

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings This Weekend:

Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-9 Matthew 3:1-12

Readings Next Weekend:

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11



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 8

4:30pm (Sat) Gilbert Henri †
 8:00am Holy Name Society Deceased Members †
 11:00am Henriette Michel †
 7:00pm Mabel Henson (102nd Birthday)

Monday, December 9 *Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

7:00am For the People

Tuesday, December 10

7:00am Robert Gordon †

Wednesday, December 11 *Saint Damasus I, Pope*

7:00am Margaret Gordon †

Thursday, December 12 *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

7:00am Florence G. Queenan †

Friday, December 13 *Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr*

7:00am Glendora Thomas & sons †

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

8:00am Frances J. Campbell †
 4:30pm Rev. Francis X. Sarjeant, S.J. †

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday: Gen 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday: Isaiah 40:1-11 Matthew 18:12-14
Wednesday: Isaiah 40:25-31 Matthew 11:28-30
Thursday: Zechariah 2:14-17 Luke 1:26-38
Friday: Isaiah 48:17-19 Matthew 11:16-19
Saturday: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11 Matthew 17:9, 10-13

Music Schedule

Processional
 "Where Shall I Be" LMGM #697
Responsorial Psalm
 "Justice shall flourish in his time; and fullness of peace forever"
Gospel Acclamation
 "Alleluia!"
Offertory
 * "Soon and Very Soon" LMGM #691
 ** "Hallelujah, Hallelu" M. Mahler
Communion
 "Emmanuel" arr. by K. Louis
 * 8:00am Ruby Robertson, Cantor—Gwen Myles, Music Associate
 ** 11:00am Youth Ensemble

Mass Attendance for December 1, 2013

4:30pm 53
 8:00am 143
 11:00am 240
 7:00pm 29
Total: 465

Stewardship Report 2013—2014

Actual Tithes (12/1)	\$19,019.23
----------------------	-------------

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION—This year's Christmas collection will be put toward the purchase of a new grand piano for our sanctuary. Our beloved piano has begun to show its age and is constantly being repaired and tuned. Both the Christmas and Easter collection will be for this purchase. Kenneth Louis and the music ministry are grateful for your generosity! Envelopes are available from the ushers or in the rear of the church.

THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH

Sunday (12/8) 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am RCIA/Inquirers 1:00pm YAM Luncheon 1:00pm Pageant rehearsal 1:00pm Baptism 7:00pm Evening Mass 8:00pm AA	Wednesday (12/11) 11:00am Friendly Seniors 6:30pm Liturgical Dance 7:00pm Alpha Program
Monday (12/9) 7:00pm 257 th Army Band Concert	Thursday (12/12) 10:00am Pageant rehearsal 7:00pm Knights of Columbus
Tuesday (12/10) 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30 pm HCSCFCU mtg 7:00pm Adult Choir	Friday (12/13) 8:00pm NA
	Saturday (12/14) 12noon Anointing Mass 1:30pm Salute to Seniors 10:00am Liturgical Dance 4:30pm Mass

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.

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

TODAY IS YOUTH 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.

NO CANNED GOODS COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND—Please donate to the Advent Tree Food Drive Campaign and bring in your donation no later than Sunday, Dec. 15th.



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 is 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. **See flyer to RSVP**. 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.



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!**

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

BAKE SALE—Join the HCSC Ladies of Charity on **Sunday, Dec. 22nd** after the 8am and 11am Mass in the rectory basement for their annual Holiday Bake Sale. Come and purchase your homemade baked goods and gifts while supporting the charitable efforts performed by this ministry.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS by donating your old cell phones. The Holy Name Society has boxes in the rear of the church for you to donate your phones thru Dec. 30th.

ADVENT 2013

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



GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT "ADVENT" TREE—the HCSC Social Concerns Ministry continues our Advent food drive for the needy by asking you to donate food items for Christmas baskets.

Christmas ornaments that list the needed food items have been placed on our Advent Tree located on the side altar. Please 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. Questions? Call Kim Peaks in rectory at 202-546-1885.

Youth Ministry News

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

YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT—On **Sunday., Dec. 15th** following the 11am Mass, the youth ministry will visit with seniors at a local nursing home. We are accepting donations of new sweat socks, sweat shirts/pants in all sizes. Drop them at the rectory this week. **Call Nicki if you are a youth who 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.

Congratulations to **Jordan Campbell** (a Youth Usher) who co-authored and published a book entitled "Trio + 1." Jordan is a part of Reach Inc. which partners teens with professional writers and illustrators to create original children's stories. It provides opportunities for young people to share their talents and creativity with a wider audience. Stay tuned for more information on how to purchase a copy of the book.

HCSC Young Adult Ministry

Paula Lancaster/Felicia Miller ♦ YAM@hscchurch.org

COAT DRIVE—Help those in need by donating a warm 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. **DEADLINE: Dec. 22nd**.

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!



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO MABEL HENSON who celebrated her **102nd birthday** on **Sun., December 8th**. May the Lord continue to bless and keep her in his love and care.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—to assemble Christmas Food Baskets on **Tues, Dec. 17th and Wed., Dec. 18th** from 10am-3pm. Call 202-546-1885 to sign up.

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>