

CHRISTMAS

Blessings



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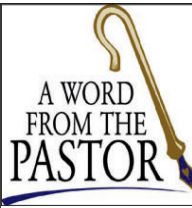
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings This Weekend:

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

Readings Next Weekend:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-17(21) Luke 2:22-40



In today's Gospel we note the mysterious moment when God intervened to change world history. But note how God acts. First, note the RESPECT of God who, through his Angel, requests of Mary her cooperation. Mary understands it as a request and thereby gives her consent.

God's respect is in contrast to the devil who's shouts are invasive, provocative and intrusive. Through cultural noise etc. he tempts and provokes. But God whispers and respectfully invites. Next, note the REGARD of God who speaks with Mary through the angel in a way to assure her of his favor and note her gifts as she is called "Full of Grace" and that he favors her, loves her and seeks her cooperation. Finally, note the REASSURANCE of God who goes on through the Angel to tell Mary that her cooperation will bring forth a Savior for Israel and that the end of the story will mean victory for all God's people. It is nice to know the end of the story and reassuring to know that the victory is ours in Christ Jesus.

† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

Sunday, December 24 *FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

10:00am Rita Sheridan †
6:00pm Gilbert & Connie Peaks †
12:00am Larry Elgin †

Monday, December 25 *THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD*

10:00am Otha Hamer (B'day) †

Tuesday, December 26 *ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR*

7:00am Chauncey Jones (B'day 12/25) †

Wednesday, December 27 *ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST*

7:00am Intentions of Catherine 'Kitty' Chandler

Thursday, December 28 *THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS*

7:00am Delores Butler †

Friday, December 29 *ST. THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP & MARTYR*

7:00am Intentions of Jimmie Claire Walker (B'day)

Saturday, December 30

8:00am For the People
4:30pm Frances Jackson †



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: ISAIAH 52:7-10 HEBREW 1:1-6 JOHN 1:1-18
TUESDAY: ACTS 6:8-10, 7:54-59 MATTHEW 10:17-22
WEDNESDAY: 1 JOHN 1:1-4 JOHN 20:1A, 2-8
THURSDAY: 1 JOHN 1:5-2:22 MATTHEW 2:13-18
FRIDAY: 1 JOHN 2:3-11 LUKE 2:22-35
SATURDAY: 1 JOHN 2:12-17 LUKE 2:36-40



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
December 17, 2023

4:30pm 36
8:00am 54
9:30am 36
11:00am 144
7:00pm 58
Total: 328

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Monday (12/25) *Nativity of Our Lord*

Rectory office closed
10:00am Christmas Day Mass

Wednesday (12/27)

Rectory office closed

Tuesday (12/26)

Rectory office closed

Friday (12/29)

6:00pm Holy Hour w/confession

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. 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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PARISH LIFE

RECTORY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Rectory office closed Mon., Dec. 25th through Wed., Dec. 27th. The office will re-open Fri., Dec. 29th.
Note: Office will be open 10am until 3:30pm on Dec 29th. In case of death/emergency, leave a voicemail in the main mailbox.



- ⇒ to all who assisted with the decorating of our sanctuary for the coming of the newborn King, Jesus Christ! It is beautiful and worthy of our Lord's entrance into our lives on earth. We are always grateful to our parish family for their support and love of this community.
- ⇒ to those who purchased Christmas cards, baked goods and other items from our Christmas Store this past few weeks. Your purchases will benefit the Oblate Sister of Providence.

THANK YOU to all who donated to our **'Gifts of the Spirit' Advent Tree campaign** this year. Your donations will support the *Oblate Sisters of Providence* and *Servants of the Lord*. Both of these religious communities have served this community and the parishioners of HCSC in the past and continue to serve today. We are grateful for your generosity to this giving campaign and grateful to the Sisters for their unselfish love and support to our parish community.



CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE



SUNDAY, DEC. 24TH—CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

6:00pm—Family Mass w/Youth Pageant

11:00pm—Song service begins prior to Midnight Mass

MONDAY, DEC. 25TH—NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

10:00am—Mass

SUNDAY, DEC. 31ST—FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

10:00am—Mass

(No 8am, 9:30am or 11am Mass)

7:00pm and 11:15pm—Watch Night Mass

MON., JAN. 1ST—SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

10:00am—Mass

SUN., JAN. 7TH—FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Mass: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am and 7:00pm



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 website.



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 weekly 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 12/29**—we pray for the unity of all families.



What Made Me, Me? Workshop Series. **Next Session:** Jan 11, 7-8:30pm. Why do people do what they do? Deepen your own self-awareness and discover the psychological and spiritual narrative of your life. Learn how your childhood has helped shape who you are today. This workshop series will lead you through the psychological and spiritual development of a person during each stage of life. Presented by Dr. Kathleen Musslewhite, Executive Director of the Alpha Omega Clinic. Cost per session: \$60 per person. Come to all or some. This program is a collaboration of Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center with the Alpha Omega Clinic, both located at 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817. For more information, visit: www.ourladyofbethesda.org (find the event on the *Calendar*).

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);
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

Holy Comforter—Saint Cyprian Parish

Christmas 2023

Dear Parishioners,

In this year of the Holy Eucharist, we seek to understand more fully that the Lord is truly present among us and with us, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in Holy Communion. He dwells in our Tabernacles and is with us in every Liturgy we celebrate as the true High Priest of every Mass. No need to go to some far-off place to find Jesus. *“Jesus is here right now. Signs of Bread and Wine, his peace you’ll find, for Jesus is here right now.”* Another song says, song says, *I feel his presence in this place, his Spirit has control. Can’t you feel his warm embrace and all joy within your soul?* Oh, Glorious is His Name.



At the heart of Jesus presence in Holy Communion, is the fact that he took on human flesh from the Blessed Mother. One of the Gospels for Christmas Day says,

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made, and without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.... The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-4; 14).

Jesus is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity and also called the “Word.” The Heavenly Father created everything through his Word, that is, through Jesus. The Letter to the Colossians says,

For through Jesus all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things were created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. (Col 1:15-17)

Everything you have and are comes from the Father through Jesus. That is why the Eucharist, the Holy Mass is so important for us to celebrate. When we come to Mass, we come to the center and source of all that we have and are. I pray that all of us will come to know that the most important moment of our week and life, is that moment when on Sunday, the first day of the week, we gather to go to the source and summit of literally everything, Jesus. He is here right now waiting to bless us, instruct us and feed us.

It all began with the Incarnation and birth of Jesus when he leapt down from heaven to be with us and show us the beautiful face of God. As you look at his infant face in the creche before the altar, know that it is the same beautiful face you behold when, holding the Host aloft, the priest says, “Behold the Lamb of God!” The coming in the Flesh of Jesus is what makes the Eucharist possible and tangible. In the Eucharistic we touch our God! And we can do this because he came to us in the flesh. As God and man he dwelt in Mary’s womb, was held in her arms and he embraced her and us in love. Those same arms of Jesus were stretched forth in love on the Cross and in his rising in glory he bestowed blessings on the infant Church.

He is still here to bestow blessings in every Mass. Don’t block your blessings. Know that there is nowhere on earth that you can be closer to Christ than in the Mass and near the tabernacle where the Word made flesh dwells among us. Seek the Lord where he is humbly found, right here in the Eucharist, in the tabernacle.

Rev. Charles Pope

Rev. Msgr. Charles Pope, Pastor



CHRISTMAS FLOWER LIST

Many of our parishioners donated to the Christmas flower fund and we are most grateful for your consideration. Many of the donations were given in memory, or in honor, of a loved one or family members listed below.

*Anderson Family
Iola Anderson
Armed Forces
Isaac & Louise Armstrong
Francis Armstrong
Anthony Armstrong
Dean Armstrong
Lloyd Armstrong
Mrs. & Mrs. Acey Bailey
Joseph Baltimore
Mattie Barclay
Delores Bell
Anthony Better
Eusebia Armstrong-Black & Family
Matthew Bowlding
Robert Brooks
Emelda Brousseau
Aaron S. Brown
M. Rita & Rodney Bullock
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The Campbell Family
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Lester Chance
Daniel W. Chisley
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Darryl Colbert
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Amy L. Contee
Alfred Cooks
Charlotte Cooks
Thaddeus Cooks
Margarette Cooper*

*Eva B. Cooper
Jessie Mae Cooper
Helene Crutchfield
Deacon Ralph Cyrus, Jr.
Clara Davis
Gloria Downing
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Doris E. Edelin
Deacon Charles E. Edelin, Jr
Clyde Fairfax
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Jean L. Giles
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Barbara Giuffrida
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Thomas E. Giles, Sr.
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God's Word
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Fr. George Golden
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Samuel Graham
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Derk Graham
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Loretta Humber-Green
Lucy Green
Beatrice Hall
James A. Hall
Eleanor Hall
Mary Hamilton and Daughters
Carlton Hardy and Family
Sheila Ann Harris*

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James L. Holland
The Holton Family
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Loretta Humber Greene
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Norma Lomax
Veronica Longstreth
Kenneth W. Louis
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Macon Family
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Ronald Pierce
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James Nelson Proctor
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Ruth B. Robinson
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Neal Williams
Derek Williams
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Raymond Wills, Jr
Ms. Barbara Wills
Wynette Wilkins
Theresa Wilson
Zelma Winchester
Devin Wright
Joseph F. Young

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Catherine E. Graham
Joan M. Graham
Ernestine C. Jackson
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Memory of*
JAMES A. AND ELIZABETH G. HILL
AND
VERMELLE H. HOWARD
*Love Always,
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
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 Memory of
**Winnie,
Ray,
Bertie**

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

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

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Alice Neale Thornton
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