SUNDAY BULLETIN JANUARY 11, 2026
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for January

For prayer with the Word of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

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

Tuesday, January 13 — St. Hilary of Poitiers

7:30 AM - Denise Barnes Tridle+

Wednesday, January 14 — Weekday in Ordinary Time

No Morning Mass

Thursday, January 15 — Weekday in Ordinary Time

No Morning Mass

Friday, January 16 — Mass For the Forgiveness of Sins

No Morning Mass

Saturday, January 17 — St. Anthony of the Desert

No Morning Mass

5:00 PM - Lisa Jones (Sunday Vigil Mass)

Sunday, January 18 — Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Ted Anderson+

10:00 AM - Esther Martin+

Inside this issue:

This Week's Saints	2
Knights Server Schedule	3
Lector Schedule	3
Offertory	3
Mobile Meals	3
Altar Society Cookbooks	3
Vocation Chalice	3
School News	3

Scripture Readings
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38
Matthew 3:13-17

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, 816-213-6024 or ombudsman@diocesekcsj.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 the Victim Assistance Coordinator (VAC), at 816-714-2357 ext. 516 or victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

"THE LORD WILL BLESS HIS PEOPLE WITH PEACE."

THIS WEEKS' SAINTS

January 13: St. Hilary of Poitiers

"They didn't know who they were." This is how Hilary summed up the problem with the Arian heretics of the fourth century.

Hilary, on the other hand, knew very well who he was -- a child of a loving God who had inherited eternal life through belief in the Son of God. He hadn't been raised as a Christian but he had felt a wonder at the gift of life and a desire to find out the meaning of that gift. He first discarded the approach of many people who around him, who believed the purpose of life was only to satisfy desires. He knew he wasn't a beast grazing in a pasture. The philosophers agreed with him. Human beings should rise above desires and live a life of virtue, they said. But Hilary could see in his own heart that humans were meant for even more than living a good life.

If he didn't lead a virtuous life, he would suffer from guilt and be unhappy. His soul seemed to cry out that wasn't enough to justify the enormous gift of life. So Hilary went looking for the giftgiver. He was told many things about the divine -- many that we still hear today: that there were many Gods, that God didn't exist but all creation was the result of random acts of nature, that God existed but didn't really care for his creation, that God was in creatures or images. One look in his own soul told him these images of the divine were wrong. God had to be one because no creation could be as great as God. God had to be concerned with God's creation -- otherwise why create it?

At that point, Hilary tells us, he "chanced upon" the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. When he read the verse where God tells Moses "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14), Hilary said, "I was frankly amazed at such a clear definition of God, which expressed the incomprehensible knowledge of the divine nature in words most suited to human intelligence." In the Psalms and the Prophets he found descriptions of God's power, concern, and beauty. For example in Psalm 139, "Where shall I go from your spirit", he found confirmation that God was everywhere and omnipotent.

After becoming a Christian, he was elected bishop of Poitiers in what is now France by the laity and clergy. He was already married with one daughter named Apra.

Not everyone at that time had the same idea of who they were. The Arians did not believe in the divinity of Christ and the Arians had a lot of power including the support of the emperor Constantius. This resulted in many persecutions. When Hilary refused to support their condemnation of Saint Athanasius he was exiled from Poitiers to the East in 356. The Arians couldn't have had a worse plan -- for themselves. Hilary really had known very little of the whole Arian controversy before he was banished. Perhaps he supported Athanasius simply because he didn't like their methods. But being exiled from his home and his duties gave him plenty of time to study and write. He learned everything he could about what the Arians said and what the orthodox Christians answered and then he began to write. "Although in exile we shall speak through these books, and the word of God, which cannot be bound, shall move about in freedom." The writings of his that still exist include On the Trinity, a commentary on the Gospel of Matthew, and a commentary on the Psalms. He tells us about the Trinity, "For one to attempt to speak of God in terms more precise than he himself has used: -- to undertake such a thing is to embark upon the boundless, to dare the incomprehensible. He fixed the names of His nature: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Whatever is sought over and above this is beyond the meaning of words, beyond the limits of perception, beyond the embrace of understanding."

After three years the emperor kicked him back to Poitiers, because, we are told by Sulpicius Severus, the emperor was tired of having to deal with the troublemaker, "a sower of discord an a disturber of the Orient." But no one told Hilary he had to go straight back to his home and so he took a leisurely route through Greece and Italy, preaching against the Arians as he went.

In the East he had also heard the hymns used by Arians and orthodox Christians as propaganda. These hymns were not based on Scripture as Western hymns but full of beliefs about God. Back at home, Hilary started writing hymns of propaganda himself to spread the faith. His hymns are the first in the West with a known writer.

January 17: St. Anthony of the Desert

The life of Anthony will remind many people of Saint Francis of Assisi. At 20, Anthony was so moved by the Gospel message, "Go, sell what you have, and give to [the] poor" (Mark 10:21b), that he actually did just that with his large inheritance. He is different from Francis in that most of Anthony's life was spent in solitude. He saw the world completely covered with snares, and gave the Church and the world the witness of solitary asceticism, great personal mortification and prayer. But no saint is antisocial, and Anthony drew many people to himself for spiritual healing and guidance.

At 54, he responded to many requests and founded a sort of monastery of scattered cells. Again, like Francis, he had great fear of "stately buildings and well-laden tables."

At 60, he hoped to be a martyr in the renewed Roman persecution of 311, fearlessly exposing himself to danger while giving moral and material support to those in prison. At 88, he was fighting the Arian heresy, that massive trauma from which it took the Church centuries to recover. "The mule kicking over the altar" denied the divinity of Christ.

Anthony is associated in art with a T-shaped cross, a pig and a book. The pig and the cross are symbols of his valiant warfare with the devil—the cross his constant means of power over evil spirits, the pig a symbol of the devil himself. The book recalls his preference for "the book of nature" over the printed word. Anthony died in solitude at age 105.

SUNDAY BULLETIN–THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

KNIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES JANUARY 17-18

Mass Time	Position	Knights
Sat. 5pm	Acolyte 1	Evan Randolph
	Acolyte 2	Shay Johnson
Sun. 8am	Acolyte 1	Gunner Brobst
	Acolyte 2	Jude Lentz
Sun. 10am	M.C.	Cameron Williams
	Thurifer	Tanner Kremer
	Acolyte 1	Eli Gratton
	Acolyte 2	Anderson Marcolla
	Cross Bearer	Hudson Marcolla
	Torch	William Feeney
	Torch	Dawson Haynes

LECTOR SCHEDULE JANUARY 18

Mass Time	Lector
Sun. 8am	Steven Palmer
Sun. 10am	Mary Pauley

Scan here to donate online!

Weekly Offering
January 4, 2026

Offertory	*$28,073*
Parish Property	*$405*
Birthright	*$362*

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.Columban

MOBILE MEALS

St. Columban will deliver Mobile Meals in February. Anyone interested in assisting please contact Marti Miller at 660-247-2978. We are in need of parishioners who can substitute for the regular delivery people. Thank you.

ALTAR SOCIETY COOKBOOK SUBMISSION

The Altar Society is now accepting parishioner recipes for our upcoming cookbook, which will be available at the Salad Luncheon.

At the back of the church, you'll find two baskets:
- One contains instructions and entry forms for submitting recipes either online or manually.
- If you prefer to submit manually, please complete the form, **include your phone number for follow-up questions**, and place it in the second basket. We will enter your recipe for you.

We especially encourage submissions of the salads and pies featured at the Salad Luncheon. To help us highlight these, please write "Salad Luncheon" next to your name. All recipe categories are welcome. We look forward to including your favorites!

VOCATIONS CHALICE

We are excited about a brand new initiative here at St. Columban to help promote and pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life! It's a traveling vocations chalice! Every week, the chalice will go to a family who will pray with it for more vocations. With the chalice will be a few prayers that the family is to say every day they have the chalice as well as some other ideas for you and your family to do when you have it. We will be continually adding to it and feel free to add your own ideas for those who come after you! If you would like your family to have the chalice for a week, please email the parish office and we will get you on the calendar. Thank you for helping us pray for more vocations!

SCHOOL NEWS

We were excited to welcome our students and staff back to school following the Christmas break! It was a joy to once again have our classrooms filled with energy, enthusiasm, and a spirit of learning. As we begin this new semester, we ask God's continued blessings upon our school community

On January 6, our school gathered for a prayer service and Epiphany blessing led by Father Koster. During the service, Father offered prayers that all who enter our school may be guided by Christ and blessed with health and love. This meaningful celebration reminded us of Christ as the Light of the World, present in our school and in all that we do.

Grade cards for the end of second quarter were distributed on Friday. Basketball practice begins for our fourth and fifth grade boys and girls this upcoming week and cheerleading practice will soon follow!

May God continue to bless you!
Pam Brobst, Principal

Bishop Hogan is currently seeking a part-time custodian. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please contact the school office, 660-646-0705. Thank you!