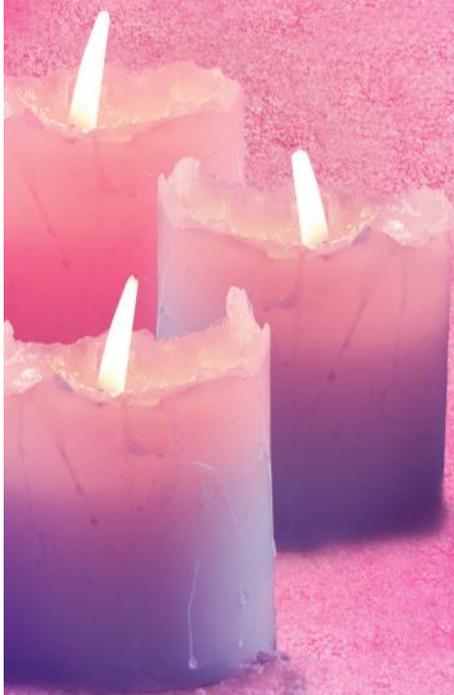


*Joy*



*Advent*

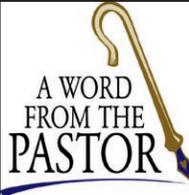
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Readings This Weekend:**

Isaiah 61:1-2A, 10-11 1 Thes 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Readings Next Weekend:**

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12,14a,16 Rom 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38



The Second reading today gives us three Principles for Preparation. First there is PERSEVERANCE in PRAISE for we are told to rejoice always, pray without ceasing and give thanks in all circumstances. Such things as these are an important antidote for the negativity that too easily besets us. How easily we can lapse into complaints and fear. So God commands us to stay up to date on our praise, to discipline our minds to focus on what is good. Secondly, we are to gain PERSPECTIVE through PROPHECY for we are told not to despise prophetic utterances. Hence, the Word of God is to be our sure guide and we are to retain and encourage everything that is good and supportive of God's truth and to square all our thinking by testing it against God's Word. Finally, we are to make PROGRESS toward PERFECTION for Paul breaks out into prayer asking that God make us perfectly holy at every level of our being: body, soul and spirit. And, if we are faithful, God who has begun a good work in us will bring it to completion.

**† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †**

**Sunday, December 17** *THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

8:00am Clarence & Mary Toigo †  
 9:30am Andrea Herron †  
 11:00am Deacon Ralph Cyrus †  
 7:00pm Intentions of Veronica Rodgers

**Monday, December 18**

7:00am Lynne Fairfax †

**Tuesday, December 19**

7:00am Carroll Jackson †

**Wednesday, December 20**

7:00am Vincent Sanders †

**Thursday, December 21** *ST. PETER CANISIUS, PRIEST & DR.*

7:00am Sallie Littlejohn Dorsey †

**Friday, December 22**

7:00am Mary Alice Baltimore †

**Saturday, December 23**

8:00am For the People  
 4:30pm Judith Douglas †



**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 Intention in memory of a friend or family (living or deceased), call 202-546-1885. The customary stipend is \$10 per intention.

**DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**MONDAY:** JER 23:5-8 MATTHEW 1:18-25  
**TUESDAY:** JUDGES 13:2-7, 24-25A LUKE 1:5-25  
**WEDNESDAY:** ISAIAH 7:10-14 LUKE 1:26-38  
**THURSDAY:** SONG 2:8-14 LUKE 1:39-45  
**FRIDAY:** 1 SAMUEL 1:24-28 LUKE:1:46-56  
**SATURDAY:** MALACHI 3:1-4, 23-24 Luke 1:57-66



**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](http://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](mailto:kpeaks@hscchurch.org) or 202-546-1885).



**Stay Connected**



- Visit our parish website ([hscchurch.org](http://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  
 December 10, 2023**

4:30pm 32  
 8:00am 74  
 9:30am 43  
 11:00am 103  
 7:00pm 55  
**Total: 307**

**THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH**

<b>Tuesday (12/19)</b> 6:00pm Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Adult Choir rehearsal	<b>Friday (12/22)</b> 6:00pm Holy Hour w/confession
<b>Wednesday (12/20)</b> 7:15pm Advent Bible Study	<b>Saturday (12/23)</b> 11:00am Knights of Peter Claver

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HCSC!** If you want to see what else is happening at the parish, check out our full **Parish Calendar** on our website at [hscchurch.org](http://hscchurch.org). Click on the QR code to the right with your cellphone camera for instant access.



**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.*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### PARISH LIFE



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—Sun., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 1PM to decorate the church for Christmas.** 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.



**GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT “ADVENT” TREE:** This Advent, we asked you to donate personal items for the religious communities that have served and continue to serve this parish: *Oblate Sisters of Providence & Servants of the Lord.* **TODAY (12/17)** is the last day for personal item donations. If you want to make a monetary donation, drop your check in the collection basket (write *Advent Tree* in memo) or put cash in an envelope (ask usher) and write *Advent Tree* on it. You can also donate electronically via FaithDirect (scan QR code →) and select *Advent Tree*. We will pack the gift bags on **Mon. Dec, 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** in the rectory. You are welcome to come and help. Call 202-546-1885 to let us know you are volunteering. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.



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



**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY with MSGR. POPE: Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Zoom link at [hcschurch.flocknote.com](http://hcschurch.flocknote.com). Select ‘Wednesday Bible Study’. **Questions:** call 202-546-1885 or [kpeaks@hcschurch.org](mailto:kpeaks@hcschurch.org).

### CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE



**SUNDAY, DEC. 24<sup>TH</sup>—FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
10:00am—Mass  
(No 8am, 9:30am, 11am or 7pm Mass)

**SUNDAY, DEC. 24<sup>TH</sup>—CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES**  
6:00pm—Family Mass w/Youth Pageant  
11:00pm—Song service begins prior to Midnight Mass

**MONDAY, DEC. 25<sup>TH</sup>—NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**  
10:00am—Mass

**SUNDAY, DEC. 31<sup>ST</sup>**  
10:00am—Mass  
(No 8am, 9:30am or 11am Mass)

7:00pm and 11:15pm—Watch Night Mass

**MON., JAN. 1<sup>ST</sup>—SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**  
10:00am—Mass



### 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 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.

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

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION / HOLY HOUR** is 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 12/22**—we pray for the virtue of Love.



**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. 17<sup>th</sup>**. Envelopes are 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@hcschurch.org](mailto:kpeaks@hcschurch.org).



**SAINT JOSEPH MISSALS:** We are limited in how many Saint Joseph Missals we can order. We are currently sold out of them in the Usher Store. Call the rectory office if you still need a missal so that we can check on the availability.

**HOLY COMFORTER-SAINT CYPRIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
1357 East Capitol Street, SE, WDC 20003  
202.546.1885 ❖ [www.hcschurch.org](http://www.hcschurch.org)  
Rev. Msgr. Charles Pope, Pastor ([www.msgrpope.com](http://www.msgrpope.com))  
Deacon James P. Flag II

For information on membership, sacraments and funerals contact rectory staff at [hcsstaff@hcschurch.org](mailto:hcsstaff@hcschurch.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



# The Mass in Slow Motion



## The Responsorial Psalm

*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.*

We have already discussed how the Old Testament Reading, the Epistle, and Gospel came to be in their place and how the number and variety of those readings varied over the years and even today in the various Rites and Forms of the Liturgy. Now we consider the Responsorial Psalm which has a history of its own.

If you were to walk into Mass for the first time you might find the singing of the psalm a bit odd. Here we are reading the Word of God and suddenly another song breaks out! What is going on here? Is it another reading? Is it a prayer? What is its purpose?

The Responsorial Psalm comes after the first reading. The psalm is an integral part of the Liturgy of the Word and is ordinarily taken from the lectionary, since these texts are directly related to and depend upon the respective readings. The cantor of the psalm sings the verse at the lectern or other suitable place, while the people remain seated and listen. Ordinarily, the congregation takes part by singing the response, unless the psalm is sung straight through without response. If sung, the following texts may be chosen:

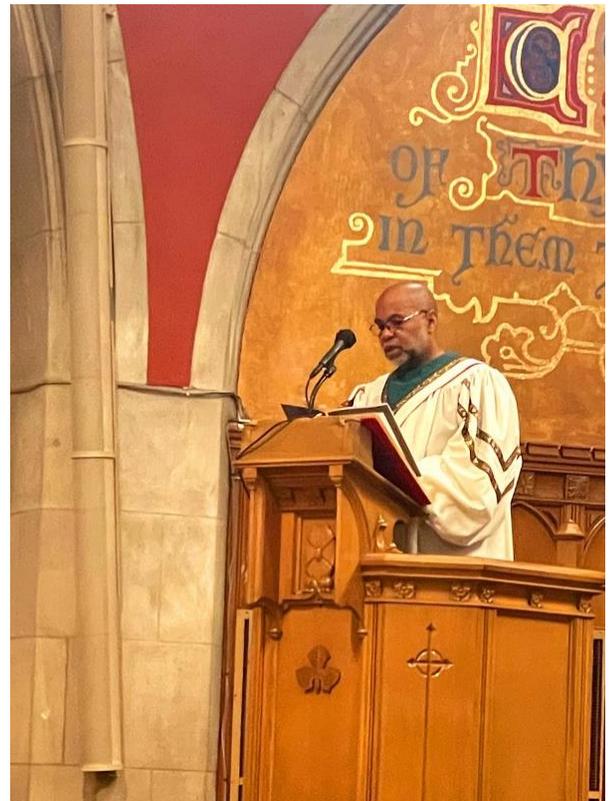
1. -the psalm in the lectionary;
- 2- the Gradual (this word is explained below) in the Roman Gradual book; or,
- 3- the Antiphon and psalm in the “Simple Gradual” book.

In most American Parishes, like our own, option 1 is chosen.

**History** – In the early Church there was a pattern to the psalm response much like our own today. There was an antiphon or verse sung by all, followed by extended verses of a particular psalm chosen for the day, with the antiphon intervening every so often by way of a response.

Many of the Fathers of the Church make mention of this format. St. Augustine makes explicit mention of the practice in his sermons; likewise, St. John Chrysostom and St. Leo the Great among others. In the early days, the psalm texts were sung in their entirety. This was true even of the lengthier psalms. Today, there are usually selected verses of the psalm used. It is rare that a whole psalm is sung unless it is brief.

The responsorial psalm was seen as an integral part of the liturgy with its own significance. This is in contrast to some of the other singing we have previously discussed such as the Entrance Song, (Introit) which was sung originally to cover a movement or fill a space of time and set a tone. In this way it existed for a purpose beyond itself. Here the singing or recitation has an importance in itself and does not exist to cover motion etc. It was seen as a moment of pious meditation, a lyrical rejoicing after the word of God had been received into the heart of the believer.





Originally, the deacon was the singer of this psalm and versicle. Later the task moved to the subdeacon and later still to the schola cantorum (Choir).

It is interesting to note that when the singer mounted the lectern (or ambo, or pulpit) he did not go all the way to the top of the platform but rather stood on one of the steps just below the platform. This was due to the reverence given the proclamation of the Gospel which alone was proclaimed from the top platform. Since the singer stood on a step (“gradus”, in Latin) the psalm came to be known as a “Gradual.”

Over time the Responsorial Psalm began to shrink in size and lose its responsorial character. This seems to have happened for two reasons:

First, the music for these chants began to become more and more elaborate. We saw this tendency with the Entrance Antiphon. The simple forms slowly gave way to other, more elaborate forms. Thus, the antiphon which was intended for the people became more ornate and difficult and thus slipped from their grasp. Its execution fell more frequently to the choir. Likewise, as the antiphon became more elaborate it began to overshadow the verses of the psalm themselves which were sheered away slowly. Eventually, only one verse remained along with the antiphon. This remained its form until the recent changes in the Mass at Vatican II.

A second factor seems to have been the dropping of the first reading from the Old Testament in the Sixth Century. By this time however, the responsorial character of the psalm was well on its way out. Thus, this effect may not be direct but may help explain that other factors were at work in the background.

Today, the original responsorial format has been reintroduced as an option. This therefore returns to the more ancient practice and also makes the response once again a song or response of the assembly. However, the option still exists to use a Gradual from the *Graduale Romanum* which retains the format of the Traditional Latin Mass instead of a responsorial format. This would generally have to be sung by a trained schola.

**Pastoral Reflections** – It is true to say that the Psalm is “another reading” in the sense that the psalm, like the other readings comes from the scriptures, the written Word of God. However, a caution is in order. The psalm should also be seen to enhance the prayer and praise that is integral to the Liturgy of the Word. Thus, it is not merely a “listening event” but also involves prayer and praise in the truest sense of the term. The psalms were (and still are) the prayer book of the Jews and it is our prayer book as well. Hence, the psalm is prayer and not only “another reading.”

The title “Responsorial Psalm” is not given because there is a response or antiphon for the people to sing. The “response” referred to is the reflection of the assembly on the proclamation of the reading which just took place. The psalm is usually related in some direct way to the theme of the Old Testament reading (and by that very fact to the Gospel which is to come). Thus, the people “respond” to the Word of God, make it their own and proclaim it prayerfully. By its nature, the psalm is a song and should thus be sung if at all possible, especially on Sunday.

OK, so the bottom line is once again: YOU’RE SUPPOSED TO PRAY. The Liturgy is not just some ritual to get through, it is a time of prayer. The Psalm response or Gradual is meant to invite you into a prayerful response. Are you praying? Next time you’re at Mass, don’t miss the main point here.

**Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Catholic Church**

**1357 East Capitol Street, S.E.**

**Washington, D.C. 20003**

**202-546-1885 [www.hcscchurch.org](http://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

*In Memory of*  
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**Catherine E. Graham**  
**Joan M. Graham**  
**Ernestine C. Jackson**  
*Always Loved,  
 Remembered,  
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 AND  
**VERMELLE H. HOWARD**  
*Love Always,  
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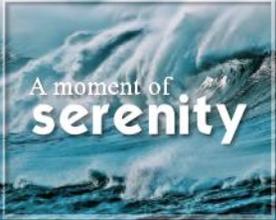
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**Elizabeth Fairfax**  
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*In Memory of*  
 Our Deceased Members  
**HCSC**  
 Holy Name Society

 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

  
 A moment of  
**serenity**

*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**

*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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