



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

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Director
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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

7th Sunday of Easter
Ascension of The Lord

The Feast of the Ascension: Christ Has Gone Ahead of Us

One of the most beautiful and often misunderstood feasts in the Church is the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. At first glance, it can seem like a feast about Jesus leaving. The disciples stand there looking up into the sky as Christ disappears from their sight. It almost feels like a goodbye. But in reality, the Ascension is not about Jesus abandoning the world. It is about Jesus opening heaven for the world and entrusting His mission to us.

The Ascension marks a turning point. Jesus, who walked with His disciples, taught them, forgave sinners, healed the sick, and conquered death through His resurrection, now returns to the Father. But before He ascends, He gives His disciples a mission: "Go and make disciples of all nations." In other words, the work of Christ must now continue through His Church.

This feast challenges us because many Christians today are comfortable being spectators rather than witnesses. The disciples could have remained standing there, staring into the sky. In fact, the angels tell them, "Why are you standing there looking at the sky?" The message is clear: do not remain frozen in place. Go. Live the Gospel. Proclaim Christ. Build the Kingdom.

That message is just as urgent today.



Jesus Mafa: The Ascension ©

continued on page 2



We live in a culture where faith is often pushed to the margins. Many people are spiritually searching but disconnected from God. Others carry wounds, loneliness, anxiety, or hopelessness beneath the surface of busy lives.

In the midst of this, the Ascension reminds us that Christianity is not simply about attending Mass once a week. It is about being witnesses to hope in everyday life.

The Ascension teaches us several important lessons.

First, it reminds us that heaven is our goal. In a society focused heavily on success, achievement, possessions, and entertainment, we can easily forget that this world is not our final home. Jesus ascends to prepare a place for us. The feast invites us to ask an uncomfortable but necessary question: What am I really living for?

Second, the Ascension reminds us that Christ still works through ordinary people. The disciples were not perfect. They doubted, failed, and struggled with fear. Yet Jesus entrusted them with the mission of changing the world. That should encourage us. God does not wait for perfect people. He works through willing hearts.

Third, the Ascension reminds us that we are never abandoned. Before ascending, Jesus promises: "I am with you always." Christ may no longer be physically visible, but He remains present through the Eucharist, through Scripture, through the Church, and through the Holy Spirit. The Ascension is not Christ disappearing; it is Christ becoming present in a new and deeper way.

Finally, the feast challenges us to stop separating faith from daily life. Christian witness happens in ordinary places: in marriages, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and conversations. People should encounter something different in us—greater patience, deeper compassion, stronger hope, and a faith that remains steady even in difficult times.

The Ascension is not the end of the story. It is the beginning of the Church's mission. Christ has gone ahead of us, but He has also sent us forward. The question is whether we are willing to live not merely as admirers of Jesus, but as witnesses to Him in the world today.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 19:1-8; Psalm 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; John 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27; Psalm 68:10-11, 20-21; John 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38; Psalm 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab; John 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Psalm 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; John 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21; Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; John 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Psalm 11:4, 5 and 7; John 21:20-25

Sunday: Genesis 11:1-9 or Exodus 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ezekiel 37:1-14 or Joel 3:1-5; Psalm 104:1-2, 24, 27-28, 29, 30; Romans 8:22-27; John 7:37-39

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, May 24, 2026

Lectors: Melba Myers, Michele Perez

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Ann Suellentrop

Ushers: Team D

Eucharistic Ministers: Terese Brown, Gerald Buckman, Diane Charity, Dawn Collins, Bernadette Cook, Angela Curry

Offering Reports

Sunday, May 10, 2026

Regular Offering: \$4,581.00

Fundraising Campaign: \$848.00

Social Services: \$243.00

Total **\$5,672.00**

Fundraising Campaign

Weekly Update

Goal \$2,500,000

Total Amount Pledged \$425,872

Percentage of Goal Pledged 17.03%

Actual Cash Received to Date \$93,328

Legion of Mary Meeting



Please join us for the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Kibeho/Our Lady of Sorrows Praesidium meetings every Monday at 4 PM at Our Lady of Sorrows, except on the last Monday of the month, when we meet at 4 PM here at St. Monica in the St. Monica building. Your presence will be greatly appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Women's Bible Study



Ladies, please mark your calendars for an amazing opportunity to explore the Word of God together. Our Women's Bible Study group will meet every first and

third Saturday from 9:30 to 11:00 am. This is a fantastic chance to grow spiritually and delve into the teachings of the Bible in a supportive and engaging environment. For more information, please contact Paula Nix at (816) 471- 3696 or mspaula.pn@gmail.com.

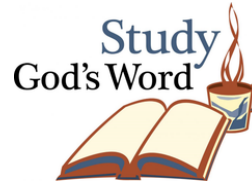
To Pray Marvelously Well



Don't miss an inspiring one-woman show today at 3:00 PM at St. Monica: To Pray Marvelously Well—The Spiritual Friendship of St. Edith Stein and St. Teresa of Avila. The play is free,

but love offerings will be gladly accepted. Proceeds will benefit St. Monica. For more information, contact: Charles Carney (913) 603-2483 or Ann Sullentrop (913) 271-7925.

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!

Ready, Set, Learn Workshop



Families with children between 1-5 years old, will receive developmental services to increase the child's social and emotional development, address mental health and

behavioral health needs, and receive parenting education. This event takes place on the 4th Wednesday of the Month from 10:30 am to noon, at Catholic Charities located at 8001 Longview Rd, KCMO. Bring your kids and join our community of families!



Please join us in celebrating Dalice Dupree and Caleb Knapper as they receive the sacrament of First Communion. A reception with their families will be held in Ferguson Hall after Mass on Sunday, May 24th. All are welcome to share in this special occasion.

Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald Parson, Elaine Lomax, Cheryl Warren, Chaunceyetta Mize, Rhea Holloman, Melva McClellan, Velma Jennings, Brenda A. Martin, Marcella Vaughn, Paris Harrington, 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, Lawrence Ramirez, Edward H. Franklin, Jr. (Father of Tracey Franklin Bradford), Sean Curry (Son of Angela Curry), Bettye Young, Don Williams, Deacon Darwin Dupree, Yesheka Alexander (daughter of James and Mary Alexander), Carolyn Turner

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.

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@ombudsmankcsj.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 or victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

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

Leadership Corner

Accounting Team

Team Leads

Janice Smith	Burnetta Burtin
Ernest Collins	Jenise Comer
Mary Alexander	Jeanette Countee
Tracy Bradford	Fred Taylor
Marcus Moye	Karen Curls
Fredarecca Parker White	

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.

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, MAY 17

- 9:00 AM Mass
- 10:00 AM Dance Rehearsal (S)
- 10:00 AM Silent Auction Meeting (STM)
- 10:45 AM GriefShare Support Group (CH)
- 3:00 PM To Pray Marvelously Well Play (FH)

MONDAY, MAY 18

TUESDAY, MAY 19

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

- 9:00 AM Mass
- 6:00 PM Wednesday Night Prayer (S)

THURSDAY, MAY 21

FRIDAY, MAY 22

SATURDAY, MAY 23