



# Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 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

**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

## The Epiphany of The Lord

### God's antique GPS Still Works

"When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem..." And they came with one simple explanation: "We saw his star." Not a map. Not directions from Google. Not even a vague sense of intuition. A star!

Now, let's be honest—if someone told us today, "I followed a star across several countries," we might gently suggest a good night's sleep or a stronger cup of coffee. Yet Scripture tells us that these Magi—learned, educated, respected men—trusted that a point of light in the sky was enough to change their route, interrupt their schedules, and send them on a long, uncertain journey. That alone should get our attention.

The Feast of the Epiphany is not just about gold, frankincense, and myrrh. It's about light. The star is God's way of saying: *I will meet you where you are, and I will lead you—if you are willing to move.*

Notice something important: the star did not give the Magi the entire plan all at once. It didn't spell out the route, the timeline, or the challenges ahead. It simply appeared—and that was enough to get them started.



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Faith often works that way. God rarely hands us a full itinerary. Instead, He gives us just enough light for the next step.

And here’s the humbling part: when the Magi arrived in Jerusalem, the people who should have noticed the star—the religious experts, the insiders, the scholars of Scripture—were caught off guard. The outsiders were paying attention, while the insiders were busy with business as usual. Even King Herod, surrounded by religious knowledge, was more troubled than enlightened.

The star teaches us something uncomfortable and beautiful at the same time: **God’s light is available to everyone, but not everyone is looking up.**

The Magi didn’t stop when the journey became inconvenient. They didn’t turn back when the star led them somewhere unexpected—like a humble house instead of a royal palace. And when they finally found the child, they didn’t analyze or debate. They knelt. They worshiped. They offered what they had. That is Epiphany!

God still places stars in our lives today—moments of clarity, people who guide us, Scripture that suddenly speaks to us, a restlessness that won’t go away. The question is not whether God is shining. The question is whether we are willing to follow.

This Epiphany, perhaps the invitation is simple: **look up more often.** Pay attention to the quiet lights God places in your path. And when that light nudges you to move—to forgive, to change direction, to trust—don’t overthink it.

After all, the Magi didn’t need all the answers. They just needed the courage to follow the star.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

# Readings for the Week

**Monday:** 1 John 3:22-4:6; Psalm 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

**Tuesday:** 1 John 4:7-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8; Mark 6:34-44

**Wednesday:** 1 John 4:11-18; Psalm 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mark 6:45-52

**Thursday:** 1 John 4:19-5:4; Psalm 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17; Luke 4:14-22

**Friday:** 1 John 5:5-13; Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Luke 5:12-16

**Saturday:** 1 John 5:14-21; Psalm 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; John 3:22-30

**Sunday:** Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17

# Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, January 11, 2025  
Lectors: Carolyn Greene, Cristina Ramirez

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Contact Parish Office

Ushers: Team B

Eucharistic Ministers: Pat Williams, Rita Womack, Shirley Barber, Stephanie Broils, Terese Brown, Gerald Buckman

# Offering Reports

<b>December 24, 2025</b>	
Regular Offering:	\$2,845.58
Food Pantry:	\$25.00
Christmas Offering:	\$875.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$3,000.00
Catholic Charities Appeal:	\$15.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,760.58</b>

<b>December 25, 2025</b>	
Regular Offering:	\$3,737.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$550.00
Our Lady of Sorrows:	\$3,653.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,940.40</b>

<b>December 28, 2025</b>	
Regular Offering:	\$3,922.00
Food Pantry:	\$100.00
Christmas Offering:	\$250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,272.00</b>



### 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 [mstpaula.pn@gmail.com](mailto:mstpaula.pn@gmail.com).

### Time to Plan for 2026



With the start of a New Year, it's the perfect time to organize our schedules. We encourage all parish ministries to complete the space reservation forms

located near the entrance of the church. Securing your spot ensures your events are included on our calendar for 2026. Please return the completed forms to the parish office, and Biviana will confirm your reservation once it's approved. Thank you for your cooperation!

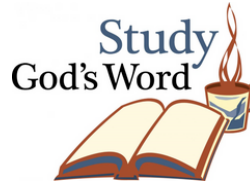
### Help Update our Records



We've recently observed that a number of our parishioners may have outdated contact information on file. If you're unsure whether we have your most current details or if

you've made any recent changes, we invite you to reach out to our parish office at 816-471-3696, or you can email Biviana directly at [bradillo@stmonicakc.org](mailto:bradillo@stmonicakc.org). Your connection is important to us, and we want to ensure we stay in touch! Thank you for helping us keep our records up to date.

### 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!

### 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.*

### Fundraising Campaign Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$395,292
Percentage of Goal Pledged	15.81%
Actual Cash Received	\$15,370

## 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), Lynn 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@ombudsmankcsj.org](mailto: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](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

### **Praise Dancer Ministry**

#### **Leader/Choreographer**

Marilyn Scott

Cathy Johnson	Ann Suellentrop
Terese Brown	Keva Alexander
Mauriah Francis	Nylia Russell
Vickie Shackelford	Allison McDonald
Arimeta Dupree	Latrice Johnson
Iia Dupree	Jordan Johnson
Dalice Dupree	Jersey Johnson
Phaedra Lombard	Jamie Johnson
Diana Alexandria	Kalesha Brown
Marsha Willis	Janet Henry
Emily Elizabeth Willis	Kendra Kemp McGee

## Calendar of Events this Week

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 4**

9:00 AM	Mass
10:30 AM	Dance Rehearsal (S)
10:30 AM	Catechumen Class (STM)

### **MONDAY, JANUARY 5**

### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 6**

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7**

9:00 AM	Mass
6:00 PM	Prayer Service

### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 8**

### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 9**

### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 10**

\*If you do not see your event listed, please contact the parish office at (816) 471-3696