

2023 AD

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

Commemorating Black Catholic History Month in the United States A Brief History of Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Roman Catholic Church

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. 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.



Fr. James Matthews

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 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. In 1966, however, 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. Yet it must be said that things did not go smoothly and many parishioners 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. The parishioners were told that within two weeks their parish buildings would be closed. With two weeks notice, no one had 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. The merged school unfortunately closed in 2007.

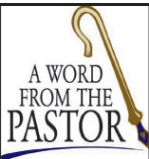
THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings This Weekend:

Mal 1:14—2:2, 8-10 1 Thes 2:7-9, 13 Matthew 23:1-12

Readings Next Weekend:

Wisdom 6:12-16 1 Thes 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13



The Gospel today presents a teaching of Jesus on authority. Note first the **Tenure of Lawful Authority**. Jesus teaches the disciples that, for now, they are to remain under the lawful authority of the Scribes and Pharisees. In the future, Jesus will fully send forth his Church and establish the authorities of the apostles. But for now, they are to follow lawful authority, just as Jesus will expect the disciples to be under the lawful authorities in the future. Christians are not encouraged anywhere in scripture to overthrow lawful authority. Next, note the **Tyranny of Arrogant Authority**. Jesus does acknowledge the burdensome and insensitive qualities of the current leadership. They will have to answer to God for their tenure and Jesus holds them up as a warning to the future leaders of his Church who will also have to render an account for their leadership one day. Next, note the **Trappings of Self-Centered Authority**. Jesus points out how the Scribes and Pharisees loved titles, honors, and ostentation. But leadership is not about trappings. It is about service. Finally, note the **Truth of Christian Authority**. Jesus emphasizes two fundamental things here. First, true authority is submitted to the headship of God. He is the true Father of all and all authority comes from him. Secondly, authority is not for honor and power, it is for service. Jesus says, simply, the greatest among you is the servant.

† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

Sunday, November 5 THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00am Deceased members of the Chase Family †

9:30am Deceased members of the Rowe Family †

11:00am Doretha Holley †

7:00pm Vernel Cecilia Waters †

Monday, November 6

7:00am POOR SOULS †

Tuesday, November 7

7:00am Beatrice M. Edelin †

Wednesday, November 8

7:00am POOR SOULS †

Thursday, November 9 DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA IN ROME

7:00am Joseph Michael Baltimore †

Friday, November 10 ST LEO THE GREAT, POPE & DOC OF CHURCH

7:00am POOR SOULS †

Saturday, November 11 SAINT MARTIN OF TOURS, BISHOP

8:00am Intentions of Denise Silfverberg

4:30pm Intentions of Jorge Avalos and family

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

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

MONDAY	ROMANS 11:29-36	LUKE 14:12-14
TUESDAY	ROMANS 12:5-16	LUKE 14:15-24
WEDNESDAY	ROMANS 13:8-10	LUKE 14:25-33
THURSDAY	Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 1 COR 3:9-11, 16-17	JOHN 2:13-22
FRIDAY	ROMANS 15:14-21	LUKE 16:1-8
SATURDAY	ROMANS 16:3-9, 16, 22-27	LUKE 16:9-15



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.

This eGiving service is **FREE**. You can register to have your tithes automatically deducted twice a month or give a one-time gift/donation. **Questions?** Contact Kim Peaks (kpeaks@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 sign up 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 28-29, 2023

4:30pm	31
8:00am	58
9:30am	38
11:00am	140
7:00pm	76
Total:	343

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Tuesday (11/7)

7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday (11/10) Veterans Day

Observed-rectory office closed

Wednesday (11/8)

7:00pm Evening w/Fr. Larry

8:00am Morning Mass

7:30pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom)

6:00pm Holy Hour w/ confession

Sunday (11/12)

9:30am Holy Name Society Mtg



OUR CHURCH SANCTUARY IS OPEN FROM 8AM—8PM every day for you to come in for private prayer. 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 throughout our daily lives. 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.

PARISH LIFE

BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH 2023

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 in the United States. This month provides opportunities to learn and share the whole history and rich heritage of Christian Catholicism. Our own parish traces its beginning to two distinct churches: Saint Cyprian established in 1893 and Holy Comforter established in 1904. The merger of the parishes in 1966 is a culmination of two parishes that were once separate for the same reason that Saint Cyprian was founded. Catholics of African descent were not welcome to practice their faith equally with white Catholics. But, God has brought us out of our weary years and our silent tears. He is still working out his salvation story at this multi-ethnic and multi-racial community so that we may find strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. **Visit:** hscchurch.org/about-2/history-of-parish/ to learn more about our history and stay tuned throughout the month for other articles.

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 are 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.



In observance of **Veterans Day**, the **rectory office** will be **closed Friday, Nov., 10th**. 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 wars all across the globe. Bring peace to their hearts and peace to the regions they fought in. Bless all the soldiers who served in non-combative 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.



SAVE THE DATE: HCSC ADVENT FAMILY DAY—Sun., Dec. 3rd following the 11am Mass at the Center City Public Charter School (15th & E. Capitol Sts, SE). Come and bring the family for lunch, sessions designed for both youth and adults and a fun fellowship as we prepare for the season of Advent and the birth of our Savior. The event is **FREE**. Stay tuned for details on how to participate!



LIVING WITH JESUS IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST

In this, the Year of the Holy Eucharist, our parish will seek to root and link all our activities, retreats and functions to Jesus who is present with us in the Holy Eucharist. We hope to deepen our personal encounter with the Lord Jesus who is truly and really present in the Holy Liturgy and Eucharist, to reinvigorate our devotion to Holy Mass and Eucharistic adoration, and to draw others to the realization that *Jesus is here right now!*

Our parish is planning specific events and teachings which we will list on our website and bulletin. Check back throughout the year since dates and times may be adjusted. Scan the QR code using your phone camera to link to the webpage or visit: hscchurch.org.



We currently offer our 'Mass in Slow Motion' series written by Msgr. Pope which will continue throughout the year. This is a twenty-two part series explaining the parts of the Mass and the relevance of everything within the liturgy. We have copies in the bulletin, rear of church and on our website.

NEW! Visit our 'Eucharistic Miracles' exhibits in the rear of the sanctuary.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION / HOLY HOUR is held **EVERY FRIDAY** from **6—7PM** in the sanctuary. This is 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.



HOLY HOUR INTENTION (11/10): *We pray for the repose of the souls of the deceased members of the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and the Social Concerns Ministry.*

EVENINGS WITH FR. LARRY SWINK: We invite the women of our parish to join Fr. Larry on **Wed., Nov. 8th at 7pm** in the church for a discussion on the prayer 'Our Father' and what the words of this traditional prayer really mean. **NOTE:** An evening for men is Wed., Nov. 22nd at 7pm.

HCSC BIBLE STUDIES



Join Msgr. Pope (via Zoom) for **Wednesday Evening Bible Study at 7:15pm** every week. Sign up to receive the weekly Zoom link at hscchurch.flocknote.com. **Questions?** Contact the rectory office at 202-546-1885 or hscstaff@hscchurch.org.

HOLY COMFORTER-SAINT CYPRIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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202.546.1885 ❖ www.hscchurch.org
Rev. Msgr. Charles Pope, Pastor (www.msgrpope.com)
Deacon James P. Flagg II

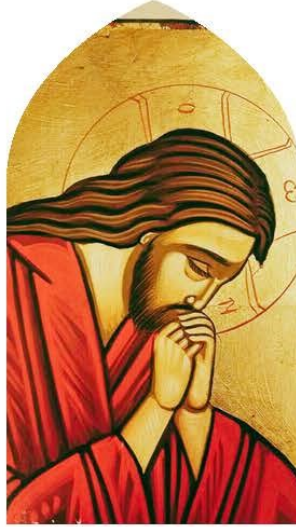
For information on membership, sacraments and funerals contact rectory staff at hscstaff@hscchurch.org or (202) 546-1885.

MASS TIMES: **Saturday** 8am & 4:30pm (vigil)
Sunday 8am, 9:30am, 11am and 7pm
Weekdays Mon—Fri: 7am in chapel (8am on holidays)

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 10am—6pm
Thursday, Saturday & Sunday: Closed

As Jesus Taught Us:
A Deep Dive Into the *Our Father*



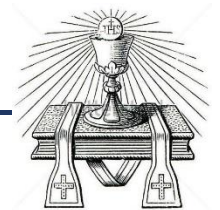
Women's Evening of Reflection
led by Father Larry Swink

Wednesday, November 8, 2023
7:00PM – 8:00PM

Holy Comforter – St. Cyprian
Roman Catholic Church
1357 East Capitol Street, S.E.
Washington, DC 20003



The Mass in Slow Motion



The Celebrant goes to the Chair

This is a series on the Mass explaining the meaning and history of what we do each Sunday. This series of flyers is an attempt to add insight and understanding to our celebration of the Sacred Liturgy. You are also invited to learn more by attending Sunday School classes for adults which take place in the school cafeteria each Sunday from 9:45 am. to 10:45 am.

This series will follow the Mass in order.

After reverencing the altar the celebrant goes to the chair. Now perhaps a word or two on the chair is called for. Someone may wonder why the priest has a chair of some prominence. Why does he not simply sit among the faithful and come forward as necessary? Here again, there is a history.

In the ancient world, the chair was a symbol of authority and office. We still have something of this today in the concept of the “Judge’s Bench.”

The chair was also a symbol in the ancient world of teaching authority. It is our usual experience in the modern world that teachers stand when they teach or give lectures. But in the ancient world teachers sat as they taught. Now they didn’t just sit in some casual way with their legs crossed and sipping coffee. Rather, they were seated formally and in a prominent place in the room.

You may remember that Scriptures usually record that when Jesus taught, he would sit. For example, we read in Matthew’s gospel that as Jesus began the Sermon on the Mount: *He went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, His disciples came to him. He began to teach them* (Mat 5:1, 2). Another example of this is when he was giving the sermon in Nazareth. He had stood to read from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah and then, upon finishing it: *He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, “Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”* (Luke 4:20-21) There are other examples of Jesus being seated to teach in Mark 13:3; John 8:2; and dozens of other places.

Many people find this fact surprising since they always imagine Jesus standing to preach but, it is almost never the case. He, like every ancient Rabbi and teacher sat to teach. So, the Chair has an ancient history of governance and teaching authority.





Now the Bishop's Chair is especially imbued with this meaning. In every Cathedral the Bishop's Chair is given great prominence. In fact, the word Cathedral, comes from the Latin word "cathedra" meaning "chair." Hence, the Cathedral is the "Church of the Chair." The photo at the left is of Cardinal Wilton Gregory's cathedra in St. Matthew's Cathedral. It is the symbol of his governance and teaching authority in this Archdiocese.

It is interesting to note that a bishop is given the special privilege to sit in the sanctuary to preach. Most of them do not use this option, except at very formal times like ordinations.

As a general rule, priests are expected to stand today at the pulpit (or ambo) when they preach. Despite this, the priest's chair continues to carry these ancient meanings already mentioned.

There is also a more modern significance given to chair in the General Instructions of the Roman Missal: The Chair of the Priest must signify his office of presiding over the gathering and of directing the prayer. Any appearance of a throne, however, is to be avoided. (G.I.R.M # 310). Thus, the Chair of the Priest also indicates a role of presiding over the Liturgical Assembly. In this sense the chair represents his roles of teaching, governing and sanctifying, under the authority of the local bishop.

In the end though, all three of these roles (governing, teaching and presiding) actually refer to Christ. The priest, through his reception of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, is configured (joined) to Christ and acts in persona Christi (in the person of Christ). Thus, the prominence of his chair is really a way to honor Christ, who is the true High Priest of every liturgy. The priest's chair is Jesus' chair. It is ultimately He who governs, teaches, sanctifies, and presides over us and He ministers through his priest. Pray for the grace to see beyond "Father Pope" and to see Jesus presiding over and ministering to you.

In this sense the chair of the priest should have a very special place in your mind and a prominent place in our sanctuary. Surely, the tabernacle and altar should be in the central axis but also prominent should be the Chair of the Priest, the Chair of Christ.

Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Catholic Church
1357 East Capitol Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
202-546-1885 www.hcscchurch.org

Mass schedule: Sundays: 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am & 7 pm; Saturdays: 8 am & 4:30 pm; Daily: 7 am in the chapel

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

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JAMES A. AND ELIZABETH G. HILL

AND

VERMELLE H. HOWARD

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The Family*

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In Loving Memory of

**Lillian H. Myrick
Charles Myrick Sr.
Leon (Tony) Myrick
Lucy Myrick
Lucy Jones
Shirley Ann Jackson**
The Family

In Loving Memory of

**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**

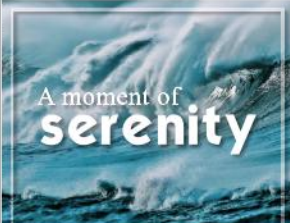
HCSC SODALITY

*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
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
& Denita*



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

In Memory of
**Winnie,
Ray,
Bertie**

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

*In Loving
Memory of*
Devin M. Wright
*Love Always,
The Family*

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

*In Loving
Memory of*
**James & Hattie
Nicholson &
Norman Williams**
♥ From the Family ♥

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