



Be with me
LORD

The 40 Days
OF LENT

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Readings This Weekend:

Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

Readings Next Weekend:

Genesis 12:1-4a 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 Matthew 17:1-9



Today's gospel speaks of the fact that Jesus was tempted by the Devil. This very fact helps us to appreciate something about our own temptation. For it sometimes happens that when we are being tempted we think we have already sinned merely by the fact that we are being tempted. But scripture says that Jesus was tempted in every way yet never sinned. Thus, temptation is not of itself a sin. Rather, it is simply a thought to do something that we know is wrong. We are then free to accept or reject this thought, and that is where sin enters in. The three temptations in the desert that Jesus experiences are typical of the main things that tempt us. The **first temptation** is for possessions and the creature comforts of this world, symbolized by the loaves of bread. The **second temptation** is the temptation to presumption, for the Devil tells Jesus to cast himself over the edge of the roof and that no matter what he does God will rescue him. The **third temptation** is power and popularity for the Devil tells Jesus that he will give him all power over all people if he would simply worship Satan. And so for us, most of our temptations can be summarized by temptations for possessions and pleasures, presumption that no matter what we do God will always save us, and the temptations of power and being popular.

† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

Sunday, February 22 *First Sunday Of Lent*
 8:00am Intentions of Bernadette Nicholson
 9:30am Ruth Neal Leftwich †
 11:00am Tom McKeon †
 7:00pm Raymond Savoy †
Monday, February 23 *Saint Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr*
 7:00am Dorothy Simpson †
Tuesday, February 24
 7:00am Intentions of Hassana Blackwell (B'day)
Wednesday, February 25
 7:00am Teresa Cunningham †
 7:00pm Rev. Jesse Jackson †
Thursday, February 26
 7:00am Timothy Walton, Sr., †
Friday, February 27 *St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot & Dr. of Church*
 7:00am Intentions of Kelly Peaks (B'day)
Saturday, February 28
 8:00am For the People
 4:30pm Intentions of Angela Scott



MASS INTENTIONS: It is a spiritual work of mercy to pray for others, both living and deceased. To offer Mass for a friend or family member (deceased or living), contact the office at 202-546-1885 or hscstaff@hscchurch.org. The customary stipend is \$10 per intention.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: LEVITICUS 19:1-2,11-18 MATTHEW 25:31-46
TUESDAY: ISAIAH 55:10-11 MATTHEW 6:7-15
WEDNESDAY JONAH 3:1-10 LUKE 11:29-32
THURSDAY ESTHER C:12,14-16,23-25 MATTHEW 7:7-12
FRIDAY: EZEKIEL 18:21-28 MATTHEW 5:20-26
SATURDAY: DEUTERONOMY 26:16-19 MATTHEW 5:43-48



ELECTRONIC TITHING: Our parish offers electronic tithing through ParishSOFT Online Giving. For more information:

1. Scan the QR code to the right →
2. Or, text 'Enroll' to 301-478-8900
3. Visit: giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/FD-59



This service is **FREE** and **SECURE**. You can have your tithes automatically deducted weekly, monthly or you can give a one-time gift/donation using your bank, credit card or other method of payment. **Questions?** Kim Peaks 202-546-1885 or kpeaks@hscchurch.org.

Stay Connected

- Visit our website - hscchurch.org
- Subscribe to Flocknote to receive emails and updates:
 1. Text **HCSC** to **84576** OR
 2. Visit <https://hscchurch.flocknote.com/>
- Download the **MyParishApp** to your mobile phone and turn on notifications to receive parish updates.
- Follow us on social media:



Facebook.com/HCSCChurch



hsc_church

MASS ATTENDANCE

February 15, 2026

4:30pm 16
 8:00am 49
 9:30am 47
 11:00am 167
 7:00pm 47
Total: 326

For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them. Matthew

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Monday (2/23) 7:15pm Young Adult Bible Study	Wednesday (2/25) 7:00pm Evening Mass 7:30pm Adult Bible Study (zoom)
Tuesday (2/24) 10:30am Senior Bible Study 7:00pm Adult Choir rehearsal	Friday (2/27) 6:00pm Eucharistic Adoration 7:00pm Station of the Cross

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HCSC? If you want to see what is happening at the parish, check out our full **Parish Calendar** at hscchurch.org or click on QR code.



OUR CHURCH SANCTUARY IS OPEN FROM 8AM—8PM every day for you to come in for private prayer. Consider spending quiet, personal time in prayer and reflection. All are welcome.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprrian 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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

PARISH LIFE



CONGRATULATIONS to Samuel Mark Hattrup who was Baptized into the family of the Sacrificial Lamb, Jesus Christ last Sunday. May God bless Samuel and his parents as he begins this spiritual journey.



2026
Annual Catholic
Services Appeal

The Roman Catholic
Archdiocese of
Washington

BE THE LIGHT: 2026 ANNUAL CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL:

Last weekend, parishioners made their commitment or pledge to the annual appeal and we are so grateful for your generosity. If you have not done so, please complete a commitment form located in the pew, enter your

donation/pledge and drop in the collection basket or at the rectory office. You can also give at give.adw.org. Visit appeal.adw.org to learn about how this appeal benefits our parish and our local community. Thank you.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR LENT?

L **formed** **HOW TO 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 online resources for the 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. Contact the rectory if you have questions.

N **LENTEN BOOK STUDY:** Join us in a study of Msgr. Pope's book, *"The Hell There Is: An Exploration of an Often-rejected Doctrine of the Church."* The study is online via ZOOM on Wednesdays of Lent: Feb 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 7:30PM to 8:45 PM. Msgr. Pope explores topics such as why hell exists, where in Scripture it is taught, what hell may be like, and why it is critically important to understand the doctrine correctly. If you are not already a subscriber to the Wednesday bible study, sign-up to receive the Zoom link via FlockNote. To subscribe to FlockNote: text HCSC to 84576 OR visit: <https://hscchurch.flocknote.com/>. It's FREE!

Y **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**. These devotions will begin **Friday, Feb. 20th**. Come and journey with Jesus to Calvary.

G **DAILY MASS:** Mon-Fri at 7AM in the chapel and Wednesday at 7PM in the church. **CONFESSIONS** held at 6PM prior to Mass on Wednesdays and 1/2 hour before each weekend Mass.

V **LENTEN FOOD DRIVE:** Give to others this Lent. Our parish in conjunction with the Oblate Sisters of Providence will host a food drive for a teenager named **Gifty** and her village in Ghana (also home to Fr. Patrick). You can donate requested food items or make a monetary donation for shipping costs. Visit our website or see flyer for info. Your generosity is appreciated!



February is Black History Month in the USA—an annual commemoration of Black Americans' history celebrated in honor of their contributions to the United States and the world. Throughout this 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.

A PLACE AT THE TABLE DOCUMENTARY

Come to a screening of "**A Place at the Table: African-Americans on the Path to Sainthood**", a documentary about the 6 Black Catholics on the path to sainthood. On **Fri., Feb. 27th at 7PM**—St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church Parish Hall (14 M St. SE, WDC 20003).



HCSC WOMEN'S MINISTRY: Join us on **Sat., March 14th** from **10AM-1PM** at the Center City Public Charter School (15th & East Capitol Sts., SE, WDC) for "*Revive the Spirit and Purpose, Recommit, and Recharge!*" - a meeting to gather

the women of HCSC interested in reviving our women ministry to inspire, motivate and encourage Women of God in their spiritual journey. An opportunity to gather and discuss how to move forward. All women are invited. Stay tuned for details!

BIBLE STUDIES AT HCSC



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



FRIENDLY SENIORS BIBLE STUDY: held the **third** 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 hscchurch.flocknote.com to receive Zoom link.

HCSC YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS will be prepared **only upon request**. Statements will **not** be automatically mailed. You must contact the rectory during office hours to request your statement and have it either mailed or left at the rectory for pick-up. **NOTE:** only cash donations (submitted in an envelope) and checks payable to HCSC are included in your statement.

PARISHSOFT GIVING YEAR-END STATEMENTS: ParishSoft Online Giving has mailed the 2025 contribution statements to parishioners who used electronic tithing in 2025. If you have not received your statement, call the rectory at 202-546-1885 or hscstaff2@hscchurch.org.

HOLY COMFORTER-SAINT CYPRIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

1357 East Capitol Street, SE, WDC 20003
202.546.1885 ♦ www.hscchurch.org

Rev. Msgr. Charles Pope, Pastor (pastor1@hscchurch.org)
Rev. Patrick Aboagye, Parochial Vicar (sirpatrick2@gmail.com)
Deacon James P. Flagg II, Permanent Deacon (jpfaggll@gmail.com)

For information on membership, sacraments and funerals contact rectory staff at hscstaff@hscchurch.org or 202.546.1885.

MASS TIMES: **Saturday** 8AM & 4:30PM (vigil)
Sunday 8AM, 9:30AM, 11AM and 7PM
Weekdays Mon—Fri: 7AM (8AM on holidays)
Wednesdays Evening Mass at 7PM (confessions 6PM)

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

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



HOLY COMFORTER-ST. CYPRIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary



BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION 2026



Moderator
Msgr. Charles Pope

Prefect
Sharon Lewis
(202) 253-2580

Treasurer
Diana Jennings-Ashton
(301) 868-4553

If you would like more information about HCSC's Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary, reach out to a Sodalist. We meet every 1st Sunday (Oct. -June): Mass at 8:00 am followed by the-Rosary and meeting at the Center City Public Charter School.

Come and learn about The **KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER**, founded in 1909 by the Josephites, and is the largest fraternal African American Catholic lay organization in the United States. It is named after St. Peter Claver, patron of slaves.

The KOPC Ladies Auxiliary was authorized in August 1922 for Catholic women.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026

(RESCHEDULED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER)

following the 8:00AM Mass

Center City Public Charter School (Cafeteria)
1503 East Capitol St. SE, WDC

GUEST SPEAKER – MR. MICHAEL RUSSELL
*Grand Knight, Leonard J. Olivier Council 364
of the Knight of Peter Claver*



PLEASE RSVP to 202-546-1885 or hscstaff2@hscchurch.org.
Light refreshments will be served.

2026 LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

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



Please purchase items from the list below and return no later than **Sun., April 12th** (*Divine Mercy Sunday*). Leave food donations on the table in the vestibule (lobby) of church or bring to rectory during office hours. Monetary donations are also accepted (*to be used for shipping to Africa*). Make check made payable to HCSC and put check/cash in collection basket; at the rectory office or mail (*check only*). **PLEASE** indicate FOOD DRIVE on your check and enclose cash donations in an envelope (*ask usher for blank envelope*). You can also donate electronically through ParishSoft Giving by scanning the QR code and giving a one time gift to the Lenten Food Drive.

Oatmeal
Rice
Vegetable oil
Sugar-free crackers
Black Beans
Brown Sugar
Nido Infant Dry
Milk Powder
Hot Chocolate



Scan QR Code and select **One-time Gift** button and look for **Lenten Food Drive 2026** in drop-down menu.

HOLY COMFORTER SAINT—CYPRIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Revive the Spirit and Purpose
Recommit
Recharge!



We invite the women of our parish to gather for a fellowship and discuss how to a rebuild and recommit ourselves to creating a ministry that will revive and inspire us as we continue our Walk with Christ! All women of the parish are invited!

Saturday, March 14, 2026

10:00am—1:00pm

(Doors open at 9:30)

Center City Public Charter School Cafeteria
1503 East Capitol St. SE, Washington, DC
(Enter on the parking lot behind the school)

**For planning purposes, please RSVP by March 9th
to rectory office at 202-546-1885 or hscstaff@hscchurch.org**

Light refreshments will be provided!



Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" (Psalm 85:6)

HISTORY OF THE HOLY COMFORTER-ST. CYPRIAN WOMEN'S MINISTRY

In the late 1990's, under the guidance of Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino, the first Women's Retreat was held in November 1997 after women of the parish indicated a desire for a spiritual experience that would be geared specifically toward women. Our parish was currently hosting an annual parish retreat for both men and women but it was decided that a 'women's-only' retreat would be most beneficial to focus on the spiritual needs of the Catholic woman.

During the 1999 Women's Retreat, some of the women along with the Pastor began to discern and pray for guidance on how to structure a Women's Ministry at our parish that would reach more of the women at HCSC. It was decided that in addition to the annual retreat, the ministry would host monthly fellowships for all the women of the parish. These fellowships included prayer, testimony, food and the reading and reflection on God's Word. This was a great opportunity for women to gather and discuss how God's Will is vital and applied to their daily lives and families. The HCSC Women's Ministry was formed and began its journey in 2000.

In 2001, the ministry began its 'Prayer Partnership' campaign. Two or more women would agree to a time and day/days that they would connect by phone to offer intercessory prayers. These prayer partnerships continue to this day and are a foundation for this parish's prayer formation efforts.

The ministry has organized and held annual 'off-site' weekend Retreats, Prayer Breakfast Events and Days of Reflection. Our fellowships have included *Gospel Cruises Brunches, movie events and restaurant outings*. Some of our fundraisers have included: *Old School Dances, Auctions and Honey-Baked Ham Sales among other events*.

Many of the women of this parish have served on the Core Team which is the planning committee for the Ministry. We are grateful for their services and hope to bring more onto this team as we continue to grow. A commonly heard title for the women in the ministry is "*Queens for the Kingdom*" and this title emphasizes the desire to provide service in building the Kingdom of God. *Come and join the Queens of the Kingdom for the Glory of God!*



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


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 &
 Darren Miah
The Family

In Loving Memory of
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Charles Myrick Sr.
Leon (Tony) Myrick
Lucy Myrick
Lucy Jones
Shirley Ann Jackson
The Family

In Loving Memory of
Mattie Barclay
Helene Crutchfield
Edgell Fairfax
Elizabeth Fairfax
Clyde Fairfax Sr.
Clyde (Guy) Fairfax Jr.
The Family

In Memory of
Winnie,
Ray,
Bertie

In Memory of
Hump,
Will, Phil
Henny

In Memory of our Deceased
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

HCSC

In Loving Memory of
JAMES A. AND ELIZABETH G. HILL
 AND
VERMELLE H. HOWARD
*Love Always,
 The Family*


In Loving Memory of
OTHA JOHN HAMER JR.
OTHA JOHN HAMER III
 "ETERNAL LOVE"
 ~Anna, Othalene, Lataunya,
 Betty - wife and mother


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In Memory of
 Our Deceased Members
HCSC
 Holy Name Society


 In Memory of
OUR DECEASED SODALISTS
 HCSC SODALITY

In Loving Memory of
 The **Deceased Jenifers:**
 Oscar, Mary, Helena, Bay, David,
 Baby Sis, Beverly, Frankie, David,
 Neal, Kimberly, Cyprian Jr., Jovan

*Still Loved, Still Missed
 & Very Dear, The Family*

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

To Our Beloved
Kenyon E. Jones
 Son & Father
*We'll always love you,
 Mom, Kids
 & Venita*



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Anthony Maxwell Smart
 (Tony)
 - The Family

In Loving Memory of
Nannie E. Williams
Love Always,
 Dr. Sharon Lewis
 and Brandon Lewis

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

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In Loving Memory of
Damian A. Jones
 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

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