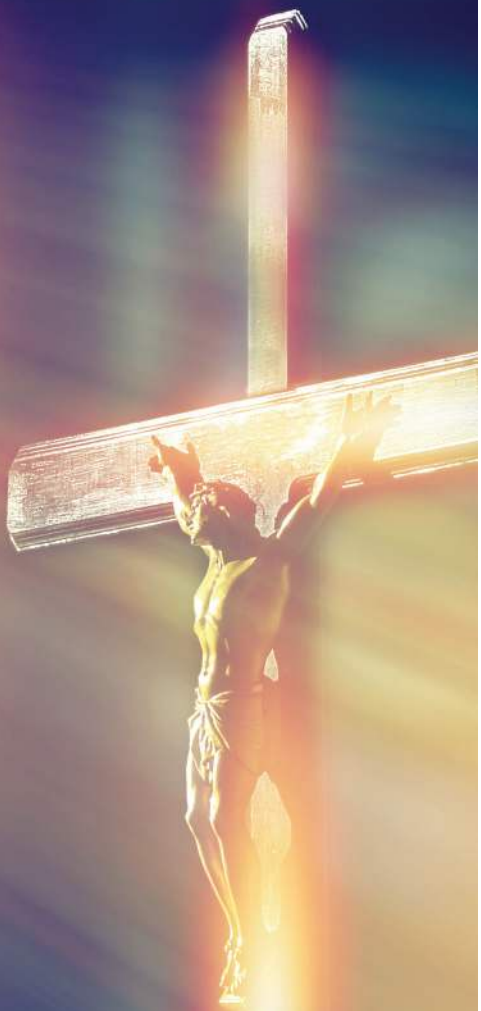
ALL SAINTS

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Matt 5:12



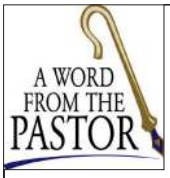
ALL SOULS

For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day. John 6:40

© Diocesan

ALL SAINTS

Readings This Weekend:
Revelations7:2-4,9-14 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12a
Readings Next Weekend:
Wisdom 6:12-16 1Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13

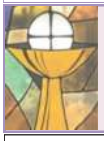


The Feast today is that of All Saints. Many of the saints of the Church we know by name and they have a particular day on the calendar associated with them. Many more however are not widely known in the Church but are known by God and have been caught up with him in glory. This is their day, the day of the countless multitude who have made it home to glory by God's grace and by their amen to the gracious call of God. The first reading today from Revelation speaks to us of their **Privileged Place:** They stand before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. And they sing the great hymn of the heavens "Worthy is the Lamb!" The second reading from First John speak of their **Prize of Perfection.** That text says they are like unto God and reflect his glory because they see Him as He is. The gospel today of the Matthean Beatitudes sets forth a **Picture to Ponder** of what sanctity looks like. The beatitudes are the description of the transformed human person; they describe what happens to us as Jesus begins to live his life in us through the Holy Spirit. At the end of time, there will be Saints and aint's. Which do you want to be?

FUNERALS — Louis Curtis (11/9)
— Yvonne Shaw (10/11)

† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

Sunday, November 1 *All Saints*
8:00am Intentions of Jean Ravil Joseph (B'day)
9:30am Thomas Edelin, Sr. (B'day) †
11:00am Trey'von Norman †
4:30pm Mass for final vows of Sister Beatitudes
7:00pm Dorothea Holley †
Monday, November 2 *All Souls Days*
8:00am For the Poor Souls
Tuesday, November 3 *St. Martin de Porres, Religious*
7:00am Dolores Gorham †
Wednesday, November 4 *Saint Charles Borromeo, Bishop*
7:00am For the Poor Souls
7:00pm Charles Edelin †
Thursday, November 5
7:00am Charles Edelin Jr. (B'day) †
Friday, November 6
7:00am For the Poor Souls
Saturday, November 7
8:00am Edgell Fairfax (B'day) †
4:30pm Beatrice Edelin (B'day) †



MASS INTENTIONS: It is a spiritual work of mercy to pray for others, both living and deceased. To offer a Mass in memory of a friend or family, call 202-546-1885. The customary stipend is $10 per intention.

DAILY MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY:	WISDOM 3:1-9 ROMAN 6:3-9	JOHN 6:37-40
TUESDAY:	PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11	LUKE 14:15-24
WEDNESDAY:	PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18	LUKE 14:25-33
THURSDAY:	PHILIPPIANS 3:3-8A	LUKE 15:1-10
FRIDAY:	PHILIPPIANS 3:17-4 :1	LUKE 16:1-8
SATURDAY:	PHILIPPIANS 4:10-19	LUKE 16:9-15

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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@hcscchurch.org.

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  1. Text **HCSC** to **84576** OR
  2. Visit https://hcscchurch.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 hcsc_church

MASS ATTENDANCE

October 25, 2026

4:30pm 41
8:00am 59
9:30am 58
11:00am 122
7:00pm 74
Total: 354

For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them. Matthew 18:20

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Sunday(11/1)
9:15am Sunday School
9:30am Sodality Meeting

Tuesday (11/3)
7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm OCIA/Faith Formation

Wednesday (11/4)
7:30pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom)

Friday (11/6)
8am-7pm Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday (11/7)
9:00am Holy Name Meeting

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION/HOLY HOUR

⇒ **EVERY FRIDAY from 6—7PM** in the sanctuary. Clergy available to hear confessions.
⇒ **EVERY FIRST FRIDAY** of the month from **8AM until 7PM** in the sanctuary.

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 .

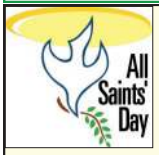
OUR MISSION STATEMENT:
Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Roman Catholic Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, exists to evangelize and to uphold Christian values by promoting the teachings of the Church in Word, Sacrament and Witness.

OUR VISION STATEMENT:
A welcoming, embracing and joyful faith family richly rooted in the community today, tomorrow and forever.

All Saints

Parish Life

TRAVELING MERCIES to Deacon Flagg and our HCSC Pilgrims as they depart for a marian pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes and Paris this week. We pray for safe travels and a spiritually fruitful pilgrimage for all.



FEAST OF ALL SAINTS is **SUN., NOV. 1st.** While the Church acknowledges many saints by name, there are countless others known to God who are with him in glory and make up the "Cloud of Witnesses" who surround us (*cf* Heb 12:1). It is these saints in particular who are celebrated on All Saints Day. Not only is it a joyful Catholic celebration of the saints in heaven, but also a reminder of the holiness God calls each of us to pursue. We get to remember the people who have already walked the road of faith in Jesus and allow their examples to encourage us as we keep walking ours.

The altar flowers this weekend are from the family in loving memory of ***Tre'von Norman*** *(10/23/99-3/20/25).* We continue to pray for the repose of Tre'von's soul, and for continued healing, comfort and peace for his family and friends.

FEAST OF ALL SOULS: NOVEMBER 2nd is the day the Church has set aside to commemorate deceased family members and friends who await their purification in Purgatory. While these departed souls can pray for us, they can no longer pray for themselves. Parishioners are encouraged to visit the Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Washington, **Mon., Nov. 2nd,** to pray for all souls awaiting the resurrection of their bodies in Christ. Mass is held in cemetery chapels of: Gate of Heaven (9:00am); Mt. Olivet (9:30am); and Resurrection (9:30am). A prayerful visit to the cemetery is a spiritual work of mercy. Visit https://www.ccaw.org/.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD: One of the spiritual works of mercy is to pray for the dead. November is the Church's traditional month to pray for our deceased friends and family. Mass will be celebrated every other day in November for the *Poor Souls*. **To include your relatives/friends**, write names on the *All Souls Day* envelope (included with tithing envelopes or in rear of church) and drop in collection basket or rectory office. Names will be placed on the altar during November. A donation is not needed but is appreciated. **ParishSoft Giving USERS:** If you donate electronically, email your names to hcscstaff2@hcscchurch.org or call 202-546-1885.

On **Sun, Nov. 1st at 4:30PM**, a Mass for the final vows of Sister Beatitudes will be celebrated at HCSC. Final vows are the life-long commitment a religious sister makes after five years in religious life. The renewal of vows of other sisters will also take place. Sr. Beatitudes teaches in our Sunday School. All the sisters are a precious gift to our parish and the Church. You and your family are invited.

Many Gifts, One Body

Liturgical Ministry Recruitment Campaign

Our parish has begun our Many Gifts, One Body Liturgical Ministries Recruitment Campaign—a six-week invitation to discover the many ways you can share your gifts in service to our parish community as a member of one of the liturgical ministries.

Over the last 6-weeks, members of our Adult & Youth Choirs, Lectors, Ushers, Sound Ministry, Altar Guild/Sacristan Ministry, Altar Servers, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion shared with you what they do, why their ministry matters, the gifts and skills that are helpful, and the time commitment involved. We pray you received much information to assist you in discerning your commitment to this parish.

Those who completed an interest card or signed up for more information, should be receiving calls, texts or emails from the ministries you have selected over the next few weeks for further instructions and details.

If you have not had an opportunity to sign up or express an interest in a ministry, contact the rectory office at 202-546-1885 and we will make sure you receive resources that will help you learn more about our liturgical ministries and how to contact them. Stay tuned.

Black Catholic History Month 2026

The Catholic Church in the United States recognizes November as Black Catholic History Month to commemorate the rich history and proud heritage of Black Catholics in the United States. We celebrate the contributions that African and African-Americans have made and continue to make to our Church. It is a unique opportunity to share, learn, and celebrate this cultural part of the Catholic Church's history. We will post events within the Archdiocese of Washington in this bulletin. Stay tuned.

BIBLE STUDIES AT HCSC

FRIENDLY SENIORS BIBLE STUDY: held the **third** and **fourth** Tuesday of every month at 10:30AM in the chapel.

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 (msgr.charles.pope@gmail.com)
Rev. Patrick Aboagye, Parochial Vicar (sirpatrick2@gmail.com)
Deacon James P. Flagg II, Permanent Deacon (jpflaggII@gmail.com)

For information on membership, sacraments (*baptism, first communion, confirmation, matrimony*) and funerals contact rectory office at hcscstaff@hcscchurch.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	7PM (confessions 6PM)

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

Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian
Honoring Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament
Come and join us!

First Friday All-Day Adoration

Friday, November 6, 2026

Morning Mass is at 7:00AM followed by exposition of the Eucharist the church will remain open for adoration until 7PM.

Our parish hosts All-Day Adoration every first Friday of the month. Share this information along with the sign-up deails to others. We ask you to consider signing up for one hour (or more) and spend it with Our Lord.

TO SIGN UP:

Scan the QR code or contact the rectory office at 202-546-1885 or hcscstaff2@hcscchurch.org. Even if you do not sign-up, feel free to stop by at your convenience. Bring a family member or friend!

1357 East Capitol St., SE, Washington DC, 20003 - www.hcscchurch.org

What is Eucharistic Adoration?

This is a devotional tradition of spending an hour in **Eucharistic Adoration** in the presence of the **Blessed Sacrament.** A consecrated host is exposed to us in the *monstrance* which is placed on the altar.

Adoration is a sign of devotion to and worship of **Jesus Christ,** who we believe to be present Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, under the appearance of the consecrated host. As a devotion, Eucharistic adoration and meditation are more than merely looking at the Blessed Host, but are believed to be a continuation of what was celebrated in the Eucharist.

The inspiration for the Holy Hour is Matthew 26:40. In the Gospel of Matthew, during the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before his crucifixion, Jesus spoke to his disciples, saying *"My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me."* (Matthew 26:38) Returning to the disciples after prayer, he found them asleep and in Matthew 26:40 he asked Peter:

"So, could you men not keep watch with me for an hour?"

You are invited to come and spend some time with the Lord in prayer.
Please feel free to bring your bible or other devotional prayers if you like.

A priest is available between 6PM-7PM to hear your confessions.

Purgatory is Based on a Promise of Jesus'

On this Feast of All Souls, I want to reflect on Purgatory as the necessary result of a promise. Many people think of Purgatory primarily in terms of punishment, but it is also important to consider it in terms of promise, purity, and perfection. Some of our deceased brethren are having the promises made to them perfected in Purgatory. In the month of November, we are especially committed to praying for them and we know by faith that our prayers are of benefit to them.

What is the promise that points to Purgatory? Simply stated, Jesus made the promise in Matthew 5:48: *You, therefore, must be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect*. In this promise is an astonishing declaration of our dignity. We are to share in the very nature and perfection of God. This is our dignity: we are called to reflect and possess the very glory and perfection of God.

St. Catherine of Siena was gifted by the Lord to see a heavenly soul in the state of grace. Her account of it is related in her *Dialogue*, and is summarized in the *Sunday School Teacher's Explanation of the Baltimore Catechism*:

> **The Soul in the State of Grace**– Catherine of Siena was permitted by God to see the beauty of a soul in the state of grace. It was so beautiful that she could not look on it; the brightness of that soul dazzled her. Blessed Raymond, her confessor, asked her to describe to him, as far as she was able, the beauty of the soul she had seen. St. Catherine thought of the sweet light of that morning, and of the beautiful colors of the rainbow, but that soul was far more beautiful. She remembered the dazzling beams of the noonday sun, but the light which beamed from that soul was far brighter. She thought of the pure whiteness of the lily and of the fresh snow, but that is only an earthly whiteness. The soul she had seen was bright with the whiteness of Heaven, such as there is not to be found on earth. " My father," she answered. "I cannot find anything in this world that can give you the smallest idea of what I have seen. Oh, if you could but see the beauty of a soul in the state of grace, you would sacrifice your life a thousand times for its salvation. I asked the angel who was with me what had made that soul so beautiful, and he answered me, "It is the image and likeness of God in that soul, and the Divine Grace which made it so beautiful." [1].

Yes, this is our dignity and final destiny if we are faithful to God.

So, I ask you, "Are you there yet?" God has made you a promise. But what if that promise has not yet been fulfilled and you were to die today, without the divine perfection you have been promised having been completed? I can only speak for myself and say that if I were to die today, though I am not aware of any mortal sin, I also know that I am not perfect. I am not even close to being humanly perfect, let alone having the perfection of our heavenly Father!

But Jesus made me a promise: *You must be perfect as the heavenly Father is perfect*. And the last time I checked, Jesus is a promise keeper! St. Paul says, *May God who has begun a good work in you bring it to completion* (Phil 1:6). Hence, if I were to die today, Jesus would need to complete a work that He has begun in me. By God's grace, I have come a mighty long way. But I also have a long way to go. God is very holy and His perfection is beyond imagining.

Yes, there are many things in us that need purging: sin, attachment to sin, clinging to worldly things, and those rough edges to our personality. Likewise most of us carry with us hurts, regrets, sorrows, and disappointments. We cannot take any of this with us to Heaven. If we did, it wouldn't be Heaven. So the Lord, who is faithful to His promise, will purge all of this from us. The Book of Revelation speaks of Jesus ministering to the dead in that he *will wipe every tear from their eyes* (Rev 21:4). 1 Corinthians 3:13-15 speaks of us as passing through fire in order that our works be tested so that what is good may be purified and what is worldly may be burned away. And Job said, *But he knows the way that I take; and when he has tested me, I will come forth as pure gold* (Job 23:10).

Purgatory has to be—gold, pure gold; refined, perfect, pure gold. Purgatory has to be, if God's promises are to hold.

Catholic theology has always taken seriously God's promise that we would actually *be* perfect as the Father is perfect. The righteousness is Jesus' righteousness, but it actually transforms us and changes us completely in the way that St. Catherine describes. It is a real righteousness, not merely imputed, not merely declared of us by inference. It is not an alien justice, but a personal justice by the grace of God.

Esse quam videri - Purgatory makes sense because the perfection promised to us is real: *esse quam videri* (to be rather than to seem). We must actually *be* purged of the last vestiges of imperfection, worldliness, sin, and sorrow. Having been made perfect by the grace of God, we are able to enter Heaven, of which Scripture says, *Nothing impure will ever enter it* (Rev 21:27). And again, *you have approached Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and countless angels in festal gathering, and the assembly of the firstborn enrolled in heaven, and God the judge of all, and the souls of the just made perfect* (Heb 12:22-23).

How could it be anything less? Indeed, *the souls of the just made perfect*. How could it be anything less if Jesus died to accomplish it for us? Purgatory makes sense based on Jesus' promise and on the power of His blood to accomplish complete and total perfection for us. This is our dignity; this is our destiny. Purgatory is about promises, not mere punishment. There's an old Gospel hymn that I referenced in a past blog for the Feast of All Saints that says, "*O Lord I'm running, trying to make a hundred. Ninety-nine and a half won't do!"*

That's right, ninety-nine and a half won't do. Nothing less than a hundred is possible because we have Jesus' promise and the wonderful working power of the precious Blood of the Lamb. For most, if not all of us, Purgatory has to be.

In Memory of
John N. Graham
Catherine E. Graham
Joan M. Graham
Ernestine C. Jackson
Sharon L. Graham
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Clyde (Guy) Fairfax Jr.
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Ray,
Bertie

In Memory of
Hump,
Will, Phil
Henny

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K OF C
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~Anna, Othalene, Lataunya, Betty - wife and mother

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HCSC SODALITY

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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 C. Jones
Son & Father
We'll always love you,
Mom, Kids & Venita

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

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