

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings This Weekend:

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

Readings Next Weekend:

Sirach 27:4-7 1 Cor 15:54-58 Luke 6:39-45



Today's gospel is one of these, I think, not to be skipped or gone, but for us to listen to, reflect, and put into action in our lives. The PASTOR gospel of love, the gospel of forgiveness, the gospel of Jesus, tells us things that are

contrary to our own human instincts. In our day and age, in our society, we need to hear and better follow the words of Jesus. The saying, "I don't get mad, I get even" is the non-Christian response and we do not have to go too far to see its results. Nations will go to war to "get even," battles are fought; innocent lives are lost because one party or person did not follow the gospel, and forgive the other for a slight or even an error that happened. The high murder rate in our community, including so many young lives lost, is evidence of this. What Jesus proposes is not weakness, but strength of another kind. It takes strength of character and courage to say "You are forgiven," or "That's all right" when we are slighted. You do not need to be much of a person to "cuss" the other out, or wait for a chance to get even. Jesus advocates gentleness over violence. It might be hard at times, but we are called not only to listen, but also to act on his words.



FUNERALS: Mary Brenda Witherspoon (2/21) James Jenifer (2/24) Sharon Graham (2/26) Ftizroy Joseph (2/28)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, February 23 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am Intentions of Sr. Mary Brenda Motte, OSP

9:30am Juanita Jackson-Moore +

11:00am Catherine "Kitty" Chandler (B'day) †

7:00pm Intentions of Damion Lynch

Monday, February 24

7:00am Intentions of Hassana Blackwell (B'day)

Tuesday, February 25

Mary Brenda Witherspoon † 7:00am

Wednesday, February 26

7:00am Intentions of Natleen Chance

Thursday, February 27

7:00am Intentions of Kelly Peaks (B'day)

Friday, February 28

7:00am Intentions of Betty Hamer

Saturday, March 1

James T. Robinson (B'day) † 8:00am

4:30pm For the People

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 9:14-29 MONDAY: SIRACH 1:1-10 SIRACH 2:1-11 Mark 9:30-37 TUESDAY: WEDNESDAY: SIRACH 4:11-19 Mark 9:38-40 THURSDAY: SIRACH 5:1-8 MARK 9:41-50 FRIDAY: SIRACH 6:5-17 MARK 10:1-12 SIRACH 17:1-15 SATURDAY: MARK 10:13-16



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
 - 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



Facebook.com/HCSCChurch



hcsc church

MASS ATTENDANCE February 16, 2025

4:30pm 30 8:00am 46 9:30am 60 11:00am 149 7:00pm 45 Total: 330

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Monday (2/24)

7:15pm Young Adult Bible Study

Wednesday (2/26)

7:30pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom)

Friday (2/28)

6:00pm Holy Hour w/confession

Saturday (3/1)

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.

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.

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PARISH LIFE



FOND YET **BITTERSWEET FAREWELL TO CHRISTINA & TAN** LE: Christina was employed as the part-time Administrative Assistant in the church office and also served as the organist and pianist for the Friday Holy Hour, Sunday 7PM Mass and Holy Day liturgies. They will be moving to Charlotte, NC and will celebrate

the birth of their first child in April. We pray for the health and joy of the new family member and the future endeavors of the entire family. You will always be a part of this parish family! Blessings!



2025 ANNUAL CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL: This weekend we have been asked prayerfully to consider making a gift to the

2025 Annual Catholic Services Appeal. Please complete or take a commitment form (located in the pew) at Mass this weekend or make your gift at give.adw.org. Visit appeal.adw.org to learn more about how the Appeal benefits our parish and serves people in need throughout the archdiocese. It is our goal that every parish family will participate this year. 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. 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 **USA**—This month 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 then God. To God Be The Glory!



LENTEN FAMILY DAY: Sun., March 2nd at 1PM, at the Center City Public Charter School (15th & E. Capitol Sts., SE). This year's theme is: Lenten Up for Jubilee. Our

parish has been chosen as a 'Jubilee parish' for this 'Year of the Jubilee' and we will learn about this special designation and how you can participate. Join us for food, fellowship & fun for the entire family. See flyer to register/RSVP.



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 1 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!

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





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.

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 and fourth 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: Saturday Sunday

8AM & 4:30AM (vigil);

8AM, 9:30AM, 11AM and 7PM; Mon—Fri: 7AM (8AM on holidays)

Weekdays **RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:**

> Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 10AM—6PM Thursday, Saturday & Sunday: Closed

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 to12th grade.

Lunch is offered for those who RSVP by February 26!

3 Ways to RSVP

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

Who Was Isaiah: And What Does His Message Mean for Us?

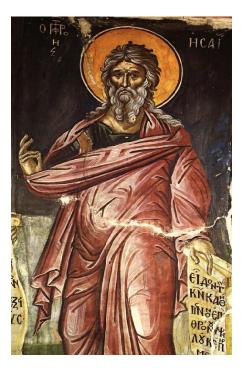
Isaiah...We read quite a lot from the Prophet Isaiah in the Mass but who was he? Who was the man and what was his message. Each of the issues with which he dealt is still with us, even though we live in a far more secular world than he could have imagined. Let's consider key elements of his life, his struggle, and his message.

Isaiah was born in 760 B.C. He is further identified as the son of Amoz (Isaiah 1:1). His name in Hebrew (Yeshayahu) means "Yahweh is salvation." He lived this name well, insisting that Judah's kings and people trust only in God, make no alliances with foreign nations, and refuse to fear anyone but God.

Isaiah lived in the terrible period following the great division of the northern kingdom of Israel (with its ten tribes) from the southern kingdom of Judah. Jew opposed Jew in a kind of civil war. In the period prior to Isaiah's birth, the northern kingdom had nothing but godless kings. The first king, Jeroboam, erected golden calves (of all things!) in two northern cities and strove to dissuade northern Jews from going south to Jerusalem (in Judah) for worship at the Temple. Other ugly moments in the north featured King Ahab and the wicked Queen Jezebel, who advanced the worship of the Canaanite fertility god, Baal, and who persecuted Elijah and the few others in the North who sought to stay true to the faith of Abraham.

By the time Isaiah began his ministry (742 B.C.), the division was some 200 years old. Though living in

Judah to the south, Isaiah prophesied doom for the north and warned the kings of the south to rebuke wickedness and fears and to form no foreign alliances against the growing menaces to the north (Israel) and the east (Assyria). In this passage, he warned of northern destruction: In a single day the Lord will destroy both the head and the tail ... The leaders of Israel are the head, and the lying prophets are the tail (Is 9:14-15). Though speaking this of the north, Isaiah's own region of Judah to the south remained the focus of his concern and warnings.



Isaiah's mission and ministry in Judah spanned four kings: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. It is likely that he was a cousin of King Uzziah, which gave him both access and influence. Isaiah's eloquence and influence also suggest that he

received a royal education; little else is known of him personally.

As noted, Isaiah's prophetic call seems to have begun in 742 B.C., "the year King Uzziah died," and is described in Chapter 6:

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple...... for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" ... And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me" (Is 6:1–8).

While God accepts Isaiah's offer, He warns that Isaiah's message will be resisted. Isaiah asks, sadly,

"How long, O Lord?" And he said, "Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without men, and the land is utterly desolate, and the Lord removes men far away, and the forsaken places are many...(Is 6:11–13).

Sure enough, the first 39 chapters of Isaiah describe a fiercely stubborn resistance to Isaiah's calls, though he had limited success in working with King Hezekiah at a critical moment.

The winds of war were blowing. Assyria was expanding and the ominous clouds of its destructive conquest were moving westward. Israel to the north joined in a coalition to fight Assyria and tried to strongarm Judah in the south to join. They threatened invasion and overthrow if there was no agreement. Let's just say that Ahaz, of Judah was anxious, and

all of Judah with him—threats to the north, threats to the east, and the Mediterranean to the west. There was no real escape. God dispatches Isaiah to Ahaz with the following message:

... Take heed, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands ... [who have] devised evil against you...Thus says the Lord GOD: It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass (Is 7:4–7).

In other words, trust God. Make no alliances and do not give in to your fears. Stand your ground! God offers Ahaz a sign that a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, Immanuel (God is with us). But Ahaz, caving in to his fear, sends tribute to Assyria and offers to become a vassal state in exchange for protection from Israel to the north.

In the end, this frees Assyria to concentrate on destroying Israel to the north. And while it can be argued that Israel's wickedness brought her destruction, Ahaz helped seal the fate of fellow Jews in the north through his fearful and self-serving political calculations. The northern kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians in 721 B.C. and the survivors were carried off into exile. It was farewell to the Ten "Lost Tribes." Only Judah and the Levites in the south remained intact.

Though Judah was spared, the relief from threatening Assyria was to be temporary. In 701 B.C., Assyria came to collect past-due tribute and to assert who was boss. Jerusalem was surrounded by troops and her fate seemed sealed. But Isaiah summoned the new King, Hezekiah and Judah to courage:

"Therefore, thus says the Lord concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city, or shoot an arrow here, or come before it, for I will defend this city to save it! Is (37 33-34)

And Indeed: the angel of the Lord went forth and slew a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians...(Is 37:36). The few Assyrian survivors left and returned by the way they had come.

So, trusting God brought victory to Judah. *Now* maybe, people would listen to Isaiah and trust God rather than foreign alliances! Well, not so fast. Hezekiah began to form alliances with the Babylonians, who were then emerging as a power to the east. And because it looked like another alliance was being formed with a pagan state, Isaiah warned:

"Hear the word of the Lord of hosts: Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left, says the Lord. (Is 39:5–8).

But Hezekiah did not heed this warning. Alliances and dalliances with foreign lands and a corresponding lack of trust in God would continue to plague Judah despite the recent miraculous deliverance from Assyria.

We know little of Isaiah's final demise. According to an extrabiblical tradition (and hinted at in Hebrews 11:37), he died by being sawed in half by Hezekiah's unfaithful son, Manasseh.

Lessons from Isaiah:

First, despite often disappointing results, Isaiah never gave up. God told him to prophesy and so he did. Isaiah lived what he preached. He feared God, not man. He never thought twice about going up to kings and declaring to their faces, "Thus saith the Lord!" Isaiah was willing to rebuke and encourage people regardless of their standing.

Second, Isaiah's message is remarkably clear: Do not fear! Fear

leads all of us to a lot of foolish decisions. It is through fear that the devil holds us in bondage (Heb 2:15). The solution to this fear is trust in God, even unto martyrdom.

Third, alliances and partnerships with pagan or secular governments should be rejected. They manifest a lack of trust in the Lord with the following thinking: "Can God really save us? Maybe, but just in case He doesn't come through, let's make sure we have a plan B."

Such alliances with foreign lands opened Judah to the false religions of the nations, introducing the wicked practices such as child sacrifice and other Canaanite atrocities. These alliances manifested a lack of trust in God and introduced, the adultery of "sleeping with" other gods.

As a Church, we should also be wary of too many entanglements or partnerships with the world and increasingly hostile secular governments. Many strings are attached to the federal and state monies we accept to serve the poor. Government entanglements creasingly demand compromises of us. Some sectors of the Church (especially our universities and social service agencies) are caving in to the power and money of this world and are compromising on important teachings on life, marriage and sexuality. We need to be more willing to say no to funding which requires us to make compromises. Serving the poor is important, but we cannot let even that become an idol.

More broadly, many Catholics allow political views to overrule our faith. Catholics need to be Catholics first before being members of a political party. We must be willing to denounce sin and evil no matter who perpetrates it or promotes it. Too easily do we slip into adultery with the world.

Do not be afraid! God will provide! Saint Isaiah, pray for us!

VISA

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Joan M. Graham



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Neal, Kimberly, Cyprian Jr., Jovan

& Very Dear, The Family

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

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J. Mother



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

Loving Memories from The Family