



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

Fr. Leonard Gicheru
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Director
ritawomack70@yahoo.com

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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

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Blessing of Hospitality

One of the beautiful themes that connects both our First Reading and Gospel this Sunday is the virtue of hospitality. Hospitality is much more than simply welcoming someone into our homes. It is opening our hearts to others, recognizing their dignity, and making room for God to work through them.

Our First Reading from the Second Book of Kings tells the story of the Prophet Elisha and a generous woman from Shunem. As Elisha traveled through the region, this woman noticed him and warmly welcomed him into her home. She did not know him personally. She did not know what she might gain from helping him. She simply recognized that he was a man of God and offered him food, rest, and a place to stay.

Her hospitality did not stop there. She convinced her husband to prepare a special room where Elisha could stay whenever he passed through their town. It was a simple act of generosity, but one that revealed a heart open to God.

When Elisha learned that this wealthy couple had no children, he promised that God would bless them with a son. Humanly speaking, such a blessing seemed impossible. Yet God's promise was fulfilled. In time, the woman gave birth to a son. Her kindness and hospitality became the doorway through which God poured abundant blessings into her life.



continued on page 2



This story reminds us of another well-known event in the Book of Genesis. Abraham welcomed three strangers who appeared near his tent. Without hesitation, he invited them to rest, washed their feet, and prepared a generous meal. Those strangers turned out to be messengers from God. In return, Abraham and Sarah received the promise of a son, even though they were far beyond the normal age for childbearing.

Sarah laughed when she first heard the promise. How could a ninety-year-old woman possibly become a mother? Yet nothing is impossible for God. Within a year, Isaac was born. His name means "laughter," forever reminding the family of the surprising joy God brought into their lives. Through Abraham's hospitality, God not only gave him a son but also made him the father of countless generations.

The Gospel carries this same message forward. Jesus tells His disciples, "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me." In other words, whenever we welcome others in Christ's name, we are welcoming Christ Himself.

This teaching challenges us today. We live in a world that often encourages isolation, suspicion, and self-interest. It is easy to become so busy with our own lives that we fail to notice the needs of those around us. Yet Christian hospitality calls us to see people differently. It invites us to welcome the newcomer, visit the lonely, encourage the discouraged, help the poor, and make room for others in our lives.

Hospitality does not always require great wealth or extraordinary resources. Sometimes it is as simple as offering a listening ear, sharing a meal, making a phone call, sending a note of encouragement, or inviting someone who feels forgotten into our community. Small acts of kindness often become channels of God's grace.

The lesson of this Sunday's readings is simple but powerful: when we open our hearts to others, we open our hearts to God. And whenever we make room for God, He blesses us in ways we could never imagine. The blessings may not always come in the form we expect, but God never allows genuine love and generosity to go unrewarded.

May we learn from Abraham and the woman of Shunem to practice hospitality generously, trusting that every act of kindness offered in faith becomes an opportunity for God to work wonders.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 12:1-11; Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16:13-19

Tuesday: Amos 3:1-8, 4:11-12; Psalm 5:4b-6a, 6b-7, 8; Matthew 8:23-27

Wednesday: Amos 5:14-15, 21-24; Psalm 50:7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 16bc-17; Matthew 8:28-34

Thursday: Amos 7:10-17; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Matthew 9:1-8

Friday: Ephesians 2:19-22; Psalm 117:1bc, 2; John 20:24-29

Saturday: Amos 9:11-15; Psalm 85:9 and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Matthew 9:14-17

Sunday: Zechariah 9:9-10; Psalm 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14; Romans 8:9, 11-13; Matthew 11:25-30

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, July 5, 2026

Lectors: Carolyn Greene, Ken Bacchus

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Sharon Hardy

Ushers: Team A

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Graham, Pamela Green, Ronald Green, Carolyn Greene, Ben Gruber, Sharon Hardy

Offering Reports

Sunday, June 21, 2026

Regular Offering:	\$10,123.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$3,104.00
Food Pantry:	\$60.00
Father's Day:	\$30.00
Second Collection:	\$232.92
Total	\$13,549.92

Fundraising Campaign

Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$425,872
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.03%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$106,498

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



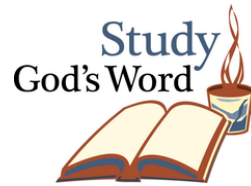
Ladies, please mark your calendars for an amazing opportunity to explore the Word of God together. Our Women's Bible Study group will meet every first and third Saturday from 9:30 to 11:00 am. This is a fantastic chance to grow spiritually and delve into the teachings of the Bible in a supportive and engaging environment. For more information, please contact Paula Nix at (816) 471- 3696 or mspaula.pn@gmail.com.

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.

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!



Juneteenth Parking Lot Campaign Fundraiser
WE RAISED \$1,000.00

Thank you to our energetic and enthusiastic volunteers who helped greet, served as Ambassadors, directed parking and traffic, and collected parking fees:

Jenny Gillis	Ernest Collins	Pam Green
Rose Roos	Dawn Collins	Don Williams
Duane Murff	Kirk Thaw	Patricia Williams
Mike Hughes	Shirley Thaw	Carolyn Greene
Deborah Scott	Liley Villazan	Elton Lombard
Quiana Spero	Juan Villazan	Jackie Dinvaut
Carrie Miller	Crystal Miller	Ryan Dinvaut
Cheryl Jones	Donna Murff	Elaine Johnson
Kim Urenda	Ronald Green	

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

Evangelization Ministry

Vickie Shackelford	Chairperson
Alvin Brooks	Marsha Willis
Carrie Miller	Jenise Comer
Crystal Miller	Carolyn Greene
Peter Callan	

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, JUNE 28

9:00 AM	Mass
2:00 PM	4th Degree KPC Ladies (STM)

MONDAY, JUNE 29

4:00 PM	Legion of Mary Meeting(STM)
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TUESDAY, JUNE 30

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

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

THURSDAY, JULY 2

FRIDAY, JULY 3

SATURDAY, JULY 4

11:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal (S)
11:30 AM	Knights of Peter Claver (FH)