

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings This Weekend:

Neh 8:2-10 1 Cor 12:12-30 Luke 1:14; 4:14-21

Readings Next Weekend:

Jer 1:4-5, 17-19 1 Cor 12:31-13:13 Luke 4:21-30



Today's first reading presents a wonderful portrait of Joy in the Word of God. First, note the **Hunger** for the Word of God. All the people have gathered by the Watergate and they are eager and hungry to hear the Word of God. Next, note the **Hearing** of the Word of God. Not only are they assembled, but they also spend almost six hours listening to the Word proclaimed and to the sermon delivered by Ezra. Ezra is **helped** by others to proclaim the Word and he then explains it to them. Note too regarding us this morning. We have assembled eager to hear a Word from God. I will preach but am helped in the proclamation of this Word by the lectors, the deacon and the choir. My sermons are long, but they are NOT six hours. More like 30 minutes. Next, note the **Honor** given the Word of God. As it is proclaimed people acclaim "Amen!" Some prostrate in reverence, others weep either for joy or sorrow in their sins. But they honor the Word of God. Do you? Or is the sermon time to do text messaging and read the bulletin? Finally, there is a **Heeding** of the Word of God. The people are informed by Ezra that they have not been faithful in observing some of God's liturgical mandates and they prepare to observe the feast. In the end, we cannot honor the Word of God without heeding it.



Sunday, January 24

8:00am For the Intentions of Jacqueline Johnson
 11:00am For the Intentions of Janis McPherson
 7:00pm For the People

Monday, January 25

7:00am For the Intentions of Nannie Williams

Tuesday, January 26

7:00am Mary Vance †

Wednesday, January 27

7:00am For the homeless

Thursday, January 28

7:00am Lillian Yates † (birthday)

Friday, January 29

7:00am Evette Benton (birthday)

Saturday, January 30

8:00am Alice H. Williams (birthday)
 4:30pm Sabrina Simmons †

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.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22 Mark 16:15-18
Tuesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5 Mark 3:31-35
Wednesday: 2 Samuel 7:4-17 Mark 4:1-20
Thursday: 2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29 Mark 4:21-25
Friday: 2 Samuel 11:1-10, 13-17 Mark 4:26-34
Saturday: 2 Samuel 12:1-7, 10-17 Mark 4:35-41

Music Schedule

Processional
 "He Has Done Great Things for Me" LMGM #635
Responsorial Psalm
 "Your words O Lord are spirit and life"
Gospel Acclamation
 "Alleluia!"
Offertory
 * "Rejoice the Lord is King" LMGM #349
 ** "Order My Steps" G. Burleigh
Communion
 "One Bread, One Body" LMGM #760
 * 8:00am Ruby Robertson, Cantor—Gwen Myles, Music Associate
 ** 11:00am Church Choir

Mass Attendance for January 17, 2016

4:30pm	48
8:00am	141
11:00am	290
7:00pm	63
Total:	542

Stewardship Report 2015—2016

Weekly Budget Amount Needed	\$16,346
Actual Tithes Collected (1/17)	\$15,695
Actual Deficit (-)	-\$651



JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY CORNER

Feed the Hungry: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink..." Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ...' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'" (Mt 25:35-40) Who is the least brother or sister of mine? What am I doing to fill his or her hunger? Share mercy with those in need through your parish or with Catholic Charities. Find more at mercy.adw.org.

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Sunday (1/24) 9:15am RCIA 9:30am Sunday School 2:00pm St Thomas Ladies #64 7:00pm Mass 8:00pm AA	Wednesday (1/27) 11:00am Friendly Seniors 6:30pm Liturgical Dance 7:00pm Bible Study
Monday (1/25) 8:00pm YAM Bible Study	Thursday (1/28) 6:30pm Knights of Columbus
Tuesday (1/26) 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 7:00pm Adult Choir	Friday (1/29) 8:00pm NA
	Saturday (1/30) 10:00am Liturgical Dance 4:30pm Mass

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Holy Comforter-Saint Cypryan 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

SAVE THE DATE: As part of our African American History Month celebration we will have a presentation and lunch on **Sun., Feb. 14th** at the school. The guest speaker will be **Rev. Donald A. Sterling**, who holds the distinction of being the first African American ordained to the priesthood in 1974 for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Stay tuned for more information.

HCSC AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH will begin with the recognition of our ancestors on whose shoulders we continually stand. Beginning this year, we ask our parish families to submit the names of their deceased on the forms in your bulletin and drop them in the baskets in front of the Mary and Joseph altars. These names will be on display in the church sanctuary throughout the month of February. **Deadline for submission is Sunday, Jan. 31st.** Flyers are in your bulletin. **NOTE: This act of recognizing those who are deceased will be moved to the month of November during the Church's observance of All Souls.**

HCSC LENTEN FAMILY DAY: Theme "**Lord Have Mercy**", **Sun., Jan. 31st** from **1—4pm** at the school. Sessions for adults and youth of all ages. Guest presenter: **Father Aaron Qureshi**, Parochial Vicar, Saint Joseph Catholic Church, Largo, MD. Clergy will hear confessions after the sessions. Lunch provided! See flyer to **RSVP** as soon as possible.

4th ARCHDIOCESAN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: *Divine Mercy—in Prayer and Action* sponsored by ADW Office of Family Life and the Council of Catholic Women, **Sat., Feb. 27th, 8AM—4PM**, at Elizabeth Seton High School, Bladensburg, MD. Keynote speaker is our pastor, Msgr. Charles Pope, scheduled to speak on *Perfect Mercy*. **Cost: \$40.** For more information: adw.org/womensconference.

2016 ANNUAL JUBILARIAN MASS: Cardinal Donald Wuerl will celebrate the Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years on **Sun., June 19th, at 2pm** at the Basilica of the National Shrine. Call the rectory at 202-546-1885. **Names of jubilarians need to be turned in to the rectory office by Mon., April 11th.**

ELECTRONIC TITHING—Have you considered electronic tithing through the **Faith Direct** program here at HCSC? You can have your tithes deducted from your bank account TWICE a month or charged to a credit card. It is a secure, convenient way to support your parish community. Enrollment forms are in the rear of the church, the rectory office, or you can sign up online at www.faithdirect.net. (HCSC church code: DC59). Call Kim Peaks at the rectory office for more information. It's easy and it's FREE!

END OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS are prepared only upon request. Statements **will be available starting Mon., Feb. 1st** and will not be automatically mailed. You can have your statement mailed or left at the rectory for pick-up. You must contact the rectory by phone or email to request your statement. **NOTE:** only cash donations (submitted in an envelope) and checks payable to Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian are included in your statement. Loose cash (not in an envelope) given at collection cannot be reflected on your statement.

Youth Ministry News

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

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH: If you have a birthday in the months of December, January or February let us know so it can appear in the next edition of the HCSC Youth Newsletter.

YOUTH MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION: **Sat., Jan 30th, 1-7pm** at the Merrick Center (near St. Thomas More Church). Workshops, food and fun. Contact Nicki for info.

SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL YOUTH RETREAT is **March 12-13**, at Camp Maria in Leonard, MD. Stay tuned for more details.

HCSC—SINGLETERARY EDUCATION AWARDS: Are you a registered member of HCSC who is graduating high school this Spring? Active in church activities and involved in community service? Is your grade point average 2.5 or higher? Are you applying to a college, technical or trade school in 2016? Then you may be eligible for one of three monetary awards from the HCSC—Singletary Education Fund. First award is \$4,000; Second is \$3,000; and the third is \$2,000. This **one-time award** will be issued to the institution you enroll at next Fall. Stay tuned for details.

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})! 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)

2016 CARDINAL'S APPEAL BEGINS: "**Seek First the Kingdom of God**" (Matthew 6:33). Many of our parishioners have already received a mailing from Cardinal Wuerl over the last couple of weeks asking you to make a pledge to the 2016 Cardinal's Appeal. The Appeal campaign is much different than a one-time special collection. The Cardinal's Appeal funds a multitude of community services throughout the Washington area, including ministries here in our own parish, such as Social Concerns, and the Welcome Home Program. As we seek first the kingdom of God, we have the capability of helping it to be present in our lives and in the lives of those around us through our works of charity, love, and compassion. Please see brochures in the pews and in your bulletin for more information and stay tuned.

SAVE THE DATE: OBLATE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE will hold their **8th Annual Chicken Dinner, Sat., Feb. 27th, 11—3:00** at Saint Frances Center, 501 East Chase Street, Baltimore, MD. Cost: \$10. Proceeds for the upkeep of the Oblate Motherhouse and care of the sisters. Questions? Contact Sister Helene Theresa 1-410-536-5687.

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>

