

SUNDAY BULLETIN DECEMBER 1, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for December

For Pilgrims of Hope

Let us pray that the coming Church Jubilee Year 2025 strengthens us in our faith; helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS
CONFESSIONS HEARD 30 MINUTES BEFORE EACH MASS

Tuesday, December 3—St. Francis Xavier

7:30 AM—Don Garrison+

Wednesday, December 4—St. John Damascene

8:15 AM—Delbert Thompson+

Thursday, December 5—Advent Weekday

7:30 AM—Bill Hinkebein+

Friday, December 6—St. Nicholas First Friday

8:15 AM—Art Haynes, Jr.+

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following Mass until 5:00 pm

Saturday, December 7—St. Ambrose

7:30 AM—Don Tomasek+

5:00 PM—People of the Parish (Sunday Vigil Mass)

Sunday, December 8—Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM—Marilyn Manning+

10:00 AM—Raymond Radcliff+

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Scripture Readings
First Sunday of Advent
 Jeremiah 33:14-16
 I Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
 Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

DIOCESAN OFFICE OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION

THE DIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY-ST. JOSEPH IS COMMITTED TO COMBATING SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE CHURCH. IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF SEXUAL ABUSE, OR IF YOU *OBSERVE OR SUSPECT* SEXUAL ABUSE:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-392-3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18) and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911 and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected *sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult* to the Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, 816-812-2500 or crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of The Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph. The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact Whitney True-Francis, Victim Assistance Coordinator, at 816-392-0011 or true.francis@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

“TO YOU, O LORD, I LIFT MY SOUL.”

THIS WEEK’S SAINTS

December 3: St. Francis Xavier

Jesus asked, “What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?” (Matthew 16:26a). The words were repeated to a young teacher of philosophy who had a highly promising career in academics, with success and a life of prestige and honor before him.

Francis Xavier, 24 at the time, and living and teaching in Paris, did not heed these words at once. They came from a good friend, Ignatius of Loyola, whose tireless persuasion finally won the young man to Christ. Francis then made the spiritual exercises under the direction of Ignatius, and in 1534, joined his little community, the infant Society of Jesus. Together at Montmartre they vowed poverty, chastity, obedience, and apostolic service according to the directions of the pope.

From Venice, where he was ordained a priest in 1537, Xavier went on to Lisbon and from there sailed to the East Indies, landing at Goa, on the west coast of India. For the next 10 years he labored to bring the faith to such widely scattered peoples as the Hindus, the Malaysians, and the Japanese. He spent much of that time in India, and served as provincial of the newly established Jesuit province of India.

Wherever he went, Xavier lived with the poorest people, sharing their food and rough accommodations. He spent countless hours ministering to the sick and the poor, particularly to lepers. Very often he had no time to sleep or even to say his breviary but, as we know from his letters, he was filled always with joy.

Xavier went through the islands of Malaysia, then up to Japan. He learned enough Japanese to preach to simple folk, to instruct, and to baptize, and to establish missions for those who were to follow him. From Japan he had dreams of going to China, but this plan was never realized. Before reaching the mainland, he died. His remains are enshrined in the Church of Good Jesus in Goa. He and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux were declared co-patrons of the missions in 1925.

December 6 : St. Nicholas

Both the Eastern and Western Churches honor him, and it is claimed that after the Blessed Virgin, he is the saint most

pictured by Christian artists. And yet historically, we can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor.

As with many of the saints, however, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him—an admiration expressed in the colorful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries.

Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man’s window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint’s feast. In the English-speaking countries, Saint Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus—further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

December 7: St. Ambrose

When the Empress Justina attempted to wrest two basilicas from Ambrose’s Catholics and give them to the Arians, he dared the eunuchs of the court to execute him. In his disputes with the Emperor Auxentius, he coined the principle: “The emperor is in the Church, not above the Church.” He publicly admonished Emperor Theodosius for the massacre of 7,000 innocent people. The emperor did public penance for his crime. This was Ambrose, the fighter sent to Milan as Roman governor, and chosen while yet a catechumen to be the people’s bishop.

There is yet another side of Ambrose—one which influenced Augustine of Hippo, whom Ambrose converted. Ambrose was a passionate little man with a high forehead, a long melancholy face, and great eyes. We can picture him as a frail figure clasping the codex of sacred Scripture. This was the Ambrose of aristocratic heritage and learning.

Ambrose’s sermons were often modeled on Cicero, and his ideas betrayed the influence of contemporary thinkers and philosophers. His sermons, his writings, and his personal life reveal him as an otherworldly man involved in the great issues of his day. Humanity for Ambrose was, above all, spirit. In order to think rightly of God and the human soul, the closest thing to God, no material reality at all was to be dwelt upon. He was an enthusiastic champion of consecrated virginity.

The influence of Ambrose on Augustine will always be open for discussion. The *Confessions* reveal some manly, brusque encounters between Ambrose and Augustine, but there can

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KNIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES DECEMBER 7-8		
Mass Time	Position	Knight(s)
Sat. 5pm	Acolyte 1 Acolyte 2	Shay Johnson Wyatt Dysart
Sun. 8am	Acolyte 1 Acolyte 2	Alex Widner Gabe Widner
Sun. 10am	M.C. Thurifer Acolyte 1 Acolyte 2 Cross Bearer Torch Torch	Cameron Williams Oliver Perry Evan Randolph Nick Radcliff Eli Gratton Jack Cooper Harry Goad

LECTOR SCHEDULE DECEMBER 8	
Mass Time	Lector
Sun. 8am	Mary Mathew
Sun. 10am	Brenda Fellhoelter



Weekly Offering

*November 24
Offertory \$10,992
Property Maint \$10
Birthright \$135*

Visit the church website and Facebook page to keep up to date on church events. Sunday Bulletins are also published on the website stcolumbanchurch.com [facebook.com/ St.ColumbanChurch/](https://facebook.com/St.ColumbanChurch/)

ALTAR SOCIETY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

Carry-In Dinner will be December 5 at 12:00 noon Knights of Columbus Hall. All ladies of the parish are invited as our guests.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED

If you are interested in being a sub for Bishop Hogan School, please contact the school office at 660-646-0705

CONFIRMATION CLASSES FOR THE 2025 CONFIRMATION are held every Sunday after 10:00 Mass.

FIRST COMMUNION PREP

If your child is in second grade, does not attend Bishop Hogan, and is ready to begin classes for first confession and first communion, please contact the parish office as soon as your are able. Classes will begin formally in January but there are resources for us to give you prior to that.

be no doubt of Augustine’s profound esteem for the learned bishop. Neither is there any doubt that Saint Monica loved Ambrose as an angel of God who up-rooted her son from his former ways and led him to his convictions about Christ.

MASS INTENTIONS

The 2025 Mass Book will be opened on Thursday, December 5. We will begin taking requests at 10:00 am Limit 5 Mass Intentions per person on this day. **In person only.** No phone calls. Suggested stipend \$10.00 per intention.

BISHOP HOGAN NEWS

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, filled with family, gratitude and great memories!

Mrs. Smith, our music teacher, is preparing the students for the Christmas Program. The Kindergarten-3rd grade choir will perform on Thursday, December 12 and grades 4-8 band and choir will perform on Monday, December 16. Both programs will begin at 6:30 pm. Everyone is invited to attend!

Thank you to those that were able to attend the Holiday Bazaar at Bishop Hogan. We had lots of shoppers and the vendors seemed pleased.!

On December 9, we will have an assembly with Curt Isles. “Curt shares stories from his hometown of Dry Creek in the Louisiana piney woods. He is the author of twelve books available on Amazon. He is best known for his short story collections and historical novels set in Louisiana’s Pineywoods region. Whether writing about his deep Southern roots or the amazing place called Africa, his stories celebrate life, family, and people who fill life with joy, wonder, and awe. His life statement is "to be a man God can use and be respected by his wife, sons, and grandchildren."

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pam Brobst, Principal

