

SUNDAY BULLETIN MARCH 9, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for March

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness. Rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

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

Tuesday, March 11 —Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM—Tracie Sander+

Wednesday, March 12—Lenten Weekday

8:15 AM—Godchildren of Kelly & Amanda Sherer

Thursday, March 13—Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM—De Stamper+

Friday, March 14—Lenten Weekday (Day of Abstinence)

8:15 AM—Aline Moffatt+

5:00 PM—Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 15—Ember Saturday of Lent

7:30 AM—Deacon Jerry Davis+

5:00 PM—Art Haynes, Jr.+ (Sunday Vigil Mass)

Sunday, March 16—Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM— People of the Parish

10:00 AM— Sharron Stedem.+

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Scripture Readings

First Sunday of Lent

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Romans 10:8-13

Luke 4:1-13

2024 DONATION GIVINGS STATEMENT

If you would like a statement of your Offertory givings, please call or email the office and one will be provided.

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 the Victim Advocate, at 816-392-0011 or victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

“ BE WITH ME, LORD, WHEN I AM IN TROUBLE.”

THIS WEEK'S SAINTS

There are no weekly saints for this particular set of days and so since it's Lent and many are engaging in acts of sacrifice as well as acts to enrich their spiritual lives, I am re-presenting an old column in regard to free will and temptation which go along with those subjects to a degree.

Question: If God knows everything that we're going to do and how everything is going to happen, then how do we have free will? Isn't everything just predetermined?

Answer: Free will is a tricky subject when it comes to dealing with the omnipotence of God. I'm going to try to answer this without getting too philosophical. The first distinction that you need to make is between knowledge of something and the predetermination of something. To say that something is predetermined means that no matter what actions you take, the thing is going to happen. If you have knowledge that something is going to happen, that doesn't necessarily mean it's predetermined.

God knows everything we've done and everything we're going to do. He sees all of space and time at once. He has that complete knowledge. However, what we're going to do is not predetermined because He's not controlling us. We have the ability to make our own choices, in total freedom of will, and God knows what those choices are going to be. Just because God knows what we're going to do and when we're going to do it doesn't mean that we don't have the freedom of will to act. The example I used to use with my high school students is that I knew that when the bell rang, they were all going to get up and leave the classroom. That didn't mean that they didn't have the freedom of will to remain in their seats. I didn't force them to leave, nor was their leaving predetermined. I knew it was going to happen, though, and sure enough, when the bell rang, they all left. God's knowledge of our actions doesn't make them predetermined.

Another way to reinforce the fact that we clearly have free will is that God doesn't stop us from doing horrible things that He knows we're going to do. Evil things are still allowed to happen that God had full knowledge of. That doesn't make God a horrible person because if He did step in and stop us from acting badly, then we wouldn't have free will. People like to blame God for the horrible things that happen because He has the power to stop them, but really we shouldn't be angry at the omnipotent creator of the universe, but rather at those who are the ones actually making the decisions. The desire to blame God for things that aren't His fault ultimately stem from our unwillingness to take real responsibility for anything these days. If God steps in and stops someone one time from acting freely, then freedom of

will is compromised and we become little more than pieces on a chessboard.

Question: What is the best way to overcome temptation/addiction?

Answer: This is a very general question and I'm not a medical expert, so I won't speak on anything relating to chemical addictions and the like. However, addictions to sin are quite common as we let sin become part of our lives and then eventually we're sinning out of habit more so than out of intention. However, we want to be careful about simply ascribing habit to certain sins if we're doing so to try to lessen our culpability.

As temptation is always the precursor to sin which can then lead to an addiction, the best thing to do is to figure out how to overcome the temptation. If you remove the temptation, then eventually the addiction can fizzle out as well because we're no longer tempted to even do it. For example, if you're addicted to a certain type of food or drink that's bad for you, eliminating your ability to have it will remove the temptation. You can't be tempted to do something that you can't actually do. I'm not tempted to fly to Mars because I can't do it. It'd be interesting, but it's not tempting because in order to be tempted, I have to be able to satiate the temptation.

When it comes to most temptations, the best way to begin to overcome them is to identify where and when the temptations are the most prevalent. For example, if you're tempted to view pornography on your computer, it would stand to reason that it's in a private place. Would you be as tempted if the computer was in a public space where people could easily see the screen? When are you most tempted? Because temptations only occur when the ability to do whatever it is exists, we need to identify those instances and then try to take concrete steps to take ourselves out of those situations. This is not always possible, and in those cases, more will power and prayer are necessary, and perhaps the intervention of another person or people. Ultimately, temptations only have the power over us that we give them. We get lazy, bored, depressed, etc. and stop trying to fight against them which allows them to take hold over us. The longer we push back against the temptations, the more power we have over them, and eventually they fade because we understand the goodness of life lived away from the temptations rather than life lived enslaved to them.

MEETINGS

Altar Society, Thursday, March 13 at 10:00 am, KofC Hall. Hostesses are Maureen Erwin and Cindy Alford

SUNDAY BULLETIN- FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

KNIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES MARCH 15-16		
Mass Time	Position	Knight(s)
Sat. 5pm	Acolyte 1 Acolyte 2	Jackson Reeter Sam Brobst
Sun. 8am	Acolyte 1 Acolyte 2	David Lentz Joseph Lentz
Sun. 10am	M.C. Thurifer Acolyte 1 Acolyte 2 Cross Bearer Torch Torch	Ivan Dickerson Burke Beetsma AJ Warren Oliver Perry Evan Randolph Thatcher Rardon Elijah Sensenich

CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH

Coming this Spring, a study of St. Joseph. Information flyers available on the table in the back of church. More information to follow.

The Annual Dinner Auction date is set for April 26th. The theme this year is The Grand Masquerade. This event remains the largest fundraiser for our amazing school, students and staff. If you are interested in donating to the auction please have all donations to the school office no later than March 15th.

RECENT BAPTISMS

Gracie and Sophie Pittman were baptized by Father Ryan Koster on March 1. Congratulations to the family!

BISHOP HOGAN NEWS

We were informed that **Alex Warren's** essay, a first place winner at the local level, recently earned first place at the **state level** for 5th grade! The topic given by the DAR (Daughters of American Revolution) committee was, **"My Voice in America's Democracy."** Alex is the daughter of Adam and Melanie Warren. She was invited to a reception in Branson on April 12. Congratulations to Alex!

Bishop Hogan's 4th and 5th grade Basketball Tournament will be held next week. There will be 4 games each night of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, beginning at 5:30 pm. On Monday night, BH girls play at 5:30 vs Southwest and BH boys play at 8:00 vs Breckenridge. You are invited to see some fun games!

Our teachers will be attending an inservice in Kansas City at St. Michael the Archangel High School in Lee's Summit on Friday, with all the other elementary and high schools of the Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese. We are looking forward to hearing the Keynote speaker and being able to collaborate with teachers of the same grade level across the different schools. The session will end with Mass said by Bishop James Johnston.

May God bless you,
Pam Brobst, Principal

LECTOR SCHEDULE MARCH 16	
Mass Time	Lector
Sun. 8am	Ken Lauhoff
Sun. 10am	Mary Pauley

LENTEN FISH FRIES

The annual Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fries will be held on March 7, 21, 28 and April 4 at Bishop Hogan Memorial School. This year we will be offering dine-in for those who wish to come to the school cafeteria and enjoy their meal and a drive-through for those who wish to take their dinner home. Serving will run from 5:00 - 7:00pm each evening. The menu will include fish, chips, mac and cheese, green beans, Cole slaw, and cookie. Cost for adults is \$13.00 and \$6 for children 12 years of age and younger. Mark your calendars! Your continued support is greatly appreciated! Tell your friends and please come join us.

CONCERT IN THE CHURCH

On Sunday, March 30, at 3pm, there will be a free concert in the church featuring music on the harp, violin, and cello. Doug Rieth, who was the harpist for the San Francisco Symphony for 40 years, will perform several pieces on the harp. For some of those pieces he will be joined by Fr. Koster on the violin and parishioner Zeb Yoko on the cello. We hope you can join us for this afternoon of music in our beautiful church.



Scan here to donate online!

Weekly Offering

March 2
Offertory \$8,725
Property Maint \$223
Birthright \$352

February
Income \$88,518
Expense \$101,867
Income (under) Expense (\$13,349)

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/)

POT LUCK—Join us next Sunday the 16th for fellowship and great food in the school cafeteria right after 10am Mass. This will be our last pot luck of the school year with next month 3rd Sunday falling on Easter. We plan to start back up again in August!