

"Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

Luke 4:21



3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings This Weekend:

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21 Readings Next Weekend:

Malachi 3:1-4 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40



Today's first reading presents a wonderful portrait of Joy in the Word of God. First, note the Hunger for the Word of God. All the people have gathered by the Watergate and PASTOR they are eager and hungry to hear the Word of God. Next, note the Hearing of the Word

of God. Not only are they assembled, but they also spend almost six hours listening to the Word proclaimed and to the sermon delivered by Ezra. Ezra is helped by others to proclaim the Word and he then explains it to them. Note too regarding us this morning. We have assembled eager to hear a Word from God. I will preach but am helped in the proclamation of this Word by the lectors, the deacon and the choir. My sermons are long, but they are NOT six hours. More like 30 minutes. Next, note the Honor given the Word of God. As it is proclaimed people acclaim "Amen!" Some prostrate in reverence, others weep either for joy or sorrow in their sins. But they honor the Word of God. Do you? Or is the sermon time to do text messaging and read the bulletin? Finally, there is a Heeding of the Word of God. The people are informed by Ezra that they have not been faithful in observing some of God's liturgical mandates and they prepare to observe the feast. In the end, we cannot honor the Word of God without heeding it.



FUNERAL: Felix Elias, Jr. (1/24)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, January 26 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am Everett Coleman +

9:30am Sr. Eleanor Marie Wedge, OSP †

11:00am Felix Elias +

7:00pm Melvin Matthews †

Monday, January 27

7:00am Marlene Moses-Alston †

Tuesday, January 28 St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church

7:00am Claude Tompkins (B'day)

Wednesday, January 29

7:00am Randolph Blanchard †

Thursday, January 30

Angelia Ferguson + 7:00am

Friday, January 31 St. John Bosco, Priest

7:00am Elizabeth Harris †

Saturday, February 1

8:00am For the People

4:30pm Diane Offutt †

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.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mark 3:22-30 MONDAY: HEBREWS 9:15, 24-28 HEBREWS 10:1-10 Mark 3:31-35 TUESDAY: WEDNESDAY: HEBREWS 10:11-18 Mark 4:1-20 THURSDAY: HEBREWS 10:19-25 MARK 4:21-25 HEBREWS 10:32-39 Mark 4:26-34 FRIDAY: SATURDAY: Mark 4:35-41 HEBREWS 11:1-2, 8-19



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 January 19, 2025

4:30pm 38 8:00am 43 9:30am 50 11:00am 110 7:00pm <u>22</u> 263 Total:

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Monday (1/27)

+

7:15pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday (1/28)

10:30am Seniors Bible Study

Wednesday (1/29)

7:30pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom)

Friday (1/31)

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.

EUCHARISTIC 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.

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.

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PARISH LIFE

HCSC YOUTH MINISTRY SERVICE PROJECT: We invite youth (ages 6-12) along with their families on **Sun.**, **Feb. 6**th following the 11AM Mass in the rectory basement for a special Valentine Day service project. This activity provides a way for our youth to exhibit in word the true love of God by writing messages in Valentine Day cards for our seniors. Light refreshments will be provided. Contact Youth Director Nicki Gebrehiwot at youthdirector@hcscchurch.org or 202-330-8302 to RSVP.



CONSECRATION TO MARY: Parishioners of all ages are invited to join **ONLINE** with Msgr. Pope in making/renewing our Consecration to Mary according to St. Louis Marie de Montfort. Many of us did this last year and it is common to renew our Consecration annually. It begins February

20th and ends on March 25th, the feast of the Incarnation. To receive the prayers and videos from Msgr. Pope, you need a Flocknote account which is FREE to our parishioners. Visit: hcscchurch.flocknote.com and sign-up. Make sure you select Consecration to Mary-St. Louis Marie de Montfort from the category. If you already have an account, login and sign up. Question? Contact us at 202.546.1885 or hcscstaff@hcscchurch.org.



JOHN PAUL II INSTITUTE LECTURE: 'Philosophy, Revelation, and the Christening of Thought' by Prof. William Desmond on Feb. 6th at 4PM at Keane Auditorium, McGivney Hall, Catholic Univ. (620 Michigan Ave. NE. WDC). This lecture reflects on the

possible between philosophy and Christianity in the light of Revelation. It will address traditional mediations of philosophy and Christianity and reflect on the significance of postmodern projects to de-Christianize Western Culture. For more information email: mrice@johnpaulii.edu.



FREE TAX PREPARATION: If your income is under \$67k, you are eligible for FREE tax preparation by IRS VITA certified volunteers. Tax preparation done on Saturdays from 9AM-

4PM at the Catholic Charities Financial Stability Network (924 G St., NW, WDC, 20001). To register: call 202-738-9957. Sponsored by Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Washington.

2024 HCSC YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION (TITHING) STATEMENTS—will be prepared only upon request beginning Fri., Feb. 7, 2025. Statements will not be automatically distributed. Contact the rectory office (202-546-1885 or hcscstaff@hcscchurch.org) to request your statement. It can be mailed, emailed or picked up from the rectory. NOTE: only cash donations (submitted in an envelope with your name) and checks payable to Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian are included in your statement. Your statement will not reflect loose cash donations.

FAITH DIRECT YEAR-END TITHING STATEMENTS: Parishioners who tithe electronically through Faith Direct will automatically receive their 2024 year-end giving statement directly from Faith Direct as part of the online giving program.

We are so grateful for our parishioners continual generosity to our parish community. Thank you!



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 \$ 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!



SAVE THE DATE: FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: February 7th 8AM (*Mass at 7AM*) until 7PM in the church. Consider stopping by or sign up (scan QR code or call rectory office at 202-546-1885)

to pray for an hour. Spend some time with Jesus in the blesses sacrament.

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.



BIBLE STUDIES AT HCSC



YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Mondays at 7:15PM in the rectory w/Msgr. Charles Pope.



FRIENDLY SENIORS BIBLE STUDY: held the second & fourth Tuesday of every month at 10:30AM in the chapel. Deacon JP 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: Saturday Sunday

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



HOLY COMFORTER-ST. CYPRIAN YOUTH MINISTRY

A NOTE OF LOVE

Service Project

Sunday, February 4, 2024 1:00pm - Rectory Basement

We invite youth (grades 6-12) to join with us for a Valentine Day service project! This activity provides a way for our youth to exhibit in word the true love of God by writing messages in Valentine Day cards for our seniors. By adding their thoughts and signing these cards, they are sharing that gift of love with others.

Light refreshments provided.

Please RSVP to youthdirector@hcscchurch.org or 301-330-8302 so we can be prepared with supplies for all.

The Greatest Story Ever Told

Basic Biblical Stories and What we Can Learn from Them

The Story of Joseph: All is Grace

Jacob had returned to the Land of Canaan. He had reconciled with his brother Esau. As noted in the previous flyer, Jacob had two wives, Leah and Rachel. He also had two concubines. Bilhah and Zilpah who were the maidservants of Leah and Rachel, respectively. A concubine is a woman who lives with a man but has lower status than his wife or wives. All of this violates God's original plan for Marriage (see Gen 2:24) which is one man for one woman until death do them part, bearing fruit in their children. But during the long reign of sin that came after the fall, God overlooked things that he would later correct, like divorce and polygamy. As we shall see, polygamy leads to many internal problems in families.

From these four women, Jacob had twelve sons and one daughter (Dinah). From Leah, Jacob bore Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun. From Zilpah he bore Gad and Asher. From Bilhah, he bore Dan and Naphtali. Rachel remained barren for many years, but finally she bore Joseph and later, Benjamin.

Now, as was the case with his own parents, Jacob played favorites. He loved Rachel most of all and it grieved him that she was barren. When she finally bore Joseph, he doted on Joseph, lavishing him with many gifts, including an amazing and colorful tunic. Further, Joseph was truly a gifted man of many talents. Hence, his brothers were both jealous and envious.

What causes the most strife in polygamous situations is not that the various wives fight. Rather it is the struggle of the many sons by different

mothers to attain status and rank highest in terms of inheritance. And thus, as Joseph is so favored by his father Jacob, the other sons sense that Joseph, though the youngest, would receive the bulk of the family inheritance. It didn't help that Joseph spoke of his own prophetic dreams that indicated that one day, his brothers would bow to him (which they would).



In response to this, his brothers plot to kill him. They lured him into the wilderness on a false pretext and entrapped him. Just before killing him, they realize that they could make money by selling him into slavery to a passing group of Ishmaelites. This they do and then kill a goat, soak Joseph's garments into its blood and return to their father, Jacob with the lie that Joseph had been killed by a wild beast. And Jacob mourned bitterly.

Thus, we see how awful greed can become, along with envy. Some will do almost anything to satisfy their greed. Even today, some will arrange the death of others to collect insurance money, others will steal and defraud, still others neglect important duties like parenting to emphasize career and money. Jacob's sons commit an atrocious crime against their brother and have little care for the weeping of their father.

But God...

But God can make a way out of no way and even use our sins to bring about greater things.

In Egypt, Joseph is sold to Potiphar, a high-ranking Egyptian soldier. Potiphar, seeing the talent and intelligence of Joseph, places him at the head of his household, to oversee it. And Potiphar was greatly blessed for the blessing of the Lord was upon Joseph. (Gn 39:3)

Thus far, Joseph has landed well. But the Lord often chooses to test those whom he has chosen to prepare them for even greater things. Potiphar's wife had her eyes on Joseph for he was a handsome man (Gen 39:6). She sought him day after day to lie with her. But Joseph was a righteous man and would not violate his master's wife. But one day she so insisted that she grabbed him by the cloak as he fled her presence. Angered at his many refusals and now, having his garment in her possession, she accused him of sexual advances and seduction. Potiphar grew furious and placed Joseph in the king's prison.

Surely this false accusation was a tremendous blow to Joseph. First rejected and sold into slavery by his brothers, now in prison for something he did not do. But once again, the Lord can make a way out of no way. Even in prison the Lord showed Joseph favor. The warden, seeing Joseph's talents, placed him in supervision over the other prisoners. Wherever Joseph went, he was a natural and effective leader.

Among many of Joseph's talents was the interpretation of dreams. Two of Pharaoh's high officials, the chief butler and the chief baker, were in the prison for some unknown offense. One night they both had troubling dreams. Joseph noted their distress and offered to interpret the dreams. For the butler came the good news that Pharaoh would soon restore him. But Joseph's interpretations were no mere flattery for such high officials. To the baker he gave the sad news that Pharaoh would have him executed. And it happened just as Joseph said.

With the chief butler now restored to his high role, God had a plan. One day Pharaoh too began having troubling dreams. But none of the Magi of Egypt could give a satisfactory interpretation. The chief butler now remembered Joseph and urged Pharaoh to summon him. This was done and Joseph gave interpretation filled with hope and ultimate troubles. Pharaoh's dream meant that seven years of plenty would be followed by seven years of famine. Clearly it would be necessary to save as much food as possible during the years of plenty to survive the famine.

Major Promotion

Pharaoh saw Joseph's talent and leadership, but Joseph gave God the glory. And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?" Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you."

...See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." (Gn 41:38-41) Joseph was thirty years old when he became the Prime Minister of all Egypt.

Look at God. He can write straight with crooked lines. In every setback Joseph experienced, there was a hidden blessing. God was up to something good and even used the wicked acts of others to place Joseph just were he needed to be for himself and others. Indeed, many will be saved because of what Joseph has suffered thus far. And this points to Christ by whose sufferings we too are saved.

The famine did indeed come after seven years of plenty. And when the people cried out, Pharaoh said "Go to Joseph and do what he says." (Gn 41:55) Joseph opened the stores of grain and the people were well fed through the famine.

Meanwhile, back in Canaan

The famine reached Canaan as well, and Joseph's brothers along with Jacob were languishing. Jacob sent ten of his sons to Egypt to buy grain. He insisted that Benjamin remain behind. He had been born by Rachel after Joseph's departure. Jacob and Rachael could not bear to lose Benjamin whose birth had consoled them after the loss of Joseph.

Turnabout

Entering Joseph's presence, his brothers did not recognize him. They figured they were done with him a long time ago. Can you imagine Joseph's shock as his own brothers came in and bowed to the ground before him? He remembered the dream he had, that one day his brothers would bow to him. Rather than directly confront and punish them, he decided to test them. He questioned their true motives in coming to Egypt. It was not to buy grain but instead to spy on the land and discover its weaknesses. But they insisted that they were "honest men"

and came only for grain. Joseph persisted in his charges and had them arrested! He gave them an option. Since he had learned of the birth of another young brother, he offered to release all of them except Simeon. They were to return to Canaan and bring young Benjamin. Reuben rebuked his brothers and told them they were being punished by God for what they had done to Joseph. Joseph overheard this and wept as the brothers departed for Canaan.

Jacob resisted releasing Benjamin to them, but finally relented due to the severity of the famine. Returning to Egypt with Benjamin, they met again with Joseph who had prepared one last test for them. He hid a precious cup in Benjamin's bag and when the cup was declared missing, had it found in Benjamin's possession. But one of the brothers, Judah, offered to be punished rather than Benjamin lest they once again lose another brother and break Jacob's heart.

Joseph realized now that his brothers had truly repented and finally said to them, "I am Joseph your brother. Do not be afraid, for God used your act to send me before you to save you.... What you intended against me for evil, God intended for good, in order to accomplish a day like this— to preserve the lives of many people." (Gn 50:20) And with weeping the brothers were reconciled to Joseph.

Be Amazed

Do you see what God can do? He can even take our sins and accomplish our salvation by it. He shouldn't have to, but he can! Joseph points forward to Jesus. We turned on Jesus and had him killed. But by this very act God chose to save us.

Only God can accomplish such deeds, be so awesome and be so merciful. As God did with Joseph, he does even more perfectly through Jesus. The Lord too will test us, but only to perfect our conversion. God can make a way out of no way! And all is grace.



Warm Faith & Works

Winter Clothing Drive

Let us share the warmth of our faith through our actions and works! Our Winter Clothing Drive is an opportunity for you to serve others by donating gently-used or new clothing items to those who need them most. From winter coats to other essentials, your used **or** new donation will help those in our community stay warm. We accept monetary donations and online shopping purchases, too!

General Information:

Collection Dates

January 26 - February 9

Drop-off Location

Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Church 1357 East Capitol St., SE, WDC, 20003 Drop off boxes are located in rear lobby of church or purchases can be shipped to this address

For More Details

See back of flyer for list of items needed and other ways to support.



How Can I Donate?:



CLOTHING/OTHER ITEMS:

Donate **GENTLY USED** or **NEW** clothing items (*men, women, teen & children - <u>Sizes</u>: medium to X-large*). Used items should be clean. Place items in bags (if possible) and separate used from new items. Place your items in the appropriate boxes in the rear (vestibule) of the Church. Following are the requested items:



ONLINE SHOPPING (new items)

Items from the above list can be purchased online and shipped to:

Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Church 1357 East Capitol St., SE, Washington, D.C. 20003 ATTN: HNS Clothing Drive

MONETARY DONATION:

CASH/CHECKS: Make checks payable to **HCSC** and write *Clothing Drive* in the memo. Use envelopes located in rear of church near donation boxes (or ask an usher) and drop envelope with donation in collection basket or drop off at the rectory office.

ELECTRONIC: Scan the QR code or visit: membership.faithdirect.net/DC59. You can make a one-time donation using FaithDirect. You do not need an account and it is a FREE secure service. Select MAKE A ONE-TIME DONATION button and then select HNS CLOTHING DRIVE. You can donate using a credit card or direct debit of your bank account.



Your generosity will be benefit the following local organizations:

Harriet Tubman Woman's Shelter

www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/program/harriet-tubman-womens-shelter/

Sasha Bruce Youth Center & Phillip Reid House

www.sashabruce.org

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

Remembered.

Missed



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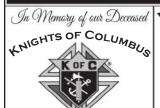
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Love Always, The Family

OUR DECEASED

SODALISTS

In Memory of

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

The Deceased Jenifers:

Oscar, Mary, Helena, Bay, David,

Baby Sis, Beverly, Frankie, David,

Neal, Kimberly, Cyprian Jr., Jovan

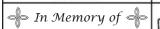
& Very Dear, The Family

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 Loving Memory of

Mattie Barclay Helene Crutchfield **Edgell Fairfax** Elizabeth Fairfax Clyde Fairfax Sr. Clyde (Guy) Fairfax Jr. The Family



Our Deceased Members



Holy Name Society

J. Mother

We Love You Always

Willie, Lawrence & Maria

HCSC SODALITY To Our Beloved In Loving Memory

Kenyon C. Jones Son & Father Austina H. Jones We'll always love you, Mom, Kids & Denita

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

The Family

In Memory of Winnie, Ray, Bertie

In Memory of Hump, Will, Phil Henny

In Loving Memory of

James & Hattie Nicholson & Norman Williams

♥ From the Family

XXXXXXXXX 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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Son, Brother, Father We Love You Always

Willie & Gwendolyn Jones

In Loving Memory of Deceased Members of

Macon Family Holton Family Johnson Family **Anderson Family**

Always Remembered and Loved



MEMORY OF

Nurturing Husbands & Fathers especially Dennis C. Williams & Thomas E. Smith

> Loving Memories from The Family



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