

HOLY COMFORTER-SAINT CYPRIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings This Weekend:

Hebrews 10:11-14, 18 Daniel 12:1-3 Mark 13:-24-32

Readings Next Weekend:

Daniel 7:13-14 Rev 1:5-8 John 18:33b-37



The reading today turns our attention to the passing nature of this world and all its glories. We are taught that our exit from the world and appointment for judgment is just PASTOR one heartbeat away. The setting of the Gospel is just prior to Jesus final ascent into

Jerusalem where he will suffer and die, and then rise. The apostles admire the beautiful buildings of the Temple from across the Kidron Valley as they stand atop the Mount of Olives. Jesus then warns them that the days are coming when all those beautiful buildings will be thrown down. Indeed they were, a mere forty years later, never to be rebuilt. And this is an image for the world as we know it. It will not last, it is changing from moment to moment and will at some point be definitively swept away. In the age of the Church, some 2000 years, numerous Empires (e.g. Rome, the British Empire, etc.) have all risen and fallen. Whole cultures have been swept away. But Christ and his Church have lasted. Every now and again people laugh at Christ and his Church and pronounce that the end of the Church and faith is at hand. But the Church has buried every one of her undertakers and survived oppressive governments and philosophies since 33AD. And thus today, in the Gospel the Lord reminds us that the things of this world are passing, they are ephemeral. And no matter how much we may admire the power or influence of certain things, philosophies and people now, they are all steadily eroding. The Lord speaks a truth that we must ultimately grasp: Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away (Mk 13:31). In other words, don't be too impressed with the world and get on the Lord's team. We're gonna win!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, November 17 Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am Aeon Johnson (B'day)

For the poor souls

11:00am Intentions of Felicia Miller (B'day 11/22)

7:00pm Kenneth Louis +

Monday, November 18 Dedication of the Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul

7:00am Mary Willoughby (B'day)

Tuesday, November 19 7:00am For the poor souls Wednesday, November 20 7:00am Bessie B. Walker †

Thursday, November 21 The Presentation of Mary

7:00am Forrester Barclay (B'day) †

Friday, November 22 St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr

7:00am For the poor souls

Saturday, November 23 St. Clement, Pope and Martyr

Gwen Beth Colston (B'day)

Dwayne & Marcia Holton (21st Anniversary) 4:30pm

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: REV 1:1-4, 2:1-5 LUKE 18:35-43 TUESDAY: REV 3:1-6, 14-22 LUKE 19:1-10 LUKE 19:11-28 **WEDNESDAY:** REV 4:1-11 Rev 5:1-10 LUKE 19:41-44 THURSDAY: FRIDAY: Rev 10:8-11 LUKE 19:45-48 Rev 11:4-12 LUKE 20:27-40 SATURDAY:



FAITH DIRECT (Electronic Tithing): We offer electronic tithing through Faith Direct. Here are 3 ways to get info and register:

- Scan the QR code to the right.
- 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

- Visit our website hcscchurch.org
- Subscribe to Flocknote to receive emails and updates
 - 1. Text **HCSC** to **84576** OR
 - Visit https://hcscchurch.flocknote.com/
- 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

MASS ATTENDANCE November 10, 2024

4:30pm 8:00am 73 9:30am 34 11:00am 136 7:00pm 68 352 Total:

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Monday (11/18)

7:15pm Young Adult Bible Study

Wednesday (11/20)

7:30pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom)

Friday (11/22)

6:00pm Holy Hour w/confession

Sunday (11/24)

1:00pm Advent Family Day



OUR CHURCH SANCTUARY IS OPEN FROM 8AM-8PM every day for you to come in for private prayer and contemplation. Consider spending some quiet time with the Lord.

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.





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 hcscstaff@hcscchurch.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.

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PARISH LIFE



CONGRATULATIONS to Julian *Armondo* Elias, Jr. who was Baptized into the family Baptism of the Sacrificial Lamb, Jesus Christ, on Nov. 9th. May God bless him and his parents as they begin his journey.



We pray for our Women's Ministry who traveled offsite to the Annual Women's Ministry Retreat this weekend. We pray that they experience a fruitful and joyful time of renewal, reflection, prayer and fellowship.

BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH 2024

In July 1990, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus of the U.S. designated November as Black Catholic History Month to celebrate the long history and proud heritage of Black Catholics in the United States. This month provides opportunities to learn and share the whole history and rich heritage of Christian Catholicism. Our own parish traces its beginning to two distinct churches: Saint Cyprian established in 1893 and Holy Comforter established in 1904. The merger of the parishes in 1966 is a culmination of two parishes that were once separate for the same reason that Saint Cyprian was founded. Catholics of African descent were not welcome to practice their faith equally with white Catholics. But, God has brought us out of our weary years and our silent tears. He is still working out his salvation story at this multi-ethnic and multi-racial community so that we may find strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. Visit: hcscchurch.org/about-2/history-of-parish/ to learn more about our history and stay tuned throughout the month for other information.

COMMEMORATE NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN MONTH: Join with the ADW for a reception and screening of 'Enduring Faith: The Story of Native



American Catholics'—a documentary produced by the Knights of Columbus—on Thurs., Nov. 21st at 6PM at Saint John Paul II National Shrine. Inspired by Saint John Paul II's address to the native peoples of the Americas, we will reflect on the history of Native American Catholics and celebrate their legacy, rich cultural heritage, and Christian witness. Information will be provided on Native American saints and the pastoral work of the USCCB Subcommittee on Native American Affairs and the Knights of Columbus. Visit: https://adw.org/event/enduring-faith/ 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 in rear of church) and drop in collection basket or rectory office. Names are placed on the altar for the month of November. A donation is not needed to submit names but appreciated. FAITH DIRECT USERS: email names to hcscstaff@hcscchurch.org or call 202-546-1885.



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,
- 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 \$ 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!

THANK YOU to those who donated to the ADW Retired Priest Fund last weekend. Please know your donations fund the retirement needs of our clergy as they age. If you still want to donate, pick up an envelope in the rear of the church, read the instructions and drop in the collection basket.



SAINT JOSEPH 2025 SUNDAY MISSALS HAVE ARRIVED and are available in the Candlelight Store and the rectory office. COST: \$3.50 each. This missal is a companion guide for the Church year's Sunday masses and includes all mass readings. Limited supply.

BIBLE STUDIES AT HCSC



>> 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 every ₹ 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.

MASS TIMES: Sunday

Saturday 8AM & 4:30AM (vigil);

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

IN TIME LIKE THESE, YOU NEED A SAVIOR







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.

3 Ways to RSVP

- Complete the bottom of this form, detach and drop it into the collection basket or at the rectory office
- Call the rectory office at 202-546-1885 or email your RSVP info to hcscstaff@hcscchchurch.org
- Scan the QR code and RSVP online at hcscchurch.org

HCSC Advent Family Day Registration

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

The Greatest Story Ever Told

A Back-to-Basics Catechesis

The Tower of Babel

In the story of the great flood, we saw how evil and sin had grown so fast and become so serious that God saw it necessary to cleanse the whole world and dramatically prune the human family. While the flood was a severe measure, that tells us how bad the problem had become! The flood was like a giant "bath" that cleansed the world, making an end of sin and new beginning for goodness to grow.

But the world after the flood was far from sin-free. Even in Noah's family there are struggles with drinking too much and the indiscretion and divisions that often follow such matters.

In the decades and centuries that followed, humanity grew once again and began to spread toward the lands east of where Eden had once been. The land was called "Shinar", but it would be called "Babylon" later in the Scriptures. It is a region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers (aka Mesopotamia). Today the region encompasses Iran and Iraq.

At this moment we encounter a story about the sin of pride wherein we forget the glory of God and esteem ourselves too highly. Let's consider this story and seek to learn from it.

The Story of the Tower of Babel

Now the whole world had one language and a common form of speech. And as people journeyed eastward, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." So, they used brick instead of stone, and tar instead of

mortar. "Come," they said, "let us build for ourselves a city with a tower that reaches to the heavens, that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of all the earth." Then the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the sons of men were building. And the LORD said, "If they have begun to do this as one people speaking the same language, then nothing they



devise will be beyond them. Come, let Us go down and confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech." So the LORD scattered them from there over the face of all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it is called Babel, for there the LORD confused the language of the whole world, and from that place the LORD scattered them over the face of all the earth. (Gen 11:1-9)

What Do We Learn?

Fundamentally this story is about the sinful drive of pride. Pride is the most serious of sins we commit. It is a very

deep drive, so deep we often aren't even aware that we are doing it. It is also at the root of every other sin we commit. Pride is the sinful tendency of esteeming oneself more than is proper and at the same time denigrating the goodness of others. Pride also stirs us to reject the lawful authority of others, including God, and through it we often refuse appropriate submission. The proud

man is under pressure since he seeks to live the lie that he is more than he really is. St. Gregory lists four kinds of pride:

- Thinking that my gifts are from myself, rather than from God or others who taught me.
- Thinking that, even if my gifts are from God or others, it is because I deserve them.
- Claiming an excellence I do not have.
- Despising others and their gifts or thinking or that I am the only one who can do things.

Pride makes us think we know better than God and that we can disregard what he teaches in his Scriptures and the Church. Pride is extremely dangerous because it distances us from God and makes him seem irrelevant to us. It even makes him seem to be a competitor or rival too our control or power.

As we saw earlier, the sin of Adam and Eve was, at its heart, a sin of pride. Satan told them that if they ate the forbidden fruit they would become like gods, deciding for themselves what is good or evil (see Gen 3:5). They distrusted and disregarded what God had told them,

insisted on eating the fruit and knowing evil personally.

In this story of the Tower of Babel, pride is evident in their intentions to build a massive city and a tower *that reaches to the heavens, that we may make a name for ourselves*. Reaching to heaven is not possible for man. Even getting back to the earthly Garden of Eden is beyond our powers (see Gen 3:24). Only by the wonderful grace and mercy of God can we ever hope to see heaven.

Large cities were a sign of collective human power. Like today, they were considered the economic and political powerhouses of their day. They were surrounded also by high walls and military embattlements. All of this exuded power, security, hubris, and self-reliance.

Further, "making a name for ourselves" is prideful. To God alone be the glory! And, if there is any human achievement it is only on account of our God-given intellects and gifts working with what God has made that make human endeavors successful. Scripture says, *Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.* (Ps 127:1)

Note however, God is not opposed to human development or ingenuity. In fact, he placed us here and gave us a mission. He told us to be fruitful, multiply, to fill the earth and subdue it (see Gen 1:28; 2:15) In effect, we are to take the raw materials of this universe and build beautiful and useful things, help creation reach its potential, and unlock its secret powers, all by the grace of God. But thinking we can soar to heaven or make a name for ourselves apart from God is laughable and prideful.

What a Joke!

The laughable quality of the pride inherent in the builders of Babel is made clear when their mighty city and tower are so puny that God must come down to earth to see it! The text says of the completed tower and metropolis: Then the LORD came down to see the city and the tower. Yes, it is implied that the Lord must stoop and squint to even see what this mighty city and tower is! Our greatest works are barely visible from heaven.

We do well to recall that we are tiny specks, standing on a slightly larger speck (the earth) which circles a slightly larger and fiery speck (the sun), circling the center of a slightly larger dust cloud of specks called the



Milky Way galaxy. It has tens of billions of similar stars, and the Milky Way is just one of billions of other galaxies in the vastness of space. So, you might say that the mighty city and Tower of Babel, and our own larger and modern versions of these aren't so big and mighty after all. Humility everyone! Let's have some humility.

God must Act

Because pride is so dangerous, God once again acted to prune our pride and limit our stupidity. He did this by our confusing speech and confounding our grandiose notions of one-world government collectivist power. He spread forth the human family throughout the world and thereby decentralized our prideful power. Both language and distance are used to assist humanity to live in families, God's preferred social network, rather than in large collectivist systems or city-states that depersonalizing and often dehumanizing. God also brings diversity by introducing new languages and giving wider experiences by locating us everywhere in the world.

In the modern world there has been a tendency to return to large cities with tall buildings. This has once again contributed to a lot of pride and depersonalization. There are globalist notions of one-world government and centralized control that seek to create progress and a kind of utopia that replaces God and undermines families. These modern attempts have usually ended in dystopian disasters and wars, leading to grave human suffering and a loss of freedom. The Catechism of the Catholic Church warns especially of godless schemes that seek to build a "city of man" without God:

The Church has rejected the totalitarian and atheistic ideologies associated in modern times with "communism" or "socialism." [and the] individualism and the absolute primacy of the law of the marketplace over human labor in capitalism. Regulating the economy solely by centralized planning perverts the basis of social bonds; and regulating it solely by the law of the marketplace fails social justice, for "there are many human needs which cannot be satisfied by the market." Reasonable regulation of the marketplace and economic initiatives, in keeping with a just hierarchy of values and a view to the common good, is to be commended. (CCC #2425)

The story of Babel warns us to curb our tendency to think too highly of ourselves or over-estimate our knowledge and abilities apart from God, who gave them to us. We must humble ourselves before God, listen carefully to what he says, and heed what we hear. Anything else is colossal and towering pride.

In Memory of John N. Graham Catherine E. Graham Joan M. Graham Ernestine C. Jackson

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"ETERNAL LOVE

Anna, Othalene, Lataunya Betty - wife and mother

In Loving Memory of

The Deceased Jenifers:

Oscar, Mary, Helena, Bay, David,

Baby Sis, Beverly, Frankie, David,

Neal, Kimberly, Cyprian Jr., Jovan

& Very Dear, The Family

100 Still Loved, Still Missed In Loving Memory of

Lillian H. Myrick Charles Myrick Sr. Leon (Tony) Myrick Lucy Myrick **Lucy Jones** Shirley Ann Jackson The Family

In Memory of

Winnie,

Ray,

Bertie

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



Holy Name Society

In Loving Memory

Austina H. Jones

J. Mother

Willie, Lawrence & Maria

Son & Father We'll always love you, We Love You Always Mom, Kids & Denita



In Memory of

The Family

OUR DECEASED SODALISTS

HCSC SODALITY

To Our Beloved Kenyon C. Jones

IN LOVING **MEMORY OF** Anthony Maxwell Smart (Tony)

The Family

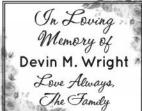
In Loving Memory of

James & Hattie Nicholson & Norman Williams

In Memory of Hump, Will, Phil Henny

XXXXXXXXX In Loving Memory of James O. & Reba L. Neale and Alice Neale Thornton The Family

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