

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings This Weekend:

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

Readings Next Weekend:

Isaiah 7:10-14 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-24



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 15

4:30pm (Sat) Rev. Francis X. Sarjeant, S.J. †
 8:00am Joseph E. Bailey & Helen B. Tyler †
 11:00am Robert Middleton †
 7:00pm Stanlie M. Barton †

Monday, December 16

7:00am Alessandro Ciccone (birthday—11/26) †

Tuesday, December 17

7:00am Sylvia & Sylvester Hill †

Wednesday, December 18

7:00am Margaret Marie Temple (13th anniversary) †

Thursday, December 19

7:00am Marie Montgomery †

Friday, December 20

7:00am Kenyon C. Jones †

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

8:00am For the People
 4:30pm Eric Jackson, Sr. †

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17 Matthew 21:23-27
Tuesday: Genesis 49:2, 8-10 Matthew 1:1-17
Wednesday: Jeremiah 23:5-8 Matthew 1:18-25
Thursday: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25 Luke 1:5-25
Friday: Isaiah 7:10-14 Luke 1:26-38
Saturday: Zephaniah 3:14-18 Luke 1:39-45

Music Schedule

Processional
 "Where Shall I Be" LMGM #697
Responsorial Psalm
 "The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice"
Gospel Acclamation
 "Alleluia!"
Offertory
 * "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" LMGM #598
 ** "Are You Ready" arr. by K. Louis
Communion
 "Emmanuel" arr. by K. Louis
 * 8:00am *Ruby Robertson, Cantor—Gwen Myles, Music Associate*
 ** 11:00am *Church Choir*

Mass Attendance for December 8, 2013

4:30pm	74
8:00am	109
11:00am	161
7:00pm	21
Total:	365

Stewardship Report 2013—2014

Actual Tithes (12/8)	\$14,139
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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 (12/15) 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am RCIA/Inquirers 7:00pm Mass 8:00pm AA	Thursday (12/19) 6:30pm Pageant rehearsal
Monday (12/16) 7:00pm Adult Choir	Friday (12/20) 8:00pm NA
Tuesday (12/17) 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 7:00pm Adult Choir	Saturday (12/21) 10:00am Liturgical Dance 10:30am Sodality Board mtg 10:30am Usher Board mtg 11:00am Ladies Aux #73 mtg 4:30pm Mass
Wednesday (12/18) 11:00am Friendly Seniors 6:30pm Liturgical Dance 7:00pm Alpha Program	

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

The Salute to Seniors Co-Chairs, Rita Lowry and Earlene Capers, would like to express their gratitude for the outpouring of support for the Seniors' luncheon Saturday. We appreciate those who baked/carved turkeys, donated desserts, as well as the adults and youth who volunteered their time and talent. We also acknowledge the monetary donations from individuals and ministries. Due to your generosity, we were able to celebrate our Seniors in the grandiose manner they deserve.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO DECORATE OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS—Sun., Dec. 22nd at 1pm. With many helping hands, we can accomplish this in a short time. Refreshments will be served! Call Kim Peaks at 202-546-1885 or pam@hcschurch.org to volunteer!

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



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!**

BAKE SALE—Join the HCSC Ladies of Charity on **Sun., 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.

BULLETIN DEADLINES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON—Due to the seasonal holiday, please note that all submissions for the **Sun., Dec. 29th bulletin are due Wed., Dec. 18th** and bulletin submissions for the **Sun., Jan. 5th bulletin are due Tues., Dec. 24th**.

ADVENT 2013



ADVENT TREE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—If you are able to help pack the Christmas food baskets for the needy (during the day) on **Tues., Dec. 17th & Wed. the 18th**, please remain in the sanctuary after the 11am Mass this **Sunday, Dec. 15th** for about 15 minutes for some brief instructions. Please call the rectory on 202-546-1885. Thank you!

ADVENT AT THE MONASTERY—Tour the Nativity Grotto—a full-size replica of the Shrine in Bethlehem marking the place of Christ's birth—at the Franciscan Monastery, 1400 Quincy St. NE. Join the friars on Christmas Eve at 1pm, for the blessing and lighting of nearly 900 luminaria lining the monastery's outdoor rosary portico. For more info call: 202-526-6800 or go to: myfranciscan.org or <http://myfranciscan.org>.

Youth Ministry News

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

HCSC YOUTH MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PAGEANT is Tues., Dec. 24th at 6pm. Parishioners are encouraged to invite other friends and families to this special event.

S.O.M.E., INC.—The Youth Ministry will perform monthly community service at S.O.M.E., Inc. on **Sat., Dec. 28th**, from 10am until 1pm at 71 "O" Street, NW. Any youth age 13 or older interested in volunteering, please contact Nicki Gebrehiwot.

SAVE THE DATE—Youth Rally & Mass for Life, Wed., Jan., 22nd. Stay tuned for more details.

HCSC Young Adult Ministry

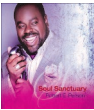
Paula Lancaster/Felicia Miller ♦ YAM@hcschurch.org

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@hcschurch.org. **Do you Tweet?** Follow us on Twitter for updates   at HCSCYoungAdults!

HOLY NAME SOCIETY RAFFEL AND TELEVISED FOOTBALL GAME—is **Sun., Jan. 22nd** starting at 1pm with the Redskins vs. the Cowboys, followed by the raffle drawing scheduled for 3pm.



PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFTS—Finish off your holiday gift shopping with a copy of the latest CD by the HCSC Music Ministry, "**We Offer Praise**", and "**Soul Sanctuary**" by our very own Robert E. Person. Both are available in the Candlelight Store and the rectory office. Also available are copies of the **Illustrated 365 Day Catholic Children's Bible** used for our Sunday School sessions. 

Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Roman Catholic Church

1357 East Capitol Street, SE, WDC 20003
202-546-1885 ♦ www.hcschurch.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 hcsstaff@hcschurch.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>