

Love



Advent

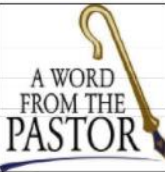
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings This Weekend:

Micah 5:1-4a Hebrew 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45

Readings Next Weekend:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 Luke 2:41-52



Notice in this Gospel today several stages that in some ways remind us of a Mass. First, there is **Procession**: Mary proceeds in haste to be with her cousin Elizabeth. And when they gather, there is **Praise!** Mary and Elizabeth are having church. Then there is

Proclamation: a word that is exchanged. Mary's word of greeting does not merely convey her voice, with Jesus in her womb the presence of God accompanies her voice and Elizabeth is filled with joy. During Sunday service, when the presence of the Lord is in the lector, the deacon, and the preacher you know that not only are they speaking, but also God, and you are filled with joy!?

Then, comes **Perception**: Elizabeth understands that Mary is Mother of the Lord and carries in her the Lord Jesus. John also leaps for joy, recognizing Christ. At Mass we too fall to our knees with joy as the priest says, "Behold the Lamb of God and we recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread." So, in today's Gospel, there's just a little Mass going on, just havin' a little Church up in there.



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@hscchurch.org or 202-546-1885).



Stay Connected

- Visit our website - hscchurch.org
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 1. Text **HCSC** to **84576** OR
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MASS ATTENDANCE
December 15, 2024

4:30pm	29
8:00am	64
9:30am	38
11:00am	177
7:00pm	67
Total:	375

† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

Sunday, December 22 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8:00am Judith Douglas †
9:30am Juanita Cruz †
11:00am Ruby Roberts †
7:00pm Intentions of the Oblate Sisters of Providence

Monday, December 23

7:00am Mary Alice Baltimore †

Tuesday, December 24

7:00am Rita Sheridan †
6:00pm Chauncey Jones (B'day—12/25) †
12:00am Larry Elgin †

Wednesday, December 25 *The Nativity of the Lord*

10:00am Otha Hamer, Jr. (B'day) †

Thursday, December 26 *St. Stephen, First Martyr*

7:00am Dorothy Marie Barnes (B'day—12/27) †

Friday, December 27 *St. John the Apostle*

7:00am James O. Neale (B'day) †

Saturday, December 28 *The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

8:00am Mary Ellen Jay †
4:30pm For the People



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. The customary stipend is \$10 per intention.

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Tuesday (12/24)

6:00pm Family Christmas Mass
11:00pm Song Service prior to Midnight Mass

Wednesday (12/25)

10:00am Christmas Day Mass

Friday (12/27)

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 and pray for healing, strength, courage and for each other as we face many challenges and struggles throughout our daily lives. All are welcome.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION or HOLY HOUR

is held **EVERY FRIDAY from 6—7PM** in the sanctuary. This Catholic devotion dates back to the early days of the Church. During adoration, a consecrated host is exposed, allowing us to sit and pray in the true presence of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Confessions are also heard at this time.



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY:	MAL 3:1-4, 23-24	LUKE 1:57-66
TUESDAY:	2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12,14A, 16	LUKE 1:67-79
WEDNESDAY:	IS 52:7-10 HEB 1:1-6	JOHN 1:1-18
THURSDAY:	ACTS 6:8-10, 7:54-59	MATTHEW 10:17-22
FRIDAY:	1 JOHN 1:1-4	JOHN 20:1A, 2-8
SATURDAY:	1 JOHN 1:5-2:2	MATTHEW 2:13-18

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.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PARISH LIFE



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: HELP DECORATE OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS this Sun., Dec. 22th at 12:45pm. With many helping hands, we can accomplish this in a short time. Refreshments will be served! Meet in the church near the altar following the 11am Mass.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT SALE: Christmas cards and small gift items are on sale in the **Usher Store in rear of Church** this Sunday after the 8am, 9:30am & 11am masses. Cash and checks accepted. Proceeds benefit the Oblate Sisters of Providence (OSP). A great opportunity to buy that final gift!



'GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT' ADVENT GIVING CAMPAIGN: This year for Advent, we are seeking donations for the **St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth Infant & Families.** This center strengthens and supports families on their journey toward stability. Inspired by Catholic social teaching and Gospel values, St. Ann's Center provides a nurturing community where families heal from the past, overcome barriers, and take hold of their future. You can make monetary donations or purchase requested items. See flyer in rear of church or visit: hscchurch.org.

Advent
Giving

RECTORY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Rectory office closed **Wed., Dec. 25th through Fri., Dec. 27th.** In case of emergency or death in family, call 202-546-1885 and leave a voicemail in the main mailbox.

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE



TUESDAY, DEC. 24TH—CHRISTMAS EVE

6:00pm—Family Mass w/Youth Pageant
11:00pm—Song service begins prior to Midnight Mass

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25TH—NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

10:00am—Mass

SUNDAY, DEC. 29TH—FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Mass: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am & 7:00pm
(Sat., Dec. 28th—Vigil Mass at 4:30pm)

TUES., DEC. 31ST—WATCH NIGHT MASS

7:00pm—Vigil Mass and 11:15pm—Watch Night Mass

WED., JAN. 1ST—SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

10:00am—Mass

SUN., JAN. 5TH—FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Mass: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am and 7:00pm
(Sat., Jan. 4th—Vigil Mass at 4:30pm)

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:

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

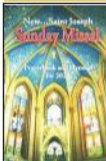
A reflection by Msgr. Pope on the bible stories will be in the bulletin **every other week.** They are also on our website (scan the QR code) or have them emailed via **FlockNote** along with a video. **To sign-up** to receive emails/videos, or visit: hscchurch.flocknote.com and sign up for Bible Basics!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



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



TO GOD BE THE GLORY! Cyprian and Susan Jenifer are so grateful for the many prayers and show of support for their family while Cyprian was in the hospital and subsequent rehabilitation due to severe health issues. Cyprian is home and thankful for God's mercy and for all your love and support during this time. *'Give Thanks to the Lord for He is good, his love endures forever'*. Psalm 136:1.



SAINT JOSEPH 2025 SUNDAY MISSALS 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.

HCSC BIBLE STUDY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY: will not be held on Mon., Dec 23rd, 30th or Jan. 6th. Bible Study to resume on Mon, Jan. 13th at 7:15pm w/Msgr. Pope.



WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: will not be held Wed., Dec. 25th or Jan 1st. Bible Study will resume Wed., Jan 8th (via Zoom).

HOLY COMFORTER-SAINT CYPRIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

1357 East Capitol Street, SE, WDC 20003

202.546.1885 ❖ www.hscchurch.org

Rev. Msgr. Charles Pope, Pastor (pastor1@hscchurch.org)
Deacon James P. Flagg II (jpfagg1@gmail.com)

For information on membership, sacraments and funerals contact rectory staff at hscstaff@hscchurch.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

Holy Comforter—Saint Cyprian Parish

Christmas 2024

Dear Parishioners,

Christmas is the Feast of Christ with us. It is astonishing to think that the Lord would decide to live among us. He knows the glory of heaven and praise of the angels. Our humble world is so little by comparison. Indeed, it is awful by comparison! Yet here he came to walk our dusty roads, to suffer with us and among us, and also to rejoice and feast among us. He is not ashamed to call us his family (see Heb. 2:11) and genuinely liked those who others called sinners.

Christmas is also the feast of the Lord within us. We have a Holy Communion with the Lord, who dwells in us through the Eucharist and through his Holy Spirit within us. We may wonder how we could be a fit dwelling for the Lord. Sometimes we are discouraged by the fallen, humble and sinful quality of the dwelling of our soul.

Dorothy Day, a great hero of the poor in the 20th Century, once said that she believed that if Jesus could be born in a stable, then he could also be born in her. Indeed, there was nothing noble, glorious or comforting about the stable where our Lord was born. Yet, there he chose to be born. And we too must humbly acknowledge that, in the less than glorious stable of our soul, the Lord is also pleased to dwell. We can only receive this gift by grace, and by seeking to remain in the state of that grace through the Sacraments and prayer. But know this, the Lord is pleased to dwell with us. You are loved and through that love the Lord seeks a dwelling place in your soul.

The saddest words of the Christmas story are, “No room in the Inn.” We cannot merely lament a lack of lodging for the Holy Family years ago, we must look to remedy that today. Make room in your hearts for Christ. Make room as well for those he gives you to love: family, friends, the suffering, the poor and yes, even your enemies. The manger was warmed that night by the love and joy of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and later, the Magi. Even the animals gave glory to Him that night.

It all begins with the incarnation and birth of Jesus. He leapt down from heaven to be with us and show us the beautiful face of God. As you look and his infant face in the creche before the altar, know that it is the same beautiful face you behold when the priest, holding the Host aloft, says, “Behold the Lamb of God!” And we can receive him and return love because he came to us in the flesh. *We love because He first loved us* (1 Jn 4:19). As God and man, he dwelt in Mary’s womb, was held in her arms and he embraced her and us in love. Those same arms of Jesus were stretched forth in love on the Cross and in his rising in glory he bestowed blessings on the infant Church.

He is still here to bestow blessings in every Mass. Don’t block your blessings. Know that there is nowhere on earth that you can be closer to Christ and others than in the Mass and near the tabernacle where the Word made flesh dwells among us. Seek the Lord where he is humbly found, in a manger once, and now, here in the Eucharist, in the tabernacle.



Rev. Msgr. Charles Pope, Pastor





CHRISTMAS FLOWER LIST

Many of our parishioners donated to the Christmas flower fund and we are most grateful for your consideration. Many of the donations were given in memory, or in honor, of a loved one or family members listed below.

*Tyrone Adams
James Armstrong
Vermelle Armstrong
Janie Armstrong
Eusebia Armstrong-Black
Anne Armstrong-Marlow
Margaret Armstrong-Roberts
Alice Atmore
Mrs. & Mrs. Acey Bailey
Ann Bailey
Mattie Barclay
Delores Beaman
Anthony Better
Rick Bowlding
John & Mary Bowlding
The Bradshaw Family
Robert Brooks
Emelda Brousseau
Aaron S. Brown
Alice Bryant
M. Rita & Rodney Bullock
Edith S. Butler
The Campbell-Hawkins Family
Cora Campbell
Lucille Carter
Catherine Chandler
Daniel W. Chisley
Joseph F. Contee
Joseph & Vincent Contee
Margarette Cooper
Eva B. Cooper
Jessie Mae Cooper
Helene Crutchfield
Deacon Ralph Cyrus, Jr.
Jovana Damasceno
Clara Davis*

*The Deale Family
Beatrice & Charles Edelin, Sr.
Doris E. Edelin
Antionette Essex
Dolores Essex
Clyde Fairfax & Family
The Ford Family
Ruth Garnett
Jean L. Giles
Thomas E. Giles, Sr.
John & Louise Gillam
The Gilliam Family
Michael A. Giuffrida
Catherine R. Giuffrida
Barbara E. Giuffrida
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Basilene Graham
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Sister Maria Goretti
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Catherine & George T. Holton, Sr.
Deborah Holton*

*George T. Holton, Jr.
Gerald Holton
Gregory Holton
Loretta Humber Greene
Blanche Ignash
Norma B Jackson
The Jay Family
Jovan Jenifer
Cyprian Jenifer, Jr
Brian & Elijah Johnson
The Johnson Family
Janie Johnson
Crystal Johnson
Helen P. Johnson
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Damian Jones
Gayle Jones
Jackie Jones, Sr.
Lucy Jones
Thomas Jordon
Father Kearns
Norvell Lacey
Oval Lamb
Henry Mack Lee
Veronica Longstreth
Kenneth Louis
The Lowry Family
Mary Lowery
Paul Macon
John and Pauline Macon
Virginia Mance
Sr. Charlotte Marshall, OSP
William W. Martin
Mary McNair Jones
Eleman Miah
Darren Miah*

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Doris, Bobby, & Billy Middleton
Lorita Miller
Michael Miller, Jr.
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Elise Mitchell
Juanita Jackson Moore
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Lillian & Charles Myrick
Nguyen Thi Co
Irene Nickerson
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Bernard Peaks
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James Pierce, Jr.
Ronald Pierce
Wallace "Rashid" Pott
Audrey Prescott
Sr. Clarice Proctor, OSP
James A. & Velma Proctor
Larry Joseph Proctor
Lawrence David Proctor
James Nelson Proctor
The Richards Family
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Floyd & Margaret Robinson
James & Jr. Robison
Pressley Robinson
Rudolph H. Robinson
Ruth B. Robinson
Timothy Robinson
Alma Rollins
Joan Savoy-Grant
John A. Savoy, Jr.
John & Darren Savoy
Sterling Savoy
Monica Scott-Lewis
Patricia Schauer
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The Shields Family
Jeanette Simms
Bonnie Singletary
Souls in Purgatory
The Smith Family
Dolores Smith
Clare Francis Steinemann

C.M. Stretcher
Malika Sulieman-James
The Stevenson Family
Sr. Agnes Stewart
Sr. Helene Therese, OSP
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Richard Thompson
Calvin Townsend
The Townsend Family
Marian Turner
Earl Turner Sr.
The Turner Family
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Joseph & Bertha Vanzego
Beverly Vaughn
Deacon Richard Walker
Roland & Marian Wallace
Vernel Waters
Jackie White Sr.
Phillip and Marlene Whitlock
Nathaniel & Nannie Williams
Everette Williams
Rosa Williams
Zelma Winchester

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


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Eleman Miah
 &
Darren Miah
The Family


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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, Phil
Henny

In Loving Memory
Austina H. Jones
Mother
We Love You Always
Willie, Lawrence & Maria

To Our Beloved
Kenyon L. 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
 and
Alice Neale Thornton
 The Family

In Loving Memory of
Devin M. Wright
*Love Always,
 The Family*

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Willie & Gwendolyn Jones


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 Deceased Members of
Macon Family
Holton Family
Johnson Family
Anderson Family
Always Remembered and Loved

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 Nurturing Husbands & Fathers, especially Dennis C. Williams & Thomas E. Smith
 Loving Memories from The Family

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