

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings This Weekend:

Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:37-44

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 Thess 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, December 1** *First Sunday of Advent*
 4:30pm (Sat) For the People
 8:00am Ray Simpson †
 11:00am Henrietta Jones †
 7:00pm Women's Ministry Deceased Members
- Monday, December 2**
 7:00am For the People
- Tuesday, December 3** *Saint Francis Xavier, priest*
 7:00am Mary Acton (birthday—10/20) †
- Wednesday, December 4** *St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church*
 7:00am Emma Tellier †
- Thursday, December 5**
 7:00am George T. Holton, III (birthday)
- Friday, December 6** *Saint Nicholas, Bishop*
 7:00am Lawrence Tellier †
- Saturday, December 7** *St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*
 8:00am Angela Ciccone (birthday—10/4) †
 4:30pm Gilbert Henri †

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

- Monday:** Isaiah 4:2-6 Matthew 8:5-11
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**
 "Where Shall I Be" LMGM #697
- Responsorial Psalm**
 "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord"
- Gospel Acclamation**
 "Alleluia!"
- Offertory**
 * "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" LMGM #420
 ** "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" arr. by Louis
- Communion**
 "Emmanuel" arr. by K. Louis
- * 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 printer, no Stewardship figures or Mass Attendance data for the weekend of November 24th 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

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| Sunday (12/1)
9:30am Sunday School
9:30am RCIA/Inquirers
9:30am Sodality meeting
1:00pm Pageant rehearsal
7:00pm Mass
8:00pm AA | Wednesday (12/4)
11:00am Friendly Seniors
6:30pm Liturgical Dance
7:00pm Alpha Program |
| Tuesday (12/3)
6:30pm Youth Ensemble
7:00pm Adult Choir | Thursday (12/5)
10:00am Pageant rehearsal |
| | Friday (12/6)
8:00pm NA |
| | Saturday (12/7)
9:30am Usher training
10:00am Liturgical Dance
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

YOUTH SUNDAY NEXT SUNDAY—Every second Sunday at the 11am Mass we celebrate our parish youth. We invite all our youth to come and sit together at Mass next week. You are welcome to bring a friend!

NO CANNED GOODS COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND—Rather than bring canned goods for the parish pantry please participate in our Advent Tree food drive.

SUNDAY MISSALS FOR 2014 AVAILABLE—in the Candlelight Store and the rectory office for \$3 per copy.



The **257th U.S. ARMY BAND** featuring the **BRIGADIER BRASS** will be in concert at HCSC on Mon., **Dec. 9th at 7pm**. This special **free** concert features traditional Patriotic, Christmas and Holiday classics. Bring your family and friends!

The **ANNUAL HCSC SALUTE TO SENIORS** dinner will be in the school cafeteria after the **12 noon Anointing Mass** on **Sat., Dec. 14th**. All seniors are invited and you do not have to be a HCSC member. Monetary donations from the HCSC organizations and ministries are requested. **Cooked, donated turkeys are desperately needed**, as well as desserts, carvers, gift-wrappers and individuals willing to contribute time and talent. We're also looking for entertainment of various types for the afternoon. For information, call Earlene Capers at 301-736-8331. **Volunteers and Cooked Turkeys needed!**

HELP OUR TROOPS CALL HOME—The Holy Name Society is collecting your gently used cell phones and donating them to an organization that recycles the parts and uses the money to purchase phone cards for troops overseas. You can help by bringing in your old cell phones and dropping them in the boxes in the vestibule or rectory. **Phones can be donated through Dec. 30th**.



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. 22nd** to the rectory. Envelopes are available from any usher or the rectory office. **PLEASE PRINT ALL NAMES!**

ADVENT 2013

ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS will be **Sat., Dec. 14th at 12 noon**. Confessions will be heard from 10:30am until just prior to the start of Mass.



GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT "ADVENT" TREE—the Social Concerns Ministry continues our Advent food drive for the needy by asking you to donate food items for Christmas baskets. Ornaments on the tree list needed food items. You are asked to take one or more ornaments from the tree and bring the listed item back to the church by **Sun., Dec. 15th**. We look forward to your participation to help the needy. Questions? Call Kim Peaks in the rectory office at 202-546-1885.

Youth Ministry News

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

"GRILL THE PASTOR"— **ALL** teens are invited to come and ask Msgr. Pope any question they like. Great opportunity for our teens to fellowship. Refreshments will be served. **RSVP** to Nicki so we can plan accordingly.

YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT—On **Sunday., Dec. 15th** following the 11am Mass, the youth ministry will visit with seniors at a local nursing home. Call Nicki if you would like to attend.

YOUTH MINISTRY will meet **Fri., Dec. 13th**, at 6:30pm to assemble care packages and make Christmas cards for the above service project. Contact Nicki if you can help.

ACTORS/CTRESSES NEEDED—for the Youth Ministry's Christmas pageant on Dec. 24th at 6pm. **Rehearsals on Sundays (1pm) and Thursdays (6:30pm)**. Adults volunteers also needed! Contact Nicki.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! The Youth Ministry is looking for volunteers to help with our quarterly newsletter to be issued January 2014. Contact Nicki.

HCSC Young Adult Ministry

Paula Lancaster/Felicia Miller ♦ YAM@hscchurch.org

ADVENT LUNCHEON with MONSIGNOR POPE—on **Sun., Dec. 8th** following the 11am Mass. **RSVP** at yam@hscchurch.org.

THEOLOGY ON TAP—is a young adult fellowship hosted by DCCatholic on Tuesday nights at Buffalo Billiards in Dupont Circle. Check out the audio of the discussion and other Archdiocesan events online at <http://site.adw.org/tot>.

COAT DRIVE—Help those in need by donating a winter coat. Larger sized parkas with hoods especially appreciated, but all size coats for children, women, and men accepted! **Coats only please!** Collection bins are located in rear of the church.

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, or send an email: yam@hscchurch.org. **Do you Tweet?** Follow us on Twitter for updates at HCSCYoungAdults!




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>