

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Readings This Weekend:

Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-6 Matthew 2:1-12

Readings Next Weekend:

Is 40:1-5, 9-11 Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7 Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



The Wise Men in today's Gospel seek to understand the light of the star and come to understand the light of the world, Jesus. Notice first their **Journey**. God summons them by the star to seek him and they set out. A lot of folks follow movie stars or sports stars. What star are you following? Is it Jesus? The Wise Men's journey is not an easy one. Travel was always difficult and dangerous in the ancient world. Next, notice the **Jeopardy** they encounter. As they arrive in Israel two things threaten to misdirect their mission. First, there are Sleepy Saints. As they arrive in Jerusalem the Wise Men expect to find wild celebration. But the town seems quite sleepy. And when Herod, who strangely knows nothing about the birth of a King, summons his religious leaders they rather sleepily give the prophecies and show little or no enthusiasm. The Wise Men could have been quite discouraged by this but they persevere. The second threat they face is that Herod is scheming to use them so that he can kill the child. This is surely not their mission and his secret scheme almost renders them dupes but they are later warned. Finally, in this Gospel we see the **Justification** of the Wise Men. Coming at last to Jesus the text says they worship him and offer him gifts. They also manifest conversion, for having been warned of Herod's plot, they take another route home. That is, they change how they have been walking, they make a course correction, if you will. Praise God for the example of the Wise Men who journey to Christ, despite jeopardy, and thus they find justification.



Sunday, January 3 *The Epiphany of the Lord*

8:00am James A & Elizabeth G. Hill †
 11:00am Herman Schafer †
 7:00pm For the People

Monday, January 4 *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious*

7:00am Frederick & Josephine Miles †

Tuesday, January 5 *Saint John Neumann, Bishop*

7:00am Virgie M. Hamilton †

Wednesday, January 6 *Saint Andre Bessette, Religious*

7:00am Arthur & Naomi Jackson †

Thursday, January 7 *Saint Raymond of Penyafort, Priest*

7:00am John L. Colston, Jr. †

Friday, January 8

7:00am Intentions of the Music Director Selection Committees

Saturday, January 9

8:00am James A. & Elizabeth G. Hill †
 4:30pm Kenneth W. Louis

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday: 1 John 3:22—4:6 Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 John 4:7-10 Mark 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 John 4:11-18 Mark 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 John 4:19-5:4 Luke 4:14-22
Friday: 1 John 5:5-13 Luke 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 John 5:14-21 John 3:22-30

Music Schedule

Processional
 "Joy to the World" LMGM #249
Responsorial Psalm
 "Lord every nation on earth will adore you"
Gospel Acclamation
 "Alleluia!"
Offertory
 * "We Three Kings of Orient Are" LMGM #273
 ** "For God So Loved the World" L. Wolfe
Communion
 "O Come All Ye Faithful" LMGM #262
 * 8:00am Ruby Robertson, Cantor—Gwen Myles, Music Associate
 ** 11:00am Church Choir

NOTE: Due to the seasonal holiday and early submission of the bulletin to the publisher, no Stewardship figures or Mass Attendance data for the weekend of December 27th are available for posting in this week's bulletin. Updated figures will be posted next weekend.

END OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS will be prepared only upon request beginning **Mon., Feb. 1, 2016**. 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 Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian are included in your statement. Your statement will not reflect loose cash donations not placed in an envelope.



JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY CORNER

The National Shrine will host a series of speakers and events to aid the faithful in fully participating in the Year of Mercy. Events are free and open to the public. No reservations required. **Jan. 12, 2016**, Mass at 5:15pm followed by a lecture "*COMPASSION—The Thirst of God*" Visiting the Sick as a Work of Mercy, held in the Crypt Church at the National Shrine. Msgr. J. Brian Bransfield, General Secretary-Elect, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is the presenter.

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Sunday (1/3) 7:00pm Mass 8:00pm AA	Friday (1/8) 7:00pm Sunday School Catechists 8:00pm NA
Monday (1/4) 6:30pm Parish Council meeting 8:00pm YAM Bible Study	Saturday (0/9) 10:00am Liturgical Dance 10:30am Social Concerns Min 4:30pm Mass
Tuesday (1/5) 6:30pm Youth Ensemble	
Wednesday (1/6) 11:00am Friendly Seniors 6:30pm Liturgical Dance	

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



STEWARDSHIP INSIGHT—What gifts do you bring to the Lord this day? The Feast of the Epiphany helps us to reflect on what gifts we would bring. The gold symbolizes our wealth and strength. The frankincense symbolizes our worship. And, the myrrh (which is burial ointment) symbolizes the gift of our very self as we die to ourselves and live for Christ. Here then are some gift ideas for the King. What gifts do you plan to bring to the King in this New Year?



CONGRATULATIONS TO: Robert Walters who was Confirmed into the family of Jesus Christ on December 12th. May God continue to bless him on his journey of faith.

APPRECIATIONS

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT ADVENT TREE—Thank You to HCSC parishioners who contributed to the Social Concerns Ministry Advent Tree food collection this year. Your generosity helped to feed **70 families** in need this holiday. *Especially thank you* to all the volunteers who spent hours and days assembling the food baskets for distribution. Without your dedication to this effort it would not have happened.

THANK YOU: The Ladies of Charity wish to thank everyone for your overwhelming support of our Bake Sale. The funds raised through our Bake Sale help us to assist those in need. A special *Thank You* to our chairperson, Gracie Harris and to the Freeman Family for their continued contributions and support.

YOUTH SUNDAY NEXT WEEK: Every second Sunday we celebrate our parish youth at the 11am Mass. We invite all our youth to come and sit together at Mass. Please feel free to invite a friend!

THE FRIENDLY SENIORS—weekly fellowship will resume this **Wednesday, Jan. 6th at 11am** in the school Youth Room. Join us for fellowship, Bible study, and to play games. For information call Doris Edelin at 301-350-2697.

ATTENTION LITURGICAL MINISTERS: The Jan—March schedule has been distributed via e-mail or mailed to those who do not have internet access. The schedule is also posted on our website. Additional hard copies are available in the sacristy. Please remember that each minister is responsible for making arrangements for any changes to their assigned schedule.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: This weekend we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. We read about the magi bringing gifts to the Christ child. Give the gift of time and yourselves to your spouse; sign up today to attend the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend **April 22-24**, Rockville, MD. For more information and to apply online visit welovematrimony.org, or call 301-541-7007, or email applications@welovematrimony.org.

Youth Ministry News

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



To the Knights of Columbus St. Cyprian Council # 10008 for sponsoring the **Brunch with Saint Nicolas**. Because of all the wonderful volunteers who helped make this event a success, the youth were well entertained with food, games, and music.

ALSO, THANK YOU to all the youth and adults who participated in making our production of the play “The King is Coming!!!” another memorable Christmas event.

HCSC Young Adult Ministry

Paula Lancaster/Felicia Miller ♦ YAM@hscchurch.org

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY—will resume on **Mon. Jan. 4th** in the rectory.

We’d like to hear from our young adults (age 18 to 40^{ish})! Tell us what activities interest you. Check out the HCSC Young Adults Ministry on **Facebook** and tell us your thoughts. Follow us on Twitter at [HCSCYoungAdults!](https://twitter.com/HCSCYoungAdults)

THE WORD AMONG US—January issues available in the Candlelight Store for \$2 each. This publication is designed to help Catholics find genuine renewal and refreshment in God’s grace, encouragement to read the Word of God, and offers daily meditations based on the Mass readings. *Limited supply.*

MINISTRY & ORGANIZATION LEADERS GATHERING: The HCSC Parish Council invites Chairpersons of all Parish Ministries & Organizations to gather on **Wed., Jan. 6th** in the rectory basement at **6:30pm** for an Epiphany Party and meeting. **We kindly request that each Ministry send its Chairperson or a representative. Please RSVP to pc@hscchurch.org or call 202-546-1885.**



CALENDARS FOR 2016: A variety of 2016 calendars will be available after Mass in the rear of the church.

ADULT & FAMILY RALLY & MASS FOR LIFE: Continue your **Walk with Francis** on **Fri., Jan. 22nd**. Rally: 9—10am; Mass: 10—11:30am at Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, 1725 Rhode Island Ave., NW. Celebrant—Bishop Mario Dorsonville; Homilist—Fr. Dan Leary, Pastor, St. Andrew Apostle Parish. To register go to: www.adw/jan22.

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

If you want to know more about our parish community or are interested in joining, call the rectory at 202-546-1885 or hscstaff@hscchurch.org.

Mass Schedule: Monday thru Friday at 7:00am (Chapel)
Saturday at 8:00am (Chapel) and 4:30pm
Sunday at 8:00am, 11:00am, and 7:00pm

Office Hours: Monday thru Wednesday, 9:00am—8:00pm, Thursday, 9:00am-5:00pm; Friday, 9:00am-8:00pm; Saturday, 9:00am—1:00pm; and Sunday, 9:00am—2:00pm.

For information on sacraments & funerals call the rectory office.
Follow us on Facebook! Fr. Pope’s Blog: <http://blog.adw.org>