

Year 2022

Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Catholic Church

Celebrating African-American History Month
through the Spirituals



Weekly Theme: February 20 - Songs of Readiness

"In that Great gettin' up Morning, fare thee well!"

"My Lord, what a mornin' , when the star begin to fall"

"One More River to Cross"

"The Gospel Train is coming "

"Dere's no hidin' place"

"Michael Row the Boat Ashore"



These slaves compared their lives to the struggles they learned from the Old Testament, and these songs expressed their despair, their sadness, but also the hope for the Promised Land of heaven, and often the hope that one day they might be free on earth.

Howard Thurmon



SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings This Weekend:

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

Readings Next Weekend:

Sir 27:4-7 1 Cor 15:54-58 Lk 6:39-45

Message from the Pastor

Today's Gospel is one of the most difficult to hear and live. We do well to first remember that it is not a moralism, as if we were to love our enemy out of our own flesh or human power. No, this is a gift the Lord is offering to us through His grace. In effect, He is teaching that when He lives his life in us, we will begin to love even our enemies. Why? Because He loves them and knows their pain and struggles. This may not excuse how they have treated us in the past, but it does remind us that people often act out of pain and fear. This can incline us to be more understanding of their behavior, though not approving. Further, to forgive is also not a human work alone. To forgive means to give our pain and sorrow to God. God in reply can reassure us, "I saw everything that they did and if they die unrepentant, I promise you they will answer to me for what they have done. But you, now, give it to me and stop carrying it. It is a weight you don't need or deserve to carry." We have to trust that God will handle everything just right. We may see justice in this life, or perhaps not. But we will see justice in heaven if we are faithful to get there.



MASS INTENTIONS: It is a spiritual work of mercy to pray for others, both living and deceased. If you want to offer a Mass in memory of a friend or family, contact Cindy Herrera: 202-546-1885 or cherrera@hcschurch.org. The customary stipend is \$10 per intention.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, February 20 *Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:00am Leocadia Stafford †
 9:30am Marvin Norman †
 11:00am William Alan Pearcet (B'day)
 7:00pm Intentions of Henryk Sass

Monday, February 21 *St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*

7:00am Maukia McDowell

Tuesday, February 22 *The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle*

7:00am For the People

Wednesday, February 23 *Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr*

7:00am Catherine Chandler (B'day)

Thursday, February 24

7:00am Ada Hall †

Friday, February 25

7:00am For those suffering through war and civil unrest

Saturday, February 26

8:00am Sheila Thompson (B'day)

4:30pm Intentions of Gloria Campbell

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY:	JAS 3:13-18	Mk 9:14-29
TUESDAY:	1 Pt 5:1-4	Mk 16:13-19
WEDNESDAY:	JAS 4:13-17	Mk 9:38-40
THURSDAY:	JAS 5:1-6	Mk 9:41-50
FRIDAY:	JAS 5:13-20	Mk 10:13-16
SATURDAY:	JAS 5:13-20	Mk 10:13-16



FAITH DIRECT (Electronic Tithing): This is a time of year when many of us focus on getting organized and "decluttering" our surroundings – why not streamline your offertory and simplify your support for Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian and the ministries that mean so much to you? Now is a great time to stop using checks and envelopes, by switching to eGiving – you can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet, and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/DC59, or text 'Enroll' to (Text-to-Give Number) or call Faith Direct customer service at 866-507-8757. Thank you for your continued support of our parish community. **Questions?** Contact Kim Peaks at 202-546-1885 or pam@hcschurch.org. Thank you for your support.

Stay Connected



- Visit our parish website (hcschurch.org) for news.
- **Subscribe to Flocknote** by texting "HCSC" to **84576** or visit <https://hcschurch.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**).

MASS ATTENDANCE FOR FEB. 13, 2022

4:30pm	40
8:00am	62
9:30am	21
11:00am	122
7:00pm	34
Total:	279

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Monday (2/21) 7:30pm YA Bible Study	Wednesday (2/23) 7:15pm Bible Study (Zoom)
Tuesday (2/22) 6:30pm Knights of Columbus Mtg	Friday (2/25) 6:00pm Holy Hour/Confession



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.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PARISH LIFE



RECTORY CLOSED—Mon., Feb. 21st in observance of **Presidents' Day**. Morning Mass is at **8AM**.



Congratulations to the following infants who were recently Baptized into the family of the Sacrificial Lamb, Jesus Christ:

Nora Catherine Buckalew - Baptized Feb. 6th
Mariana Stellamaris Lancaster - Baptized Feb. 13th

May God bless them both on their journey of faith with the help of their parents and the church community.



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 this weekend at home or in-person. Your gift will be credited toward our parish goal. Commitment envelopes can be found at the end of the pews. A second collection will be taken at each Mass for the appeal. You can drop your commitment envelope in that collection. For more information, please visit: appeal.adw.org.



DID YOU KNOW? The **Knights of Columbus—Saint Cyprian Council** is undertaking a multiphase project to provide and install cameras, outdoor lights and internet wiring to allow for more security and better connectivity in the parish. If you are interested in learning

more about the Knights of Columbus or to join the ministry, contact the Grand Knight James Mazol at james.mazol@gmail.com.



CONGRATULATIONS to our very own **GLORIA CAMPBELL** who is featured in the February 2022 issue of the *Hill Rag*. Visit HillRag.com and search for Gloria Campbell.

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.



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.



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 bible study.

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 with other young adults for a collaborative talk titled 'The Art of Healing and Healing through Art' on **Feb. 25th at 7:00pm** in the rectory basement. The speaker is

Carlos Briceño who is the Director of Communications and Evangelization at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Old Town Alexandria. He will talk about how he found great healing through art, and, through the grace of God and how he has abandoned himself to seek God's will each moment of the day. This event is sponsored by *Called to Create* which is a Catholic artist collective and community in the DMV area that focuses on artistic and spiritual formation. *Called to Create* is a space that is all-inclusive of people's craft and art despite where they are in life/faith/creativity. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Visit: calledtocreatedc.com or calledtocreatedc@gmail.com to learn more about *Called to Create*.

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



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 look at a specific theme and provide some history and clarity in relations to scripture. To reflect on the **third week (Feb. 20)** of African-American History Month, we look to the theme of **READINESS**.

One of the great qualities of the African-American Spirituals is to treat serious subjects in a clear, memorable, and almost joyful way. This is true even of very weighty matters like sin and readiness for judgment day. They cover the judgment, but in a way that is playfully bright while at the same time deeply soulful.

Let us remember that Spirituals were written in the cauldron of great suffering. If any people might be excused from thinking that the Lord would exempt them from judgment day, it is surely the enslaved in the deep South. And yet the Spirituals are almost wholly devoid of self-righteousness. 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.

So let's sample some of these lines from numerous spirituals that speak to judgment. Some of these

first quotes occur in many of the Spirituals:

I would not be a sinner, I'll tell you the reason why. I'm afraid my Lord might call my name and I wouldn't be ready to die.

Some go to Church for to sing and shout, before six months they's all turned out!



Better watch my brother how you walk on the cross! Your foot might slip and your soul get lost!

God gave Noah the rainbow sign, no more water but the fire next time!

Old Satan wears a hypocrite's shoe, If you don't watch he'll slip it on you!

Knock at the window knock at the door, Callin' brother Noah, can you take more?! No said Noah cause you're full of sin! God's got the key you can't get in!

Oh sinner man better repent! Oh you'd better repent for God's gonna call you to judgment There's No hiding place down there!

Sinner please don't let this harvest pass And die and lose your soul at last.

The words as one can see are memorable and poetic; they are playful and piercing. Other memorable songs of readiness and judgment are some of the following:

My Lord, what a morning, When the stars begin to fall. You'll hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground Looking to my God's right hand, When the stars begin to fall. You'll hear the sinner moan, When the stars begin to fall. You'll hear the Christian shout, when the stars begin to fall!

No signal for another train, to follow in this line. Oh sinner you're forever lost. when once you're left behind, she's nearing now the station, oh, sinner don't be vain, but come and get your ticket and be ready for that train!

Nobody's fault but mine. So if I die and my soul be lost, it's nobody's fault but mine. My mother taught me how to pray, so if I die and my soul be lost, it's nobody's fault but mine.

Where shall I be when the first Trumpet sounds, Oh where shall I be when it sounds so loud, when it sounds so loud as to wake up the dead, Oh where shall be when it sounds. How will it be with my poor soul, Oh Where Shall I be?

Well I went to the rock to hide my face, the rock cried out, no hiding place, Oh the Rock cried I'm burnin too! I wanna go to heaven just as much as you. Dere's no hiding place down there.

Michael row the boat ashore, Alleluia. The River Jordan is chilly and cold, chills the body but not the soul. The river is deep and the river is wide, milk and honey on the other side! Michael row the boat ashore, Alleluia.



Most of these songs are deeply scriptural and make serious appeals to the human soul, but they do so in a way that is creative. They get you tapping your foot and invite you to a joyful consideration of the need to repent before it's too late. Others are more soulful, even mournful, in their pentatonic scale.

Given all the reluctance to discuss the four last things (*death, judgment, Heaven, and Hell*), songs like these may help to reopen the door to necessary conversations between preacher and congregation, parents and children. They are a valuable masterpiece and the great treasure for the Church and for the world.

Note too, some of these Spirituals had a double meaning we should not ignore. The Gospel Train surely referred to the journey to heaven, but it too many it was also code for

the Underground Railroad. Michael Row the Boat ashore speaks also the journey to the other side but it also images crossing the river from slave states to the free North.

We cannot conclude this reflection on readiness Spirituals without reference to one of the greatest and most spirited of them all: *In Dat Great Gettin' Up Morning*. It is a tour de force of the last Day when the trumpet blows and the dead rise. It is joyful—a real toe-tapper—and makes a serious point along with a wish: "*In That Great Gettin' Up Mornin Fare You Well!*" *I'm Gonna tell ya 'bout da comin' of da judgment! Der's a better day a comin', Fare you well, fare you well!* Chorus:

*In dat great gettin' up mornin',
Fare you well, fare you well
In dat great gettin' up mornin',
Fare you well, fare you well*

*Oh preacher fold yo' bible,
For dat last souls converted,
Fare you well, fare you well*

*Blow yo' trumpet Gabriel,
Lord, how loud shall I blow it?
Blow it right and calm and easy,*

*Do not alarm all my people,
Tell dem all come to da judgment,
Fare you well, fare you well!*

*Do you see dem coffins burstin,
do you see dem folks is risin'
Do you see dat fork of lightenin',
Do you hear dat rumblin'
thunder ??? Fare you well, fare
you well!*

*Do you see dem stars a fallin',
Do you see da world on fire???
Fare you well, fare you well*

*Do you see dem Saints is risin',
Fare you well, fare you well
See 'em marchin' home for heaven,
Fare you well, fare you well*

*Oh! Fare you well po'r sinners,
fare you well, fare you well
Fare you well po'r sinners, fare
you well, fare you well!*

There are many good versions of these Spirituals on YouTube. **NOTE:** visit our website (hscchurch.org) for links to these songs and prior week flyers.

Thank God for the Spirituals, and thank those he inspired to craft them!



THE ART OF *Healing* & HEALING THROUGH *Art*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25 AT 7PM

HCSC RECTORY BASEMENT

1357 E. Capitol St., SE, WDC - hscchurch.org

Step into how being a creative artist can help you worship God and open your heart, mind and spirit to Truth, Beauty and Goodness—boosting and inspiring you in your healing journey.

On Friday, Feb. 25th, join *Called to Create*, a DMV Catholic artist community that focuses on artistic and spiritual formation, and speaker **Carlos Briceño** for an interactive talk on art, healing and faith.

Carlos will discuss how he found great healing through art, and, through the grace of God, has abandoned himself to seek God's will each moment of the day.



Carlos Briceño is the Director of Communications and Evangelization at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Old Town. He grew up in a dysfunctional and abusive home but never lost faith in the Good News. But something was missing. Carlos' faith was still lukewarm because of how deep his wounds—and lack of forgiveness—were. Christ's grace moved in his heart four years ago after his wife and daughter were diagnosed with the same terminal illness.

 **CALLED
to CREATE**

Called to Create is a Catholic artist community in the DMV area that focuses on artistic and spiritual formation. CTC is a space that is all-inclusive of people despite where they are in life/faith/creativity. To learn more: visit calledtocreatedc.com.



Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Roman Catholic Church Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Moderator
Msgr. Charles Pope

Prefect
Sharon Lewis
(202) 253-2580

Vice Prefect
Vacant

Secretary
Zelma Winchester
(202) 281-7849

Treasurer
Diana Jennings-Ashton
(301) 868-4553

If you would like more information about HCSC's Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary, reach out to a Sodalist. We meet every 1st Sunday, Mass at 8:00 am. Zoom Rosary and meeting starting at 10:00AM.

"Mary Magdalene, A Mystery Unveiled"



Join HCSC's Sodality's Day of Reflection

Saturday, March 5, 2022

Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Church

1:00PM to 4:00PM

Followed with Mass – 4:30 PM

1357 East Capitol Street, SE

Washington, DC 20003

Guest Speaker - Fr. Gabriel Meyers

Greetings – Rev. Msgr. Charles Pope, Moderator



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Our Deceased Members
HCSC
 Holy Name Society

 In Memory of
**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
 Memory of*
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.
 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*



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 (Tony)
 - The Family

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 Bertie, Ray,
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