

# 2025 AD

## Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Parish

Reverend Monsignor Charles Pope, Pastor

Sunday, February 16, 2025

### Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Parish's African-American History Commemoration **BLACKS MOMENTS in CATHOLIC HISTORY**

**Introduction:** Some have criticized Christianity as a “white man’s religion and referred to the Roman Catholic Church as a “white” church. These myths and misconceptions are not accurate. In fact, Blacks in Catholic Christianity have a long and vibrant history. On our bulletin cover this week is a very small list of some of these facts. *(All information was compiled from websites of the Archdioceses of Washington, Baltimore, Chicago & Newark, the Diocese of Raleigh, the NBCC Newsletter and the books: African Saints by Frederick Quinn, The Saints Go Marching In by Robert Fulton Holtzclaw, Blacks Who Died for Jesus by Mark Hyman, and The Anacostia Story: 1608-1930 by Louise Daniel Hutchinson).*

**DID YOU KNOW...?** ...that the New Testament of the Bible speaks of “Simon from Cyrene”, which is located in Africa, carrying the cross of Jesus, in the Gospel according to Luke? And did you know that in the Book of Acts, Apostle and Deacon, Phillip, helped convert an official from the African kingdom of Ethiopia to follow Jesus, even before the conversion of St. Paul? Some scholars say this event marked the very moment when the Church changed from a primarily Hebrew and Greek community to the truly universal and catholic Church.

**DID YOU KNOW...?** ...that the first African-American priest ever ordained in the United States, was born and raised in nearby Baltimore, MD, 150 years ago? **Charles Randolph Uncles** was the son of a B&O Railroad worker and a dressmaker mother. Father Uncles was an extremely bright student in high school and college. He broke the color barrier in Baltimore’s St. Mary’s Seminary, at a time when segregation within and outside the Catholic Church was the norm. Father Uncles’ ultimate achievement in 1891 made headlines around the country, including those of the New York Times newspaper. Two years after his famous ordination, Father Uncles became one of the founders of the St. Joseph Society of the Sacred Heart. More commonly known as the **Josephites**, this order’s mission is to evangelize African Americans, mostly in the United States.



**DID YOU KNOW...?** ...that the **Oblate Sisters of Providence** in Baltimore, is the first and oldest religious congregation for women of color in the United States? Haitian immigrant and educator, **Mother Mary Lange**, and three companions founded this order in 1829, when Maryland was still a slave state. Under great risk, these religious women dedicated themselves to serving orphans and educating black children. Also around that time, Mother Lange founded Baltimore’s historic St. Francis Academy. It continues to thrive today as a co-ed high school that educates mainly inner city African American and Hispanic youth. The Oblate Sisters also served at Saint Cyprian School and the combined Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian School here in DC. Mother Lange’s candidacy for sainthood began in 1990.



**DID YOU KNOW...?** ...that a canonized saint who described herself as “the mother and servant of the Indian and Negro races” helped found Holy Redeemer Parish and School in DC? In 1858, **Saint Katherine Drexel** was born into great wealth in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As she grew up, Saint Katherine’s parents taught her that their money was meant to be shared with others. Saint Katherine took this to heart throughout her long life, especially in service to suffering Native and African Americans. She gave more than 21 million dollars of her own money to help found dozens of churches, schools and hospitals across the United States. Besides founding her own religious congregation of the **Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament**, Saint Katherine also established Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana. It’s the only Catholic African American College in the country. Saint Katherine Drexel died in 1955 and was canonized a saint in the year 2000.



6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings This Weekend:

Jer 17:5-8 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20 Luke 6:17, 20-26

Readings Next Weekend:

1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 1 Cor 15:45-49 Luke 6:27-38



The well-known Beatitudes in the Gospel today should be seen as a portrait more than a prescription. In effect, Jesus is painting a picture of what a transformed human person looks like. It is not possible for us to simply do all these things under our own unaided flesh power. We may make a little progress but in the end we will tend to slide back in what the flesh wants to be: selfish, rich in what this world offers, and quite well liked by the world. Only with grace is it possible to become truly poor in spirit. Specifically, to prefer God to the things of this world that we stop acquiring endlessly and live more simply and with austerity. The flesh does not what to do this. The flesh wants to acquire, to be abundant with the world's blessings and good favor. Only grace can make us prefer God to what this world offers and to be willing to be hated and persecuted by this world. The more we are transformed by God's grace, the less we resemble the world and the more we resemble the picture that Jesus paints today.



**FUNERAL:** Claireponte Williams (2/18)

† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

**Sunday, February 16** *Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:00am Sr. Eleanor Marie Wedge, OSP †  
9:30am Intentions of Darryl Graham (B'day)  
11:00am Mervin Shello †  
7:00pm Claireponte Williams †

**Monday, February 17**

7:00am Roy Myrick †

**Tuesday, February 18**

7:00am Jovan Eric Jenifer †

**Wednesday, February 19**

7:00am Deborah Woods †

**Thursday, February 20**

7:00am Ruth Neal Leftwich †

**Friday, February 21**

7:00am Juanita Jackson Moore †

**Saturday, February 22** *The Chair of Saint Peter*

8:00am For the People

4:30pm Theresa Smothers †



**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](mailto:hcscstaff@hcscchurch.org). The customary stipend is \$10 per intention.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

<b>MONDAY:</b>	GENESIS 4:1-15	MARK 8:11-13
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	GENESIS 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10	MARK 8:14-21
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	GENESIS 8:6-13, 20-22	MARK 8:22-26
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	GENESIS 9:1-13	MARK 8:27-33
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	GENESIS 11:1-9	MARK 8:34-9:1
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	1 PETER 5:1-4	MATTHEW 16:13-19



**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](https://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](mailto:kpeaks@hcscchurch.org) or 202-546-1885).



Stay Connected

- Visit our website - [hcscchurch.org](https://hcscchurch.org)
- Subscribe to Flocknote to receive emails and updates
  1. Text **HCSC** to **84576** OR
  2. 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



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MASS ATTENDANCE  
February 9, 2025

4:30pm	28
8:00am	56
9:30am	36
11:00am	137
7:00pm	30
<b>Total:</b>	<b>287</b>

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

**Monday (2/17)** *President's Day*  
*Rectory Office Closed*  
Morning Mass at 8:00AM

**Friday (2/21)**  
6:00pm Holy Hour w/confession

**Wednesday (2/18)**  
7:30pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom)

**Saturday (2/22)**  
11:00am Knights of Peter Claver



**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.



**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.*



## 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### PARISH LIFE

#### RECTORY CLOSED

On **Mon., Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>**, the rectory office will be closed in observance of the **President's Day** holiday. Morning Mass is at 8am (*instead of 7AM*). **NOTE:** Monday night Young Adult Bible Study will not be held.



#### 2025 ANNUAL CATHOLIC SERVICES

**APPEAL:** The Appeal is different and separate from your offertory giving to the parish. **First**, the

Appeal unites us with our archbishop in serving the many charitable needs of this archdiocese. **Second**, the Appeal funds ministries that our parish could not sustain on our own, such as seminarian formation, campus ministry programs and Deaf and Disabilities ministries. **Third**, the Appeal supports our parish ministerial life, from schools and catechesis, to family and pro-life ministries, and many more. **Next weekend**, parishioners will be asked prayerfully to make a commitment. **Please take a brochure located in your pew this weekend**, or visit [appeal.adw.org](http://appeal.adw.org), to learn more about how the Appeal benefits our parish and communities. **NOTE:** the Appeal is restricted to the ministries that are a part of the Appeal and cannot be used for any other purpose. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



**February is Black History Month in the USA**—This month is an annual commemoration of Black Americans' history and celebrated in honor of their contributions to the United States and

the world. In 1926, this celebration was founded by Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and was initially called Negro History Week. During the nation's bicentennial in 1976, President Gerald R. Ford extended the celebration to a month. Throughout the month, our parish will provide resources and other information so that we all may become more aware of the gifts of our multi-cultural community. Our parish celebrates this special annual recognition due to the combined history of two parishes: *Holy Comforter* and *Saint Cyprian* which were formed when racial separation was an accepted form of practice in our country—but our current combined parish is a testament that nothing is greater than God. *To God Be The Glory!*

The Archdiocese of Washington invites all to join them for a Mass celebrating Black History Month on **Sat., Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10AM** at the Church of the Incarnation with Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Auxiliary Bishop as the Principal Celebrant.



**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 20<sup>th</sup> and ends on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 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:** [hscchurch.flocknote.com](http://hscchurch.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 [hscstaff@hscchurch.org](mailto:hscstaff@hscchurch.org).

### 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 REDEMPTION** — *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](http://hscchurch.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 all who donated to the Holy Name Society 'Warm Faith & Works' Clothing Drive! Many bags of clothing were collected and distributed to local organizations for families in our community.

### MARRIAGE EVENTS



**Become an Intentional Couple!** During the month of February, spend an hour with your spouse celebrating your love and life together. Enrich your relationship using a free, online, 1-hour micro-course called "The Intentional Couple," offered by SmartLoving. Visit: [www.smartloving.org/gift](http://www.smartloving.org/gift).



**MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT RETREAT: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8AM–3PM** at St. Michael the Archangel Church (805 Wayne Ave., Silver Spring, MD). Join with other married couples as Fr. Peter Hopkins, LC, from Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center offers three powerful reflections: *The Power of Forgiveness in Marriage*; *Communication and Respect: How to do more than just talk the talk*; and *Intimacy with Christ and your Spouse*. Includes a romantic Valentine's luncheon. **Cost:** \$50 per couple. For info & to register: [marriage@stmichaelthearchangel.org](mailto:marriage@stmichaelthearchangel.org).

#### HOLY COMFORTER-SAINT CYPRIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

1357 East Capitol Street, SE, WDC 20003

202.546.1885 ♦ [www.hscchurch.org](http://www.hscchurch.org)

Rev. Msgr. Charles Pope, Pastor ([pastor1@hscchurch.org](mailto:pastor1@hscchurch.org))  
Deacon James P. Flagg II ([jpfaggll@gmail.com](mailto:jpfaggll@gmail.com))

For information on membership, sacraments and funerals contact rectory staff at [hscstaff@hscchurch.org](mailto: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 ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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1357 East Capitol Street, Southeast  
Washington, District of Columbia 20003  
202.546.1885 ❖ [www.hcscchurch.org](http://www.hcscchurch.org)



Dear HCSC Parishioners,

Beginning January 1 in the year of our Lord 2025, the Pope has declared a Jubilee year. This is commonly done in the Church every twenty-five years. Our parish has the honor of being a Jubilee pilgrimage site. Special blessings are available to all who attend or visit here seeking Jubilee graces.

**But what does Jubilee mean?** At the heart of the word is joy, or rejoicing. More specifically, however, the practice of a jubilee year and traces back all the way to Jewish times. In the Bible, three things are highlighted: *Pilgrimage, Pardon, and Purification*.

**First, Jubilee is about Pilgrimage.** In the Jubilee year, which, for biblical times, was every fifty years, the Jews would make pilgrimage, returning to the Promised Land, and even more specifically to that part of the land that was given to their family or tribe. Many of the Jews had been scattered throughout the ancient world on account of war, exile, famines and plagues. Jubilee was a time to recall their roots and, if possible, journey in pilgrimage to the very lot of the Holy land that had been their ancestral gift from the Lord. It is so easy to forget who we are, and whose we are. Jubilee sends us to our most fundamental roots, our most perfect identity, as children of God. Though the world seeks to redefine and disorient us, Jubilee invites us to return to ourselves as sons and daughters of God. Catholics are encouraged to journey to Rome on pilgrimage. But the Church also offers the option of visiting Jubilee parishes such as ours to receive blessings.

**The Jubilee year also involves Pardon.** It was encouraged that financial debt be forgiven or lessened. But, more deeply, rivalries, and vengeful anger be set aside. Jubilee involves forgiving all types of debts—financial, social, and personal. Jesus freely suffered, and died for us and in the jubilee year, we are asked to receive into our depths, the awesome gift of his mercy, and freely share it with others. We are asked to let the Lord purify us of all painful memories or angry vengeance that may lie in our hearts, eating away like cancer.

**Jubilee is also about Purification** rooted in and flowing from the two previous principles. The invitation to return to our fundamental identity and roots, is to purify our notions of who we really are. The world wants to name us many things and seeks our loyalty and resources. But Jubilee reminds us to purify our minds and hearts and realize what the true goal of our life is. We are pilgrims, heading to heaven, not citizens of this earth. Purification also takes place when we learn to forgive and seek forgiveness from those we may have harmed.

Therefore, we will, as a Jubilee parish, seek to emphasize the wonderful gifts of this Jubilee year. Because of our designation as a Jubilee Parish people can visit here as if they were going to Rome, by attending Mass, spiritual meetings, adoration or going to confession. They receive amplified graces associated with visiting a Jubilee church. We will expand our offerings of the Sacrament of

Confession. We will seek to fine-tune our corporal works of mercy, such as visiting the sick and feeding the poor. We will also seek to draw more deeply from the fonts of God's wisdom, through focused Bible studies and various opportunities to study the faith. We will seek to expand participation in the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. These are spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

As your pastor, I want to ask all of you to consider that many special graces are available to us. **An opening event of the Jubilee year will be our Lenten Family Day on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 PM** at Center City Public Charter School Cafeteria (15<sup>th</sup> & E. Capitol Sts., SE). We will be privileged to have as a guest speaker, Mr. Leonard Wathen, Jr. to reflect with us more deeply on the nature of the Jubilee year, and the graces available. We will also set forth our priorities for the coming year and discuss planned events. Everything we do this year should be rooted in this beautiful gift of Jubilee.

I ask every one of you, especially group and ministry leaders, to attend so that we may receive fundamental instructions that will help us to receive and live out all the graces of this Jubilee year. The entire family is invited since we offer sessions for the youth. Please RSVP by visiting our website ([hcschurch.org](http://hcschurch.org)) or RSVP using the flyer in the bulletin or rear of the church.

Jubilee blessings to all!

Sincerely in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Charles Pope". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Msgr. Charles Pope  
Pastor

# Lenten Family Day

LENTEN UP FOR THE JUBILEE



**Sunday, March 2, 2025**

**1:00-3:30 PM**

## **CENTER CITY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

15TH & EAST CAPITOL STREETS, S.E. – PARKING IN LOT BEHIND SCHOOL

Join the Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Church parish family for an afternoon with guest speaker Mr. Leonard Wathen (St. Aloysius Parish, Leonardtown, MD) for a presentation on the “Year of the Jubilee” and what it means for our parish which has been designated as a “Jubilee Parish” in the Archdiocese of Washington. We will have food, games and special sessions for the youth in pre-K to 12th grade.

Lunch is offered for those who RSVP by February 26!

## *3 Ways to RSVP*

**1** Complete the bottom of this form, detach and drop into the collection basket or at the rectory office.

**2** Call the rectory office: 202-546-1885 or email: [hscstaff@hscchurch.org](mailto:hscstaff@hscchurch.org)

**3** Scan the QR code and RSVP online at [hscchurch.org](http://hscchurch.org)



## **HCSC Lenten Family Day Registration**

*(Please RSVP to receive lunch - add additional names on back)*

ADULT 1: \_\_\_\_\_

ADULT 2: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PHONE or EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUTH 1: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUTH 2: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUTH 3: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_





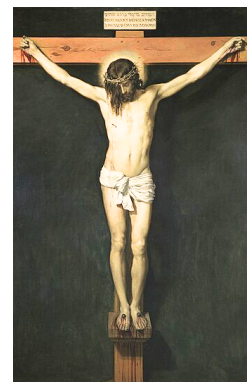
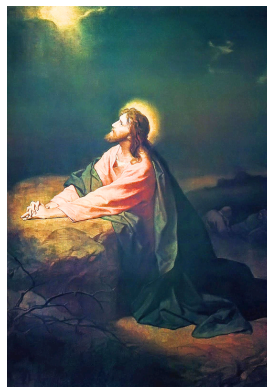
## Lenten Family Day Theme

### *Lenten Up For the Jubilee!*

The Holy Father has announced that 2025 will be a **Jubilee Year**, something which happens every 25 years. The theme for Jubilee 2025 is “Pilgrims of Hope.”

In the Archdiocese of Washington, our parish has been designated as a “*Jubilee Parish*” for the year. This means that we are a pilgrimage site where the faithful can make a pious visit and participate in the liturgical life of the Church and thereby fulfill the terms of obtaining a plenary indulgence. We will offer opportunities throughout the year reflecting on Christian Hope, the true meaning of Jubilee, Redemption, Forgiveness, Mercy and other relevant topics.

Our guest speaker is **Mr. Leonard Wathen, Jr.** from St. Aloysius Parish in Leonardtown, MD and he will make a presentation on the meaning of the Year of the Jubilee. Mr. Wathen is a native of St. Mary's County, Maryland, and a local genealogist. He holds a master's degree in theology from Christendom College and serves as the Director of Religious Education at St. Aloysius Church. Leonard and his wife Nicole live in historic Southern Maryland with their four growing children.



# The Greatest Story Ever Told

## *Basic Biblical Stories and What we Can Learn from Them*

### The Early Story of Moses: God is Preparing Me

In the second chapter of Exodus, the Story of Moses begins, and we see how he was prepared by God for the great mission he would one day take up: that of delivering and leading the Jewish people to freedom and toward the Promised Land. But as we shall see, Moses' preparation is anything but uneventful. God must prepare him in a crucible of sorts and lead him to a greater humility prior to his great mission. It is not an easy preparation. Let's look to the purposeful preparation of the man named Moses.

#### **Family situation**

As Exodus opens, we read: *Now a man from the house of Levi went and took a wife, a daughter of Levi. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. And when she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch; and she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds at the river's brink. And his sister stood at a distance, to know what would be done to him.* (Ex 2:1-4)

Thus, we have the dramatic opening of the birth of Moses, born with a death sentence over his head. Pharaoh had ordered the death of every Hebrew boy saying to the midwives, *When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live* (Exodus 1:16). Moses is thus slated to die on account of murderous greed, royal injustice, and the fearful assent of others.

But look again! And see the focus on the women and their initiative in this

chapter. Moses' mother, her sister and Pharaoh's daughter are all mentioned as standing in the gap against the injustice of their day. It is interesting that men are not mentioned!

This provides a key insight. In situations of oppression, it is often the weakest who show themselves most powerful, and that, in weakness, power often reaches perfection. Perhaps this is because the weak and powerless have the least to lose and are the least invested in the "way things are." And thus, Scripture says, *God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.* (1 Cor 1:27)



Note the strong stock from which Moses comes. His mother and aunt make a daring and risky move and prove themselves resourceful amid a depraved and wicked situation. They will resist evil by making what amounts to a daring raid, a stealthy incursion, into the very source of evil, Pharaoh's own household.

Moses' mother must have informed him of his Hebrew origins at some point for Scripture says elsewhere:

*By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt.* (Heb 11:24-27)

We can imagine his mother, serving as his caretaker, in Pharaoh's palace teaching him: "Son, this is who you really are and don't you forget it. Don't be fooled by all this power and money, by all these trappings. Remember your people and consider that God has saved you for a reason and has a plan for your life.

Yes, even if we must read it between the lines, Moses had a strong and daring mother and family. Let's read on by returning to the infant Moses, floating in the Nile River.

#### **Fantastic Sovereignty**

*Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river... When she opened it, she saw the child crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." Then her Hebrew maidservant said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So, the girl went and called the child's own mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child, and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages.".... So, the woman took the child and nursed him. And Pharaoh's daughter named him Moses, for she said, "Because I drew*



him out of the water." (see Exodus 2:5-10)

In some ways the action of these women shows both desperation and decisiveness. Floating Moses downstream is quite chancy, but notice the mother and daughter monitor the situation to see what will come and be able to respond to whatever occurs. Hence, they remain actors in the drama not merely hapless victims of the situation.

Note the list of ironies and divine sovereignty we can observe in this short passage:

- Pharaoh's chosen instrument of destruction (the Nile) is the means for saving Moses.
- The mother of Moses saves him by following Pharaoh's order (with a twist). Moses is cast into the water as ordered, but on the wood of a kind of ark or cross.
- A member of Pharaoh's own family undermines his policies and saves the very person who will ultimately defeat Pharaoh.
- Moses' mother gets paid from Pharaoh's own budget to do what she most wants to do (nurture her son).
- Pharaoh's daughter gives Moses a name that is prophetic: she drew from the water, but Moses would draw Israel out of the water too!

Yes, God has initiated through these women, a daring raid into the lair of evil, Pharaoh's palace, and placed and agent, a savior there who will be prepared by Pharaoh's own court for its eventual downfall. Indeed, though we know little of these years from the Exodus account, Scripture later tells us, *Pharaoh's daughter took him and brought him up as her own son. Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.* (Acts 7:20-22)

So, Pharaoh was teaching and preparing his own nemesis. He was preparing for his own downfall. You might call this the "fantastic sovereignty" of God.

### False Start

Things are well underway for the deliverance of the Hebrews. But then comes a twist that warns us not to get out ahead of God. The text says, *One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens; and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together; and he said to the man that did the wrong, "Why do you strike your fellow?" He answered, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid, and thought, "Surely the thing is known." When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.* (Ex. 2:11-15)

The problem here is that Moses appoints himself. The Hebrew man may be rude and in the wrong, but he speaks rightly, asking, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us?" And of course, the answer is, no one has. God has not yet called Moses as he will later do. Moses is out ahead of God. Moses tries to save his people without God. This is pride and presumption. This is at the heart of the matter. God will need to work with Moses for forty more years before he is ready!

This may seem strange to us. Moses, at age 40, is in his prime, eloquent, strong, and politically connected! Why wouldn't God call him now? His rash action of killing a man shows that he is *too* strong and too proud for God to use. God seeks the weak and

humble, those who will depend on him. Thus, Moses needs purification and preparation in the desert, where he must now flee. For forty years, God will work with him, and when Moses is finally weak and humble enough, not trusting in his own power, then God will finally call him. For now, he must stand down.

### Formative Sojourning

And thus, Moses flees to the desert where God will purify and prepare him for something he cannot handle right now.

Moses will live humbly. He will have a desert experience. He will learn to shepherd. He will marry and raise a family. He will learn patience and, with age, his own limits.

The paradox of all this is that God seeks us in our humility more than our strength. Without humility we are dangerous, and God cannot use us. Finally, after forty years, when Moses is 80, leaning on a cane, and of stammering speech, God will finally say, "Now I can use you, for now you will rely on my power, not yours."

In all this, God has been silently at work. Moses the deliverer was snatched from the waters, educated and prepared in Pharaoh's own courts, by Pharaoh's finest. Moses has had his pride humbled, and his human strength replaced by divine dependence through a forty-year purification in the desert. And now the deliverer of Israel is finally ready.

We will continue his story in the next flyer, as God calls him. For now, recall the words of an old Gospel song: *God is preparing me for something I can't handle right now. He's making me ready...He's providing me with what I need to carry out the next matter in my life. He's maturing, training and tuning me; purging and pruning me for everything that will come in my life.*

<p><i>In Memory of</i>  <b>John N. Graham</b>  <b>Catherine E. Graham</b>  <b>Joan M. Graham</b>  <b>Ernestine C. Jackson</b>  <i>Always Loved,  Remembered,  Missed</i></p>	<p align="center">   <b>Pope</b>  <b>Funeral Homes</b> </p> <p>www.popefuneralhomes.com</p> <p>Metropolitan Region Chapel  4701 Lydell Road  Cheverly, MD 20781  (202) 583-5400</p> <p>Administrative Office  5540 Marlboro Pike  Forestville, MD 20747  (301) 568-4100</p> <p>Forestville Chapel, P.A.  5538 Marlboro Pike  Forestville, MD 20747  (301) 568-4100</p>	<p><b>Charles Ransome</b>  <b>Owner</b>  12011 Wimbeldon St  Upper Marlboro, MD</p> <p>  <b>DYNAMITE TEES</b>  Sweatshirts, T-Shirts, Hats, Jackets &amp;  Tote Bags at a Price You Can Afford!  <b>301.218.0475 • C: 301.655.8659</b></p>		
<p align="center">Family Owned &amp; Operated  <b>Stewart Funeral Home, Inc.</b>  4001 Benning Road, NE  Washington, DC 20019  (202) 399-3600  www.StewartFuneralHome.com  <b>Pre-Arrangement Services Available</b></p>	<p align="center"><i>In Loving  Memory of</i>  <b>Eleman Miah  &amp;  Darren Miah</b>  <i>The Family</i></p>	<p align="center">   <b>REESE FUNERAL  PROFESSIONALS INC.</b>  Complete Funeral Service  Chapel Facility • Cremation  Serving DC, MD, and VA  Services are based on professionalism rather than cost, every service is designed to meet your personal budget.  We are dedicated to provide to our families financial assistance in their time of need.  "Our Commitment to Eternal Rest is Sacred, Paramount, and Foremost!"  <b>311 N. Patrick St. • Alexandria, VA 22314 • 703-646-9320</b></p>		
<p><i>In Memory of our Deceased</i>  <b>KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS</b>    <b>HCSC</b></p>	<p align="center"><i>In Loving  Memory of</i>  <b>JAMES A. AND ELIZABETH G. HILL</b>  AND  <b>VERMELLE H. HOWARD</b>  <i>Love Always,  The Family</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>In Loving  Memory of</i>  <b>OTHA JOHN HAMER JR.  OTHA JOHN HAMER III</b>  <i>"ETERNAL LOVE"</i>  ~Anna, Othalene, Lataunya,  Betty - wife and mother</p>	<p align="center"><i>In Loving Memory of</i>  <b>Lillian H. Myrick</b>  <b>Charles Myrick Sr.</b>  <b>Leon (Tony) Myrick</b>  <b>Lucy Myrick</b>  <b>Lucy Jones</b>  <b>Shirley Ann Jackson</b>  <i>The Family</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>In Loving Memory of</i>  <b>Mattie Barclay</b>  <b>Helene Crutchfield</b>  <b>Edgell Fairfax</b>  <b>Elizabeth Fairfax</b>  <b>Clyde Fairfax Sr.</b>  <b>Clyde (Guy) Fairfax Jr.</b>  <i>The Family</i></p>
<p align="center"><i>In Memory of</i>  <i>Our Deceased Members</i>  <b>HCSC</b>  Holy Name Society</p>	<p align="center">   In Memory of  <b>OUR DECEASED  SODALISTS</b>  HCSC SODALITY</p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of  The <b>Deceased Jenifers:</b>  Oscar, Mary, Helena, Bay, David,  Baby Sis, Beverly, Frankie, David,  Neal, Kimberly, Cyprian Jr., Jovan  <i>Still Loved, Still Missed  &amp; Very Dear, The Family</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>In Memory of</i>  <b>Winnie,  Ray,  Bertie</b></p>	<p align="center"><i>In Memory of</i>  <b>Hump,  Will, Phil  Henny</b></p>
<p align="center"><i>In Loving Memory</i>  <b>Austina H. Jones</b>  <i>Mother</i>  <i>We Love You Always</i>  <b>Willie, Lawrence &amp; Maria</b></p>	<p align="center"><i>To Our Beloved</i>  <b>Kenyon E. Jones</b>  <i>Son &amp; Father</i>  <i>We'll always  love you,  Mom, Kids  &amp; Venita</i></p> 	<p align="center"><b>IN LOVING  MEMORY OF</b>  <b>Anthony  Maxwell Smart</b>  <b>(Tony)</b>  - The Family</p>	<p align="center"><i>In Loving  Memory of</i>  <b>James &amp; Hattie  Nicholson &amp;  Norman Williams</b>  ♥ From the Family ♥</p>	<p align="center"><i>In Loving Memory of</i>  <b>James O. &amp;  Reba L. Neale</b>  and  <b>Alice Neale Thornton</b>  The Family</p>
<p align="center"><i>In Loving  Memory of</i>  <b>Devin M. Wright</b>  <i>Love Always,  The Family</i></p>	<p align="center"> <b>della barba pizza</b>  February Special - 15% Off - New York Thin  Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday &amp; Sunday Only  Order Online, On Phone or On-Site  Promo Code: SaintCyprian  dellabarbapizza.com (202) 845-3033</p>	<p align="center">  <b>Get this bulletin  emailed to you  every week.</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Simply go to</b>  <b>www.DM.CHURCH/3276</b></p> <p align="center"><b>...or scan</b> </p>		
<p align="center"><i>In Loving  Memory of</i>  <b>Damian A. Jones</b>  Son, Brother, Father  We Love You Always  <b>Willie &amp; Gwendolyn Jones</b></p>	<p align="center">   <b>ThankYouForYourPriesthood.com</b>  <b>#ThankYouForYourPriesthood</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>DISCOVERMASS</b></p>		
<p align="center"><i>In Loving Memory of</i>  <b>Deceased  Members of  Macon Family  Holton Family  Johnson Family  Anderson Family</b>  Always Remembered  and Loved</p>	<p align="center">   <b>IN LOVING  MEMORY OF</b>  Nurturing Husbands &amp; Fathers,  especially Dennis C. Williams  &amp; Thomas E. Smith  Loving Memories from  The Family</p>	<p align="center">   <b>ADVERTISE  HERE</b>  Promote your Business AND support your Parish.  <b>Michelle Stehman ~ 717-774-8833</b>  <b>mstehman@diocesan.com</b></p>		