Peace



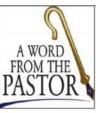
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings This Weekend:

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 2 Peter 3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8

Readings Next Weekend:

Isaiah 61:1-2A 1 Thes 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28



The second reading in today's Mass speaks to us of the "Fire next time" and again reminds us of the need to be ready for the coming of the Lord. Note first the PATIENCE that is PURPOSEFUL. Though the Lord seems long delayed in coming (2000+ years!), the text tells us that this patience is so that as many of us as

possible can be saved. But notice that the text says that God wants us to come to repentance. So God's patience should not be seen as a place for presumption, but rather, a time for repentance. Next, notice the PASSING that is PERILOUS. The text says that God's gonna set this world on fire one of these days. And when he comes it will be sudden, shocking and showing, for all things will be revealed. Thus, comes the PRESCRIPTION that is PROCLAIMED - we are told to conduct ourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting and with eager longing for God's kingdom. And our eagerness for God's kingdom is due to the PERFECTION that is PROMISED, for there will be a new heaven and earth in which full righteousness of God will be manifest. Further, we will be without spot or blemish and at peace. Yes, God's gonna set this world on fire one of these days, Hallelujah! And God's fire purifies that which is holy and burns away all which is lack or unholv.



FUNERAL: Lorita Miller (Dec. 11th)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 10 Second Sunday of Advent

8:00am Deborah Ann Curtis Brown +

9:30am Kevin Creek †

11:00am Gershon Peaks (B'day)

7:00pm Charles Mason †

Monday, December 11 7:00am Jesse Ford, Jr. †

Tuesday, December 12 Our LADY OF GUADALUPE

7:00am Clarence Thomas †

Wednesday, December 13 St. Lucy

7:00am Ruby Roberts **†**

Thursday, December 14 St. John of the Cross

7:00am Brianna Williams (B'day)

Friday, December 15
7:00am Judith Douglas †
Saturday, December 16
8:00am For the People
4:30pm Stanley Barton †



MASS INTENTIONS: It is a spiritual work of mercy to pray for others, both living and deceased. If you would like 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:
 Isaiah 35:1-10
 Luke 5:17-26

 Tuesday:
 Zec 2:14-17
 Luke 1:26-38

 Wednesday:
 Isaiah 40:25-31
 Matthew 11:28-30

 Thursday:
 Isaiah 41:13-20
 Matthew 11:11-15

 Friday:
 Isaiah 48:17-19
 Matthew 11:16-19

 Saturday:
 Sir 48:1-4,9-11
 Matthew 17:9a, 10-13



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

- . 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 <u>or</u> give a one-time gift/donation. **Questions?** Contact Kim Peaks (kpeaks@hcscchurch.org or 202-546-1885).



RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: This weekend, a national collection is offered at Catholic churches for the Retirement Fund for the Religious. This collection helps the elderly religious which includes the sisters, brothers and religious order priests. Envelopes are located in the rear of



the church or you can use the flyer to donate. Thank you.

Stay Connected









- Visit our parish website (hcscchurch.org) for news.
- Subscribe to Flocknote by texting "HCSC" to 84576
 or visit https://hcscchurch.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.
 <u>To get the app</u>: 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 December 3, 2023

4:30pm 39 8:00am 59 9:30am 44 11:00am 144 7:00pm 41 **Total: 327**

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Tuesday (12/12)

10:30am Friendly Seniors 7:00pm Adult Choir rehearsal

Wednesday (12/13)

7:15pm Advent Bible Study (Zoom)

Friday (12/15)

6:00pm Holy Hour w/confession

Saturday (12/16)

10:00am Sodality Bd Mtg 5:30pm Marriage Enrichment



+

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PARISH LIFE

The 257th U.S. ARMY BAND presents a holiday concert at HCSC on Mon., Dec. 11th at 7pm. This FREE concert features traditional Patriotic, Christmas and Holiday classics performed by a military band. All are welcome!



FRIENDLY SENIORS BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP: will be held the second Tuesday of every month at 10:30am in the chapel. Join us on Dec. 12th as we reconvene this fellowship. Deacon Flagg will facilitate. Open to ALL seniors!

ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT & BAKE SALE: Christmas cards, small gift items and baked goods are on sale in the Usher Store in rear of Church this Sunday after the 8am, 9:30am & 11am masses. Cash and checks accepted. All proceeds benefit the Oblate Sisters of Providence (OSP).



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY with MSGR. POPE: Dec. 13 & 20 at 7:30pm via Zoom. The theme is "Jesus Comes to Be with His Bride". Explore the old and new testament teachings on the beautiful union of Christ with the Church. Sign up to receive the weekly Zoom link at hcscchurch.flocknote.com. Select 'Adult/Wed Bible Study'. Questions: call 202-546-1885 or kpeaks@ hcscchurch.org.

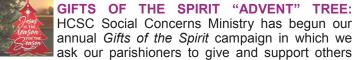


VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: PLEASE PLAN TO HELP DECORATE OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS on Sun., Dec. 17th at 12:45pm. With many helping hands, we can accomplish this in a short time. Refreshments will be

served! Meet in the church near the altar following the 11AM Mass. If you can help, contact Kim Peaks (202-546-1885 or kpeaks@hcscchurch.org) so we can plan accordingly.

HCSC MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT MINISTRY: Our parish has a marriage ministry for those who are married or contemplating marriage. It is a forum of food and fellowship with both secular and spiritual discussion among the couples. The ministry meets once a month on the 3rd Saturday after the 4:30pm Mass in the rectory basement. Our next fellowship is Sat., Dec. 16th. Sounds interesting? Contact Deacon Flagg at jpflaggII@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Your donation to the Christmas flower fund allows us to purchase the beautiful floral Christmas arrangements for the sanctuary. To include loved ones (deceased or living) on the "In Memory/Honor of..." flyer included in the Christmas bulletin, return your Christmas flower offering envelope to the rectory by Sun., Dec. 17th. Envelopes in rear of church and rectory office. PLEASE PRINT NAMES. **NOTE:** If you donate electronically through Faith Direct, please submit your names to 202-546-1885 or kpeaks@hcscchurch.org.



this Advent. This year we will ask for donations of personal items for the following religious communities: Oblate Sisters of Providence and Servants of the Lord. Donations of items or money are accepted. See flyer in rear of church for list.



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 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 with 🚝 your phone camera to link to the church webpage.



We offer the 'Mass in Slow Motion' series by Msgr. Pope, and 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 and on our website under Living with the Eucharist.

Visit our 'Eucharistic Miracles' exhibits in the rear of the sanctuary and learn about the supernatural power of the Eucharist.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION / HOLY HOUR held EVERY FRIDAY from 6—7PM in the sanctuary. Gather and reflect in quiet prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Confessions are also heard at this time. HOLY HOUR INTENTION FOR 12/15—we pray for the virtue of Joy.





The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will provide meals for hundreds of poor, homeless, elderly, and needy individuals in the District of Columbia and surrounding areas on Christmas Day.

Meals will be available for pick-up or delivery only. To request a Christmas Day dinner, call 202-526-8300. Meal requests must be received by Fri., Dec. 15th. For details: rsvp@bnsic.org or 202-526-8300.

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE SERVICE FOR THE GRIEVING: During the holidays, we remember our loved ones who have gone before us, but the festivities can be difficult for those who are grieving. If you're mourning the loss of a loved one, come to this Christmas Remembrance Service on Thurs., Dec. 14 at 7pm at St. Andrew the 回去数 Apostle, 11600 Kemp Mill Rd, Silver Spring, MD. Registration encouraged but not required. Scan the QR code to register, or contact: Office of Family Life at 301-853-4499 or flm@adw.

HOLY COMFORTER-SAINT CYPRIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

1357 East Capitol Street, SE, WDC 20003 202.546.1885 * www.hcscchurch.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 hcscstaff@hcscchurch.org or (202) 546-1885.

Mass Times: Saturday 8am & 4:30pm (vigil);

8am, 9:30am, 11am and 7pm; Sunday Weekdays Mon—Fri: 7am (8am on holidays)

Rectory Office Hours:

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





The Staff at Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian could use a few helping hands on



Sun., Dec. 17th

following the 11:00am Mass

to assist with decorating our church for Christmas!

If you can spare an hour or two, contact the rectory at 202-546-1885 or kpeaks@hcscchurch.org and let us know if you can help

Holiday refreshments will be served. Youth can receive community service hours!





Retirement Fund for Religious

Elderly religious need your help. Like those pictured, nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests have dedicated their lives to serving others by praying for us, ministering to all, educating the young, caring for those who are sick and helping those in need—usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation will make a real difference by providing essential care, medicine and other necessities. Please give generously.

Top row, from left:
Brother Charles Douglas, SSJ, 88;
Sister Marianna Danko, SSMI, 80;
Father James Day, OSST, 77.
Bottom row, from left:
Sister Celeste Burgos, MHSH, 79;
Sister Brenda Cherry, OSP, 84.

retiredreligious.org

To give at your parish: Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)					To donate by mail: Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.		
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The Mass in Slow Motion





The Liturgy of the Word in General

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.

Every now and then it will be claimed that the Catholic Church is not a "Bible-Believing Church." Further, it is said that Catholics do not know the Bible. Both claims register false when we look at the Mass. The Mass is filled with Scripture and Catholics know a lot more Scripture than they think they do. We may not be the sort to quote chapter and verse numbers but we know the Scriptures. If I start to tell the story of Zaccheaus climbing the tree, or of Lazarus being raised from the dead, or of the "woman at the well", or the storm at sea, or begin to quote from the Epistles, Catholics know these passages IF they go to Mass regularly. Over the period of three years the whole of the New Testament is read in the Catholic Liturgy and most of the significant passages of the Old Testament. We read A LOT of Scripture in every Mass and Catholics know more of the Bible than we think we do.

Liturgy of the Word described - Now that the Congregation is seated, it is time to listen attentively to God's Word. We do this in a part of the Mass called the Liturgy of the Word which in the current form of the Mass consists of an Old Testament reading, a Psalm, a reading from a New Testament epistle, and a reading from the Gospels. Then



follows the Homily, the Creed and the prayer response. In effect, readings from scripture and the chants between the readings form the main part of the Liturgy of the Word. The homily, profession of faith, and general intercessions (or prayer of the faithful) develop and complete it. In the readings, explained in the homily, God speaks to his people of redemption and salvation and nourishes their spirit; Christ is present among the faithful through his Word. Through the chants, the people make God's word their own, and express their adherence to it through the profession of faith. Finally, moved by this Word, they pray in the general intercessions for the needs of the Church and for the world's salvation.

History of the Liturgy of the Word - The beginnings of this service go back to the synagogue and is therefore pre-Christian in origin. The Apostles attended the synagogue and were thus familiar with it. The synagogue was distinct from the Temple. The Temple was in Jerusalem and it was there alone that blood sacrifices were offered. However, after the exile especially, the Jews undertook the practice of meeting in their local areas to read scripture and praise the Lord. The gatherings (or synagogues) varied in size but tended to be small groups. In fact, as we know from Scripture, Jesus himself faithfully attended the synagogue and his Apostles continued to follow his example. We read in Acts 2:46, "Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and breaking bread in their homes."

The Jewish synagogue service of the First Century may be described as follows - On appointed days, above all on the Sabbath, the community was assembled. The assembly was opened with the Shema which served as a kind of profession of faith. The Text of the Shema begins as thus: "Hear O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength..." (Deuteronomy 6:4). There was next a congregational prayer spoken by one of the members of the group appointed by the leader of the synagogue. Passages from Holy Scripture were then sung. There were two readings. The first was from the Torah - the first five books of the Bible - which was read according to a prescribed cycle of three years. Each day readings were thus prescribed much as they are today in our Lectionary. Thus, in a three-year period the whole of the Torah was read. The Second reading was from the Prophets (Nebiim). This reading was selected at will. Then followed a homily also included after the readings. This is indicated in Scripture (see Luke 4:16-20; Acts 12:15ff). The whole assembly concluded with the blessing of a priest (Levite) if one was present, otherwise with a prayer.

The very early Christians continued to attend the Saturday synagogue service. They celebrated the Eucharist elsewhere, usually in a home or "house-church" on Sundays. Rather quickly however, there was a falling out with the Jews who came to regard the "Nazarenes" as divisive and hence sought to expel them. Upon "leaving" Judaism, the Christians took the



synagogue service with them and combined it with the celebration of the Eucharist. Thus, we have the beginnings of the form of the Mass we recognize today.



The Scripture readings in general - In the readings the treasures of the Bible are opened to the people; this is the table of God's word. Reading the scriptures is traditionally considered a ministerial, not a presidential function. It is desirable that the Gospel be read by a deacon. The other readings are proclaimed by a reader from among the laity. In the absence of a deacon or another priest, the celebrant reads the Gospel. The reading of the Gospel is done with great reverence; it is distinguished from the other readings by special marks of honor. A special minister is appointed to proclaim it, preparing himself by a blessing or prayer. By standing to hear the reading and by their acclamations the people recognize and acknowledge that Christ is present and speaking to them. Marks of reverence are also given to the Book of Gospels itself. Among these are the kissing of the book, the signing of the page with the sign of the cross, and the use of incense. Likewise, there may also be a special procession to the "place of the gospel" as well as the use of torch bearers to stand near the book during its proclamation. Not to be overlooked is the possibility of singing the Gospel where the skill of the priest or deacon permits it.

History of the cycle of readings - In the choice and number of readings in the liturgy a great variety has prevailed and still prevails. The different rites of the Church still have in use different cycles or readings. This is true as well with the revived Traditional Latin Mass which follows its own schedule of readings distinct from the new modern Lectionary. It is interesting to note however, that many protestant churches have been impressed with the new lectionary of the Catholic Church and make use of its schedule in their own services. One general rule seems to have always been that there be at least two readings one of which would always be from the Gospels. Likewise, the readings were always biblical.

The arrangement of the synagogue service, as has been noted, was taken into the Christian Church. It was adapted however. Now a Gospel reading was gradually paired with an Old Testament passage. However, at more festive times of the year such as Eastertide there seems to have been an increasing inclination to replace the Old Testament reading with one from the New Testament. A reading other than from the Gospel. This began to affect Masses at other times of the year as well. At first there seems to have been merely the addition of a third reading resulting in a schema similar to the one we have today. However, for some reason this number dropped to two, leaving the general schema as a reading from a New Testament Epistle and a Gospel reading.

This remained the case until the liturgical changes of the Second Vatican Council which restored the three-reading schema. According to the testimony of the Fathers of the Church, the service of readings stressed reading the books of Holy Scripture straight through in the form of a "lectio continua." (That is to say, the passage this week picks up right where we left off last week.) However, strict adherence to this setup was not exacting. Just as is the case today, this system was often broken into by feast days whose occasion demanded a special and appropriate passage. These feast days tended to multiply and thus break up the continuous reading. Likewise, liturgical seasons played a role in shaping the lectio continua. Thus, through the centuries this strict lectio continua was eroded and became less recognizable although it still existed. Today, it has been restored to some extent. This is particularly true with regard to the Gospels. However, the first reading is chosen to back the theme of the Gospel and so, its selection is "arbitrary." The epistles have returned to a rather strict lectio continua both on Sundays and weekdays.

Today, the lectionary provides for a three-year cycle for the Sunday readings and a two-year cycle for weekdays. The first reading comes from the Old Testament and is chosen to parallel the Gospel passage. The second reading is taken from the epistles of the New Testament and sometimes from the book of Revelation. The third reading of course is taken from the Gospels. Each cycle relies especially on one of the Gospels. Cycle A relies on Matthew. Cycle B on Mark. Cycle C on Luke. All three of the cycles draw on St. John's Gospel. The weekdays draw from all of the Gospels and Books of the Bible giving special emphasis to passages not covered on Sundays. The lectionary presents a broad sweep of the Scriptures. The Sunday readings alone present to Catholics over 7000 verses of scripture over three years. Nearly the whole of the New Testament is covered in the Lectionary, as well as the most significant portions of the Old Testament.

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



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Baby Sis, Beverly, Frankie, David, Neal, Kimberly, Cyprian Jr., Jovan 19

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Still Loved, Still Missed & Very Dear, The Family



In Loving Memory of

Lillian H. Myrick

Charles Myrick Sr.

Leon (Tony) Myrick

Lucy Myrick

OTHA JOHN HAMER III "ETERNAL LOVE"

OTHA JOHN HAMER JR.

Anna, Othalene, Lataunya, Betty - wife and mother



In Memory of

Winnie, Ray,

Bertie

In Memory of Hump, Will. Henny

In Loving Memory

Austina H. Jones

J. Mother We Love You Always Willie, Lawrence & Maria

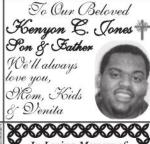
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Reba L. Neale

and

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