Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026 1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

Fr. Leonard Gicheru
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frleonard@stmonicakc.org

Reverend Darwin Dupree, Sr.
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Biviana Radillo
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Ramonda Doakes
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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

Palm Sunday

From "Hosanna" to the Cross

Today we begin one of the most sacred journeys of our faith—Holy Week. Palm Sunday invites us into a moment that is both joyful and deeply sobering. We enter the church holding palms, singing "Hosanna," remembering how the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus with excitement and hope. They saw Him as the long-awaited King, the one who would finally change everything.

Yet, there is something striking about the way Jesus enters. He does not come with power as the world understands it. He rides on a donkey—humble, peaceful, unassuming. Even in His moment of public recognition, Jesus reveals the heart of God: not domination, but love; not force, but surrender; not glory without sacrifice, but glory through the Cross.

And then, almost abruptly, the tone shifts. The same liturgy that begins with celebration leads us into the Passion. We hear of betrayal, suffering, abandonment, and death. The same voices that cried "Hosanna" will soon cry "Crucify Him." Palm Sunday holds up a mirror to the human heart—our own hearts. It reminds us how easily we can praise God in one moment and turn away in another.

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This is why Palm Sunday is not just a story to remember; it is a call to examine how we walk with Christ. Do we follow Him only when it is easy, when prayers are answered, when life feels blessed? Or are we willing to stay with Him when the path leads to sacrifice, uncertainty, and the Cross?

As we enter Holy Week, the Church invites us not to be spectators, but participants. We are invited to walk with Jesus—to the Upper Room, where He gives Himself in the Eucharist; to Gethsemane, where He wrestles in prayer; to Calvary, where love is poured out completely; and to the tomb, where hope seems lost, but is not.

In our daily lives, Palm Sunday challenges us to a deeper discipleship. It calls us to humility in a world that seeks recognition, to faithfulness in a culture of convenience, and to love that endures even when it costs us something. It reminds us that true Christian living is not about momentary enthusiasm, but about steadfast commitment.

This week is also especially meaningful for members of our two parishes who are preparing to enter fully into the life of the Church. We are blessed to journey with our Elect—Mauriah, Juan, Drew, and Noah—who will receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Their "yes" to Christ is a powerful witness to all of us. It reminds us that God is still calling, still transforming, still making all things new.

Let us keep them in our prayers in a special way this week. Pray that they may be strengthened in faith, filled with peace, and surrounded by grace as they take this sacred step. And as we pray for them, may we also renew our own commitment to Christ—remembering that we too were once welcomed into this life of faith.

As we hold our palms today, may they be more than symbols of praise. May they represent our decision to follow Christ—not only in moments of joy, but also in moments of sacrifice.

Let us walk this Holy Week with intention, with reverence, and with open hearts. For the journey from Palm Sunday to Easter is not just something we remember—it is something we live.

And if we walk it faithfully, we will discover that beyond the Cross, there is always Resurrection.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Isaiah 42:1-7; Psalm 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14; John 12:1-11

Tuesday: Isaiah 49:1-6; Psalm 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17; John 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 an 33-34; Matthew 26:14-25

Thursday: Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15

Friday: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

Saturday: Genesis 1:1-2:2 or Genesis 1:1, 26-31a; Psalm 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 or Psalm 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20 and 22; Genesis 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Exodus 14:15-15:1; Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11; Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28; Romans 6:3-11; Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; John 20:1-9 or Matthew 28:1-10

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, April 5, 2026

Lectors: Youth

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Karen Groves

Ushers: Team A

Eucharistic Ministers: Crystal Miller, Dianna Miller, Paula Nix, Rose Palmer, Lydia Ramirez, Rose Roos

Offering Reports

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Regular Offering:	$3,370.00
Fundraising Campaign:	$364.00
Social Services:	$468.00
Seder Meal:	$120.00
Easter Flowers:	$63.00
Our Lady of Sorrows:	$3,653.40
Total	**$8,038.40**

Fundraising Campaign Weekly Update

Goal	$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	$425,256
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.01%
Actual Cash Received to Date	$72,777

Announcements

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026

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!

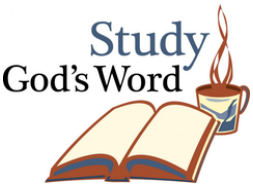
Seder Meal

We invite you to join us for a special Seder Ceremony and Dinner on Wednesday, April 1st, at 6:00 PM. We are still seeking volunteers for the preparations. If you're interested in helping or would like to RSVP, please stop by and see Donna Murff after Mass. Today is the final day to get involved. We hope to see you there!

Senior Day Party

Councilman Curls invites you to a Senior Day Party! Enjoy food, dancing, music, exciting giveaways, and a variety of fun activities. Community partners will be on hand to help with benefits such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and vaccinations. This free event takes place Saturday, May 2nd, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ruskin High School, 7000 E 111th St., Kansas City, MO 64134. For more information, email seniorparty@kclinc.org or call (816) 513-6519.

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!

Easter is right around the corner, and the Easter Bunny is thrilled to be hopping in to see the children at Saint Monica's.

Please donate individually wrapped candies for the Easter Egg Hunt – that will take place following Mass on Easter Sunday.

For any questions, please contact Burnetta Burtin at (816) 377-6067.

Holy Week Mass Schedule

April 1st
6:00 PM Seder Meal
April 2nd
6:00 PM Holy Thursday
April 3rd
6:00 PM Good Friday
April 4th
8:00 PM Holy Saturday
April 5th
10:00 AM Easter Sunday

"A CHURCH ALIVE IS WORTH THE DRIVE!"

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, Ramonda Doakes, Yesheka Alexander (daughter of James and Mary Alexander), Carolyn Turner, Jan Powell

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

Hospitality Usher Ministry

Coordinators

Kim Urenda
Mary Pearison

Mary Alexander
Stephanie Broils
Arimeta Dupree
Carolyn Greene
De'Trice Green
Elaine Johnson
Phaedra Lombard
Alphonse Mendy
Charles Nzali
Erin Pullen
Katie Steward
Vicki Schackelford
Anson Taitt
Shirley Thaw
Don Williams, Sr.

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

9:00 AM	Mass
10:00 AM	Dance Rehearsal (S)
10:30 AM	OCIA Class (STM)
10:45 AM	GriefShare Group (CH)

MONDAY, MARCH 30

4:00 PM	Legion of Mary Meeting(STM)

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

9:00 AM	Mass
6:00 PM	Seder Meal Celebration

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

6:00 PM	Holy Thursday Mass

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

6:00 PM	Good Friday Mass

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

9:00 AM	Altar & Rosary (FH)
9:30 AM	Women's Bible Study (STM)
11:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal (S)
8:00 PM	Holy Saturday Mass
11:30 AM	Knights of Peter Claver Council #57 (FH)