

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Readings This Weekend:**

Baruch 5:1-9      Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11      Luke 3:1-6

**Readings Next Weekend:**

Zephaniah 3:14-18      Philippians 4:4-7      Luke 3:10-18



The Gospel today presents some Practical Principles of Prophecy as we focus on the ministry of John the Baptist. Note first, the **Portrait of Proper Prophecy**. Note the content of John's preaching: *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"* Here is a balance to get right. The preacher and the prophet must speak frankly of sin but also of the grace available to conquer that sin. Hence, John the Baptist is willing and able to declare the reality of sin and the necessity of repenting from it. But he is also able to declare the availability of the Kingdom wherein one is able to find the grace to overcome sin. Too many preachers lack this balance. In the past it was all fire and brimstone. Today it is too often, the steady diet of "God is love" with little reference to the need to repent. Next, note the **Product of Powerful Prophecy**. The text describes how many came to John repenting of their sins. The truest measure of success in preaching is a long line for the confessional. Next, note the **Purity of Powerful Prophecy**. The text shows that John the Baptist had no fear of people's opinion and would not compromise the message based on his audience. All the credentials of the temple leaders did not impress him. Neither did the status of the Jews as the chosen people cause him to soften his message. Finally, note the **Person of Powerful Prophecy**. When his audience wants to know more about him, John talks instead about Jesus. That's the message, "Jesus, not me."



**Sunday, December 6**

8:00am Dolores Gorham (birthday Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>)  
 11:00am Herman Schafer †  
 7:00pm Beatrice Edelin † (birthday Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>)

**Monday, December 7**

7:00am William W. Martin †

**Tuesday, December 8 Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary**

7:00am William W. Martin †  
 10:00am Jackie A. White, Sr. †  
 7:00 pm Michael & Catherine Giuffrida †

**Wednesday, December 9**

7:00am For the People

**Thursday, December 10**

7:00am Maria Dotterweich

**Friday, December 11 Saint Damasus I, Pope**

7:00am Jesse Ford, Jr. †

**Saturday, December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe**

8:00am Sandra Adams †  
 4:30pm William & Catherine Miles †

**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:** Isaiah 35:1-10      Luke 5:17-26  
**Tuesday:** Gen 3:9-15      Eph 1:3-6, 11-12      Luke 1:26-38  
**Wednesday:** Isaiah 40:25-31      Matthew 11:28-30  
**Thursday:** Isaiah 41:13-20      Matthew 11:11-15  
**Friday:** Isaiah 48:17-19      Matthew 11:16-19  
**Saturday:** Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6, 10      Luke 1:39-47

**Music Schedule**

**Processional**  
 "Soon and Very Soon" LMGGM #691  
**Responsorial Psalm**  
 "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy."  
**Gospel Acclamation**  
 "Alleluia!"  
**Offertory**  
 \* "On Jordan's Bank" LMGGM #240  
 \*\* "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" by K. Louis  
**Communion**  
 "Emmanuel"  
 \* 8:00am Ruby Robertson, Cantor—Gwen Myles, Music Associate  
 \*\* 11:00am Church Choir

**Mass Attendance for November 29, 2015**

4:30pm	68
8:00am	79
11:00am	197
7:00pm	89
<b>Total:</b>	<b>433</b>

**Stewardship Report 2015—2016**

Weekly Budget Amount Needed	\$16,346
Actual Tithes Collected (11/29)	\$18,849
Actual Surplus (+)	+\$2,503



**JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY CORNER**

**POPE FRANCIS** has called for a *Jubilee Year of Mercy* "dedicated to living out in our daily lives the mercy which the Father constantly extends to all of us." (Misericordiae Vultus, 25). The Year of Mercy starts on **December 8<sup>th</sup>**. This Holy Year will be a special time for all of us to reflect on God's love for us and how we encounter mercy: where we need mercy in our lives; how we can seek out and receive mercy; and ways we can share mercy with others. Learn more about how you can encounter God's mercy this year at: [mercy.adw.org](http://mercy.adw.org).

**THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH**

<b>Sunday (12/6)</b> 9:15am RCIA 9:30am Sunday School 1:30pm Pageant rehearsal 7:00pm Mass 8:00pm AA	<b>Wednesday (12/9)</b> 11:00am Friendly Seniors 6:30pm Liturgical Dance 7:00pm Bible Study
<b>Monday (12/7)</b> 7:00pm 257 <sup>th</sup> Army Band 8:00pm YAM Bible Study	<b>Thursday (12/10)</b> 7:00pm Pageant rehearsal
<b>Tuesday (12/8)</b> 10:00am Mass 7:00pm Mass	<b>Friday (12/11)</b> 8:00pm NA
	<b>Saturday (12/12)</b> 10:00am Liturgical Dance 10:30am Social Concerns Min 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




**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO MABLE HENSON** who celebrates her **104<sup>th</sup> birthday on Tues., Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>**. She was recently honored by the Legal Counsel for the Elderly and appears in a video at: [www.aarp.org/states/dc/LCE.html](http://www.aarp.org/states/dc/LCE.html) under *Helping Seniors* (her story begins at 2:38). Standing strong in her faith, may the Lord continue to bless and keep her in His love and care.

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


**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation celebrated on **Tues., Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>**. *What Is the Immaculate Conception?* Incorrectly, many people think it refers to the conception of Christ through the action of the Holy Spirit. Correctly, the Immaculate Conception refers to the state Mary was in from the very moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne, allowing Mary to be free from Original Sin. **Join us at Mass Tues., Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am and 7pm.**


**YOUTH SUNDAY NEXT WEEK:** We invite all our youth to come and sit together at 11am Mass. Invite a friend!

**NO CANNED GOODS COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND:** We rather you participate in our Advent Tree food drive.

 **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. 20<sup>th</sup>** to the rectory. Envelopes available from an usher or the rectory office. **PLEASE PRINT ALL NAMES!**

ADVENT 2015

 **ADVENT SOUP & SCRIPTURE**—will meet **Wed., Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>** with a light meal at 6:30pm followed by bible study. Theme: **"But Who May Endure the Day of His Coming?"** from the Book of Malachi which figures prominently in Advent.

**GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT "ADVENT" TREE:** Our parish continues its annual Advent food drive for the needy by asking you to donate food items for Christmas baskets. Ornaments on our Advent Tree list the needed food items. Please take one or more ornaments from the tree and bring the listed item(s) back to the church next **Sunday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>**. We look forward to your participation. 

 **FIND THE PERFECT GIFT THIS ADVENT:** Christmas joyfully celebrates the **Perfect Gift**, the fulfillment of God's love in Jesus. This Advent, take time out of the busyness of the season to find true peace. Find out more and sign up to receive daily Advent reflections by text or email at **[www.FindThePerfectGift.org](http://www.FindThePerfectGift.org)**.

Youth Ministry News

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

**2016 ESSAY & DRAWING CONTEST:** The Sodality Union of the Archdiocese of Washington is sponsoring its second **Essay and Drawing Contest**. Entry deadline is **December 20<sup>th</sup>**. Essay contest open to all youth 8 to 18 year olds. This year's theme: **"What can I offer in sacrifice to help the Poor and help save the Earth?"** Drawing Contest is limited to 8 to 10 year olds. Guidelines for submitting an essay or drawing available in the rear of the church or at [sodalityunionadw.org/Committee\\_Reports](http://sodalityunionadw.org/Committee_Reports). Questions? Contact the Youth Ministry Director.

**BRUNCH WITH SAINT NICHOLAS**—for youth of all ages. **Sat., Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, 10—12:00 noon**, at the school. Come listen to Christmas music and learn the true story of this 4<sup>th</sup> century saint. Arts and crafts provided for younger children. **COST:** a canned food item for the HCSC food pantry. Take a photo with Saint Nicholas for \$5.

HCSC Young Adult Ministry

Paula Lancaster/Felicia Miller ♦ [YAM@hscchurch.org](mailto: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](mailto:sakeene@gmail.com).

We'd like to hear from our young adults (age 18 to 40<sup>ish</sup>)! 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)

**LADIES OF CHARITY ANNUAL BAKE SALE**—on **Sun., Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>** after the 8am and 11am Mass in the rectory basement. Come and purchase homemade baked goods and gifts while supporting this ministry's charitable efforts.

**UPDATE ON DIRECTOR OF MUSIC RECRUITMENT:** The Recruitment & Selection Committee has reviewed 18 applicants for the position of HCSC Director of Music. Five were offered an interview and three were selected to audition with the church choir. When these auditions are completed, Msgr. Pope and a second selection team will interview the top candidates. Msgr. Pope will make a final decision. Until then, Tammy Holley will continue her excellent job as Interim Director. Let's keep her lifted. Thank you for your prayers and patience while we complete this important work.

Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Roman Catholic Church

1357 East Capitol Street, SE, WDC 20003  
202-546-1885 ♦ [www.hscchurch.org](http://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](mailto: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>