

WE MUST LEARN TO LIVE  
TOGETHER *AS BROTHERS* OR  
PERISH TOGETHER *AS FOOLS*

Martin Luther King Jr.



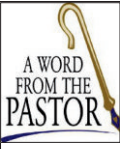
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings This Weekend:

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20 John 1:35-42

Readings Next Weekend:

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 1 Cor 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20



The readings today speak on the Christian tradition of "discernment." This term refers to seeking the will of God in particular circumstances. It involves making sense of the possible paths and options in our life and discovering what is really of God and what He wills most for me. The readings give us "Directions for Discernment." First, there is the CONTEXT of discernment. We find a young Samuel sleeping in the Lord's temple. The image is of a young man who has drawn close to God. We too will be aided in discernment by drawing close to God through Scripture, prayer, the Sacraments and the study of our faith. Next, note the COMPLEXITY of discernment. The first reading depicts Samuel as struggling with confusion as to what and who he is hearing. Eventually he figures it out. We too often need to listen for an extended time before God's will for us is more clear. Note too, the CORE of discernment. Samuel is advised by Eli to say, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." To often we rush to act, but to pause, listen, and reflect is utterly essential for discernment. Without this step there is no discernment. Next, the CONSTANCY of discernment is two-fold. Samuel sticks with it until God's intention becomes more clear. But note too how God remains constant and does not give up when we do not understand. God leads us gently and persistently to discover his will. Next, there is the CONNECTEDNESS of discernment. Samuel does not discern alone. He seeks counsel from a wiser man. We too should seek good, strong spiritual friends and clergy to help us discern. Finally, note the CONVERSION of discernment. We see in Samuel's life how he became gradually transformed into a great prophet of God who never compromised God's word. The clearest evidence that we are on the Path God intends for us is our on-going conversion.



**FUNERAL:** Margaret Darlington (1/16)



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK



Sunday, January 14

8:00am Margaret Darlington †  
9:30am Dennis Williams †  
11:00am Intentions of Andrew Branch  
7:00pm Joseph Oliver Middleton †

Monday, January 15

8:00am Ellsworth Kelly †

Tuesday, January 16

7:00am Malika Jones †

Wednesday, January 17 SAINT ANTHONY, ABBOT

7:00am Elizabeth Delores Kelly †

Thursday, January 18

7:00am Delores Theresa Martin †

Friday, January 19

7:00am For the many lives suffering from abortion †

Saturday, January 20 ST. FABIAN, POPE & MARTYR, ST. SEBASTIAN, MARTYR

8:00am For the People  
4:30pm Joseph R. Young, Sr. †

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

|                  |                               |              |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>MONDAY</b>    | 1 SAM 15:16-23                | MARK 2:18-22 |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>   | 1 SAM 16:1-13                 | MARK 2:23-28 |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> | 1 SAM 17:32-33, 37, 40-51     | MARK 3:1-6   |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>  | 1 SAM 18:6-9, 19:1-7          | MARK 3:7-12  |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>    | 1 SAM 24:3-21                 | MARK 3:13-19 |
| <b>SATURDAY</b>  | 2 SAM 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27 | MARK 3:20-21 |



**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](https://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](https://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

January 7, 2023

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| 4:30pm        | 26         |
| 8:00am        | 66         |
| 9:30am        | 49         |
| 11:00am       | 130        |
| 7:00pm        | 68         |
| <b>Total:</b> | <b>339</b> |

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

**Monday (1/15) MLK Holiday**

Rectory Closed  
8:00am Mass

**Wednesday (1/17)**

7:30pm Bible Study (Zoom)

**Friday (1/19)**

6:00pm Holy Hour w/confession

**Tuesday, (1/16)**

7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

**Saturday (1/20)**

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.



**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 or [hscstaff@hscchurch.org](mailto:hscstaff@hscchurch.org). The customary stipend is \$10 per intention.

**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.*



## 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### PARISH LIFE

#### RECTORY CLOSED

On **Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**, the rectory office is closed in observance of the **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** holiday. Morning Mass is at 8am (*instead of 7am*).



Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala will celebrate the **ADW Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass** to honor the Vocation of Marriage on **Sat., Feb. 10, 2024, 10am** at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This Annual Mass is a celebration of the living vocation of all couples who provide a Catholic witness to the beauty of the Sacrament of Matrimony. Couples can attend the Mass **and/or** receive a certificate from Cardinal Wilton Gregory in honor of their anniversary. **Deadline to submit your names to attend and/or receive a certificate is Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>.** Contact the rectory office at 202-546-1885 or [hscstaff@hscchurch.org](mailto:hscstaff@hscchurch.org) to register. Any couple can attend regardless of anniversary year.

**2024 NATIONAL PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE—Jan. 18–19.** Opening Mass at 5pm on Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> in the Great Upper Church of the Basilica. The Most Reverend Michael Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington and Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities is celebrant and homilist. Immediately following the Mass, the **National Holy Hour for Life** will be held through 8pm, after which holy hours will take place in dioceses across the country overnight. The National Prayer Vigil will conclude with the Closing Mass at 8am on Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> in the Great Upper Church. Both the Opening and Closing Mass will be livestreamed on [www.nationalshrine.org/mass](http://www.nationalshrine.org/mass).

#### ☞ Thank You for Your Generosity ☞

- ♦ A hearty "Thank You" to the donors and supporters of the Oblate Sisters of Providence Christmas sale held in the usher store this past Christmas. Your generosity produced more profits than ever for the Sisters.
- ♦ **A Message from the Oblate Sisters of Providence—***Blessings to our family in Christ at Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian. We are so grateful for your donations from your 'Gifts of the Spirit/Advent Tree' campaign this Christmas. The Sisters were happy and joyous to see your generous show of love to them. May God bless you in the New Year.*

**2023 HCSC YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION (TITHING) STATEMENTS**—will be prepared only upon request beginning **Fri., Feb. 2, 2024**. Statements will not be automatically distributed. Contact the rectory office (202-546-1885 or [hscstaff@hscchurch.org](mailto:hscstaff@hscchurch.org)) to request your statement. It can be mailed, emailed or picked up from the rectory. **NOTE:** only cash donations (submitted in an envelope with your name) and checks payable to Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian are included in your statement. Your statement will not reflect loose cash donations.

**FAITH DIRECT YEAR-END STATEMENTS:** Those parishioners who electronically tithe through Faith Direct will automatically receive their 2023 year-end giving statement directly from Faith Direct at no additional cost as part of the online giving program.



### LIVING WITH JESUS IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST

In this, the Year of the Holy Eucharist, our parish seeks 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!*

We are planning events, exhibits and videos which are on our website ([hscchurch.org](http://hscchurch.org)) and bulletin. Visit throughout the year since dates and times may change. **Scan the QR code to the right with your cellphone camera→ to link directly to the church webpage.**



We offer the '**Mass in Slow Motion**' series by Msgr. Pope, throughout the year. This twenty-two part series explains the parts of the Mass and the relevance of everything within the liturgy. Copies are in the bulletin each week and on our website under *Living with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist*.

Visit our '**Eucharistic Miracles**' exhibits in the rear of the sanctuary and learn about the supernatural power of the Eucharist. **NOTE: The exhibit changes every 2-3months.**

**EUCCHARISTIC 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 1/19**—we pray for courage to defend life.



**HCSC MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT MINISTRY:** Our parish has a marriage ministry for those who are married or contemplating marriage. It's a forum of food and fellowship with both secular and spiritual discussion among the couples. The ministry meets once a month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday after the 4:30pm Mass in the rectory basement. **Our next fellowship is Sat., Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>.** Sounds interesting? Contact Deacon Flagg at [jpfaggII@gmail.com](mailto:jpfaggII@gmail.com).



**HCSC PILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND:** Join Msgr. Pope on a pilgrimage to Ireland, the land of Saint Patrick, on **Nov. 4–14, 2024**. The cost includes non-stop roundtrip flights from Dulles Int'l Airport (United Airlines) along with hotels, meals, tour bus and guides. See brochure in rear of the church for details.

**HOLY COMFORTER-SAINT CYPRIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
1357 East Capitol Street, SE, WDC 20003  
202.546.1885 ❖ [www.hscchurch.org](http://www.hscchurch.org)  
Rev. Msgr. Charles Pope, Pastor ([pastor1@hscchurch.org](mailto:pastor1@hscchurch.org))  
Deacon James P. Flagg II ([jpfaggII@gmail.com](mailto:jpfaggII@gmail.com))

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

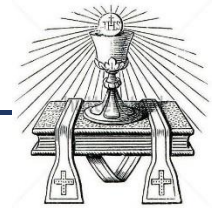
**Mass Times:** **Saturday** 8am & 4:30pm (vigil);  
**Sunday** 8am, 9:30am, 11am and 7pm;  
**Weekdays** Mon–Fri: 7am (8am on holidays)

#### Rectory Office Hours:

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



# The Mass in Slow Motion



## The Homily

*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.*



Now comes the part of the Mass that is often the most loved and the most hated by Catholics. Preaching consistently well can prove to be a challenge for priests (and deacons) who often live very busy lives and are called to preach all week long, at weekday Masses, funerals, and weddings, in addition to being thoroughly prepared to deliver—a barn-burner! every weekend. No excuses here, just explanations. The homily is obviously a critical moment in the Mass and there are high expectations that the people of God will be edified and instructed.

Sadly, most Catholic priests do not have the reputation of being great preachers. Indeed, we clergy often think we are better than our people think we are. One of the chief reasons people say they leave the Church is uninspired preaching

compared to the relatively interesting preaching found in many non-Catholic denominations. There is work to do on improving our preaching to be sure, but DON'T leave the Blessed Sacrament to go and sit in a —Word Church! Even if the preaching is entertaining and informative it just isn't worth the price of leaving behind Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Also, good preaching can be over-rated. Paul, according to his own words, was not a great preacher (1 Cor. 2:1; 2 Cor. 11:5; Acts 20:7ff) and yet he was the greatest evangelist the Church has known.

**So, what is a Homily?** Years ago, we just called it a —sermon. Yet, in recent decades the Church has preferred the term —Homily. This is probably due to the communal nature that the ancient word homily evokes. Homily comes from late Latin *homilia*, and from late Greek *homilein*, and emphasizes a more interpersonal —conversation, or —discourse. The Greek work *homilein* means to be with or to address a kindred or related people. The root word *homos*, meaning —same, is included in the word homily. Hence, this is more than an impersonal address to a crowd of people only vaguely known (i.e. a sermon or lecture). Rather, this is a family conversation, a conversation or address to kindred spirits who share much in common—at least we hope!

**History** — This is a pre-Christian element in the Liturgy. It was part of the Jewish synagogue service. It is recorded in scripture that Jesus Himself preached in the synagogue (*cf.* Luke 4:16-31). Likewise, Paul makes use of the synagogue homily to proclaim Christ (e.g. Acts 13:14ff). The early Christians brought the synagogue service into the Mass and thus the homily was tied to the reading of the scriptures. The preaching of a homily was the particular duty of the bishop, but priests were also allowed to preach. During the fourth century in the east, it was the custom, if several priests were present, for all of them to preach in turn and then finally, the Bishop (Whew!). After the fall of Arius (a Third Century priest-heretic who denied the divinity of Christ and widely disseminated his views leading countless others into error) priests were forbidden to preach in Alexandria and North Africa. Likewise, in Rome they were also forbidden. This restriction was variously applied and enforced in different areas. Perhaps it should be stated that the



priests of this time were not always the most learned of men. The seminary system as we know it today did not exist and there would be concerns about the orthodoxy of the sermon, as well as, its effective delivery. In general, then, preaching at Mass seems to have declined after the problems of the Third Century, but it would not be fair to say that it disappeared entirely. This is especially true when we consider that in many of the well-established areas of North Africa and Italy there was a bishop present in even the smaller towns.

By the beginning of the Middle Ages there was a strong return to preaching of the Word of God. However, the character and liturgical role was changing. It was modeled more on sermons outside of Mass. There was the rise of the preaching orders (e.g. Franciscans and Dominicans) at this time and they preached outside of the liturgy in town squares and meetings. This form of preaching began to enter the churches and influenced the nature and content of the Homily which became less and less a textual explanation and applications of the readings to daily life. It also included a catechetical format in which an exposition of the Creed, the Our Father and the Ten Commandments was often the focus. This practice continued to be the norm as a general rule.

**Present Instructions** emphasize that the homily is a part of the Mass itself and seems to nod to both traditions described above. Namely, the homily is not merely to be an explanation of the readings but also should explain the mysteries of faith as related to the readings and the liturgy of the day applying them especially to the norms of Christian life (*cf.* Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy # 52.)

**Norms-** The homily should develop some point of the readings or of another text from the ordinary or from the proper texts of the Mass of the day, and take into account the mystery being celebrated and the needs suitable to the listeners. The Homily is required on Sundays and holy days of obligation at all the Masses on those days that are celebrated with a congregation; it may not be omitted without a serious reason. It is recommended on other days, especially on the weekdays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter season, as well as, on other feasts and occasions when the people come to church in large numbers. In other words, the priest celebrant should ordinarily give the homily.

The homilist must be an ordained member of the clergy. A deacon, a priest, or a bishop may preach. This is not merely a question of being learned, for many members of the laity are quite learned in theological matters. Rather, as Catholics, we are convinced that the Sacrament of Holy Orders confers a unique charism and grace which empowers the priest to speak for God in a supernatural manner. The Third Instruction on the Correct Implementation of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy states the following: —...the purpose of the homily is to explain the readings and make them relevant for the present day. This is the task of the priest, and the faithful should not add comments or engage in dialogue or anything similar during the homily.” (*Liturgicae instaurationes* # 3, 2.)

Finally, we might end with St. Paul’s instruction to Timothy regarding the preaching and teaching task of the clergy: *Loquere quae decet sanam doctrinam* (speak that which befits sound doctrine). He also adds in a letter to St. Timothy, *Proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths. But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry.* (2 Tim 4:2-5)

**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*  
John N. Graham  
Catherine E. Graham  
Joan M. Graham  
Ernestine C. Jackson  
*Always Loved,  
Remembered,  
Missed*

Washington Chapel  
2617 Penn. Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20020  
(202) 583-5400



**Pope**  
Funeral Homes

Administrative Office  
5540 Marlboro Pike  
Forestville, MD 20747  
(301) 568-4100

[www.popefuneralhomes.com](http://www.popefuneralhomes.com)

Forestville Chapel, P.A.  
5538 Marlboro Pike  
Forestville, MD 20747  
(301) 568-4100

**Charles Ransome**  
Owner

12011 Wimbleton St  
Upper Marlboro, MD



**DYNAMITE TEES**

Sweatshirts, T-Shirts, Hats, Jackets &  
Tote Bags at a Price You Can Afford!

301.218.0475 • C: 301.655.8659

Family Owned & Operated  
**Stewart Funeral Home, Inc.**

4001 Benning Road, NE  
Washington, DC 20019  
(202) 399-3600

[www.StewartFuneralHome.com](http://www.StewartFuneralHome.com)

**Pre-Arrangement Services Available**

*In Loving  
Memory of*

**Bernard T. Reavis, Sr.**

Missing & Loving You  
Forever

The Family



**REESE FUNERAL  
PROFESSIONALS INC.**

Complete Funeral Service  
Chapel Facility • Cremation  
Serving DC, MD, and VA

Services are based on professionalism rather than cost, every service is designed to meet your personal budget.  
We are dedicated to provide to our families financial assistance in their time of need.  
"Our Commitment to Eternal Rest is Sacred, Paramount, and Foremost"

311 N. Patrick St. • Alexandria, VA 22314 • 703-646-9320

*In Memory of our Deceased*  
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
  
**HCSC**

*In Loving  
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

**EWTN.COM/RADIO**  
  
**EWTN** Global Catholic Radio  
TUNE IN

*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 ♥

**Get this bulletin  
emailed to you  
every week.**

**Simply go to**

**[www.DM.CHURCH/3276](http://www.DM.CHURCH/3276)**

**...or scan** →



**DISCOVERMASS**

**ADVERTISE  
HERE**

Promote your Business  
AND support your Parish.

**Give us a call!**  
**800-233-8200**

**catholicmatch®**  
D.C.  
  
[CatholicMatch.com/goDC](http://CatholicMatch.com/goDC)

**NOW HIRING**

**SALES  
REPRESENTATIVE**

**Join Our Family • [Diocesan.com/Careers](http://Diocesan.com/Careers)**

**DIOCESAN**  
Catholic Life Every Day

**PUT YOUR  
FAITH  
TO WORK.**