



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

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Custodian

Melvin Kerr
Choir/Music Ministry

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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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:25-26

Why would Jesus exhort the "great crowds" to hate their families? In fact, Jesus went even further than that. He said they must also hate their own lives. If they do not, then they cannot be His disciples. One thing that this shocking teaching did was to shake people out of their lukewarm faith. Sometimes we think of Jesus only as a kind and gentle soul Who always brightens people's days. We see images painted of the smiling Jesus Who always made people feel welcomed and loved. And though these images have truth, it is also true that one way He brightened their days was by challenging them to the core of their being to convert. And that is what Jesus does today in our Gospel.

To hate your father, mother, children, siblings and even your very self is obviously not a reference to the sin of hate that flows from anger. In this case, the word "hate" refers to the best way to love others and to love even your own self. To begin, let's look at the conclusion. Jesus said that this form of hate is a requirement of being His disciple. This is the key. Unless we are first and foremost a disciple of Christ, we cannot love others and we will not even love ourselves in the proper way. "Hate" in this context refers to selfish attachments. This means that people and things can easily get in the way of our love of God. When they do, we must see them as an obstacle to both the love of God, as well as to the authentic love of others and even ourselves. For example, if a family member were to demand in some way that you love them more than you love God, then this must be rejected with passion. This could be referred to as holy hatred of the temptation, not the person.

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Say a spouse criticizes you for attending Mass and tries to stop you from doing so. If you listen to them, then you are placing them before God. Or say someone hurts you and you choose to forgive them, only to have a family member challenge you and try to stir up anger in you toward that person. If you listen to them, then you are not listening to God. In these cases, we must “hate” in the sense that we reject the temptation.

What about yourself? How do you hate yourself? This is a reference to the many ways that our disordered appetites are drawn to sin. If we indulge in the disordered desires, or even worse, if we treat those disordered desires as normal and good for us, then we have chosen the disordered desire over God. In that case, we must learn to hate and reject the selfish and disordered desire, choosing God and His will alone.

When we are able to choose the love of God first and foremost in our lives, rejecting the temptations that come through others and even the temptations within our disordered desires, then, and only then, are we in a position to love others and ourselves, in the right way. Jesus obviously wants us to love others and ourselves. But this is only possible when our love is pure and holy and flows from the love of God. Any other form of “love” is not love at all. It is a selfish attachment that hinders our true mission as lovers of God and instruments of that love to others.

Reflect, today, upon the passion that you must have to reject all forms of sin. This includes sin that tempts you through the mediation of your family and friends. It also includes every form of temptation that arises within you on account of your disordered human nature. This holy hatred is an act of love in that it seeks to eliminate everything that keeps you from true love. Choose, today, to be a faithful disciple of Jesus and commit yourself to reject all that seeks to interfere with this choice. Doing so will not only increase your love for God, it will also increase your love for others, and even your love for your own soul.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30; Psalm 13:6ab, 6c; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23, or 1:18-23

Tuesday: Colossians 2:6-15; Psalm 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11; Luke 6:12-19

Wednesday: Colossians 3:1-11; Psalm 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab; Luke 6:20-26

Thursday: Colossians 3:12-17; Psalm 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6; Luke 6:27-38

Friday: 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14; Psalm 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11; Luke 6:39-42

Saturday: 1 Timothy 1:15-17; Psalm 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5 and 6-7; Luke 6:43-49

Sunday: Numbers 21:4b-9; Psalm 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38; Philippians 2:6-11; John 3:13-17

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, September 14, 2025

Lectors: Cristina Ramirez, Jim Newland

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Ramonda Doakes

Ushers: Team B

Eucharistic Ministers: Pat Williams, Rita Womack, Shirley Barber, Stephanie Broils

Offering Reports

Sunday, August 24, 2025

Regular Offering:	\$4,720.96
Building Fund:	\$20.00
Food Pantry:	\$50.00
Youth Scholarship:	\$384.00
Total	\$5,174.96

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.

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.

Parish Revival



Mark your calendars for an inspiring Parish Revival on September 21st, 22nd, and 23rd! We are excited to welcome Father Kareem Smith, revivalist and president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, from New York. Stay tuned for more details.

We Need Your Help

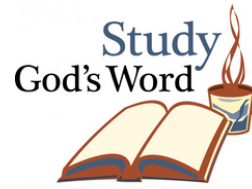


As we continue with our capital campaign we are looking for grant writers. Please notify Elton Lombard, Lawrence Blankinship, Carolyn Greene, Shirley Thaw or Janice Smith if you have that skill. It takes all of our gifts and talents to make this campaign successful.

Capital Campaign Update

Join us for an important Capital Campaign Update immediately following Mass on September 14th in Ferguson Hall. Your presence would mean a lot to us, and we warmly encourage everyone to attend as we share exciting developments and vision for our future together!

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!

Parish Mental Health Ministry



In partnership with Catholic Charities, parishes launched parish-based mental health ministries. Parishes continue to have events and groups. All are welcomed. To stay up-to-date about current events, visit <https://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/mentalhealthministry/> and scroll down to view the calendar.

Help Update our Records



Please help us keep our records accurate by updating your contact information or personal details. Whether you've moved, changed your phone number or email, or experienced significant life changes, prompt communication ensures we can provide relevant support. Reach out to us at (816) 471-3696 or via email at bradillo@stmonicakc.org. Thank you for your cooperation!

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, Maxine Harvey, 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), Alvin Brooks, Bettye Young, Don Williams, Deacon Darwin Dupree, Ramonda Doakes, Vincent Alexandria

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@diocesekcsj.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 ext. 516 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

Social Services & Food Pantry Ministry

Rita Womack Director
Donna Murff
Dawn Collins
Dianna Miller
Rita Humphrey



Lord God Almighty,
bless our grandparents with
long life, happiness, and health.
May they remain constant in
your love
and be living signs of your
presence
to their children and
grandchildren.
We ask this through Christ
our Lord.
Amen

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

9:00 AM Mass
10:00 AM Dance Rehearsal (S)
10:30 AM GriefShare Group (CH)
10:30 AM St. Peter Claver Day (STM)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

9:00 AM Mass
6:00 PM Prayer Service
6:00 PM Parish Council (STM)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

11:00 AM Altar & Rosary (FH)
11:00 AM Capital Campaign Meeting (STM)