

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Readings This Weekend:**

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

**Readings Next Weekend:**

Micah 5:1-4    Hebrews 10:5-10    Luke 1:39-45



In today's Gospel the Lord teaches on the Glory of Grace and what it means to find the perfect gift. The Gospel opens with the DISCOURAGEMENT of John the Baptist. He sends his disciples to Jesus asking if Jesus is the Messiah or not. This is a strange question in that John has already declared to others that Jesus IS the Messiah. Now he seems to have his doubts. Perhaps this is because John was expecting a wrathful and dramatic coming of the Messiah who would lay the axe to the root of the tree and destroy the wicked. But Jesus isn't doing this sort of thing, so John has doubt and discouragement. But next notice the DISCLOSURE by Jesus. He discloses God's plan to John, and us, and shows that he is in fact fulfilling Scripture as the blind see, the deaf hear, lepers are cleansed, the dead are raised and the poor hear the good news. John, and us, must come to accept God's ways, which are not always our ways. Judgment will come, but not before God offers the gift of grace to everyone. Jesus then gives the DIRECTIVE that we not be offended that he chooses to show mercy and give grace before the Judgment. Even John the Baptist, the greatest man born of woman is going to need this Grace. For great though he is in human terms, the least born into the Kingdom is greater than he. The greatest gift, the perfect gift, is grace. This Christmas, find the perfect gift, grace, and help others to do the same.



**Sunday, December 13** *Third Sunday of Advent*

8:00am Norma Jackson † (birthday Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>)  
 11:00am Deceased McPherson Family Members  
 7:00pm Brianna Williams (birthday Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>)

**Monday, December 14** *St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church*

7:00am James L. Outtz (birthday)

**Tuesday, December 15**

7:00am Catherine E. Graham †

**Wednesday, December 16**

7:00am Deceased Barnes Family Members

**Thursday, December 17**

7:00am Ernestine C. Jackson † (birthday)

**Friday, December 18**

7:00am For the People

**Saturday, December 19**

8:00am Deceased Barnes Family Members  
 4:30pm William W. Martin †

**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:** Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17    Matthew 21:23-27  
**Tuesday:** Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13    Matthew 21:28-32  
**Wednesday:** Isaiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-25    Luke 7:18-23  
**Thursday:** Genesis 49:2, 8-10    Matthew 1:1-17  
**Friday:** Jeremiah 23:5-8    Matthew 1:18-25  
**Saturday:** Judges 13:2-7, 24-25    Luke 1:5-25

**Music Schedule**

**Processional**  
 "Soon and Very Soon" LMGM #691  
**Responsorial Psalm**  
 "Cry out with joy and gladness"  
**Gospel Acclamation**  
 "Alleluia!"  
**Offertory**  
 \* "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" LMGM #237  
 \*\* "Halalujah, Hallalu"  
**Communion**  
 "Emmanuel"  
 \* 8:00am Ruby Robertson, Cantor—Gwen Myles, Music Associate  
 \*\* 11:00am Youth Ensemble

**Mass Attendance for December 6, 2015**

4:30pm	54
8:00am	159
11:00am	257
7:00pm	105
<b>Total:</b>	<b>575</b>

**Stewardship Report 2015—2016**

Weekly Budget Amount Needed	\$16,346
Actual Tithes Collected (12/6)	\$21,395
Actual Surplus (+)	+ \$5,049



**JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY CORNER**

**WHAT IS MERCY?** Mercy is the experience of God's love that forgives faults, heals hurts, and connects us more deeply to God and each other. Pope Francis describes mercy as "the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness" (MV, 2). This Advent as we prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus and to share His love, reflect on how you can open your heart to God's mercy and share that mercy with friends, family, and those most in need. Find resources for reflection and share your story at [mercy.adw.org](http://mercy.adw.org).

**THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH**

<b>Sunday (12/13)</b> 9:15am RCIA 9:30am Sunday School 1:30pm Pageant rehearsal 7:00pm Mass 8:00pm AA	<b>Wednesday (12/16)</b> 11:00am Friendly Seniors 6:30pm Liturgical Dance 7:00pm Bible Study
<b>Monday (12/14)</b> 6:30pm Parish Council meeting 8:00pm YAM Bible Study	<b>Friday (12/18)</b> 8:00pm NA
<b>Tuesday (12/15)</b> 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 7:00pm Adult Choir	<b>Saturday (12/19)</b> 10:00am Liturgical Dance 10:00am Saint Nicholas brunch 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.*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### PARISH LIFE

**YOUTH SUNDAY:** Every second Sunday we celebrate our parish youth at the 11am Mass. We invite all our youth to come and sit together at Mass. Parents, please feel free to sit with your child!

**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.



**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 are available from any usher or the rectory office. **PLEASE PRINT ALL NAMES!**

**FAITH DIRECT:** During Advent, we are continuously preparing ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth. Why not help our own parish prepare for the coming new year by signing up for our electronic tithing program Faith Direct? By supporting our parish through Faith Direct, both you and our parish can more easily project your future contributions. Sign up online at [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) using our **church code: DC59**, or by mail. Enrollment form are available in the rear of the church or rectory office.

**EATING IN CHURCH:** 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 of this discipline before entering the church.

### ADVENT 2015



**FINAL ADVENT SOUP & SCRIPTURE** will meet **Wed., Dec. 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.

**WINTER COAT DRIVE:** The Knights of Columbus in conjunction with Catholic Charities is holding a winter coat drive for the needy. Bring a clean/gently used winter coat and drop it in the barrel in the vestibule. All coats are appreciated but **XXXL** coats are especially needed.

**GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT "ADVENT" TREE:** In case you were unable to return your contribution to our parish Advent food drive you have until **7pm on Mon. Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>** to drop your food contribution off at the rectory office. If you can help with packing and distribution of Christmas food baskets call Earlene Capers (301-910-1763).



**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 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)

**SAVE THE DATE "MAN DATE"** to come together as men to pray, share a meal, and learn how to help someone you love heal from abortion. Sponsored by the ADW, **Mon., Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>, 7—9:00pm**, St. Francis Chapel, Landover Hills, MD. Questions? Go to: [PRMseminarian@adw.org](mailto:PRMseminarian@adw.org) or call 301-982-2008.

**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.

**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](mailto:newman_acm@hotmail.com).

### 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>