

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Readings This Weekend:**

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

**Readings Next Weekend:**

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14      Col 3:12-21      Mat 2:13-15, 19-23



Today's Gospel describes a Crisis at Christmas. The drama opens with the **Distress** that is described. Mary has conceived (we know) by the power of the Holy Spirit. But Joseph and other family members do not know how she has conceived. It was a very dangerous situation for a woman found not to be a virgin, let alone pregnant, prior to marriage. Deuteronomy 22 permitted stoning a woman found not to be a virgin prior to marriage. Though the full punishment was not usually carried out, life was very difficult for a woman such as this. She would probably never marry. Joseph was a follower of the Law which forbade a man to take such a woman into his house and so he decides to divorce her quietly without exposing her to the full punishment of the Law. But next comes the **Direction** given to Joseph by God. God tells Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife for it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. Now this, of course exposes Joseph to ridicule and possible rejection by his family. But he makes a **Decision** and obeys God, whatever the consequences. The first Christmas was not an easy or a charming one. There were no chestnuts roasting on an open fire. The first Christmas was a Crisis and we ought to be grateful to the Holy Family for all they endured.



**Sunday, December 22**

4:30pm (Sat) Eric Jackson, Sr. †  
 8:00am Candis Stretcher  
 11:00am Elaine Carter (birthday - 12/21)  
 7:00pm Judith Douglas †

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

7:00am Sandra Geathers & family

**Tuesday, December 24**

7:00am Rev. Robert Wummer †  
 6:00pm Otha J. Hamer (birthday 12/25) †

**Wednesday, December 25** *Nativity of the Lord*

12:00midnight Chauncey Jones (birthday) †  
 10:00am †

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

7:00am Gerald Brown †

**Friday, December 27** *Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist*

7:00am James Ollie Neale (birthday) †

**Saturday, December 28** *The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

8:00am For the People  
 4:30pm William & Catherine Miles †

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

**Monday:** Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24      Luke 1:57-66  
**Tuesday:** 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-16      Luke 1:67-79  
**Wednesday:** Isaiah 52:7-10      Hebrews 1:1-6      John 1:1-18  
**Thursday:** Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59      Matt 10:17-22  
**Friday:** 1 John 1:1-4      John 20:1-8  
**Saturday:** 1 John 1:5-2:2      Matt 2:13-18

**Music Schedule**

**Processional**  
 "Where Shall I Be"      LMGM #697

**Responsorial Psalm**  
 "Let the Lord enter, He is the King of glory"

**Gospel Acclamation**  
 "Alleluia!"

**Offertory**  
 \* "Come O Long Expected Jesus"      LMGM #238  
 \*\* "When Jesus Comes Again"      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 15, 2013**

12:00pm (Anointing of the Sick)	77
4:30pm	53
8:00am	112
11:00am	287
7:00pm	21
<b>Total:</b>	<b>550</b>

**Stewardship Report 2013—2014**

Actual Tithes (12/15)	\$22,414
-----------------------	----------

**ELECTRONIC TITHING**—Have you considered electronic tithing through the **Faith Direct** program here at HCSC? You can have your tithes deducted from your bank account TWICE a month or charged to a credit card. It is a secure, convenient way to support your parish community. Enrollment forms are in the rear of the church, the rectory office, or you can sign up online at [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net). (HCSC church code: DC59). Call Kim Peaks at the rectory office for more information. It's easy and it's FREE!

**THIS WEEK AT THE PARISH**

<b>Sunday (12/22)</b> 7:30am Ladies of Charity Bake Sale 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am RCIA/Inquirers 1:00pm Holy Name Football & Raffle 1:00pm Pageant rehearsal 3:00pm Adult Choir rehearsal 7:00pm Mass 8:00pm AA	<b>Wednesday (12/25)</b> 12:00am Midnight Mass <b>RECTORY CLOSED</b> 10:00am Christmas Mass
<b>Monday (12/23)</b> 7:00pm Adult choir rehearsal	<b>Thursday (12/26)</b> <b>RECTORY CLOSED</b>
<b>Tuesday (12/24)</b> 3:00pm <b>RECTORY CLOSURES</b> 6:00pm Family Mass 11:00pm Song Service	<b>Friday (12/27)</b> 8:00pm NA
	<b>Saturday (12/28)</b> 9:00am S.O.M.E. 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**

**HOLIDAY CLOSINGS**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**—will not be held on **Sun., Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>**. Classes will resume Sunday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am.

**RECTORY OFFICE**—will close Tues., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 3pm, and remain closed through **Thurs., Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>**.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO DECORATE OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS**—**Sun., Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm**. With many helping hands, we can accomplish this in a short time. Refreshments will be served! Please remain in the sanctuary after Mass.



**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**—If you would like to include a loved one on the “In Memory/Honor of...” list in the Christmas Mass program, return your Christmas Flower offering envelope no later than **Sun., Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>** to the rectory. Envelopes are available from any usher or the rectory office. **PLEASE PRINT ALL NAMES!**

**LADIES OF CHARITY ANNUAL BAKE SALE**—on **Sun., Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>** after the 8am and 11am Mass in the rectory basement. Come and purchase homemade baked goods and gifts while supporting this ministry’s charitable efforts.

**BULLETIN DEADLINES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON**—Due to the seasonal holiday, all submissions for the **Sun., Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> bulletin are due Tues., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>**.

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

**ADVENT 2013**

**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 info call: 202-526-6800 or go to: [myfranciscan.org](http://myfranciscan.org) or <http://myfranciscan.org>.

Christmas Mass Schedule

**Family Mass and Youth Pageant**  
6:00pm Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

**Midnight Mass**  
Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
(Music Service begins at 11:00pm—doors open at 10:30pm)

**Christmas Day Mass**  
10:00am Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

**Watch Night Mass**  
11:15pm Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

**Mass on New Year’s Day (Solemnity of Mary)**  
10:00am Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

Parking is available on the school lot on 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:youthdirector@hscchurch.org)

**THANKS**—to all the youth and adults who gathered to fellowship with the residents of the Unique Residential Nursing Home facility. The residents enjoyed the visit and offered many thanks for the Christmas cards and gifts.

**HCSC YOUTH MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** is **Tues., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm Mass**. Parishioners are encouraged to invite friends and family.

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

**HCSC Young Adult Ministry**

**Paula Lancaster/Felicia Miller** ♦ [YAM@hscchurch.org](mailto:YAM@hscchurch.org)

We’d like to hear from our young adults (age 18 to 40<sup>ish</sup>)! Tell us what activities interest you. Check out the HCSC Young Adults Ministry on **Facebook** and tell us your thoughts. **Do you Tweet?** Follow us on Twitter for updates at [HCSCYoungAdults!](http://HCSCYoungAdults!)



**Are you a college student home on break for a few weeks, or do you know one?** Hope Corps of Catholic Charities is looking for college students to be part of the inaugural Hope Corps. Students will spend approximately 40 hours (during Jan. 6-10) performing service projects. Hope Corps will provide a \$50 metro SmartCard to help defray cost. Call Margaret O’Neill, 202-772-4300 x406 (o); 240-687-6385 (c) or go to: [www.catholiccharitiesdc.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org)

**CHRISTMAS TV MASS**—celebrated by Cardinal Wuerl, **Wed., Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> at 8am**. Check your TV provider: Comcast on 3 or 23; Cox on 3 or 15; Dish or DirecTV on 50; RCN on 15; and Verizon on 3; antenna/no cable go to channel 50.



**PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFTS**—Finish your holiday shopping with the latest CD by the HCSC Music Ministry, **“We Offer Praise”**, and **“Soul Sanctuary”** by our very own Robert E. Person. Available in the Candlelight Store. 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.hscchurch.org](http://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](mailto: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>