

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Readings This Weekend:

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

Readings Next Weekend:

Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3 Matthew 2:1-12



It is the Feast of the Holy Family today and we ought to meditate on the central purpose of marriage and family which is the birth and raising of children. In recent decades we have seen a shift in this understanding. Most people today see the happiness of the couple as the central purpose of marriage. But God set forth marriage with this central mission: Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it (Gen 1:28). While the happiness of the couple may be a nice goal and something to hope for, we all know that happiness has its ups and downs in every aspect of life. In the “old days” parents were often known to “stick it out for the sake of the kids.” This is because children need stability and a dedicated mother and father to form them best. Job #1 in the family is children and their well-being. Notice, therefore, in today’s Gospel that, when Jesus’ life is threatened by Herod, Joseph and Mary set everything else aside and go to Egypt. Joseph, when instructed to go there did not protest about his comfort or his career. The text says that Joseph arose that very night and took Jesus and Mary away from harm. He stayed in Egypt as long as required for Jesus’ safety. It is clear that his vocation as (foster) father and husband had priority over his career and his business prospects. And thus, we are taught to have the same priorities.

FUNERAL: David Atkinson (Dec. 30th)



Sunday, December 27 *Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

8:00am James O. Neale † (birthday)
 11:00am Steven & Frances McPherson †
 7:00pm Angelica Alston (birthday)

Monday, December 28 *The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

7:00am David Atkinson †

Tuesday, December 29

7:00am Jimmie Claire Walker (birthday)

Wednesday, December 30

7:00am Deceased Barnes Family Members

Thursday, December 31

7:00am Charles Davenport, Jr. †
 11:00pm For the People

Friday, January 1 *Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

10:00am For the Intentions of Mothers

Saturday, January 2

8:00am Charles Davenport, Jr. †
 4:30pm David E. Quarles (father of David Quarles) †

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: 1 John 1:5—2:2 Matthew 2:13-18
Tuesday: 1 John 2:3-11 Luke 2:22-35
Wednesday: 1 John 2:12-17 Luke 2:36-40
Thursday: 1 John 2:18-21 John 1:1-18
Friday: Numbers 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21
Saturday: 1 John 2:22-28 John 1:19-28

Music Schedule

Processional
 “Joy to the World” LMGM #249
Responsorial Psalm
 “Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways”
Gospel Acclamation
 “Alleluia!”
Offertory
 * “The First Nowell” LMGM #276
 ** “Behold Your God” K. Louis
Communion
 “O Come All Ye Faithful” LMGM #262
 * 8:00am *Ruby Robertson, Cantor—Gwen Myles, Organist*
 ** 11:00am *Church Choir, Gwen Myles, Music Associate*

NOTE: Due to the Christmas holiday, the publisher required early submission of the bulletin. So, we will not post Stewardship or Mass Attendance data for the weekend of December 20th in this week’s bulletin. Figures will be updated later.



JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY CORNER

“In this **Jubilee Year of Mercy**, let us allow God to surprise us. He never tires of casting open the doors of his heart and of repeating that he loves us and wants to share his love with us.” (Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus*). God casts open the doors of his heart to share his love, but is the door of your heart open to welcome him? Are there any doors in your heart that might be closed off to receiving that love right now? Spend some time today asking God to surprise you and open your heart fully to his redeeming love. To help with this effort there are **Year of Mercy Prayer Cards** in the rear of the church. Find more ways to reflect at: mercy.adw.org.

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Sunday (12/27) 7:00pm Mass 8:00pm AA	Friday (1/1) RECTORY OFFICE CLOSED 10:00am Mass 8:00pm NA
Thursday (12/31) 3:00pm Rectory Closes Early 11:15pm Watch Night Mass	Saturday (1/2) 3:00pm Women’s Ministry Party 4:30pm Mass

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



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY: This feast was instituted by Pope Leo XIII in 1893. It is a liturgical celebration in the Catholic Church in honor of Jesus of Nazareth, his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and his foster father, Saint Joseph, as a family. The primary purpose of this feast is to present the Holy Family as a model for Christian families. This Roman Catholic religious festival falls on the first Sunday after Christmas. Although feast days exist for each member of the Holy Family—Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—the **Feast of the Holy Family** commemorates their life together, celebrates and focuses on religious family life.

RECTORY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Rectory will close early **Thur., Dec. 31st at 3pm** and remain closed through **Fri., Jan. 1st**. From the rectory staff, have a safe and blessed holiday. See you in the New Year!

a BIG THANKS To all parishioners and staff who helped prepare our church for Christmas and ministered liturgically!

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.

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 men up to age 30). Contact Rodney Newman at newman_acm@hotmail.com or on 202-575-0743.



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

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.

New Year's Mass Schedule

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

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

Parking is available on the school lot at 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

THANK YOU—to all the youth and adults who participated in making our production of the play **"The King is Coming!!!"** a memorable Christmas event. Holiday blessings and love to each of you and your families.

HCSC Young Adult Ministry

Paula Lancaster/Felicia Miller ❖ YAM@hscchurch.org

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY—will **not meet Monday December 28th**. Classes will resume after the holidays on January 4th at 8pm in the rectory basement.

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! DIVINE MERCY IN PRAYER AND ACTION:

The Fourth Archdiocesan Women's Conference, **Sat., Feb. 27th**, at Elizabeth Seton High School, Bladensburg, MD, **8am—4pm**. Keynote speaker is our own Msgr. Charles Pope. Women gather to enjoy fellowship, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and Confession. Also continental breakfast, lunch, vendors, and exhibits. **Cost: \$40** Questions? Contact Maria Hamm on 301-853-4499 or mhamm@adw.org. Also, go to: adw.org/womensconference

THE WORD AMONG US: January issues available in the Candlelight Store. 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! Cost: \$2 each.**

A "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. 28th, 7—9:00pm**, St. Francis Chapel, Landover Hills, MD. Questions? Go to: PRMseminarian@adw.org or call 301-982-2008.

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>