She Contributed Her WHOLE LIVELIHOOD

HOLY COMFORTER-SAINT CYPRIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings This Weekend:					
1 Kings 17:10-16	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44			
Readings Next Weekend:					
Daniel 12:1-3	Hebrews 10:11-14, 18	Mark 13:-24-32			



The first reading from First Kings speaks to us of the paradox of poverty. The paradox is that often our poverty, our neediness provides a doorway for God to bless us with true riches. It is our emptiness that provides room for God to work. The first reading opens with a **Desire Portrayed**. The prophet

Elijah encounters a widow in the city of Zarepath, which means "refining fire." Both of them are hungry due to a famine in the land. But Elijah, as God's prophet, speaks not only for himself, but for God when he asks this very poor woman to share her meager food with him. For, truth be told, God has a desire, a hunger for us. The woman too as many desires, but her desire needs to be purified in this place called "refining fire. Next, notice the **Destitution of Poverty**. The woman articulates her poverty that she has only a small amount of food for herself and her child, that starvation is near at hand. We may wonder why God allows poverty. The quick answer is because there is such a grave risk in riches. In riches we trust in ourselves, in poverty we can only trust God. And it is only by trusting faith that we can ever be saved. So, next notice the Prescribed Demand. God's prophet, Elijah, summons her to trusting faith. He tells her not to be afraid to share, and in effect, teaches her the Lord will not be outdone in generosity. At a merely human level, Elijah's request may seem almost cruel. But from a spiritual perspective, Elijah is summoning her to the faith that can truly save her. We too must come to realize that merely looking to our own self-interest will only feed us for one day. Only in openness to God, and to others, can we procure a super-abundant food that will draw us to life eternal. Finally, note the Deliverance Produced. Having little to lose, she trusts in God's word through Elijah and shares her food. And sure enough God is not outdone in generosity. From that day forward her jar of flour did not go empty nor the jug of oil run drv. If we learn to trust God, we come to discover that God never fails.

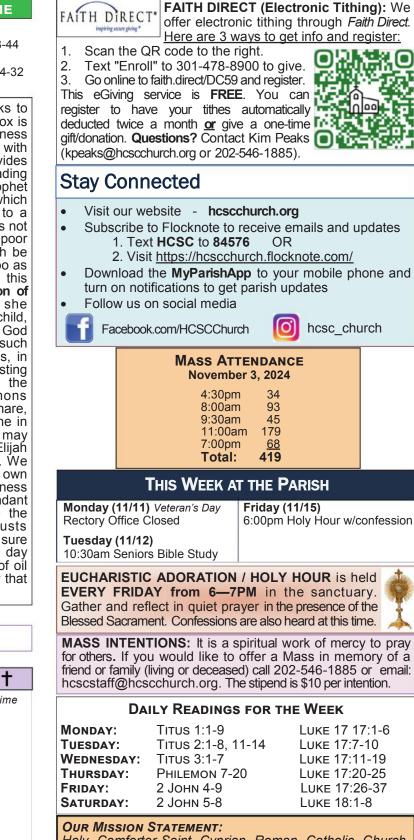
UNERALS:	Walter	Coehins	(11/18	3)
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MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

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Sunday, November 10 Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time				
8:00am	Dwain Jenifer (B'day 11/4) +			
	Beatrice Edelin (B'day 11/7) +			
11:00am	For our Military Veterans (living & deceased)			
7:00pm	Jeremiah N. Hawkins †			
Monday, N	November 11 St. Martin of Tours			
7:00am	For the Poor Souls †			
Tuesday,	November 12 St Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr			
7:00am	Dorothy T. Walker †			
Wednesday, November 13 St. Frances Xavier Cabrini				
7:00am	For the Poor Souls †			
Thursday, November 14				
7:00am	Nancy Hawkins (B'day) †			
Friday, November 15 St. Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor				
7:00am	Annie Louise Barnes (B'day) †			
Saturday, November 16 Saint Margaret of Scotland				
8:00am	For the Poor Souls			
4:30pm	Intentions of Robert C. Pearson			



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.

NOVEMBER 10, 2024

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PARISH LIFE



CONGRATULATIONS to Felix Joseph Gatins who was Baptized into the family Baptism of the Sacrificial Lamb, Jesus Christ, on November 3rd. May God bless Felix and his parents as he continues this spiritual journey.



In observance of Veterans Day, the TANKYOU rectory office will be closed Monday, Nov., 11th. We ask blessings on those who have served and continue to serve our country in the armed forces.

We ask for healing for veterans wounded in body and soul. We pray especially for the men and women in active combat coming home with injured bodies and traumatized spirits. Bring solace to them, O Lord. We pray for them when they cannot pray. Have mercy on all our veterans from wars all across the globe. Bring peace to their hearts and peace to the regions they fought in. Bless all the soldiers who served in non-combative posts. May their calling to serve continue in their lives. Give us creative vision to see a world that, growing weary with fighting, moves to affirming the life of every human being beyond war. Through Christ our Lord.

BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH 2024

The Church recognizes November as Black Catholic History Month to commemorate the rich history and proud heritage of Black Catholics in the United States. We celebrate the contributions that African and African Americans have made and continue to make to our Church. It is a unique opportunity to share, learn, and celebrate the courageous people who played pivotal roles in our Church's history. ON NOVEMBER 16, 2024—Join with the ADW in commemorating this Month with a Pilgrimage to Black Catholic Roots in Southern Maryland. It starts with a tour of St. Peter Claver Catholic Church (16922 St. Peters Clavers Rd., St. Inigoes, MD) and the McKenna Hall Museum at 2:00PM, followed by Praise and worship at 4:00PM. Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, will be the presider at the 4:30PM liturgy. Reception to follow at 5:30PM. This pilgrimage promises to be a memorable and enriching experience at, a significant landmark of African American history in St. Mary's County, Maryland. For more information, contact Karen Fowler at fowlerk@adw.org or 301.853.5347.



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.

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,
- **OUR REDEPMTION** But Jesus took me in, ii)
- 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 5 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!



HCSC ADVENT FAMILY DAY-Sun., Nov. 24th following the 11:00AM Mass at the Center City Public Charter School (15th & E. Capitol Sts, SE). Invite family and friends for lunch, games,

presentations for youth and adults as we prepare for the season of Advent and the birth of our Savior. This year's theme: In time like these, We need a Savior!



HCSC NEEDS A HANDYMAN: Our parish is in need of a skilled person who can work with minor repairs and maintenance in the rectory and church. Must have repair experience. Employment is based on an 'as-needed' basis

and paid hourly or by project. We can also use parishioners with these skills who may be interested in donating their time and talent. If you know of someone or are 'handy' vourself. contact Kim Peaks at 202-546-1885 or kpeaks@hcscchurch.org for more info.

MSGR. POPE'S HOMILIES & TEACHINGS are available at msgrpope.com. Check out this online resource on the teachings, homilies, radio show (The Quest), books and much more from Msgr. Charles Pope.



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.

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				

Advent Family Day



Sunday, November 24, 2024 1:00-3:30 PM

CENTER CITY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL CAFETERIA 15TH & EAST CAPITOL STREETS, S.E. – PARKING IN LOT BEHIND SCHOOL

We have been reading biblical stories this year that teach us of God's abiding love for us and of our deep need for a Savior due to our sinful tendencies. For Advent Family Day, we reflect on this theme while we enjoy a meal, games, and teaching for both adults and chilfren.



CONTACT PHONE:	CONTACT EMAIL:	
YOUTH 1:	GRADE:	AGE:
YOUTH 2:	GRADE:	AGE:
YOUTH 3:	GRADE:	AGE:

The Greatest Story Ever Told A Back-to-Basics Catechesis

The Great Flood

In the Story of Cain and Abel, we saw how easily sin causes more sin. Adam and Eve's sin wounded our nature and made us strongly inclined to sin. While God teaches that we can master sin, the Scriptures tell the sad legacy that we are now inclined to indulge our sins, more than master them. Cain yielded to his envious anger and killed his brother. The poison of sin is multiplying! We have much to learn

in what God does in response.

The Wages of Sin is Death

By the sixth chapter of Genesis, we are told that sin had so multiplied among the children of men that God found it necessary to take severe actions. Before the great flood, people lived to be very old. It is said that Adam lived to be 930 years old. Most of the other patriarchs and people before the flood lived well into their 900s as well. Methuselah lived 969

years and Noah 950. While many scoff at these ages as unlikely, we need not doubt that Scriptures record their ages accurately just because it is not our current experience. Indeed, the Scriptures also record that God put an end to such lengthy lives due to sin. We read: So the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days shall be 120 years." (Gen 6:3). Recall that God had warned Adam and Eve that if they ate the forbidden fruit, suffering and death would be their lot. Prior to this they were immortal. Hence, we see that as sin multiplies, age spans decrease. St. Paul says, The wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23). Hence, while the first generations of humanity lived long lives, life spans soon grow

dramatically shorter, and God links this to our contentious sinfulness. 120 years eventually shortens even more. While Moses lived to be 120, King David records that, by his generation, *Our years are seventy, or eighty for those who are strong. And most of these are emptiness and pain. They pass swiftly and we are gone.* (Ps 90:10)



Yes, the wage of sin is death. Sin weakens us, multiplies our sorrows and we grow quickly old in our sins. Many of the Saints and theologians of the Church have remarked that shortening our lifespans is actually a mercy of God given the pain and sorrows of this life and our wearying expose to sin and Satan. God limits our sorrows and grief in this vale of tears.

The Great Flood.

But limiting lifespans is not alone sufficient. God decides that He must wash away the increasingly horrifying effects of sin. We read the following description of God's observations and resolve: *Then the* LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great upon the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was altogether evil all the time. And the LORD regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, "I will blot out man, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—every man and beast and crawling creature and bird of the

air—for I am grieved that I have made them." (Gen 6:5-7)

To speak of God as "grieved" and regretful is said by a form of analogy called "anthropomorphism" wherein we ascribe human qualities to God. God does not have regret and grief like we do. Rather, He sees the need to intervene given our stubbornness. His "regret" is His will to restart things and set them right. He will use a great flood to accomplish His purposes: And behold. Ι will bring

floodwaters upon the earth to destroy every creature under the heavens that has the breath of life. Everything on the earth will perish. (Gen 6:17)

However, despite this wording, God qualifies His plans and will save a small remnant of mankind and living things. In this way He will establish a new covenant and restore the earth.

But Noah...

Despite almost complete human wickedness, God does know of one righteous family. Scripture says, Noah, however, found favor in the eyes of the LORD.... Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God.

And Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Gen 6:8-10). Add to these Noah's wife and the wives of his three sons and there are eight righteous in all the earth.

The Lord therefore says to Noah: *The earth is full of violence. Now behold, I will destroy both them and the earth. Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; make rooms in the ark and coat it with pitch inside and out. And this is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high. You are to make a roof for the ark, finish its walls a cubit from the top, place a door in the side of the ark, and build lower, middle, and upper decks.* (Gen 6:13-16)

The "ark" was not really a ship. It was a large box, indeed a very large box! A cubit is the length of an average man's elbow to the tip of his middle finger, about 18 inches (1.5 feet). Hence the ark was approximately 450 feet long (1.5 football fields), 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.

And the ark needed to be big since God also said: You are to take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate; a pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate; and seven pairs of every kind of bird of the air, male and female, to preserve their offspring on the face of all the earth. (Gen 7:2-3)

And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

It is unclear in the account how long it took to build such a massive ark. One might be safe to conclude that it took decades! One can see by this the great obedience and fortitude of Noah and his family. As for the gathering of such a multitude of animals, the biblical text says that the animals came to Noah at the designated time. (see Gen 7:8,15) Hence, the gathering of all the animals and human beings was a work of God alone. When the ark was completed, and seven days before the flooding rains began, *The LORD said to Noah*, "Go into the ark, you and all your family... Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living thing I have made." (Gen 7:1ff)

And the Lord Shut Them In.

An interesting detail that many miss is when Noah, his family, and all the animals were aboard the text says, *Then the LORD shut him in* (Gen 7:16). This is God's work in which Noah has cooperated. The ship has been made according to God's design, but it is not the ship that will save and protect them. It is God and God alone.

For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and the waters rose and lifted the ark high above the earth. So the waters continued to surge and rise greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the waters. Finally, the waters completely inundated the earth, so that all the high mountains under all the heavens were covered... to a depth of fifteen cubits. And every living thing that moved upon the earth perished...and only Noah and those with him in the ark remained. And the waters prevailed upon the earth for 150 days.

There are some who dismiss the flood story as a mere legend. However, most ancient cultures have similar stories and, while much debated, there does seem to be geological and anthropological evidence as well. This all points to some historical event commonly remembered as a great flood by all humanity. You decide if every detail is literal but do not miss what God is teaching.

What do we learn?

Sin had taken a devastating toll on the earth. Since the restoration needed is not only for humankind but included all life on the face of the earth, it would seem that man's wickedness included ecological harm and ruin as well. Thus, note first the devastating toll of sin.

But the keynote in the Greatest Story Ever Told, is God's abiding love. God does a deep cleansing, to be sure, but he takes a remnant and with that remnant renews the face of the Earth. The human family will continue, along with all the living creatures he has made. God renews, he purifies and prunes, but he does not utterly destroy what he has made. God never fails to offer mercy and renewal.

And thus, we see: But God remembered Noah and all the animals and livestock that were with him in the ark. And God sent a wind over the earth, and the waters began to subside. The springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens were closed, and the rain from the sky was restrained. The waters receded steadily from the earth, and after 150 days the waters had gone down. (Gen 8:1-3)

God Put a Rainbow in the Sky

And God established a new covenant with Noah and the human family: And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. (Gen 9:1). There is an end of sin and a new beginning for righteousness. This is a symbol for Baptism. God puts a rainbow in the sky as a sign of his covenant and of his enduring love. And while God savs he will not use a flood again. mankind will still stand in need of ongoing purifications. St Peter teaches that God gave Noah the rainbow sign, no more water, but the fire next time! (see 2 Peter 3:10) Yes, having purified us in the waters of baptism, we who are now in Christ Jesus will experience the fiery but thrilling purification of God the Holy Spirit. These old stories point forward in the Greatest Story Ever Told. God will not leave us in sin's grasp. Call to him now, He awaits your "Yes!"

