

SUNDAY BULLETIN DECEMBER 22, 2024
FOURTH 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 24—Late Advent Weekday

No Morning Mass

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 24—Nativity of The Lord Christmas Vigil

4:00 PM—Holy Souls in Purgatory

10:00 PM—People of the Parish

Wednesday, December 25—Nativity of The Lord Christmas Day

9:00 AM—Betty Radcliff+

Thursday, December 26—St. Stephen

NO MASS

Friday, December 27—St. John

NO MASS

Saturday, December 28—The Holy Innocents

NO MORNING MASS

5:00 PM—Donnie Murrell+ (Sunday Vigil Mass)

Sunday, December 29—Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 AM— Ralph & Evelyn Barnes+

10:00 AM—People of the Parish

Inside this issue:

This Week's Saints	2
Christmas Mass Schedule	2
Confirmation Classes	3
Knights Server Schedule	3
Lector Schedule	3
Offertory	3
First Communion Prep	3
Bishop Hogan News	3
Office Closed for Christmas Vaca-	3

Scripture Readings

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:1-4a

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

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.

“LORD, MAKE US TURN TO YOU; LET US SEE YOUR FACE AND WE SHALL BE SAVED”

THIS WEEK'S SAINTS

December 26: St. Stephen

Acts of the Apostles says that Stephen was a man filled with grace and power, who worked great wonders among the people. Certain Jews, members of the Synagogue of Roman Freedmen, debated with Stephen, but proved no match for the wisdom and spirit with which he spoke. They persuaded others to make the charge of blasphemy against him. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

In his speech, Stephen recalled God's guidance through Israel's history, as well as Israel's idolatry and disobedience. He then claimed that his persecutors were showing this same spirit. "...you always oppose the holy Spirit; you are just like your ancestors" (Acts 7:51b).

Stephen's speech brought anger from the crowd. "But he, filled with the holy Spirit, looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' ... They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. ... As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ... 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'" (Acts 7:55-56, 58a, 59, 60b).

December 27: St. John the Evangelist

Because of the depth of his Gospel, John is usually thought of as the eagle of theology, soaring in high regions that other writers did not enter. But the ever-frank Gospels reveal some very human traits. Jesus gave James and John the nickname, "sons of thunder." While it is difficult to know exactly what this meant, a clue is given in two incidents.

In the first, as *Matthew* tells it, their mother asked that they might sit in the places of honor in Jesus' kingdom—one on his right hand, one on his left. When Jesus asked them if they could drink the cup he would drink and be baptized with his baptism of pain, they blithely answered, "We can!" Jesus said that they would indeed share his cup, but that sitting at his right hand was not his to give. It was for those to whom it had been reserved by the Father. On another occasion, the "sons of thunder" asked Jesus if they should not call down fire from heaven upon the inhospitable Samaritans, who would not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to Jerusalem. But Jesus "turned and rebuked them" (see Luke 9:51-55).

John was with Peter when the first great miracle after the Resurrection took place—the cure of the man crippled from birth—which led to their spending the night in jail together. The mysterious experience of the Resurrection is

perhaps best contained in the words of Acts: "Observing the boldness of Peter and John and perceiving them to be uneducated, ordinary men, they [the questioners] were amazed, and they recognized them as the companions of Jesus" (Acts 4:13). The Apostle John is traditionally considered the author also of three New Testament letters and the Book of Revelation. His Gospel is a very personal account. He sees the glorious and divine Jesus already in the incidents of his mortal life. At the Last Supper, John's Jesus speaks as if he were already in heaven. John's is the Gospel of Jesus' glory.

December 28: Holy Innocents

Matthew 2:1-18 tells this story: Herod was "greatly troubled" when astrologers from the east came asking the whereabouts of "the newborn king of the Jews," whose star they had seen. They were told that the Jewish Scriptures named Bethlehem as the place where the Messiah would be born. Herod cunningly told them to report back to him so that he could also "do him homage." They found Jesus, offered him their gifts, and warned by an angel, avoided Herod on their way home. Jesus escaped to Egypt.

Herod became furious and "ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under." The horror of the massacre and the devastation of the mothers and fathers led Matthew to quote Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children..." (Matthew 2:18). Rachel was the wife of Jacob (Israel). She is pictured as weeping at the place where the Israelites were herded together by the conquering Assyrians for their march into captivity.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve 4:00 pm & 10:00 pm

Christmas Day 9:00 am

New Year's Mass Schedule

Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation
December 31 5:00 pm

(Vigil Mass)

January 1 6:00 pm



SUNDAY BULLETIN- FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

KNIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES DECEMBER 28-29		
Mass Time	Position	Knight(s)
Sat. 5pm	Acolyte 1 Acolyte 2	Wyatt Dysart Shay Johnson
Sun. 8am	Acolyte 1 Acolyte 2	David Lentz Joseph Lentz
Sun. 10am	M.C. Thurifer Acolyte 1 Acolyte 2 Cross Bearer Torch Torch	Jackson Reeter Nick Radcliff Rocky Sherer Oliver Perry Rowdy Miller Harry Goad Dominic Sherer



LECTOR SCHEDULE DECEMBER 29	
Mass Time	Lector
Sun. 8am	Kristy Lauhoff
Sun. 10am	Dorion Moore

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 you are able. Classes will begin formally in January but there are resources for us to give you prior to that.

OFFICE CLOSED CHRISTMAS VACATION

The church office will reopen on Tuesday, January 7, 2025.



Weekly Offering

December 15
Offertory \$16,852
Property Maint \$291
Birthright \$130

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://www.facebook.com/St.ColumbanChurch/)

BISHOP HOGAN NEWS

We continued to celebrate the season of Advent with our third **Candle Lighting Prayer Service**. The sixth graders and Mrs. Blattner led the prayer service this past Monday and did a nice job.

Our students in grades 4th-8th grade and the Middle School band performed their Christmas program, **"The Meaning of Christmas"** on Monday, December 16th, in front of a large crowd. Mrs. Katharine Smith, our music teacher and Mr. Chad Hind, our band director, did an awesome job preparing the students. Kudos to the teachers and the students for a nice performance!

Friday was the last day of class before the Christmas break for Bishop Hogan. Students had their Christmas parties at the end of the day, December 20th. Friday also marked the end of the second quarter. Teachers will return on January 6 for an in-service and school will resume on Tuesday, January 7.

On behalf of the staff and students of Bishop Hogan, I want to wish you and your family a blessed Christmas. The support of the parishioners is a blessing to our school, and we are extremely grateful to all of you! May the joy of Christ's birth fill your hearts with love, hope, and peace this holiday season and throughout the new year. God bless!

Pam Brobst, Principal