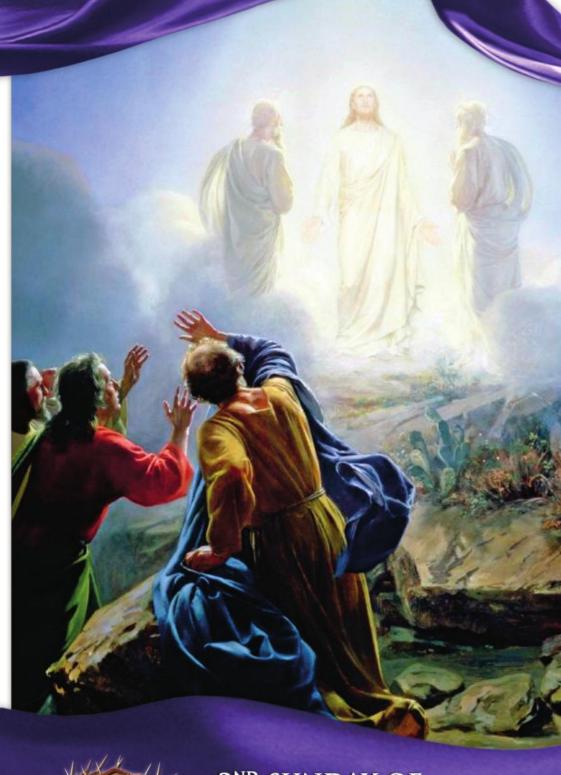
Jesus took Peter,
John, and James
and went up the
mountain to pray.
While he was
praying his face
changed in
appearance and
his clothing
became dazzling
white.

Luke 9:28, 29

Transfiguration of Jesus by Carl Bloch, 1872



2ND SUNDAY OF ENT

Diocesan

HOLY COMFORTER-SAINT CYPRIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

Readings This Weekend:

Gen 15:5-12, 17-18 Phil 3:17-4:1 Luke 9:28b-36 **Readings Next Weekend:**

Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 Luke 13:1-9



Today's Gospel teaches us some important things about facing the trials of life. First note the PLACE of this gospel. Jesus along with Peter, James and John go up a high PASTOR mountain. This was no hill. It was a tall mountain. Have you ever climbed a

mountain or do you appreciate the difficulty of it? Once up this mountain they will have a great experience of glory but the climb has to come first. And so too for us. Most of the best things in our life come at the high price of long hard work. Next notice the PRESCRIPTION of this Gospel. Once upon the Mountain they get a glimpse of glory. And Peter declares that it is good to be here! He is right. Jesus arranged for this glimpse of glory to prepare them for the difficult days ahead and he does not want them to forget this wonderful moment. We too ought to savor the good things in our life for they are the balance to the crosses and challenges of life. Next notice the PRODUCT of this gospel. The Lord intends for this experience to remind them all that heaven is more than worth the cross. So too for us, the Lord intends us to meditate frequently on heaven in such a way that we are encouraged to accept the struggle in order to get there.

+ MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 16 First Sunday of Lent 8:00am Clarence Rodney Holley † 9:30am Almyra Denise Taylor Williams † 11:00aml Intentions of Long & Hardy Families 7:00pm Intentions of Ana Elisabeth Marcos Dyball

Monday, March 17 St. Patrick

7:00am Intentions of Gerry Counihan

Tuesday, March 18 7:00am Margaret Dean † Wednesday, March 19 St. Joseph

7:00am Intentions of Long & Hardy Families

Thursday, March 20

7:00am Dorothy Grace Collins †

Friday, March 21

7:00am Howard Cook † Saturday, March 22

8:00am For the People

4:30pm Gloria Jean Ramsey +



MASS INTENTIONS: It is a spiritual work of mercy to pray for others, both living and deceased. If you would like to offer a Mass in memory of a friend or family, call 202-546-1885 or hcscstaff@hcscchurch.org. The customary stipend is \$10 per intention.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: Dan 9:4B-10 MATT 6:36-38 Isaiah 1:10, 16-20 MATT 23:1-12 TUESDAY: WEDNESDAY: 2 SAM 7:4-5A, 12-14A ROMANS 4:13, 16-22 GOSPELS: MATTHEW 1:16, 18-21, 24A OF LUKE 2:42-52A

THURSDAY: JER 17:5-10 LUKE 16:19-31

FRIDAY: GEN 37:3-4, 12-13A, 17B-28A MATT 21:33-43, 45-46 MICAH 7:14-15, 18-20 LUKE 15:1-3, 11-32 SATURDAY:



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

Scan the QR code to the right.

Text "Enroll" to 301-478-8900 to give.

3. Go online to faith.direct/DC59 and register.
This eGiving service is **FREE**. You can register to have your tithes automatically deducted twice a month or give a one-time 13311 gift/donation. Questions? Contact Kim Peaks (kpeaks@hcscchurch.org or 202-546-1885).



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hcsc church

MASS ATTENDANCE March 5, 2025—Ash Wednesday

7:00am 10:00am 100 7:00pm 124 Total 295 March 9, 2025

4:30pm 38 8:00am 53 9:30am 39 11:00am 151 7:00pm 68 Total: 349

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Monday (3/17)

7:15pm Young Adult Bible Study

Wednesday (3/19)

6:00-7:15pm Confessions 7:30pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom) Friday (3/21)

6:00pm Holy Hour w/confession

Saturday (3/22)

10am Museum of the Bible Trip



OUR CHURCH SANCTUARY IS OPEN FROM 8AM—8PM every day for you to come in for private prayer. Consider spending 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.

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.

2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

PARISH LIFE

CONGRATULATIONS and **WELCOME** to Ana Elisabeth Marcos Dyball who received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation) on Wed., March 12th in the chapel at Holy Comforter—St. Cyprian Church. Ana has been attending our parish



and enrolled in RCIA for over a year. Ana will be returning to Spain in the following weeks and in turn was unable to receive her sacraments and reception into the faith at our usual Easter celebration in April. We ask everyone to pray for Ana as she enters into her glorious faith journey!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR LENT?

To make this your most fruitful Lent yet, here is a plan, a guide, and encouragement right at your fingertips. Prepare for Lent with this four-part video series called HOW TO LENT. Our parish has a FREE subscription to FORMED which is an online service that teaches our faith and provides resources movies/videos, teaching series and more for the entire family. If you don't already have FORMED on your SmartTV, computer or cellphone, pick up an info card in the lobby of the church and sign in for this informative and interesting video on Lent.

Dive deeper into prayer this Lent with the HALLOW app. Start your day with the daily gospel, rosary, imaginative prayer or one of over 10,000 sessions including homilies and bible studies. Pick up a flyer/card in

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lobby of church for more details. There is a subscription, but for Lent you can redeem 3 FREE months!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY—begins March 12th at 7:30PM via Zoom with Msgr. Pope. **Theme:** The 7 Deadly Sins. Sign up at hcscchurch.flocknote.com to receive Zoom link or call the rectory office.

DAILY MASS: Consider attending a daily Mass this Lent. Mass is held every weekday at 7:00AM in the chapel.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: During the season of Lent and to accommodate those who visit since our parish has been named a "Jubilee Parish" for the Year of the Jubilee, clergy will hear confessions every Wednesday from 6:PM-7:15PM in the church. Come and experience God's mercy!

HOLY HOUR and STATIONS OF THE CROSS are held throughout Lent every Friday in the church with Holy Hour at 6PM followed by Stations of the Cross at 7PM. Come and Adore Jesus present in the Eucharist and then journey with Jesus to Calvary.

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE: Give this Lent. This year, our parish in conjunction with the Oblate Sisters of Providence hosts a food drive for a teenager named Gifty and her village in Ghana. You can donate the requested food items or make a monetary donation for shipping costs. Visit our website or see flyer for info. Your generosity it appreciated!

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:

- 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 14 11 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!



EAST OF THE RIVER REVIVAL YOUTH **RECRUITMENT EVENT:** We are seeking 👔 youth ages 12-17 to assist with the planning of the Youth Rally for the East of

the River Revival scheduled for the fall of 2025. The recruitment event is March 22nd from 12noon-2:00pm at Mt. Calvary Catholic Church (6704 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, MD). For more information, contact Nicki Gebrehiwot (HCSC Director of Youth) at 202-330-8302.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION or HOLY HOUR is held EVERY FRIDAY from 6-7PM in the sanctuary. Confessions are also heard at this time.



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 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

Weekdays

8AM & 4:30AM (vigil);

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

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

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

The Greatest Story Ever Told

Basic Biblical Stories and What we Can Learn from Them

Malachi's Message to Priests

The Book of the Prophet Malachi was probably written by Ezra since Malachi is not likely a proper name but means messenger. It is a kind of bridge between the Old and New Testaments in the Bible. It helps to illustrate our need for a savior and indicates how God might accomplish our salvation. The genre of the book is a kind of riv (a Hebrew word lawsuit. indictment. controversy) by God. The Lord presents a legal case of sorts, which convicts ancient Jews of numerous deficiencies and calls for their repentance. The case shows a body of evidence that is just as true today as it was then. God has plenty to say, and we have much to hear, much to repent.

We consider first the sins of the priests.

Please understand that the biblical text should not be construed to imply that all or even most priests are like this. Sadly, though, sins and shortcomings are far too common among the clergy. As priests must strive to be better and more holy, so also must the laity remember to pray for us. With this in mind, let's consider the sins of priests.

Shoddy Sacraments

The text begins: *A son honors his father*, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? ... Offering polluted food upon my altar... and thinking that the Lord's table may be despised and when you offer blind animals in sacrifice, or ... those that are lame or sick, is that no evil? Present that to your governor; will he be pleased with you or show you favor? says the Lord of hosts. ...Oh, that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire upon my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the Lord of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand. For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name is great among the nations, and in every place, incense is offered to my name, and a pure offering; for my name is great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts. But you profane it when you say that the Lord's table is polluted, and the food for it may be despised (Malachi 1:6-12).



Those are strong words indeed. While the injunction regarding damaged and polluted animals has changed, the intrinsic problem remains: careless celebration of the Liturgy and the sacraments.

One of the most common complaints from the faithful concerns priests who

violate liturgical norms and/or allow others to do so. Few things offend charity and unity as much as the open, sometimes egregious violation of liturgical norms. Although some violations are minor, and some parts of the liturgy have legitimate options, many liturgical experiments over the past decades have been unapproved and are often egocentric, distracting from the worship of God.

Another problem that can emerge is inattentiveness to the dignity and beauty of the Mass and the Sacraments. **Proper** attire and reverence are important ways that we communicate our love for God and one another. Priests should be properly vested. prepare their sermons prayerfully, and avoid mannerisms that are inappropriate or overly casual. Opulence and fussiness are not necessary, but priests should ensure that liturgical appointments are clean, in good repair, and of proper dignity.

Decades ago, poor immigrant communities sponsored construction of some of the most beautiful churches. They also supplied some of the finest art and liturgical implements. It is important that we keep what they have bequeathed to us in good repair. Further, priests can and should lead the faithful to build and maintain worthy churches, erected for the glory of God, rather than just the utility of man. In the recent past, many of the faithful have been shocked and hurt by the senseless destruction of older sanctuaries and altars. Thanks be to God; many people today are growing in their appreciation of older churches and are seeking to preserve them

If God was offended by the offering of a lame or sick animal, why should we think He is pleased with just any old thing in the Sacred Liturgy? God does not need our gold chalices or our magnificent churches, but He knows that the shoddy, perfunctory, "anything goes" celebration of the Sacred Liturgy says something about our hearts, our priorities, and what we value.

Priests must avoid all conscious violation of liturgical norms and inspire respect among the faithful for the Sacred Liturgy. St. Paul summarizes his liturgical teaching in the First Letter to the Corinthians chapters 11-14 by concluding: *All things should be done decently and in order* (1 Cor 14:40).

Burdens not Blessings? Behold your Barrenness!

The Text of Malachi continues: "What a weariness all this is!" and you sniff at me, says the Lord of hosts ... And now, O priests... If you will not listen or lay it to heart to give glory to my name, says the Lord of hosts, then I ... curse your blessings... I will rebuke your offspring, ... and I will put you out of my presence. So shall you know that I have sent this command to you... My covenant with Levi was a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him, that he might fear; and he feared me, he stood in awe of my name (Malachi 1:13, 2:1-5).

The priests of that ancient Jewish time had families, and God warned that if the priest did not obey Him, their children would suffer many curses and effects. While priests today do not have children of their own, thousands call us "Father."

So, the sins and omissions of priests today surely have brought trouble upon the faithful. Too many priests have been rebellious, unfaithful to Church teaching, slothful, unprepared to preach, and irreverent. Some have even been guilty of grave sins and violations of their state in life. In addition, far too many priests and religious have left the sacred call they agreed to live for life.

All of this has left the faithful. discouraged and angry; most are poorly catechized and ill-informed on critical moral issues. Many are confused by priests and bishops who openly dissent from Church teaching, who do not listen to God or take to heart His teachings and stand in awe of His name.

Thus, the flock is often harmed by poor priestly leadership and example. Recent data show that about eighty percent of Catholics no longer attend Mass regularly. Many struggle to live the glorious vision set forth in the gospel.

Sadly, this text from Malachi echoes a similar one from Zechariah: Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered (Zech 13:7). This is why the sins of priests are so serious and why the faithful must pray for priest fervently. Not only are priests subject to targeted attack by Satan, but they are also especially susceptible to pride, and the sin of craving human respect.

Sacerdotal Silence

Pray too that priests do not become weary of exhortation or see their office as a burden. Pray, too, that they do not succumb to modern notions that the gospel is too burdensome for the faithful and therefore fail to preach it.

The text from Malachi continues: For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts. But you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your instruction; ... so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you have not kept my ways ... in your instruction (Malachi 2:6-9).

Silent pulpits are all too commonplace in the Church today. Some priests prefer to play it safe, fearing to preach about the issues of the day. Others no longer believe in certain teachings themselves or think them impractical in modern times. Still others have turned aside from the truth, preaching and teaching outright dissent—causing many to stumble.

The text says that a priest should guard knowledge. That is, he should protect it from those who would distort it; he should refute error. He must also guard it from misunderstanding and see that it is presented in balance with other truths in Scripture and Tradition. St. Paul says this of a priest: He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it (Titus 1:9).

The text of Malachi also warns a priest who chooses which truths he will teach or emphasize and which he will not. St. Paul said to the elders at Miletus, *I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God* (Acts 20:27). Yes, the whole counsel, the complete truth, is to be taught by the priest.

Encourage your priests when they speak confidently and clearly. Thank them; give them support even if teachings challenge you. The job of a priest is not to be popular but to be a prophet. It's tough work and it isn't always welcomed. Be among those who, like a few in ancient Israel refused to bend the knee to Baal or worship him (*cf* 1 Kings 19:18). Pray for priests and encourage them to announce the whole counsel of God.

These are some of the sins of the priests that God sets forth. Let us not forget, however, that the world has many hard-working, dedicated, loyal, and holy priests. Yet, as these passages remind us, priests can lose their way. They can forget the glory of the liturgies they celebrate, refer to their office and the gospel as burdensome, and grow too silent out of fear or laziness.

Pray for priests!

Coming next: We will see what Malachi says of the sins of the faithful.

Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Catholic Church and the Social Concerns Ministry



2025 LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

This year, our parish in conjunction with the Oblate Sisters of Providence hosts a food drive for a young teenager named *Gifty* and her village in Ghana. Let us give of ourselves during Lent to help others.







Gifty in a donated wheelchair from the Sisters.

We ask you to puchase some of the items from the list below and return no later then **Sun.**, **April 27th** (*Divine Mercy Sunday*). Leave food donations in the lobby of church or bring to rectory. Monetary donations are also accepted (*to be used for shipping to Africa*). Cash or check made payable to HCSC and drop in collection basket or at the rectory. PLEASE indicate FOOD DRIVE on your check or enclose cash in envelope (*ask usher for blank envelope*). You can also donate electronically through Faith Direct by scanning the QR code and giving a one time gift to the Lenten Food Drive.

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Canned Sardines



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

Loving Memories from The Family