

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Matthew 25:13

Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins by William John Wainwright, 1899

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THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings This Weekend:
Wisdom 6:12-16 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13
Readings Next Weekend:
Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 Matthew 25:14-30

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

The Gospel today reminds us of judgment and gives us some Practical Principles for Preparation. The first principle is Procure your Provisions. The five wise virgins had procured plenty of oil so that, should the Groom delay his arrival, they would be prepared. What is the oil a symbol of? Well, many things, but first and foremost it is the oil of desire and holiness. One of the greatest dangers is that we lose our desire for God and drift away through indifference. Hence, stirring our hearts to the watchful attentiveness of desire is essential. We do this through regular prayer, the reception of the sacraments, scripture and fellowship in a community of believers who stir faith and desire in us. The next principle is that we must Personally Prepare. Too many Christians "affiliate" with the Lord and the Church by referring to "their mother's Church" or "that's my family's Parish." But there are some things you cannot borrow. You can't get saved by your mother's faith, you have to have your own. When the foolish bridesmaids try to borrow oil from the wise ones they are told this is not possible. The next principle is to Persevere in your Preparation. The groom does not come 'till midnight in the gospel, so they had to persevere in waiting. Too many say, "I used to go to that Church" or I was an altar server in the old days." So? What about now? Finally, note the principle of the Peril of Procrastination. There comes a point when it is just too late. The judgment sets in, the question is called, and the door is barred. Either you're in or you're out. You can't keep saying, tomorrow. Tomorrow is not promised.

† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

Sunday, November 8 *Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*
8:00am Lilian Myrick (B'day) †
9:30am For the Poor Souls
11:00am Intentions for the HCSC Pilgrimage Attendees
7:00pm Kim Dubbert †
Monday, November 9 *The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica*
7:00am Deceased members of Mandong & Browder families †
Tuesday, November 10 *Saint Leo the Great, Pope & Dr. Of Church*
7:00am For the Poor Souls
Wednesday, November 11 *Saint Martin of Tours, Bishop*
8:00am Intentions of DeStefano Family
7:00pm Robert Dunlap †
Thursday, November 12 *Saint Josaphat, Bishop*
7:00am For the Poor Souls
Friday, November 13 *Saint Frances Xavier, Cabrini, Virgin*
7:00am Intentions of Sister Beatitudes
Saturday, November 14
8:00am For the Poor Souls
4:30pm Deceased members of Boland and Lorch Families†

DAILY MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY:	EZEKIEL 47:1-2,8-9,12	JOHN 2 13-22
TUESDAY:	TITUS 2:1-8,11-14	LUKE 17:7-10
WEDNESDAY:	TITUS 3:1-7	LUKE 17:11-19
THURSDAY:	PHILEMON 7-20	LUKE 17:20-25
FRIDAY:	2 JOHN 4-9	LUKE 17:26-37
SATURDAY:	3 JOHN 5-8	LUKE 18:1-8

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

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@hcscchurch.org.

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 receive parish updates.
- Follow us on social media:
  Facebook.com/HCSCChurch hcsc_church

MASS ATTENDANCE
November 1, 2026

4:30pm	27
8:00am	89
9:30am	22
11:00am	572
4:30pm	412 *(Mass of Final Vows)*
7:00pm	50
Total:	**772**

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

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Sunday (11/8)
9:00am Holy Name Meeting

Tuesday (11/10)
7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm OCIA/Faith Formation

Wednesday (11/11) *Veterans Day*
Morning Mass at 8:00AM
Rectory Office Closed
7:30pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom)

Friday (11/13)
6pm-7pm Eucharistic Adoration
7:00pm Young Adult Fellowship

Saturday(11/14)
10:00am Catechist Meeting



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 . All are welcome.

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.

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.

Thirty-Second Sunday In Ordinary Time

Parish Life



In observance of Veterans Day, the rectory office will be **closed Wed., Nov. 11th.** Morning Mass will be at 8:00AM. We will re-open the office on Fri., Nov, 13th at 10:00AM.

We ask blessings on those who served and have served our country in the armed forces. We ask for healing for veterans wounded in body and soul. We pray especially for the men and women in active combat coming home with injured bodies and traumatized spirits. Bring solace to them, O Lord. We pray for them when they cannot pray. Have mercy on all our veterans from wars all across the globe. Bring peace to their hearts and peace to the regions they fought in. Bless all the soldiers who served in non-combative posts. May their calling to serve continue in their lives. Give us creative vision to see a world that, growing weary with fighting, moves to affirming the life of every human being beyond war. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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.

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. See this week's flyer in the bulletin.



HCSC YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP—Fri., Nov. 13th at 7:00PM in the rectory basement meeting room. Come and join with other young adults for an evening of fellowship and catechesis with the clergy. Light refreshments. See flyer for details.

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.

Many Gifts, One Body
Liturgical Ministry Recruitment Campaign

Our parish has begun our ***Many Gifts, One Body Liturgical Ministries Recruitment Campaign***—a 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 two months, 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 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.

2026 ADW RETIRED PRIEST COLLECTION: Our priest enrich our lives in many ways; they baptize us, comfort those in the confessional, witness our marriage vows and hold our loved ones hands when they die while teaching the salvation of Jesus Christ. Help us to provide care and housing for these retired priest with a donation by using the envelopes in the pews (drop in the collection basket) or scan the QR code. Make checks payable to 'Retired Priests Collection'. Thank you.

Eucharistic Adoration

⇒ **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.



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 St. Cyprian Young Adults

Young Adult Fellowship

Calling all young adults (21-39)!

Join us for fellowship with a short reflection on "**Catholic Teaching on the End Times (Eschatology)**" led by Monsignor Charles Pope

NOV 13

6 - 7 PM: Adoration + Confession
7 - 8:30 PM: Food + Talk + Q+A

Fellowship will be held
rectory basement meeting room
(entrance located on the far-right
side of the rectory building)

1357 East Capitol Street, SE
Washington, D.C. 20003

SCAN TO RSVP!

Holy Comforter—Saint Cyprian Parish's Celebration of Black Catholic History Month 2026

Black History is Everyone's History—A Shared American Story

The parish known as Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian can trace its beginnings to two distinct churches—St. Cyprian, established in 1893, and Holy Comforter established in 1904. This is a brief history of St. Cyprian's parish. After the Civil War, there were large movements of African-Americans from the south into cities, especially to the north, and many came to Washington, DC. Some settled in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. These Black Catholics began to attend St. Peter's Church at Second & C Streets, SE, and it is here that this story begins. Throughout the latter half of the 19th Century, St. Peter's parish continued to grow and prosper, yet the African-Americans who worshipped there were never fully accepted as members of the church community. They were made to sit in the back of the church, use different doors from the white church members, and eventually excluded from the main sanctuary and forbidden to be married or baptized at the main altar. Though there was precedent for African-Americans to break away and form their own churches, the blacks at St. Peter's became frustrated when they were unable to establish their own church because there were so few black priests in the United States. In 1887, Fr. James R. Matthews (who was not African-American) came to St. Peter's as assistant pastor and began to work diligently with the African-American Catholics to create their own parish where they would feel welcomed. Before eventually being transferred, he convinced Fr. J. M. O'Brien to write the Archdiocese of the Catholic Diocese in Baltimore asking to establish St. Cyprian parish. In 1892, Cardinal Gibbons agreed that the time for such a move was right and he had Fr. Matthews transferred back to Capitol Hill.



Fr. James R. Matthews



Saint Cyprian Parish

At the same time, Miss Mary Atkins offered a plot of land at 8th Street to Fr. Matthews to be used for a school for African-American children. Fr. Matthews invited the Oblate Sisters of Providence to take charge of the school that was established. By 1894 a larger school building was erected at 310—8th Street and named St. Ann's Academy. (In 1964, the school eventually merged with Holy Comforter School, the process went very smoothly.)

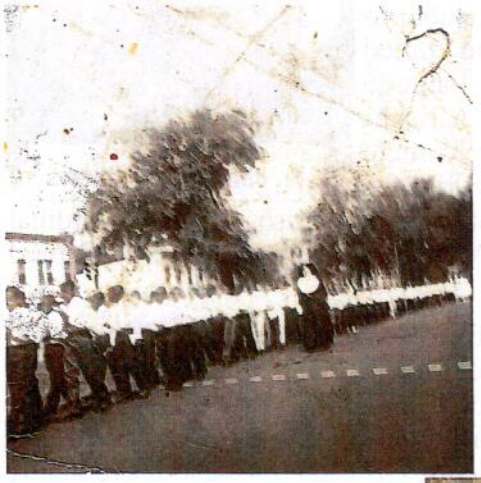
On March 12, 1893, the group of African-Americans who had been meeting in St. Peter's hall were officially organized as St. Cyprian Parish and recognized by the Archdiocese of Baltimore. By April 18, 1893, a tract of land at 13th & C Streets, SE, was purchased for the sum of $12,480 with funds raised through donations by parishioners, and loans from the Cardinal, as well as from societies who assist the Black community. The Church and rectory were built on this land. Ground was broken on July 1, 1893, and the cornerstone was laid on September 24, 1893. A ceremony to celebrate the laying of the cornerstone of the new church included a parade witnessed by more than 10,000 people. Cardinal Gibbons marched with the parishioners to the site and spoke at the dedication. The pioneering members of St. Peter's Church, who had the courage and vision to establish the parish of St. Cyprian, were rewarded for their dedication when St. Cyprian's opened the door to its new Church building on June 2, 1894, just eight months after the laying of the cornerstone.

St. Cyprian became a thriving force in the community. During the church's first year, there were 1500 members, with 250 children attending Sunday School. That same year over 200 people were baptized. St. Cyprian became the only Catholic parish in the country to provide its members with an adult night school.

During those early years, the parish was blessed by the efforts of many dedicated parishioners who worked closely with the founding Pastor, Father (later Monsignor) James Matthews who served the parish from 1893-1934. In 1943, St. Cyprian was transferred to the Josephites (organized in 1893 as an American missionary group devoted to evangelizing African-Americans). Throughout the years, St. Cyprian continued to be the focal point of the Capitol Hill African-American community. In 1966, however, this pivotal force faced a serious challenge when its magnificent buildings needed extensive repairs that proved too expensive

to undertake. Fr. Burke, the pastor at the time of the closing, explained that over $350,000 was needed to repair the buildings and he approached Cardinal O'Boyle and suggested a possible merger with Holy Comforter since this parish had suffered a serious decline in membership. After much deliberation, Cardinal O'Boyle, with reservation, agreed to merge the parishes. Yet it must be said that things did not go smoothly and many parishioners today still express concern over the way the whole matter was handled. The announcement of the closing came suddenly on a Sunday in late August 1966. The parishioners were told that within two weeks their parish buildings would be closed. With two weeks notice, no one had time to raise funds so they had to move to the Holy Comforter Parish building. The St. Cyprian Parish buildings stood empty for five years until 1971 when they were demolished.

A plaque commemorating the site of St. Cyprian is located at that site today. In 1966, the blended parish of Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian was formed and run by the Josephites. In 1984, the parish was returned to the care of diocesan priests and continues to serve the community to this day. The merged school unfortunately closed in 2007. For more photos and historical information, scan the QR code è or visit our parish website at: https://hcsccchurch.org/about-2/history-of-parish/.













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Ernestine C. Jackson
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Ray,
Bertie

In Memory of
Hump,
Will, Phil
Henny

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VERMELLE H. HOWARD
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In Memory of
OUR DECEASED SODALISTS
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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 C. Jones
Son & Father
We'll always love you,
Mom, Kids & Venita



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
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