

MONTH OF THE *Rosary*

The Rosary is a powerful weapon to put the devil to flight and to keep oneself in peace in spite of the trials of life. It is a source of grace and peace in every day of our lives. It is the best way to overcome our sins and to live in peace and joy. Pope Pius IX



OCTOBER

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings This Weekend:

Exodus 17:8-13 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2 Luke 18:1-8

Readings Next Weekend:

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14

Message from the Pastor

The readings today speak to us of the power of persistent prayer. Notice first the **Problem for Prayer**. None of us like problems, but one thing about problems is that they help to keep us praying. In today's first reading Israel is at war and their enemies are strong. It's time to pray. In the gospel a widow is troubled about something and it keeps her coming back to the judge. Sometimes God allows us problems to keep us praying. Next, notice the **Priority of Prayer**. Joshua and the army did not go forth until Moses took up his prayer place. Prayer ought to precede any major work or decision. Next, notice the **Power of Prayer**. As long as Moses prayed, Israel got the best of the battle. But when fatigue caused his prayer to diminish Israel began to lose. Next, notice the **Partnership of Prayer**. Moses, because of his fatigue, knows he needs to get Aaron and Hur to assist him in praying. As a team they pray together and once again Israel is strengthened and begins to win. Next, notice the **Persistence of Prayer**. The text says that, with Aaron and Hur to help him, Moses prayed right through to sunset. They prayed right until the end and so must we. And finally, there is the **Product of Prayer**. The text says that the enemies of Israel were utterly defeated. This is the power of persistent prayer.

 **FUNERAL** — Michael Anthony Young (October 21st)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, October 16
 8:00am Betty Stokes †
 9:30am intentions of Linda Jenkins
 11:00am Joann Shuba †
 7:00pm intentions of Torrence Wimbish
Monday, October 17 *Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr*
 7:00am intentions of the incarcerated & respect for their dignity
Tuesday, October 18 *Saint Luke, Evangelist*
 7:00am intentions of Steven W. Stafford
Wednesday, October 19 *Saints John de Brebeuf & Issac Jogues, Priests*
 7:00am intentions of Shirley Austin (B'day)
Thursday, October 20 *Saint Paul of the Cross, Priest*
 7:00am Eileen Martin †
Friday, October 21
 7:00am Mattie Barclay †
Saturday, October 22 *Pope Saint John Paul II*
 8:00am James C. Walker †
 4:30pm For the people

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. The customary stipend is \$10 per intention.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: Eph 2:1-10 2 Luke 12:13-21
TUESDAY: Tm 4:10-17 b Luke 10:1-9
WEDNESDAY: Eph 3:2-12 Luke 12:39-48
THURSDAY: Eph 3:14-21 Luke 12:49-53
FRIDAY: Eph 4:1-6 Luke 12:54-59
SATURDAY: Eph 4:7-16 Luke 13:1-9



FAITH DIRECT (Electronic Tithing): We offer electronic tithing through *Faith Direct*. Here are 3 ways to get info and register:

1. Scan the QR code to the right →
 2. Text "Enroll" to 301-478-8900 to give.
 3. Go online to faith.direct/DC59 and register.
 4. Pick up brochure in rear of the church.
- This tithing service is **FREE**. Your tithes are automatically deducted twice a month. **Questions?** Contact Kim Peaks (pam@hscchurch.org or 202-546-1885).



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 notifications so you can receive parish news. **And**, follow us on social media (**Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube**).

MASS ATTENDANCE
October 9, 2022

4:30pm	41
8:00am	49
9:30am	32
11:00am	137
7:00pm	65
Total:	324

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Monday (10/17) 6:00pm Finance Council 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	Saturday (10/22) 11am Knights of Peter Claver
Wednesday (10/19) 7:15pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom)	Sunday (10/23) 9:30am Sunday School 9:30AM RCIA Class
Friday (10/21) 6:00pm Holy Hour	

COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The indoor mask mandate has been rescinded for DC. However for those who prefer a Mass with masks, the 8:00am Mass on Sundays is designated as **Mask-Only** (*masks are required for this Mass*). We also offer the following:

- ◆ Pews are roped off for social distancing purposes.
- ◆ Automatic hand sanitizing units are available at doors.
- ◆ Wearing of masks and sanitizing of hands by ministers 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.

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-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PARISH LIFE

respect life



called to serve moms in need

RESPECT LIFE MONTH: Every October the Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. During this month, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life. Here at Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian, we will provide information throughout the month in the bulletin and in the rear of the church on life issues. For more Respect Life teachings, visit: respectlife.org/celebrate.



VIRTUAL BAPTISM CLASS for families with infants/toddlers who need the sacrament of Baptism. Msgr. Pope will hold a virtual baptism class to prepare parents and godparents who are seeking the sacrament on **Sat., Oct. 29th** at 10:00am. Contact June Holton-Johnson at 202-546-1885 ext. 12 or hscstaff@hscchurch.org for details.



13th ANNUAL WHITE MASS hosted by the Offices of Deaf & Disability Ministry, Life Issues and Social Justice (ADW) is **Sun., Oct. 30th at 11am** at St. Mary's Landover Hills (7301 Annapolis Rd, Landover, MD); **Celebrant:** Wilton Cardinal Gregory.

The White Mass celebrates our baptismal promise and call to holiness and service. We honor and value the giftedness and the full, active participation of persons from the Deaf Community and persons living with disability. For info: contact specialneedsministry@adw.org or (301) 853-4560.



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 friends and family. Mass will be celebrated every other day for the *Poor Souls*. To include your relatives and friends, list their names on the All Souls Day envelope (included with tithing envelopes or in the rear of the church) and drop in the collection basket 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 USERS:** If you tithe via Faith Direct, email your names to hscstaff@hscchurch.org or call 202-546-1885.

H CSC YOUTH MINISTRY

Nicki Gebrehiwot, Director of Youth Ministry
youthdirector@hscchurch.org ❖ 202.330.8302

We need youth to help celebrate **YOUTH SUNDAY** every second Sunday of the month at the 11am Mass. On Youth Sunday, our youth will **lector, sing and serve as altar servers and ushers**. If you are a youth or know of a youth who is interested in serving as a lector, choir member, altar server or usher, contact the youth director.

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN—**ROSARY FOR PEACE**

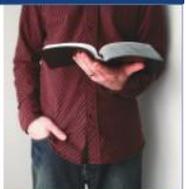
We need to come together in prayer for healing and prevention as horrible mass shootings and all violence in our communities tear at the heart of humanity. Join the Council of Catholic Women-Archdiocese of Washington in praying the Rosary, starting on October 31st and concluding on All Souls Day by clicking on the QR Code to the right with the camera on your smartphone so you can sign up. Let us unite in prayer with Mary our Blessed Mother and all the angels and saints to help break the cycle of violence and bring peace to every heart and mind. Please sign up by selecting a 30-minute slot(s) at which time(s) you will commit to pray the Rosary and any other prayers of your choosing. For more information, email [CCW-ADW at archdiocesecw@gmail.com](mailto:CCW-ADW@archdiocesecw@gmail.com)



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

H CSC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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 for Young Adult Bible Study on hscchurch.flocknote.com.



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 also heard during holy hour.

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)
Deacon James P. Flag II

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

RESPECT LIFE MONTH

LIFE MATTERS: A CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO THE DEATH PENALTY

Abortion, euthanasia, domestic abuse, gang related violence, terrorism, murder, mass shootings, expressions of hatred or racism and other acts contrary to the dignity of persons... all of these crimes cry out for justice. Yet we are a people of hope, and St. Paul reminds us that "*in hope we were saved*" (Rom 8:24).

We are confident that we serve a God of life, of hope and mercy. We know that all human life is a gift from God, a gift that God charges us to protect. To be worthy of being called his disciples, Jesus urges us to love others as he has loved us (Jn 13:34-35). Our response then to a culture in which hostility towards others is commonplace, in which killing is often considered a legitimate solution to social problems, is to both live and proclaim a gospel of life, hope and mercy.

For people committed to upholding the sanctity of human life, the death penalty can present a challenge. Properly understood, however, Catholic teaching against the death penalty is both persuasive and eminently pro-life. It begins with the affirmation that human dignity applies to every human being, to victims as well as those who have committed crimes against life. Our teaching also holds that recourse to the death penalty may be justified only under the most narrow circumstance, namely, if it "is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC]*, no. 2267). The teaching reminds us that if non-lethal means are capable of protecting society, these are preferable as "more in keeping with the concrete conditions of the common good and more in conformity with the dignity of the human person" (CCC, no. 2267).

Damon Thibodeaux spent 15 years in solitary confinement on Louisiana's death row for a murder he didn't commit. He was allowed out of his cell for only one hour each day to sit in the hallway or walk in a yard the size of a dog pen. In 2012 he became the 300th prisoner to be exonerated and freed through DNA testing, thanks to the work of the Innocence Project.

Saint John Paul II was instrumental in challenging the world to reconsider the use of the death penalty. In his 1995 encyclical *Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life, "EV")*, he explained that, "The Gospel of God's love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel" (no. 2). Quoting the Second Vatican Council's *Gaudium et Spes* (no. 22), "By his incarnation the Son of God has united himself in some fashion with every man," he added that, "This saving event reveals to humanity not only the boundless love of God... but also the incomparable value of every human person" (EV, no. 2). In the first chapter of EV, "The Voice of Your Brother's Blood Cries to Me from the Ground" (Gen 4:10), Saint John Paul II presents the story of Cain and Abel to illustrate that God's mercy embraces even a murderer. Despite Cain's deliberate killing of his brother, despite his lack of remorse, his arrogance, his lies to God and utter callousness about what he had done ("I do not know [where Abel is]. Am I my brother's keeper?" Gen 4:9), God nevertheless refuses to take Cain's life as punishment. But he does not leave the crime unpunished. He tells Cain that he will not be able to grow crops and that he will be a fugitive and wanderer on the earth. Cain complains that such leniency is still too harsh, fearing that someone might kill him on sight.

God then reveals still greater mercy towards Cain, putting a mark on him "so that no one would kill him at sight" (Gen 4:15) and promising that "if anyone kills [you], [you] shall be avenged seven times" (Gen 4:15). Although Cain is spared execution, justice requires that he live the rest of his

earthly life alone and outcast, but with time to reflect on his crime, to perhaps feel remorse and at last seek forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

The story of Cain and Abel shows that, though we reject and betray God through our sinfulness, his love for human beings is always faithful, merciful, compassionate and patient. Writing about this passage, Blessed John Paul II observed, "Not even a murderer loses his personal dignity, and God himself pledges to guarantee this" (*EV*, 9). We must never lose our conviction that even the worst offenders are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

From a purely secular perspective, it is a fact that simply because states have always exercised the power to kill persons convicted of murder or treason, it does not follow that this power always has been exercised wisely or well. Given mankind's seemingly infinite capacity to err, we must admit that the death penalty poses significant problems. With scandalous frequency, people on death row have later been shown to be innocent of the crime for which they were convicted. As of 2012, 141 people incarcerated on death row in 26 states have been exonerated and freed when conclusive evidence of their innocence was later discovered. But we cannot always rely on DNA evidence to demonstrate guilt or innocence because DNA evidence exists in only 10 percent of cases.

Even if the death penalty were always imposed without error, should we support its use? We teach that killing is wrong by responding with mercy and justice, not more killing. We don't want a government that kills when society can be protected fully by the bloodless means of life imprisonment. By fostering a spirit of vengeance, which should have no role in the administration of justice, the death penalty contributes to the increasing disrespect for human life in our culture.

Today a growing movement in the United States, led by Catholics, opposes the use of the death penalty. As a result, more states are restricting or abolishing its use, but many other states retain this penalty.

As Catholics, we believe and put our hope in a merciful and loving God. We are conscious of our own brokenness and need for redemption. Our Lord calls us to imitate him more perfectly by witnessing to the inherent dignity of every human being, including those whose actions have been despicable. Our faith and hope is in the mercy of God who says to us, "*Blessed are the merciful for they shall be shown mercy* (Mt 5:7) and "*I desire mercy, not sacrifices*" (Mt 9:13). As Christians we are called to oppose the culture of death by witnessing to something greater and more perfect: a gospel of life, hope and mercy.

Charles J. Chaput, Archbishop of Philadelphia, recently summed up the case against the death penalty in these words: "As children of God, we're better than this, and we need to start acting like it. We need to end the death penalty now." Let us then join in efforts to end the death penalty and show that we are people of life, hope and mercy.

Anthony Granado is a Policy Advisor in the Office of Domestic Social Development of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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


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Helene Crutchfield
Edgell Fairfax
Elizabeth Fairfax
Clyde Fairfax Sr.
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 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.

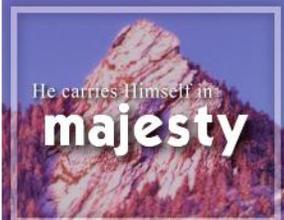
In Loving Memory
Austina H. Jones
Mother
We Love You Always
Willie, Lawrence & Maria

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
**Winnie,
 Ray,
 Bertie**

In Memory of
**Hump,
 Will,
 Henny**

He carries Himself in
majesty


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