

Jesus,  
I trust in You.

He who knows how to forgive prepares for himself many graces from God.

(St. Faustina's Diary, 390, page 175)

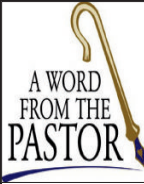
**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
*DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY*

**Readings This Weekend:**

Acts 4:32-35      1 John 5:1-6      John 20:19-31

**Readings Next Weekend:**

Acts 3:13-19      1 John 2:1-5      Luke 24:35-48



Thomas the apostle, for many, has been given the name "the doubter." Certainly not very flattering title. Even in everyday speech, we speak of a "doubting Thomas." Yet, if we consider a little more carefully the role of the apostle Thomas in the gospel, we have to be grateful to him. He, like most of the other apostles, did not fully understand the words of Scripture, that Jesus had to suffer, die, and then rise from the dead. It was only gradually that they would understand these truths. What we have to be grateful for is that once Thomas and the other disciples recognized Jesus, they put their total faith in him. Thomas overcame his doubts with the Lord's help and went on to give his life proclaiming Jesus as Lord. It is said that he went as far to the east as India! Perhaps his name should not be "doubting" Thomas, but "Getting It Done" Thomas. Or, "Thomas the Tireless Traveler." Well, you get the point. There was more to Thomas than his doubt. We are also grateful for the consoling words that Thomas drew forth from Jesus: "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Two thousand years after the resurrection, we have seen only with the eyes of faith the risen Lord, and we are invited to say with Thomas, "My Lord and my God."



**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**).

**LITURGY ATTENDANCE—Holy Week 2024**

<b>Holy Thursday Mass—March 28<sup>th</sup></b>	7:00pm	128
<b>Good Friday Service—March 29<sup>th</sup></b>	7:00pm	123
<b>Holy Saturday Mass—March 30<sup>th</sup></b>	8:00pm	176
<b>Easter Sunday Mass—March 31<sup>st</sup></b>	8:30am	144
	11:00am	395
	7:00pm	78
	<b>Total:</b>	

† **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK** †

**Sunday, April 7 SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY**

8:00am Salvatore Di Pilla †  
9:30am Anna Robinson †  
11:00am Larry Elgin †  
7:00pm Denise Kane †

**Monday, April 8 FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION**

7:00am Intentions of Chance Kane

**Tuesday, April 9**

7:00am William McPherson, Jr. †

**Wednesday, April 10**

7:00am Jacquelyn Kelley †

**Thursday, April 11 ST. STANISLAUS**

7:00am Joshua Sampson (B'day)

**Friday, April 12**

7:00am Mary S. Turner †

**Saturday, April 13 SAINT MARTIN I, POPE & MARTYR**

8:00am For the People  
4:30pm Wanda Marie Harris †

**DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

<b>MONDAY</b>	ISAIAH 7:10-14	8:10	HEB 10:4-10	LUKE 1:26-28
<b>TUESDAY</b>	ACTS 4:32-37			JOHN 3:7-15
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	ACTS 5:17-26			JOHN 3:16-21
<b>THURSDAY</b>	ACTS 5:27-33			JOHN 3:31-36
<b>FRIDAY</b>	ACTS 5:34-42			JOHN 6:1-15
<b>SATURDAY</b>	ACTS 6:1-7			JOHN 6:16-21

**THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH**

**Tuesday (4/9)**

10:30am Senior Bible Study  
7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday (4/10)**

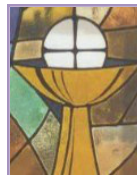
7:30pm Bible Study (Zoom)

**Friday (4/12)**

6:00pm Holy Hour w/confession



**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.



**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.*

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

### PARISH LIFE



**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY** is April 7<sup>th</sup>. Please join us this Sunday after the 11AM Mass to pray the Divine Mercy chaplet. All parishioners are invited to process around Lincoln Park reciting the chaplet or you can remain in the church and recite with others. We will supply words to the chaplet and rosaries. If you are unable to join us, consider picking up a copy of the chaplet in the rear of the church and pray at home with your family. We also pray the chaplet in memory of our beloved Deacon Kevin Butler. Divine Mercy Sunday (Second Sunday of Easter) was instituted by Saint John Paul II calling it "the Sunday of Thanksgiving for all goodness that God has shown us in the whole Easter mystery." The Divine Mercy devotion started in the 1930s by St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who had a vision of Jesus in which He asked for devotions to His Divine Mercy on the Sunday after Easter.

### BIBLE STUDIES AT HCSC



**FRIENDLY SENIORS BIBLE STUDY:** held on the second Tuesday of every month at 10:30AM in the chapel. Deacon James Flagg is the facilitator.



**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY:** held every Wednesday via Zoom at 7:15PM. Msgr. Charles Pope is the facilitator. Sign up to receive weekly Zoom link at [hscchurch.flocknote.com](https://hscchurch.flocknote.com). Questions? Call the rectory office: 202-546-1885 or [hscstaff@hscchurch.org](mailto:hscstaff@hscchurch.org).

**SAVE THE DATE: HCSC ANNUAL MAY PROCESSION: Sun., May 5<sup>th</sup> following the 11AM Mass.** We will gather in the church and process around Lincoln Park reciting the rosary and singing marian hymns. **We invite ALL families and ALL HCSC ministries with their banners.** In honor of our Blessed Mother Mary!



**USCCB RELIGIOUS LIBERTY PODCAST:** Dr. Abigail Favale discusses her book *The Genesis of Gender: A Christian Theory*, which weaves personal experience with expert knowledge to provide an in-depth yet accessible account of the gender paradigm—a framework for understanding reality and identity that has recently risen to prominence. To listen: Scan QR code or visit: [www.usccb.org/resources/genesis-gender-abigail-favale](http://www.usccb.org/resources/genesis-gender-abigail-favale).



**VIRTUAL MID-WEEK RETREAT FOR GRIEVING PARENTS:** The Office of Family Life together with the Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents offers a mid-week gathering via Zoom on **Wed., April 17<sup>th</sup>** from 8pm–9pm for parents who have lost a child of any age from any cause. This evening offers grieving parents the opportunity to get away from everyday life for an hour to focus on their spiritual journey after the death of a precious child. It features a talk, given by an Emmaus Ministry Spiritual Leader or a Parent Witness, which focuses on the spirituality of the grieving process for parents. A discussion by parents interested in sharing their reactions will follow the reflection. To register to receive the Zoom link, visit: [www.emfgp.org/2023-monthly-midweek-gathering/](http://www.emfgp.org/2023-monthly-midweek-gathering/). For more information, contact the Office of Family Life at 301-853-4499 or [flm@adw.org](mailto:flm@adw.org).



### 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](https://hscchurch.org)) and bulletin. Visit throughout the year since dates and times may change. **Scan QR code to the right with cellphone camera → to link directly to the church webpage.**



We offer the 'Mass in Slow Motion' series by Msgr. Pope, throughout the year. This multi-part series explains the parts of the Mass and the relevance of everything within the liturgy. Copies are in the weekly bulletin and on our website under *Living with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist*. (or scan QR code above).

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.**

**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:** pray for the continued fruits of the Forty Hours of Adoration that it will renew our parish with the fire of God's love.



**SAVE THE DATE:** Join the HCSC Holy Name Society and Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary as they host a *Day of Reflection* on **June 9<sup>th</sup>** after 11AM Mass at Center City Public Charter School (15<sup>th</sup> & E. Capitol Sts, SE). Father Larry Swink is the guest presenter. Come and hear about the 'Eucharist - Food for the Mind Body and Soul.' Stay tuned for more details.



The World Apostolate of Fatima, Archdiocese of Washington Division "The Blue Army" invites you to *Rosary, Mass, Confession, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Brown Scapular enrollment, and healing prayers* on **Sat. April 13<sup>th</sup> at 1PM** in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, Basilica of the National Shrine, WDC. For information, call 301-595-1770.



**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 ([jpf1aggl@gmail.com](mailto:jpf1aggl@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;  
**Weekday** 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 Sign of Peace

*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.*

The Rite of Peace follows the “Our Father” and the prayer “Lord Jesus Christ you said to your Apostles, “...I leave you peace...”, by which the Church asks for peace and unity for herself and for the whole human family, and the faithful express to each other their ecclesial communion and mutual charity before Holy Communion. The manner of expressing this sign of peace is established by Conferences of Bishops in accordance with the culture and customs of the peoples. It is, however, appropriate that each person offer the sign of peace only to those who are nearest and in a sober manner. (*cf* G.I.R.M. # 82)

**What is the History of the Sign of Peace—** Among the early Christians the “kiss of peace” was an important gesture to manifest love and unity, both within the liturgy and outside of it. In numerous places Paul and others encourage the Christians to “greet one another with a holy kiss.” (Rom 16:16, I Cor 16:20, II Cor 13:12, and also, I Peter 5:14)



The location in the liturgy of this gesture has been various. Early on it seems to have been exchanged at the end of the service of readings just before the preparation of the gifts. This was in response to the directive of the Lord in Matthew 5:23ff “wherein we should be reconciled with our brethren before bringing a gift to the altar.” However, in the Roman Rite, as early as the 6th Century, it was moved to the place it is today.

In addition, the sign of peace came to be regarded as a preparation for communion and was exchanged even when communion was received outside of Mass. It was exchanged by all who were to receive communion. Those who were not going to receive communion were instructed not to exchange the kiss of peace. Later, however, the kiss was exchanged by all.

An interesting practice that developed was the use of the osculatorium. This was an elaborately carved board that was passed around the congregation and kissed by all. It was thus a way of sharing the kiss through the whole congregation. However, over time the exchange of peace declined and in the Latin Mass, codified by the Council of Trent, it was exchanged only at the Solemn Mass among the clergy. This is at least partly related to the declining frequency of reception of communion and various other factors such as the stylizing of the embrace. Today the whole matter has been restored more to its original scope.



Today, instructions in the Missal indicate that exchange of peace is shared “if appropriate” and that the celebrant “gives the sign of peace to a deacon or minister.” The instruction adds that the priest may give the sign of peace to the servers nearby but always remains within the sanctuary, so as not to disturb the celebration. In some cases, the clergy exchange the sign of peace in a manner that resembles a formal embrace, such as in the photo above.

Some things to emphasize about the sign of peace:

- ❖ The purpose of the prayer and rite is that the Church asks for peace and unity for herself and the whole world.
- ❖ The faithful express to each other ecclesial communion and mutual charity before receiving Holy Communion.
- ❖ One should share the sign of peace only with those nearest to them. Hence, the leaving of one’s pew is generally not appropriate.
- ❖ The sign of peace is to be shared in a sober manner. Hence loud greetings, lengthy conversations, etc. Sober need not mean a mere handshake (which might be silly for a married couple, for example). But the greeting should be cordial and generally to the point.
- ❖ There is no required expression that the faithful should say. But if something is said the instructions recommend: “The peace of the Lord be with you always.”
- ❖ The priest is not to leave the sanctuary but is only to exchange the sign of peace with the deacon or other ministers nearest him.
- ❖ The exchange of Peace is optional and is shared “if appropriate.” There are times, such as in flu season, at special liturgies such as funerals, or when pressed for time, that the celebrant may choose to omit the exchange of peace.

Way back in 1977 the Bishop’s Committee on the Liturgy also issued some direction on the Sign of Peace which fills out some of this:

*Neither the people nor the ministers need try exhaust the sign by attempting to give the greeting personally to everyone in the congregation or even to a great number of those present...Unless the sign of peace is clearly tailored to a specific occasion, such as a marriage, ordination, or some small intimate group, the more elaborate and individual exchange of peace by the celebrant has a tendency to appear clumsy. It can also accentuate too much the role of the celebrant or ministers, which runs counter to a true understanding of the presence of Christ in the entire assembly.” (Bishops Committee on the Liturgy: The Sign of Peace, 1977)*

Hence, both celebrant and the faithful are encouraged to sobriety. The sign of peace is not a “meet and greet” but rather it symbolizes the communion and peace of the whole Church in Christ. Because we are one in Christ and all members of the Body of Christ, to exchange the sign of peace with a few is to exchange it with all. Hence, it is not necessary or even desirable (due to disruption) to greet large numbers or to leave the pew or begin conversations.

**Pastoral Note**—The profound communion we have in Christ and the peace for which we pray should not be understood in a shallow way or as the mere absence of conflict. Peace (shalom) in the richer Hebraic understanding is the presence in the relationship of all that should be there: mutual respect, reciprocity, generosity and mutual appreciation. Our greeting of one another at this moment of the Mass should not be construed as a mere “have a nice day” or “How you doin’?” Given our membership in the Body of Christ, and the Holy Communion we are about to receive, we both wish others and seek to experience shalom. The greeting we extend is no mere human greeting, it is the greeting of Christ: “May the peace of the Lord be always with you.”

**Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Catholic Church**

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

**Washington, D.C. 20003**

**202-546-1885 [www.hscchurch.org](http://www.hscchurch.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**  
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 Remembered,  
 Missed*

  
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 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*  
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**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**  
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 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  
 & Venita*



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

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

*In Loving Memory of*  
**James O. & Reba L. Neale**  
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