

Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

Fr. Leonard Gicheru
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ritawomack70@yahoo.com

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Melvin Kerr
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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

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

It's Not Fair!

"It's not fair!" We learn those words early in life. Children say them when someone receives a larger piece of cake. Adults say them when a coworker receives recognition, a neighbor seems more successful, or someone who has made many mistakes appears to receive the same blessings as those who have remained faithful.

The laborers in today's Gospel certainly believed that they had been treated unfairly. Some had worked from dawn, enduring the burden and heat of the day. Others worked only a few hours, while those hired at five o'clock worked for merely one hour. Yet, when evening came, every laborer received the same daily wage.

Naturally, those who had worked all day expected more. When they received the same amount, they complained: "These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us."

From a human perspective, their complaint seems reasonable. But the landowner reminds them that he has not cheated them. He gave them exactly what they had agreed upon. His generosity toward the latecomers did not take anything away from those who arrived first.



continued on page 2

continued from page 1

This parable is not primarily about employment practices or economic policy. Jesus is teaching us about the kingdom of heaven. God's grace is not a salary that we earn. Salvation is not a reward based upon the number of hours we have worked. It is a gift flowing from the generous heart of God.

We often want God to be fair—until we remember what strict fairness would mean. If God treated us only according to what we deserved, who among us could stand before Him? We have all sinned. We have all wasted opportunities, ignored God's invitations, and arrived late at the vineyard in one way or another.

Thank God that He is not merely fair—He is generous!

God gives us more than we deserve. He offers forgiveness after repeated failures, welcomes sinners home, and gives eternal life to those who turn to Him, even late in life. Consider the good thief crucified beside Jesus. He came to the vineyard during the final hour of his life, yet Jesus promised him, "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

The challenge is that we sometimes celebrate God's generosity when we receive it but resent it when it is extended to someone else. We may quietly believe that certain people do not deserve another opportunity. But grace, by its very nature, is undeserved.

Instead of comparing our blessings with those of others, we should be grateful that the Landowner called us into His vineyard at all. Those who began at dawn received something the latecomers missed: an entire day in the presence of the Master, doing meaningful work in His vineyard.

Whether we came to Christ early or late, there is work for us to do. And if today we hear God calling, it is not too late to answer.

God's generosity may not always look fair by human standards. But it is our only hope. When we are tempted to complain, "It's not fair," perhaps we should pause and say instead, "Thank you, Lord, that Your mercy is greater than anything I could ever earn."

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5; Matthew 9:9-13

Tuesday: Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13; Psalm 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44; Luke 8:19-21

Wednesday: Proverbs 30:5-9; Psalm 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163; Luke 9:1-6

Thursday: Ecclesiastes 1:2-11; Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17bc; Luke 9:7-9

Friday: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; Psalm 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4; Luke 9:18-22

Saturday: Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8; Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17; Luke 9:43b-45

Sunday: Ezekiel 18:25-28; Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Philippians 2:1-11 or Philippians 2:1-5; Matthew 21:28-32

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Lectors: Ernest Collins, Bernadette Cook

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Jackie McGhee-Dinvaut

Ushers: Team D

Eucharistic Ministers: Kirk Thaw, Shirley Thaw, Stephanie Broils, Terese Brown, Gerald Buckman, Diane Charity

Offering Reports

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Regular Offering:	$3,026.00
Fundraising Campaign:	$990.00
Food Pantry:	$105.00
Hall Rental Fee:	$150.00
Total	**$4,271.00**

Fundraising Campaign Weekly Update

Goal	$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	$425,872
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.45%
Actual Cash Received to Date	$129,507

Announcements

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

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.

Fundraising Campaign



Thank you to all who have already submitted a pledge card for our parish fundraising campaign. If you have not yet participated, pledge cards are available at the back of the church. Please return your completed card in the red collection box. Every gift helps move our parish forward.

Legion of Mary Meeting



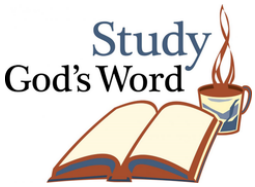
Please join us for the Legion of Mary meetings here at St. Monica every Wednesday at 3:00 PM in the St. Monica building. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please reach out to Rose Palmer, Ramonda Doakes, or Yvonne Dillahunty.

Unbound Parish Visit



Next weekend, please welcome Rev. Timothy Coday C.PP.S. who will be with us to celebrate Mass and tell us about the work of Unbound, a lay Catholic sponsorship ministry that helps children and elderly in 16 developing countries. To learn more, call (800) 875-6564 or visit Unbound online at www.unbound.org.

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!

You're Invited to a Tea Party



Come sip, savor, sparkle, and socialize with us in your Tea Party finest! Enjoy delightful treats and a touch of old-fashioned elegance. Join us on Wednesday, September 30th at St. Therese Senior Center, 5814 Euclid, KCMO, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Please RSVP by 9/25 at (816) 444-3514.

MARGARET JONES CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF LIFE

THE JONES & RELIFORD FAMILY
WOULD LIKE TO INVITE:
THE SAINT MONICA CHURCH FAMILY
IN CELEBRATING
MARGARET JONES 90TH BIRTHDAY
IN FERGUSON HALL TODAY,
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
FOLLOWING THE 9:00 AM MASS

"A CHURCH ALIVE IS WORTH THE DRIVE!"

Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald Parson, Cheryl Warren, Chaunceyetta Mize, Rhea Holloman, Melva McClellan, 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, 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, Bernadette Cook, Duane Murff, Luisa Olarte

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

Finance Council

Janice Smith-**Chair**
Stacey Lewis
Ernest Collins
Fr. Leonard Gicheru

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, SEPTEMBER 20

9:00 AM	Mass
10:00 AM	Margaret Jones 90th Birthday (FH)
10:30 AM	RCIA Classes (STM)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

9:00 AM	Mass
3:00 PM	Legion of Mary Meeting (STM)
6:00 PM	Wednesday Night Prayer (S)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

6:00 PM	Legion of Mary- The Blessed Mary Birthday (STM)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

1:00 PM	Museum Video Taping Sessions (S)
5:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (S)
6:00 PM	Domino Game Night (FH)