, "Mama, all the White folks got shoes, why don't we?" Her mother replied, "Oh, we got shoes alright. See,

*I got shoes, you got shoes, and all
God's children got shoes! When
we get to heaven gonna put on our
shoes and go walk all over God's
heaven.*

And then Mama said "Remember child,"

*Everybody talkin' 'bout heaven
ain't a goin' there."*

So, songs and sayings like these got taken into the field by the slaves and became the foundation of the Spirituals.

In the midst of great injustice and oppression with no end in sight, one can become depressed and angry. The message of the Spirituals drew on biblical stories and themes of life to convey the hope of ultimate victory in Jesus and the reward for faith. They were a kind of

*"Balm in Gilead to heal the
wounded soul."*

The oppressed looked beyond this valley of tears to heaven where joys unspeakable and glories untold awaited the faithful Christian. One spiritual says,

*"I am a poor pilgrim of sorrow,
I'm tossed in this wide world
alone. No hope I have for
tomorrow, but I've started to
make heaven my home.
Yes, sometimes I am tossed and
driven, Lord, Sometimes I don't
know where to roam. But I've
heard of a city called heaven and
I've started to make it my home."*

Another spiritual asked God to hold them tight, they sang:

*"Rocka my soul in the bosom of
Abraham, Oh, rocka my soul!"*

Yet, another spiritual reminded the slaves of God's deliverance in previous days:

*"Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel?
Then why not every man?"*

Meanwhile, as another spiritual exhorts:

*"Ain't gonna let nobody turn me
round, marchin' up to freedom
land."*

That's because

*"I promised the Lord that I would
hold out, until my change comes!
Yes, He said he'd meet me in
Galilee."*

Meanwhile we'd better:

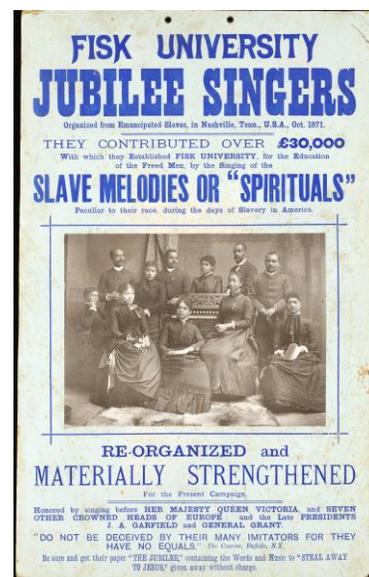
*"Walk together Children, there's a
great camp meeting in the
Promised Land!"*

These songs gave hope in the midst of great sorrow and oppressive slavery. And this hope was not only in heaven after death, it was now as well.

Many of the songs had double meanings. The city called heaven that I am "trying to make it, make heaven my home" was also code for the North where freedom could be found. "Marchin' up to freedom land" could mean heaven but it could also mean the land of freedom up north.

The slaves knew that not every blessing meant that they had to wait for heaven. God is in the blessing business *right now*. The spirituals sought to give courage to fellow slaves to forsake fear and look for opportunities to lay hold of their God-given freedom.

NOTE: Visit our website (hscchurch.org) to listen to these songs via links to the internet and to find links to the prior week flyers.



Stepping Into Newness



Reflect, Release, Rejuvenate

If using your computer, IPAD/Tablet, or cell phone

Zoom Meeting ID: 890 6581 2495

Meeting Password: 588531

Or dial in at 1-301-715-8592

Please invite your family and friends to worship with us.

We kindly ask that when on Zoom, please keep your microphone muted if you are not speaking. Thank You

Join the Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian
Roman Catholic Church

Women's Ministry
"Queens for the Kingdom"

For a virtual fellowship (via Zoom)
Saturday, February 19, 2022
(12:00 noon—2:00 pm)

Guest Speaker

Marcia Leftwood Holton



For additional information, contact

Laura Stanton (301) 326-9467

Robin Brooks (202) 271-2940

Miriam Townsend - Edelen (301) 219-7986

Brenda Worthy (202) 355-4075

Shirley Austin (202) 368-7231

Bertha Colbert (301) 567-9786

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Joan M. Graham
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Shirley Ann Jackson
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Mattie Barclay
Helene Crutchfield
Edgell Fairfax
Elizabeth Fairfax
Clyde Fairfax Sr.
Clyde (Guy) Fairfax Jr.
 The Family

In Memory of
 Our Deceased Members
HCSC
 Holy Name Society

 In Memory of
OUR DECEASED SODALISTS
 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 Memory of
OTHA JOHN HAMER JR.
OTHA JOHN HAMER III
 "ETERNAL LOVE"
 ~Anna, Othalene, Lataunya,
 Betty - wife and mother

In Loving Memory Of
 Vandy L. Jamison Sr.
 Cyprian H. Colbert Sr.
 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
Anthony Maxwell Smart
(Tony)
 - The Family

In Memory of
Will, Hump,
Bertie, Ray,
Winnie

In Loving Memory of
James O. & Reba L. Neale
 and
Alice Neale Thornton
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