

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings This Weekend:

Isaiah 35:4-7 James 2:1-5 Mark 7:31-37

Readings Next Weekend:

Isaiah 50:5-9 James 2:14-18 Mark 8:27-35



Note first the **PLACE** of the Gospel. It says that Jesus went into the "Decapolis" region, an area of ten Gentile, or pagan, cities. In other words, Jesus is in a region of non-believers. Clearly, this also describes our current culture which increasingly manifests not only unbelief, but even outright hostility to our faith. But notice that Jesus does not hesitate to go there or to engage the culture, and neither should we. Next, note the **PROBLEM** that emerges. A man who is deaf and has a speech impediment is brought to Jesus. This is like a lot of us. In the midst of an increasingly unbelieving culture, many of us have also become deaf to God's truth and because of that deafness have the speech impediment of being silent in the face of this unbelief and sin. Our speech impediment is rooted not only in weak faith, but in fear of what others might say or do to us if we speak. We need healing. Next, note the **PROCESS** when Jesus takes him aside from the crowd. In this we see that the healing is personal. Too many of us wait for the Lord to anoint a leader to speak powerfully, but what if it is you whom the Lord wants to personally heal? Charismatic leaders are a fine gift, but those leaders don't sit at your dinner table each night. Ultimately, we ALL have to be prophets of God. The text says Jesus touched the man's tongue and ears, by this action we see him putting his word in us to empower us to speak. For it is not our word that heals, it is the Lord's word that heals. Finally, note the **PURITY** of the man's healing, for the text says he began to speak plainly. The Greek word is "orthos" from which we get the word orthodoxy, meaning correct doctrine. Thus, the man is not enabled to talk merely that he may gossip or spread error, but rather that he speak correct and clear doctrine, the healing Word of the Lord.



Sunday, September 6

4:30pm (Sat) Phillip & Marlene Whitlock (60th anniv. Sept 3)
 8:00am Lauren Schafer (1st birthday)
 11:00am Sarah R. Brooks † (birthday Sept. 5th)
 7:00pm For the People

Monday, September 7

7:00am Helena Porch Nadler †

Tuesday, September 8 *The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

7:00am For the Homeless

Wednesday, September 9 *Saint Peter Claver, Priest*

7:00am James Wilmer Fenwick †

Thursday, September 10

7:00am Barbara Nettles † (anniversary Sept. 11th)

Friday, September 11

7:00am Reba L. Neale † (16th anniversary)

Saturday, September 12 *The Most Holy Name of Mary*

8:00am Micheal Omunyidde Bwire † (2nd anniversary)
 4:30pm Deceased Ushers

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday: Colossians 1:24—2:3 Luke 6:6-11
Tuesday: Rom 8:28-30 Matthew 1:1-23
Wednesday: Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 6:20-26
Thursday: Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 6:27-38
Friday: 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14 Luke 6:39-42
Saturday: 1 Timothy 1:15-17 Luke 6:43-49

Music Schedule

Processional
 "Standing on the Promises" LMGM #562
Responsorial Psalm
 "Praise the Lord, my Soul"
Gospel Acclamation
 "Alleluia!"
Offertory
 * "He Touched Me" LMGM #779
 ** "High Praise" M. Douroux
Communion
 "Praise Him" D. Harper
 * 8:00am Ruby Robertson, Cantor—Gwen Myles, Music Associate
 ** 11:00am Church Choir

Mass Attendance for August 30, 2015

4:30pm	38
8:00am	107
11:00am	230
7:00pm	85
Total:	460

Stewardship Report 2015—2016

Weekly Budget Amount Needed	\$16,346
Actual Tithes Collected (8/30)	\$15,692
Actual Deficit (-)	-\$654

ELECTRONIC TITHING—What is the best way to ensure your parish receives the support needed for our operating expenses and ministries? Try *eGiving* through Faith Direct! Enroll today by visiting www.faithdirect.net or call Kim Peaks at 202-546-1885. Our church code is DC59. Increased enrollment with Faith Direct will help stabilize our parish finances. Thank you for your continued support!

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Sunday (9/6) 9:15am RCIA 7:00pm Mass 8:00pm AA	Thursday (9/10) 6:30pm Knights of Columbus
Monday (9/7) Rectory Closed	Friday (9/11) 8:00pm NA
Tuesday (9/8) 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 7:00pm Adult Choir	Saturday (9/12) 10:00am Holy Name Society 10:00am Liturgical Dance 12:00pm Parish Picnic 4:30pm Mass
Wednesday (9/9) 6:30pm Liturgical Dance 7:00pm Bible Study resumes	

MASS INTENTIONS—It is a spiritual work of mercy to pray for others, both living and deceased. To offer a Mass for a friend or family, call 202-546-1885. Note that dates fill in quickly. The customary donation is \$5 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.

PARISH LIFE


RECTORY CLOSED—Mon., Sept. 1st in observance of Labor Day.

TAKE THE PLEDGE, WALK WITH FRANCIS: Make a commitment to follow Pope Francis' example of faith and service. **PRAY** regularly for the Holy Father, **SERVE** by reaching out and caring for those in need. **ACT** to promote human life and dignity. This weekend at each Mass, we will invite our parishioners to take the pledge to Walk with Francis! All pledges will be presented to Pope Francis!

CLOTHING DRIVE: Knights of Columbus St. Cyprian Council 10008 is hosting a clothing drive. Clothing can be dropped off the weekends of **Sept. 5 & 6 and 12 & 13**. Winter clothing and coats are especially needed. Drop off in the rear of the Church.

 **SEPTEMBER YOUTH SUNDAY:** Due to our celebration of the Feast of Saint Cyprian on Sept. 13th, **Youth Sunday Mass will be celebrated on Sun., Sept. 20th**. We invite all our youth to come, bring a friend, and sit together that Sunday!


HCSC ANNUAL FRIENDS & FAMILY PICNIC—is Sat., Sept. 12th in **Watkins Park in Upper Marlboro, MD**. Help from parishioners will make this a successful event. If you would like to help with set-up, serving or clean-up, call Annette Brooks (202-361-4699).



 **HCSC ANNUAL FEAST OF SAINT CYPRIAN CELEBRATION:** There will be **ONLY ONE MASS, Sun., Sept. 13th at 10am** to celebrate the Feast of Saint Cyprian. This is a perfect opportunity to invite a family member or friend to celebrate Mass with us. We will still have the 4:30pm vigil on Saturday and the 7pm Sunday Mass.

HCSC ORGANIZATION & MINISTRY FAIR—Sun., Sept. 13th following the 10am Mass on the plaza. The Parish Council invites our parishioners to come and learn about the various ministries and organizations at our parish. This is a great opportunity for you to discern how you will use your time, talent and treasure at your parish.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—to help prepare for our Annual Saint Cyprian Feast Day, **Sun., Sept. 13th**. We need help to serve and host. Contact Kim Peaks at 202-546-1885 or pam@hscchurch.org.



 **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** The first day of school for youth in pre-K through high school is **Sun., Sept. 20th at 9:30am at the school**. This includes classes for youth receiving sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Registration has begun but you can still register your youth. Pick up a form in the rear of the Church or on our website. We will also hold our **Adult Bible Study** in conjunction with Sunday School. Any adult can attend bible study. Questions? Contact Shirley Austin on 202-546-1885 or mre@hscchurch.org.

Youth Ministry News

Nicki Gebrehiwot, Director of Youth Ministry
202-546-1885 ext. 25 (voicemail) ♦ youthdirector@hscchurch.org

WE NEED YOU FOR OUR YOUTH MINISTRIES! Many of our youth have graduated and become young adults. We are looking for more youth to serve in our Youth Ministries: *Altar Servers; Dance Ministry; Junior Ushers; Youth Ensemble; Youth Lectors*. If you are interested in joining any of our youth ministries, or helping with one of the youth ministries, contact the Youth Ministry Director.


HCSC Young Adult Ministry
Paula Lancaster/Felicia Miller ♦ YAM@hscchurch.org


YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY—meets every Monday evening at 8pm in the rectory. For info contact Stephanie Keene at sakeene@gmail.com.

We'd like to hear from our young adults (age 18 to 40^{ish})! Check out the HCSC Young Adults Ministry on **Facebook** and tell us your thoughts, or send an email: yam@hscchurch.org. Follow us on Twitter for updates at HCSCYoungAdults!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Just a reminder that Wednesday Night Bible Study with Msgr. Pope resumes **Wed., Sept. 9th at 7pm** in the rectory. All are welcome!

JUST A REMINDER: Please turn off or silence all cell phones and electronic devices during Mass. Thank you for your cooperation.



 **NATIONALS BASEBALL FUNDRAISER:** Help support Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington. Purchase a game ticket using the code CC2015 and \$5 from every ticket purchased will be donated to Catholic Charities. Go to: nationals.com/tickets; click "Buy Tickets"; select your game; enter code **CC2015**; click "Apply". For more information, contact: Seth Puglio on 202.640.7687, or seth.puglio@nationals.com

HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS GOLF TOURNAMENT: The Capitol Hill Golf Ministry will hold their 13th Annual Golf Tournament, **Mon., Sept. 21st at Glenn Dale Golf Club, Glenn Dale, MD**, to assist homeless and at-risk individuals and families on Capitol Hill and across the District of Columbia. For info on playing in the tournament, sponsoring a player, or donating, contact Karen Cunningham, Esq., Executive Director, Capitol Hill Group Ministry on 202-544-0631 or cunningham@chgm.net, or golf.capitolhillgroupministry.com.

MEN'S DAY OF PRAYER AND HEALING: Have you been impacted by abortion or several abortions? Did you pressure someone or were you both pressured to abort? Were you against the abortion? Did you find out she aborted after the fact? Come to the Men's Day of Prayer and Healing sponsored by Project Rachel Ministry, **Sat., Oct. 10th**. For more information call 301-853-4565. Location and contacts are confidential.

PARISH CONNECTIONS: Visit our Parish-related links and websites and spread the word:
Parish Website: www.hscchurch.org
Fr. Pope's Sermons online: www.frpope.com
Fr. Pope's Blog: <http://blog.adw.org>

