

HOLY COMFORTER-SAINT CYPRIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings This Weekend:						
Jeremiah 31:7-9	Hebrews 5:1-6	Mark 10:46-52				
Readings Next Weekend:						
Deuteronomy 6:2-6	Hebrews 7:23-28	Mark 12:28b-34				



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The Gospel today speaks of our struggle to see. Now, the danger for us is that we think of this Gospel only in terms of a man who was physically blind 2000 years ago in a city called Jericho. If that is all we "see," then our own blindness needs attention. Actually, we

are the blind man. To a large degree we fail to see and understand our own sin, and we struggle to see God. Until we perceive our problem, our blindness will go largely uncured. First, note the proclamation that is prescribed. The story opens with the blind man seated by the roadside begging. The blind man hears of Jesus and begins to call on him. And this is the proclamation that is prescribed: "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me!" Next, note the perseverance that produces. As the blind man calls out he is rebuked and scorned by many, but he is not discouraged and continues to call out all the louder for Jesus. After an extended period of calling Jesus stops and calls out. His perseverance pays off. Next, note the priority that is presented. The text says that he threw aside his cloak and went to Jesus. Now, his cloak was probably one of the most valuable things that this man owned. But in order to go to Christ he willingly leaves everything else behind. And this is sometimes required of us. Next, note the permission that is procured. Jesus asked the blind man a strange question, "What do you want me to do for you?" Is it not obvious to Jesus what the man needs? Yes, but note that God respects his dignity and asks him anyway. For it is a true fact that it takes guts to be healed. Many people in life want relief, rather than healing. Finally, note the path that is pursued. Upon receiving his sight, the text informs us that the man followed the Lord on the way. His life has been changed and he can no longer go on sitting by the roadside. Now he must follow the path that leads to life.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

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Sunday, October 27 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:00am Carroll A. Greene + 9:30am Intentions of Lawrence Jones 11:00am Charles Kittrell + 7:00pm Richard Day, Jr + Monday, October 28 Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles 7:00am Thomas Foley + Tuesday, October 29 Mildred Grav + 7:00am Wednesday, October 30 7:00am Jesse B. Hooks + Thursday, October 31 7:00am Alfreda Reavis + Friday, November 1 Solemnity of All Saints 7:00am Vernel Waters**†** 10:00am Intentions of Quinzle Isom 7:00pm Doretha Holley + Saturday, November 2 All Souls Day For the Poor Souls 8:00am Louis Aloysius Washington (B'day) + 4:30pm

MASS INTENTIONS: It is a spiritual work of mercy to pray for others. If you would like to offer a Mass in memory of a friend or family (living or deceased) call 202-546-1885 or email: hcscstaff@hcscchurch.org. The stipend is \$10 per intention.

HOLIC CHURCH OCTOBER 27, 2024				
FAITH DIRECT 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@hcscchurch.org or 202-546-1885).				
Stay Connected				
 Subscribe to Flocknote to receive emails and updates Text HCSC to 84576 OR Visit <u>https://hcscchurch.flocknote.com/</u> Download the MyParishApp to your mobile phone and turn on notifications to get parish updates Follow us on social media Facebook.com/HCSCChurch hcsc_church 				
	TENDANCE			
October 4:30pr	r 20, 2024 n 35			
8:00ar 9:30ar	n 62			
11:00a 7:00pr	am 167			
Total				
THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH				
Monday (10/28) 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	Friday (11/1) All Sain Mass at 7am, 10am &			
Wednesday (10/30) 6:00pm Holy Hour w/confession				
7:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) Sunday (11/3) 9:30am Sodality Meeting				
	9:30am Sunday School 9:30am RCIA			
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.				
DAILY READING	s for the Week			
Monday:Ephesians 2:Tuesday:Ephesians 5:Wednesday:Ephesians 6:Thursday:Ephesians 6:Friday:Rev 7:2-4, 9-14	19-22 Luke 6 21-33 Luke 1 1-9 Luke 1 10-20 Luke 1 1 John 3:1-3 Матт	5:12-16 3:18-21 3:22-30 3:31-35 5:1-12A 6:37-40		
Our Mission Statement: Holy Comforter-Saint Cypria empowered by the Holy Spir uphold Christian values by p Church in Word Sacrament a	it, exists to evangeliz romoting the teaching	e and to		

OUR VISION STATEMENT:

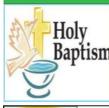
Church in Word, Sacrament and Witness.

A welcoming, embracing and joyful faith family richly rooted in the community today, tomorrow and forever.

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ISOULS

PARISH LIFE



CONGRATULATIONS to Xi'Airah Amir Carter was Baptized into the family of the Sacrificial Lamb, Jesus Christ, on Baptism October 20th. May God bless Xi'Airah and her parents as she begins this spiritual journey.

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS is FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1st. It is a Holy Day of Sants Obligation in which Catholics should attend Day Mass. While the Church acknowledges many saints by name, there are countless others

known to God who are with him in glory and make up the "Cloud of Witnesses" who surround us (cf Heb 12:1). It is these saints in particular who are celebrated on All Saints Day. Mass will be celebrated at HCSC at 7:00AM, 10:00AM and 7:00PM. All are welcome.

NOTE: Holy Hour will be held at 6:00PM (prior to Mass).

FEAST OF ALL SOULS: NOVEMBER 2nd is the day the Church has set aside to commemorate deceased family members and ALL friends who await their purification in Purgatory. While these departed souls can pray for us, they can no longer pray for themselves. Parishioners are encouraged to visit the Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Washington, Sat., Nov.

2nd, to pray for all souls awaiting the resurrection of their bodies in Christ. Mass will be held Nov. 2nd in the cemetery chapels of: *Gates of Heaven (9:00AM); Mt. Olivet (9:30AM);* and Resurrection (9:00AM). Visit www.ccaw.org for details.



PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD: One of the spiritual works of mercy is to pray for the dead. November is the Church's traditional month to pray for our deceased friends and

family. Mass will be celebrated every other day in November for the Poor Souls. To include your relatives and friends, write names on the All Souls Day envelope (included with tithing envelopes or located in rear of church) and drop in collection basket or rectory office. These names are placed on the altar for the month of November. A donation is not needed to submit names but is appreciated. FAITH DIRECT USERS: If you tithe via Faith Direct, email names to hcscstaff@hcscchurch.org or call 202-546-1885.



RESPECT LIFE MONTH: Every October the Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month, and the first Sunday of October is observed as Respect Life Sunday. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, tlife.org/celebrate and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of

life to its end, and at every point in between. During the month, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life. Our parish will provide information in the bulletin and in the rear of the church on life issues. For more church teachings and resources on Respect Life Month, visit: www.respectlife.org/respect-life-month.



Biblical Basics of the Greatest Story Ever Told



This year, our parish will set our focus on the "Biblical Basics of the Greatest Story Ever Told". The Scriptures teach us why and how we exist, what happened to us in Original Sin and How God, in his great mercy, has redeemed us and called us back to Him in newness of life. This will be a whole-parish catechesis, led by our pastor, in three stages. Words from a keynote song titled Just a Little Talk with Jesus helps us to understand the 3 stages:

- OUR FALL- I once was lost in Sin,
- ii) **OUR REDEPMTION** But Jesus took me in,
- iii) OUR GRACE And then a little Light from Heaven Filled my Soul.

A reflection by Msgr. Pope on the bible stories will be in the bulletin every other week. They are also on our website (scan the QR s code) or have them emailed via FlockNote along with a video. To sign-up to receive emails/videos, or visit: hcscchurch.flocknote.com



and sign up for Bible Basics! FlockNote is a FREE service!

Yes, Just a little talk with Jesus made me whole!

ATTENTION: First Friday All-Day Eucharistic Adoration will **NOT** be held this Friday, Nov. 1st since it is the Feast of All Saints. On Nov. 1st, we will hold our regular Friday Holy Hour from 6-7PM.

The **NEXT** scheduled First Friday All-Day Adoration is **Fri., Dec. 6**th. Sign-up for Dec. 6th adoration using the QR code or call the rectory at 202-546-1885.





REMINDER: Sun., Nov. 3rd, Daylight Saving Time will end. Remember to turn your clocks BACK **BACK** one hour before going to bed next Saturday.

BIBLE STUDIES AT HCSC

We YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Mondays at 7PM in the rectory w/Msgr. Charles Pope.

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

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: held everv Wednesday via Zoom at 7:15PM w/Msgr. Charles Pope. Sign up at hcscchurch.flocknote.com to receive Zoom link.

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 (pastor1@hcscchurch.org) Deacon James P. Flagg II (jpflaggll@gmail.com)

For information on membership, sacraments and funerals contact rectory staff at hcscstaff@hcscchurch.org or (202) 546-1885.

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MASS TIMES:	Saturday	8AM & 4:30AM (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 Greatest Story Ever Told A Back-to-Basics Catechesis

Cain and Abel

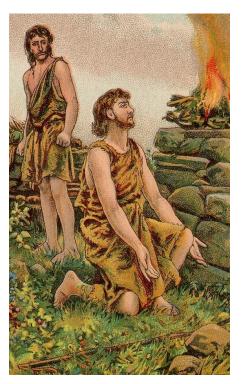
In the last flyer we saw how the beauty of creation was marred by the Sin of Adam and Eve. Not only was creation harmed, but so were Adam and Eve wounded in their very nature. They had been immortal, and their superior intellects had authority over their passions and emotions. But now, suffering, and ultimately death, have come to them. Passions and emotions like anger, love, sexual drives, hunger, fear and so forth now tend to dominate them and their descendants. It is hard for them to resist these drives with their minds and wills weakened. The strong inclination to sin we inherit is called by the Church, "concupiscence" and all of us know it well. For example, we know many things that are harmful for us, and we still want them, in abundance. We also know of things that are good for us and we don't want them all that much. Something is desperately wrong with us and the Church teaches that this "concupiscence" is a lingering effect of Original Sin. It is only with effort and time that we gradually overcome these tendencies.

This weakened condition is illustrated very well in the sad story of Cain and Abel. It focuses on two deep drives of sin in us: envy and anger. Let's read the story in full and learn some of its lessons.

Cain and Abel

And Adam had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain. "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man," she said. Later she gave birth to Cain's brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, while Cain was a tiller of the soil. So in the course of time, Cain brought some of the fruit of the soil as

an offering to the LORD, while Abel brought the best portions of the firstborn of his flock. And the LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but He had no regard for Cain and his offering. So, Cain became very angry, and his countenance fell. "Why are you angry," said the LORD to Cain, "and why has your countenance fallen? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you refuse to do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires vou, but vou must master it."



Then Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. And the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I do not know!" he answered. "Am I my brother's keeper?" "What have you done?" replied the LORD. "The voice of your brother's blood cries out to

Me from the ground. Now you are cursed and banished from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it will no longer yield its produce to you. You will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." But Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, this day You have driven me from the face of the earth, and from Your face I will be hidden; I will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." "Not so!" replied the LORD. "If anyone slays Cain, then Cain will be avenged sevenfold." And the LORD placed a mark on Cain, so that no one who found him would kill him. So Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.(Gen 4:1-16)

At this very early stage we are told of the birth of Cain and Abel. While other children are not mentioned, the text mentions the existence of other siblings later.

Greed

Abel was a shepherd and Cain was a farmer. In their offerings to God, Abel's sacrifice was favored by God since Abel offered the "firstfruits" of his labor while Cain brought some indefinite offering from among his harvest. This likely indicates some greed in Cain who prefers to keep the best for himself whereas Abel gave the best and first of his fruits to God.

Envy and Anger

God favored Abel's offering over Cain, and this elicited in Cain a deep and sinful drive we call "envy." Envy

is sorrow and anger at the goodness or excellence of another person because I take it to lessen my own standing or excellence. In effect, Cain thinks that Abel's excellence makes him look bad by comparison. The proper response to seeing excellence in another person is to seek to imitate it if possible. And we should be happy when others are recognized for their excellence or performance. But too often, like Cain, we see he with indignation that someone was favored over me or that they are better at something. Envy is far worse than jealousy since, if I am jealous, at least I want the good thing that you have. But when I am envious, I seek to destroy the goodness in you, so I don't look bad by comparison. That is why St. Augustine calls envy, "the diabolical sin." Cain's envy causes an anger in him that is so deep he plots to kill Abel and so eliminate this threat to Cain's own standing. It is very ugly, and far too common in the human family. The envious do not always murder, but they often do discredit goodness and excellence and are more than willing to question or "murder" the reputations of those they perceive as competitors to their standing in the community.

A Warning and Teaching from God

Cain's passions of envy and anger are rising. And God warns him: "Why are you angry... If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you refuse to do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires you, but you must master it."

Here then is God's first instruction to us after Original Sin: "Sin is crouching at your door, but you can master it." As we considered above, Adam and Eve had been weakened by their sin and handed on to us a human nature that was weak and prone to sin. Yes, sin and temptation are always crouching at the door, but God teaches us that he provides sufficient grace for us to take authority over our sinful drives and do what is right. Cain's proper response is to accept correction, follow Abel's example, and do what is right. Our passions like envy are simmering, and our anger is often loud, but we can and must master them. If not, things get only worse. In our life we must grow virtue (good habits) and starve vices (bad habits). If not, sin multiplies, and consequences grow such as addictions, compulsions, and many bad habits that further weaken us. Listen to what God is saving. We can and must master our passions and the strong inclinations that "crouch at our door!" God will help us if we call to him. But, like most "skills" in life, it is a long journey and involves much training. That is why we must make use of all the help and medicines available to us such as Scripture to instruct us, Sacraments to heal and nourish us, prayer to steady us, and holy fellowship to encourage and admonish us (See Acts 2:42). Stay close to God and follow his paths and instructions. Otherwise, all bets are off and further misery awaits us, crouching at the door.

Sadly, as the story recounts, Cain did not master his sinful drives, vented his anger and yielded to envy's lie that his brother was a rival to his glory. But of course, none of this makes anything better for Cain. Sin is never a solution; it only complicates and worsens things.

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

Sin almost never affects us alone. It boils over into the lives of others and spreads misery. Cain's envious anger claims Abel's life. The loss of Abel grieves his family and, as we shall see, spreads the infection of anger and vengeance. The loss of Abel also deprives the early human community of his gifts and good example.

Note also that God hears Abel's blood crying out from the ground where it was shed. Human life is sacred to God, and we are not to take life, except in rare and regrettable moments of self-defense. We will answer to God one day for what we have done (see 2 Cor 5:10). And thus, God asks Cain of his brother: "Where is your brother?" Cain's cynical response shows how disordered his heart has become: "Am I my brother's keeper." The answer is yes. The wellbeing of our brothers and sisters should be very important to us and we should guard and keep them from harm and ruin. We are called to love our neighbor, and even our enemy. Yes, we are our brother's keeper.

Consequences of Cain's Sin

Cain's sin also affects him. He laments that his sin has separated him from the human family: "I will be a fugitive and hidden from the land." He also laments how his sin has further distanced him from God: "From Your face I will be hidden." His violence has begotten fear in him of more violence in the vengeance of other members of the human family: "Whoever finds me will kill me!" Sin sets evil loose. The punishment for sin is more sin. But God does not utterly forsake Cain and says that despite his sin, Cain remains sacred to the Lord and that no one is to take his life. They will answer to God if they try and be punished severely. Sinners are still God's children and are to be respected as such.

Cain is exiled to the east of Eden in a place called "Nod." In Hebrew, "Nod" means to wander. Hence Cain becomes a vagabond, a fugitive, expelled from the Land. He is also exiled from the fruits of civilization: agriculture, and animal produce. Since he poisoned the land with Abel's shed blood, the land will yield nothing to his farming. Now he must forage from whatever the wild uncultivated land gives.

Sin is a terrible reality and its consequences are real. But in the greatest story ever told, God does not forget Cain and places a mark of love upon him.



TWO GREAT FEASTS: ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS

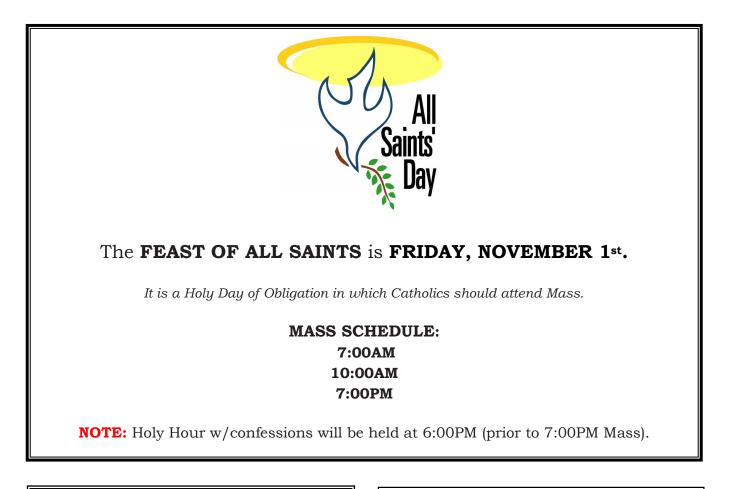
On the first two days of November each year, the Church commemorates two linked feast days: *All Saints (November 1)* and *All Souls (November 2)*. All Saints is easy to understand: *We remember all those who have lived lives of heroic holiness, whether the Church has canonized them or not.* From the first centuries after Christ, Christians who died a martyr's death were considered saints, who live in God's presence forever. Every year, on the anniversary of the martyrs' deaths, Christians would visit their tombs and celebrate the Eucharist. This practice grew throughout the centuries to include remembering other outstanding Christians on the days they died. Soon the entire calendar was filled with memorials of the saints. In the ninth century, Pope Gregory IV designated November 1 as the day to remember all the saints living in God's presence.

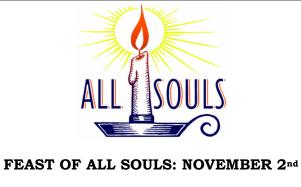
On All Souls, we remember all those who have died, not just the spiritual superstars. From the earliest days the church has prayed for the deceased. Their judgment is in the hands of God, and we trust in God's mercy. But we also believe that God cares about us and our concerns, so prayers for our deceased loved ones are appropriate.

The feast day of All Souls is rooted in the second century. In the 10th century, St. Odilo of Cliny established a memorial of all the faithful departed. Rome added the feast to the church's calendar in the 13th century. In many parts of the world the celebration of this feast day is marked with particular energy, such as *el Dia del los Muertos* in Mexico.

It's appropriate to commemorate All Souls Day by praying for those who have gone before us in faith. Some people also visit the graves of their loved ones to pray for them. *The feast of All Souls reminds us of our mortality.* We are all finite, mortal creatures. We are all loved by God, who has endowed us with an immortal soul. Our ultimate destiny lies in God's hands, and even death does not separate us from his love.

We invite you to commemorate these feast days with the church. See the back of flyer for details.





Parishioners are encouraged to visit the Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Washington, **Sat., Nov. 2nd**, to pray for all souls awaiting the resurrection of their bodies in Christ. Mass will be held Nov. 2nd in the cemetery chapels of:

> Gates of Heaven at 9:00AM Mt. Olivet at 9:30AM Resurrection at 9:00AM

Visit www.ccaw.org for details.



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