

Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026 **1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108**

Parish Staff

Fr. Leonard Gicheru
Pastor
frleonard@stmonicakc.org

Reverend Darwin Dupree, Sr.
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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

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Strength for Every Season

"I can do all things in him who strengthens me." — Philippians 4:13 are the central words of our second reading this weekend.

This is one of the most beloved verses in Scripture. We see it printed on T-shirts, displayed in homes, and quoted by athletes before important competitions. It is often understood to mean, "With Christ, I can accomplish anything I desire." Although the verse certainly expresses confidence in Christ, St. Paul's original message is deeper and more challenging.

Paul wrote these words while imprisoned. He was not celebrating an easy victory or enjoying a season of comfort. He had experienced rejection, persecution, hunger, uncertainty, and imprisonment because of his ministry. Yet, in the middle of those hardships, Paul discovered a source of strength that circumstances could not take away.

In the verses immediately before this passage, Paul explains: "I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live with little, and I know how to live with abundance." He had experienced both prosperity and poverty, acceptance and opposition, freedom and imprisonment.



continued on page 2

continued from page 1

His confidence was not that Christ would prevent every difficulty, but that Christ would give him the strength to remain faithful through every difficulty.

The central lesson is simple: **Christ strengthens us for every season of life.**

Sometimes we imagine that God's presence will remove our struggles. We pray for healing, but the illness continues. We ask for peace, but family problems remain unresolved. We seek financial security, yet bills continue to arrive. We hope for immediate answers, but God asks us to wait. Philippians 4:13 does not promise that every problem will disappear. It promises that we will never face our problems alone.

The strength Christ gives is not always dramatic. Sometimes it is the courage to get out of bed and face another difficult day. Sometimes it is the patience to care for an aging parent, the humility to apologize, or the grace to forgive someone who has wounded us. It may be the discipline to resist temptation, the wisdom to accept what we cannot change, or the hope to continue praying when God seems silent.

Paul also says that contentment is something he "learned." It did not happen instantly. Like Paul, we learn contentment by walking with Christ through changing circumstances. Faith grows when we recognize that our joy does not depend entirely upon possessions, success, recognition, or comfort. These things can change quickly. Christ, however, remains constant.

This verse also teaches us to distinguish Christian strength from self-reliance. Paul does not say, "I can do everything because I am strong." He says, "through him who strengthens me." Christian confidence begins with dependence upon God. We pray, receive the sacraments, listen to Scripture, and accept the support of our faith community because we know that we cannot carry every burden by ourselves.

Whatever season we are facing today—abundance or need, joy or sorrow, certainty or confusion—Christ is present. He may not remove every cross, but he will help us carry it. He may not give us the future we imagined, but he will provide the grace needed for the life before us.

Therefore, we can say with Paul, not as a slogan of personal ambition but as a profession of faith: "I can endure, serve, forgive, persevere, and remain faithful in all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1; Psalm 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a, 6-7; Luke 11:29-32

Tuesday: Galatians 5:1-6; Psalm 119:41, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48; Luke 11:37-41

Wednesday: Galatians 5:18-25; Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Luke 11:42-46

Thursday: Ephesians 1:1-10; 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6; Luke 11:47-54

Friday: Ephesians 1:15-23; Psalm 8:2-3ab, 4-5, 6-7; Luke 12:8-12

Saturday: Galatians 3:22-29; Psalm 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Luke 11:27-28

Sunday: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; Psalm 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b; Matthew 22:15-21

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Lectors: Gerald Buckman, Darthene Buckman

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Diane Brooks-Alexandria

Ushers: Team C

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

Offering Reports

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Regular Offering:	$4,918.00
Fundraising Campaign:	$1,872.00
Food Pantry:	$225.00
Second Collection:	$4.00
Total	**$7,019.00**

Fundraising Campaign Weekly Update

Goal	$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	$441, 772
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.67%
Actual Cash Received to Date	$134, 288

Announcements

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 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.

Silent Auction Meeting

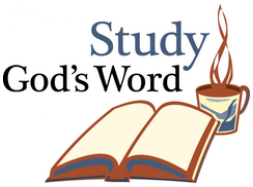


Our next meetings will take place immediately after Mass on today, October 11th and 18th in the sanctuary on the north side. On these days, we will be collecting all donated items at the church. Please bring a description of your donation and retail price. If you plan to donate a large item, kindly notify the committee as soon as possible. We are excited to see the wonderful items you have for this event! Remember, you do not need to be a committee member to donate an auction item. If you have any questions, please contact us. Shirley Thaw, Michele Perez, Jackie McGhee-Dinvaut

Thank You

We are deeply grateful for the kindness and prayers shown by our St. Monica Family during the loss of my sister, Brenda Baker.
Dianna Miller and Family

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!

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.

Thank You

To Father Leonard, and the St. Monica Family,
Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your outpouring love, kindness, and support during the loss of my daughter. I am truly grateful for each one of you, and I deeply appreciate the prayers, comforting words, and many acts of compassion shown to my family during this difficult time.
The Jones family sincerely thanks the church for all that you have done.

Thank You

The Hardy Family would like to thank our St Monica family for your prayers and condolences as we mourn the death of our sister Brenda Baker who passed away a week and a half ago. We thank you for your condolences.

"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

St. Monica Choir

Minister of Music
Melvin Kerr

President
Paula Nix

Vice President
Randy Fuller

Secretary
Marilyn Scott

Treasurer
Diane Charity

Sharon Hardy
Shirley Barber
Pamela Green
Roy Moye

Karen Hernandez
Michelle Malone
Bernadette Cook
Gabriel Kagwanga

Terese Brown
Rita Womack
Cynthia Hardy
Robert Moore

Michele Perez
Ann Suellentrop
Kaitlin O'Malley
Avery Johnson

Fred Fuqua
Benjie Givens
Duane Murff
Isabel Johnson

Dwight Miller
Cathy Johnson
Rose Roos
John Perez

Karen Hardy Groves
Carolyn Childs Gruber
Alecia Lacroix Durena
Vincent Alexandria

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

9:00 AM	Mass
10:30 AM	Sunday School (FH)
10:30 AM	RCIA Classes (STM)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

9:30 AM	Women's Bible Study (STM)
3:00 PM	Museum Videotaping Session (S)