

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings This Weekend:

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

Readings Next Weekend:

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Colossians 3:12-21 Luke 2:41-52



Notice in this Gospel today several stages that in some ways remind us of a Mass. First, there is Procession. Mary proceeds in haste to be with her cousin Elizabeth. And when they gather, there is Praise! Mary and Elizabeth are having church. Then there is Proclamation: a word that is exchanged. Mary's word of greeting does not merely convey her voice, with Jesus in her womb the presence of God accompanies her voice and Elizabeth is filled with joy. During Sunday service, when the presence of the Lord is in the lector, the deacon and the preacher you know that not only are they speaking, but also God, and you are filled with joy! Amen? Then, comes Perception. Elizabeth understands that Mary is Mother of the Lord and carries in her the Lord Jesus. John also leaps for joy, recognizing Christ. At Mass we too fall to our knees with joy as the priest says, "Behold the Lamb of God and we recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread." So, in today's Gospel, there's just a little Mass going on, just havin' a little Church up in there.



Sunday, December 20 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8:00am Ernestine C. Jackson †
 11:00am William & Clementine McPherson †
 7:00pm William W. Martin †

Monday, December 21 *St Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church*

7:00am "Major Cowboy" †

Tuesday, December 22

7:00am John N. Graham †

Wednesday, December 23 *Saint John of Kanty, Priest*

7:00am Robert DeFoe †

Thursday, December 24

7:00am Ann Wilson †
 6:00pm Margaret Norman †
 12:00am Deacon Charles Edelin, Jr. †

Friday, December 25 *The Nativity of the Lord*

10:00am For the People

Saturday, December 26 *Saint Stephen, The First Martyr*

8:00am Thomas Edelin †
 4:30pm Eric Jackson, Sr. †

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: Zephaniah 3:14-18 Luke 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Samuel 1:24-28 Luke 1:46-56
Wednesday: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 Luke 1:57-66
Thursday: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-16 Luke 1:67-79
Friday: Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-6 John 1:1-18
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59 Matthew 10:17-22

Music Schedule

Processional
 "Soon and Very Soon" LMGM #691
Responsorial Psalm
 "Lord make us turn to you"
Gospel Acclamation
 "Alleluia!"
Offertory
 * "How Great Thou Art" LMGM #405
 ** "Lord Make Us Turn to You" setting by L. Roberts
Communion
 "Emmanuel"
 * 8:00am Ruby Robertson, Cantor—Gwen Myles, Organist
 ** 11:00am Church Choir, Gwen Myles, Music Associate

Mass Attendance for December 13, 2015

4:30pm	48
8:00am	154
11:00am	277
7:00pm	98
Total:	577

Stewardship Report 2015—2016

Weekly Budget Amount Needed	\$16,346
Actual Tithes Collected (12/13)	\$20,691
Actual Surplus (+)	+ \$4,345



JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY CORNER

MERCY is greater than any sin or challenge. Consider the story of a girl recently preparing for First Reconciliation. She is on the autism spectrum and non-verbal, but responds well to picture stories. Helped by special needs ministry and her catechist, she created a picture list of times when she did not live as Christ teaches. In Reconciliation, she showed her pastor the pictures to confess them, and he absolved her. God's mercy was there for her, just like it is always there for each of us. For ways to encounter mercy and healing, there are Year of Mercy prayer cards in the rear of the church. You can also visit mercy.adw.org.

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Sunday (12/20) 9:00am Ladies of Charity Bake Sale 9:15am RCIA 9:30am Sunday School 7:00pm Mass 8:00pm AA	Thursday (12/24) 3:00pm Rectory closes early 6:00pm Family Mass 11:00pm Music Service 12:00am Midnight Mass
Monday (12/21) 7:00pm Adult Choir	Friday (12/25) RECTORY CLOSED 10:00am Christmas Mass 8:00pm NA
Tuesday (12/22) 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 7:00pm Adult Choir	Saturday (12/26) RECTORY CLOSED 4:30pm Mass
Wednesday (12/23) 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

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

RECTORY OFFICE—will close early on Thur., Dec. 24th at 3pm and remain closed through Dec. 26th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL and RCIA CLASSES—will not be held on Sun., Dec. 27th. Classes will resume Sunday, Jan. 10th.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SUN., DEC. 20th at 1PM TO DECORATE OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS:

With many helping hands, we can accomplish this in a short time.

Refreshments will be served! Please remain in the sanctuary today after Mass.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: You can include a loved one on the "In Memory/Honor of..." list included in the Christmas Mass program. Return your Christmas Flower envelope this Sunday to the rectory. Envelopes are available from any usher or the rectory office. **PLEASE PRINT ALL NAMES!**



CHRISTMAS TV MASS will be celebrated by Cardinal Wuerl from the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 25th at 8am on WDCW channel 50.

NATIONAL SHRINE'S CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR THOSE IN NEED: The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will sponsor dinner for those who are alone or in need on Christmas Day, December 25. Volunteers are needed to assist in preparing, serving, and delivering. The Basilica is located at 400 Michigan Ave., NE and is walking distance from the Brookland-CUA Station on Metro's Red Line. Those interested in volunteering can sign-up online at www.nationalshrine.com/christmasdinner or by calling the Basilica at 202-526-8300.

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. RSVP by Wed., Dec. 30th to pc@hscchurch.org or 202-546-1885.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Family Mass and Youth Pageant
6:00pm Thursday, December 24th

Midnight Mass
Thursday, December 24th
(Music Service begins at 11:00pm—doors open at 10:30pm)

Christmas Day Mass
10:00am Friday, December 25th

Watch Night Mass
11:15pm Thursday, December 31st

Mass on New Year's Day (Solemnity of Mary)
10:00am Friday, January 1st

Parking is available on the school lot on 15th Street
DO NOT DOUBLE-PARK OR IN REAR OF RECTORY!

Youth Ministry News

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

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS for S.O.M.E.: The Youth Ministry will perform its monthly community service at S.O.M.E., Inc. on Sat., Dec. 26th, from 10am until 1pm at 71 "O" St., NW. Any youth age 13 or older interested in volunteering, contact the Youth Director.

HCSC Young Adult Ministry

Paula Lancaster/Felicia Miller ♦ YAM@hscchurch.org

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY—will not meet this week. Classes will resume Mon., Jan. 4th, after the holiday season. Have a blessed and safe holiday.

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!



S.O.M.E. (So Others Might Eat): The HCSC Social Concerns Ministry invites all parishioners to help prepare meals for S.O.M.E. located at 71 "O" St., NW, on Sat., Dec. 26th. We also need your cooked chicken for the meal (see flyer in rear of church). Drop off your non-frozen chicken at the rectory before close of business, Wed., Dec. 23rd. Questions? Call Earlene Capers (301-910-1763).

HOLY NAME SOCIETY ANNUAL MEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT—to Loyola on the Potomac, Jan. 1—3, 2016. Fee: \$235 (\$185.00 for first time participants and/or young adults up to age 30). Contact Rodney Newman at newman_acm@hotmail.com or on 202-575-0743.

BAKE SALE TODAY!! Join the Ladies of Charity in the rectory basement following the 8am and 11am Mass this weekend for delicious homemade baked goods and gifts.



CATHOLIC PRIDE: Would you like to demonstrate your pride of being Catholic? This beautiful Saint Benedict crucifix is available again in the Candlelight store. Makes a great Christmas gift. Cost: \$10.

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.

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>