

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings This Weekend:

Jer 33:14-16 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Readings Next Weekend:

Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-9 Matthew 3:1-12



There is an old Gospel song that says, "Jesus says, Here I stand, Won't you please let me in? And you said, I will, but tomorrow. Tomorrow? Who promised you tomorrow? Better choose the Lord today, for tomorrow very well might be too late." Today's Gospel warns of the possible suddenness of death or the Lord's second coming. Are you ready to die and face judgment? The Scripture often emphasizes the suddenness of death and judgment: Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour. (Matt 25:13). So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come. (Matt 24:44). Watch, therefore, you do not know when the lord of the house is coming—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cock crow, or in the morning. May He not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: "Watch!" (Mk 13:35-37) When people are saying, "Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape. (1 Thes 5:3). An old spiritual says, "I would not be a sinner, I'll tell you the reason why. I'm afraid my Lord might call my name and I wouldn't be ready to die." Yet another old Gospel song says, "My mother taught me how to pray. So, if I die and my soul be lost, it's nobody's fault but mine." OK, by now you get the point. Advent is not just a time to prepare for Christmas and the baby Jesus, it is also a time to prepare to meet a very adult Jesus who is Lord and God. Are you ready?



Sunday, November 29 *First Sunday of Advent*

4:30pm (Sat) Mary E. Hudson †
 8:00am Thomas Quinn †
 11:00am Carole Wise (birthday Nov. 28)
 7:00pm Thomas Quinn †

Monday, November 30 *Saint Andrew, Apostle*

7:00am All Souls

Tuesday, December 1

7:00am Joyce Francine Walker †

Wednesday, December 2

7:00am Mabel McWaine † (birthday)

Thursday, December 3 *Saint Francis Xavier, Priest*

7:00am For the People

Friday, December 4 *Saint John Damascene, Priest*

7:00am Charles H. Kittrell † (birthday)

Saturday, December 5

8:00am For the Intentions of Brian O'Grady
 4:30pm George T. Holton, III (birthday)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday: Romans 10:9-18 Matthew 4:18-22
Tuesday: Isaiah 11:1-10 Luke 10:21-24
Wednesday: Isaiah 25:6-10 Matthew 15:29-37
Thursday: Isaiah 26:1-6 Matthew 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Isaiah 29:17-24 Matthew 9:27-31
Saturday: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26 Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5, 6-8

Music Schedule

Processional
 "Soon and Very Soon" LMGM #691
Responsorial Psalm
 "To You, O Lord, I Lift My Soul"
Gospel Acclamation
 "Alleluia!"
Offertory
 * "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" LMGM #420
 ** "Are You Ready" LMGM #243
Communion
 "Emmanuel"
 * 8:00am Ruby Robertson, Cantor—Gwen Myles, Music Associate
 ** 11:00am Church Choir

NOTE: Due to the Thanksgiving holiday and early submission of the bulletin to the publisher, no Stewardship figures or Mass Attendance data for the weekend of November 22nd are available for posting in this week's bulletin. Updated figures will be posted next weekend.



If you were expecting a great guest in your home, what would you do to get ready? You probably start by cleaning and de-cluttering. You would also prepare the meal with care, use the best china and dress well. All of this is not bad advice for preparing to meet the Lord and advent is a time to focus on making those preparations. A good confession is the equivalent of a house cleaning, sweep your soul clean by going to confession. De-clutter by examining your life and considering if there are any things that tend to clutter your life and crowd out the spiritual. What meal does Jesus want? He once said, Doing the Father's will is the food that sustains me (John 4:31). So prepare a meal of obedience and deck yourself in the garments of righteousness.

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Sunday (11/29) 9:15am RCIA 7:00pm Mass 8:00pm AA	Thursday (12/3) 7:00pm Pageant rehearsal
Monday (11/30) 8:00pm YAM Bible Study	Friday (12/4) 6:00pm First Friday Adoration 8:00pm NA
Tuesday (12/1) 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 7:00pm Adult Choir	Saturday (12/5) 10:00am Liturgical Dance 4:30pm Mass
Wednesday (12/2) 11:00am Friendly Seniors 6:30pm Liturgical Dance 7:00pm Bible Study	

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

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION—is a wonderful opportunity to gather and reflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. HCSC holds Eucharistic Adoration every first Friday of each month at 6pm in the Church. The **Knights of Columbus will host the December 4th Adoration** and all parishioners are invited to attend. This Advent, find a moment and spend some quality time with Jesus!



The **257th U.S. ARMY BAND** presents *The Holidays in Concert* at HCSC on **Mon., Dec. 7th at 7pm**. This **FREE** concert features traditional Patriotic, Christmas and Holiday classics. Bring your family and friends!

CHRISTMAS GIFT SALE: The Oblate Sisters of Providence (OSP) Alumnae Association will be selling Christmas cards and other items after Mass this weekend. All proceeds benefit the Oblate Sisters of Providence.

HCSC BULLETINS ONLINE: Did you know that we post our bulletins on our website (www.hcscchurch.org)? So, if you can't make it to Mass, at least you can still know what is happening at the parish. Find out what you've missed!

ADVENT 2015

ADVENT SOUP & SCRIPTURE—will meet **Wed., Dec. 2nd, 9th & 16th** with a light meal at 6:30pm followed by bible study at 7pm. Theme: **“But Who May Endure the Day of His Coming?”** A three-part study on the Book of Malachi which figures prominently in Advent. Open to all. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** If you'd like to help prepare the meal please contact the rectory office (202-546-1885).



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS—If you would like to include a loved one on the “In Memory/Honor of...” list included in the Christmas Mass program, return your Christmas Flower offering envelope no later than **Sun., Dec. 20th** to the rectory. Envelopes are available from any usher or the rectory office. **PLEASE PRINT ALL NAMES!**

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT “ADVENT” TREE—Our parish will continue its annual Advent food drive for the needy by asking you to donate food items for Christmas baskets. Christmas ornaments that list the needed food items have been placed on our Advent Tree. Please take one or more ornaments from the tree and bring the listed item back to the church by **Sunday, December 13th**. We look forward to your participation.



PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD—One of the spiritual works of mercy is to pray for the dead. During the month of November, it is traditional to pray for our deceased friends and family. A Mass will be celebrated every other day during November for the Poor Souls. To include your friends and relatives, please list their names on the All Souls Day envelope (included with tithing envelopes or ask an usher) and drop in the collection basket or rectory office. A donation is not needed to submit names but will be greatly appreciated.



Youth Ministry News

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

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: The Youth Ministry is looking for actors for our Annual Youth Christmas Pageant. We also need adults to help with costumes, set design, and technical logistics. Questions? Contact the Youth Director.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! Sat., Dec. 5th, 11am—12:30 noon. Msgr. Pope needs a few youth to assist with a special advertising project. Stay tuned for details!

HCSC Young Adult Ministry

Paula Lancaster/Felicia Miller ♦ YAM@hcscchurch.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)

SAVE THE DATE!! HCSC HOLY NAME SOCIETY is planning its annual men's spiritual retreat to **Loyola on the Potomac, January 1—3, 2016**. The retreat fee is \$235.00 (\$185.00 for first time participants and/or young adults up to age 30). Contact Rodney Newman on 202-575-0743 or at newman_acm@hotmail.com.

FREE ISSUES OF THE WORD AMONG US: Advent issues are available in the rear of the church. 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!*

PLEASE NOTE—From time to time, it is good to remind ourselves of the courtesies to be shown when entering God's house. Please do not chew gum or eat in church. Adults are requested to remind children (and themselves) of this discipline before entering the church.

PROJECT RACHEL MINISTRY: *Having unresolved feelings about your abortion experience? You don't feel forgiven? Worried if you will be a good mom?* Come to an **Entering Canaan DAY OF PRAYER AND HEALING** on **Sat., Dec. 5th**. Questions? Contact Julia Shelava (301-982-2008) at ProjectRachel@adw.org. Location and contacts are confidential.

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

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