



# Saint Monica Catholic Church

**SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025**

**1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108**

## Parish Staff

**Fr. Leonard Gicheru**  
Pastor  
frleonard@stmonicakc.org

**Reverend Darwin Dupree, Sr.**  
Deacon  
dawn2127@hotmail.com

**Reverend Kenneth Greene**  
Deacon  
kegger1969@hotmail.com

**Brad Geist**  
Pastoral Associate  
bgeist@stmonicakc.org

**Biviana Radillo**  
Office Manager  
bradillo@stmonicakc.org

**Ramonda Doakes**  
Religious Education  
Safety Environment Coordinator  
rdoakes@stmonicakc.org

**Rita Womack**  
Food Pantry/Social Services  
Director  
ritawomack70@yahoo.com

**Richard Jolevette**  
Custodian

**Melvin Kerr**  
Choir/Music Ministry

**George Hans**  
Accountant  
finance@stmonicakc.org

**Mass Schedule:**  
9:00 a.m. Sunday Service  
9:00 a.m. Wednesday Mass  
6:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Service

**Main Office Hours:**  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Mon, Wed, Thur & Fri  
(816) 471-3696  
www.stmonicakc.org

## From our Pastor

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

### Family and Friends Day

Today we celebrate Family and Friends Day with grateful hearts, joyful spirits, and a deep sense of belonging to something greater than ourselves. This is more than just a parish event—it is a sacred reminder of who we are as a faith community and how far the Lord has brought us.

Over the past 115 years, St. Monica Catholic Church has been a spiritual home for generations of believers—those who came seeking God, those born into the faith, and those who found their way back through the warmth of this parish family. We are incredibly blessed to stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, who worshiped in these pews, raised their families in this church, and worked to build a vibrant Black Catholic community in the heart of Kansas City. Their legacy is alive in every hymn sung, every prayer whispered, every welcome extended.

This parish is a unique blend of friends who became family. In truth, none of us chose each other. We come from different places, backgrounds, and stories—but through God's providence, we were chosen for each other. That's the miracle of Church.



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We are no longer strangers, but brothers and sisters in Christ, called to love, support, and walk with each other. On Family and Friends Day, we renew that sacred friendship and celebrate the beauty of our shared journey.

Even as we rejoice, we also carry in our hearts those who could not be with us today—especially our homebound, sick, and elderly parishioners. You remain close to us in spirit, and we lift you in prayer, asking the Lord to bring you comfort, healing, and peace. Your faithfulness from afar still nurtures this community.

As we look forward, we do so with hope and expectation. God is not done with us yet. He continues to add to our number, stir our gifts, and call us into deeper communion. May this day inspire us to keep reaching out—to invite others in, to reconnect with those who have drifted, and to welcome with joy all whom the Lord sends to our spiritual home.

Finally, a special word of gratitude to Carolyn Greene and her team for their commitment and hard work in organizing this celebration. Your efforts made today possible. Thank you for saying yes, for gathering us together, and for helping us honor both our past and our future.

May the spirit of family and friendship that fills this day extend throughout the year. May we continue to be a parish where all feel welcomed, known, and loved—where God’s grace binds us together in unity and joy.

Happy Family and Friends Day!  
Fr. Leonard Gicheru, Pastor

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Acts 14:5-18; Psalm 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16; John 14:21-26

**Tuesday:** Acts 14:19-28; Psalm 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21; John 14:27-31a

**Wednesday:** Acts 15:1-6; Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; John 15:1-8

**Thursday:** Acts 15:7-21; Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10; John 15:9-11

**Friday:** Acts 15:22-31; Psalm 57:8-9, 10 and 12; John 15:12-17

**Saturday:** Acts 16:1-10; Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 5; John 15:18-21

**Sunday:** Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23; John 14:23-29

## Liturgical Assignments

*Sunday, May 25, 2025*

Lectors: Cristina Ramirez, Jackie Dinvaut

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Ann Suellentrop

Ushers: Team D

Eucharistic Ministers: Kirk Thaw, Shirley Thaw, Pat Williams, Rita Womack, Stephanie Broils, Gerald Buckman

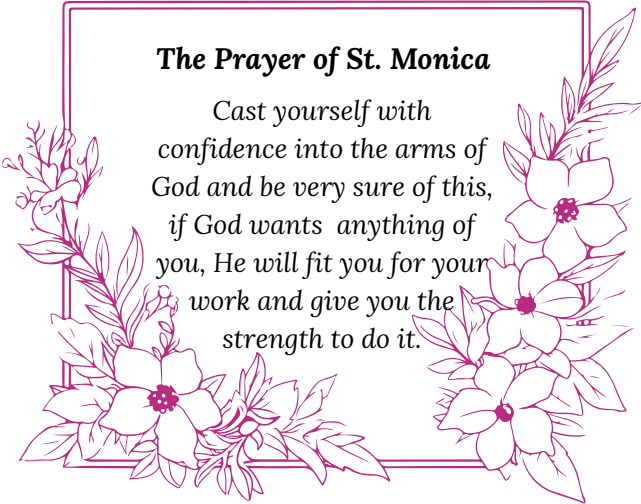
## Offering Reports

*Sunday, May 11, 2025*

Regular Offering:	\$5,165.00
Food Pantry:	\$433.00
Bldg. Fund:	\$25.00
Funeral Service:	\$400.00
Mass Intention:	\$50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,073.00</b>

### The Prayer of St. Monica

Cast yourself with  
confidence into the arms of  
God and be very sure of this,  
if God wants anything of  
you, He will fit you for your  
work and give you the  
strength to do it.



### Juneteenth Parade



Save the date for the Juneteenth Parade on June 7th! The Juneteenth Heritage Festival will be held on June 21st. We are the reigning champions for our float and

welcome your ideas, time, and talents as we prepare to win again! Sign-up sheets are located at the back of the church. If you have any questions, please reach out to Crystal Marie at (816) 665-6753 or Peter at (816) 678-7689. Remember, "A Church Alive is WORTH THE DRIVE!"

### Volunteers Needed



We need volunteers to lend a hand in brightening up our church! We need your help painting various areas both inside and out. If you're interested in volunteering

your time, please connect with Don Williams. He will be in the vestibule after mass, ready to sign you up.

### Eucharistic Adoration



NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic  
Pilgrimage**

We invite you to a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration at St. Monica on May 27th, from 4:30 to

5:30 PM. Join us as we honor St. Katharine Drexel, the beloved founder of our parish, along this dedicated pilgrimage route. It is a wonderful opportunity to pause and reflect in her honor. Come and be part of this sacred moment as we reflect and unite in prayer.

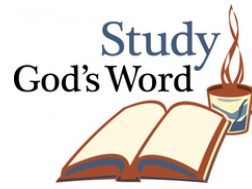
### Step Into The Rhythm!



Line dancing is back! The Knights of Peter Claver & Ladies Auxiliary Council and Court #57 invite you to a FREE Soul Line Dance Class on Saturday, May 31, from

3:00 PM to 5:00 PM at St. Monica Catholic Church in Ferguson Hall. This family-friendly event welcomes all skill levels—no dance experience needed! Come enjoy an afternoon of joyful movement, community spirit, and cultural celebration. Registration is required. Register at [www.18thandvinelives.com](http://www.18thandvinelives.com) or you can sign up at the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary information table after Mass today.

### Wednesday Prayer Service



Join us every Wednesday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM for our uplifting prayer service. We start with an inspiring song, followed by the rosary, and engaging readings.

Together, we will discuss the upcoming Sunday gospel, share our prayer intentions, and conclude with a powerful closing prayer. Come and strengthen your faith with our community!



On Sunday May 25th, 2025, Specialist Caleb Michael Collins of the US ARMY will be recognized and honored in a video at the Celebration at the Station event at Union Station, Kansas City, MO.

In July 2015, 22-year-old Specialist Collins lost his life trying to save his fellow soldier. Collins was with 524th Sustainment support Battalion, 25th Sustainment Brigade, and the 25th Infantry Division. He was awarded with the Soldiers Medal in which his Parents accepted in his honor.

Please Join the Family to continue celebrating him with your attendance :

Celebration at the Station

Union Station Kansas City, 30 W. Pershing Road  
Sunday, May 25, 2025 Time is 5:00 pm to 10:30 pm

This is a free -family fun activity

Thank you for your Service – Collins Family

### Altar Servers Needed

We are in need of more altar servers. If you are interested, please contact Victor Ammons at (816) 446-2936.

## Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Beverly Dyer, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald Parson, Sergio Mendoza, Elaine Lomax, Cheryl Warren, Chaunceyetta Mize, Rhea Holloman, Melva McClellan, Velma Jennings, Brenda A. Martin, Marcella Vaughn, Paris Harrington, Maxine Harvey, Michael Lucas, Lola Jacobs, Evalena Davidson (mother of Dan Davidson), Javan Hardy, Frankie Kemp, Carmelita Newman, Conrad McDonald, Opal C. Blankinship, Patrice Williams (daughter of Pat and Don Williams), John James, Barbara Walters, Janee Green (daughter of Pam and Ronald Green), Jublatee O'Neal (New Parishioner), Bonita Akridge, Deacon Kenneth Greene, Lawrence Ramirez, Edward H. Franklin, Jr. (Father of Tracey Franklin Bradford), Sean Curry (Son of Angela Curry), Alvin Brooks, Bettye Young, Don Williams

Please notify Father Leonard when you or a family member have become homebound or admitted to the hospital. Please call the parish office at (816) 471-3696 or email [frleonard@stmonicakc.org](mailto:frleonard@stmonicakc.org).

### Office of Child & Youth Protection- Sexual Abuse

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combatting 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 If the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, report the suspected abuse to the Diocesan Ombudsman at 816.213.6024 or [ombudsman@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:ombudsman@diocesekcsj.org)

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 816.714.2357 ext. 516 or [victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org) for more information.

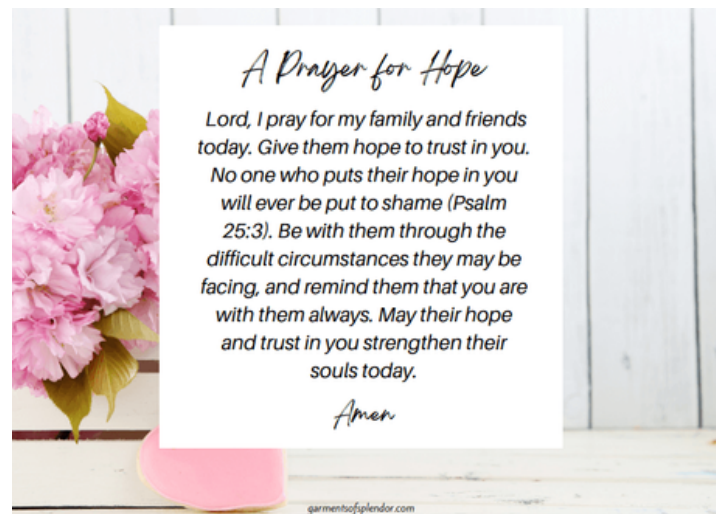
**Safety Environment Coordinator for St. Monica Parish -**  
Ramonda Doakes, P-(816) 457- 5538, E- [rdoakes@stmonicakc.org](mailto:rdoakes@stmonicakc.org)

## Leadership Corner

### Finance Committee

Janice Smith  
Ernest Collins  
Tracey Lewis  
Fr. Leonard

Chair  
Recorder



## Calendar of Events this Week

### SUNDAY, MAY 18

9:00 AM	Mass
10:00 AM	Family & Friends Brunch (FH)
10:30 AM	Dance Rehearsal (S)

### MONDAY, MAY 19

### TUESDAY, MAY 20

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

9:00 AM	Mass
6:00 PM	Prayer Service

### THURSDAY, MAY 22

### FRIDAY, MAY 23

### SATURDAY, MAY 24

10:00 AM	All African Day Set up
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\*If you do not see your event listed, please contact the parish office at (816) 471-3696