



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 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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dawn2127@hotmail.com

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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

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Held by Love

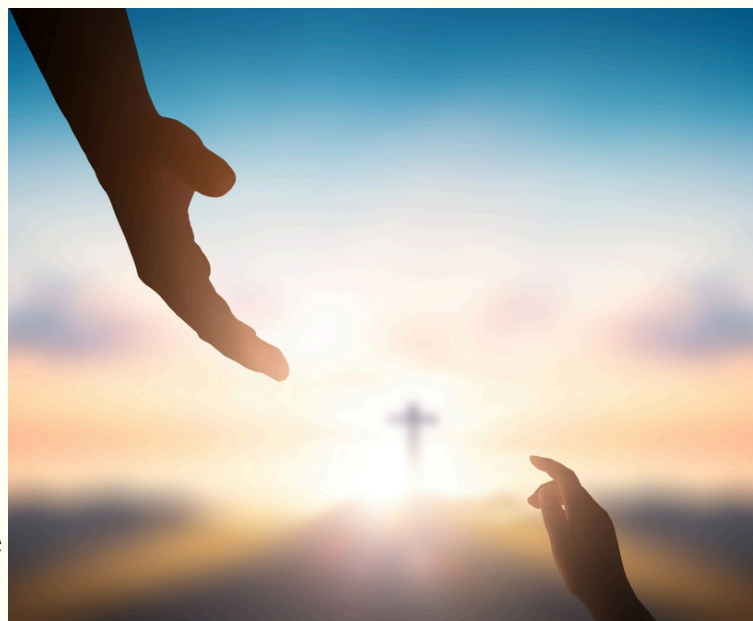
A little boy once became separated from his mother in a crowded grocery store. Frightened, he began running from aisle to aisle calling, "Mom! Mom!" When she finally found him, he wrapped his arms tightly around her and cried, "I lost you!" His mother smiled and said, "You may have lost sight of me, but I never lost sight of you."

That is the heart of today's second reading.

Saint Paul asks, "What will separate us from the love of Christ?" He names anguish, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, and the sword. In other words, Paul looks at the worst that life can bring and asks whether any of it has the power to make God stop loving us.

His answer is clear: absolutely not. We may lose sight of God, but God never loses sight of us.

There are moments when God can feel distant. A loved one dies. A marriage struggles. A medical report brings bad news. A prayer seems unanswered. A child makes painful choices. Bills pile up. Loneliness settles in. At such times, we may wonder, "Where is God? Has He forgotten me?"



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Paul does not dismiss these questions. He knew suffering personally. He was beaten, rejected, imprisoned, misunderstood, and threatened. His confidence in God’s love did not come from an easy life. It came from discovering that, even in suffering, Christ remained present.

Paul writes, “In all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us.”

Notice that he says “in all these things,” not “away from all these things.” We do not conquer because every problem disappears. We conquer because no problem can take Christ away from us.

Sometimes we imagine victory means that the illness is cured, the conflict is resolved, the job is restored, or the prayer is answered exactly as we hoped. Those can certainly be blessings. But Christian victory is deeper. It means that suffering does not destroy our faith, fear does not steal our hope, and pain does not convince us that we are unloved. We conquer because Christ stays.

Human love, even when sincere, can sometimes grow tired. People become distracted. Promises are broken. Phone calls are missed. Someone may even say, “I will always be there,” and then become difficult to find when moving day arrives.

But the love of Christ is different. It is not fragile, temporary, or dependent on our good behavior. Christ does not love us only when we are strong, successful, or faithful. He also loves us when we are weak, confused, ashamed, and struggling.

The cross proves this. Jesus did not wait for humanity to become worthy before He loved us. He loved us in our sin and gave His life for us. The resurrection proves that not even death can defeat that love.

Paul is convinced that neither present things nor future things can separate us from God. That means we do not have to be afraid of tomorrow. Whatever tomorrow contains, the love of Christ will already be there.

We may sometimes lose sight of God. We may become discouraged, distracted, or afraid. But God never loses sight of us. His love holds us when we cannot hold ourselves together. His love searches for us when we wander. His love lifts us when we fall.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Nothing.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Jeremiah 28:1-17; Psalm 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102; Matthew 14:22-36

Tuesday: Jeremiah 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22; Psalm 102:16-18, 19-21, 29, 22-23; Matthew 14:22-36

Wednesday: Jeremiah 31:1-7; Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12ab, 13; Matthew 15:21-28

Thursday: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Matthew 17:1-9

Friday: Nahum 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7; Psalm Deuteronomy 32:35cd-36ab, 39abcd, 41; Matthew 16:24-28

Saturday: Habakkuk 1:12-2:4; Psalm 9:8-9, 10-11, 12-13; Matthew 17:14-20

Sunday: 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a; Psalm 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Lectors: Brenda Lofton, Cristina Ramirez

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Jackie McGhee-Dinvaut

Ushers: Team B

Eucharistic Ministers: Carolyn Greene, Ben Gruber, Sharon Hardy, Elaine Johnson, Syrtiller Kabot, Felicia Menefee

Offering Reports

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Regular Offering:	\$3,197.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$868.00
Food Pantry:	\$45.00
Our Lady of Sorrows:	\$1009.36
Total	\$5,119.36

Fundraising Campaign

Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$425,872
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.03%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$117,322

St. Monica Day Celebration



Mark your calendars for St. Monica Day Weekend, August 29-30! The weekend will kick off with a Health and Wellness Event on Saturday,

August 29, from 10 am to 12 pm and will commence with a Spiritual Wellness celebration at the 9 am Mass on August 30th. Please invite your friends and family, and remember to wear your African attire to Sunday Mass.

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.

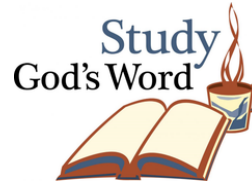
Help Update Our Records



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!

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!

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

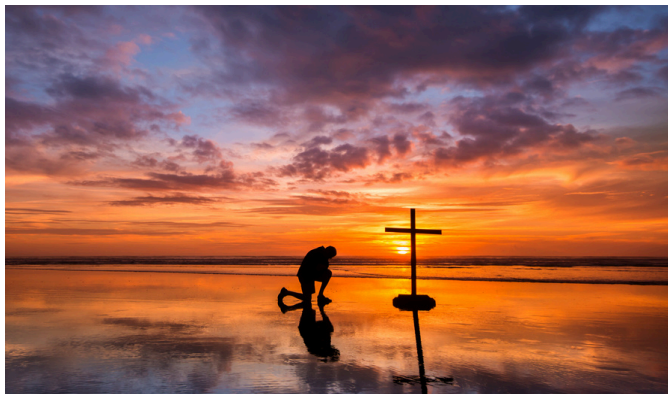
Saturday from 9:30 to 11:00 am. This is a fantastic chance to grow spiritually and delve into the teachings of the Bible in a supportive and engaging environment. For more information, please contact Paula Nix at (816) 471- 3696 or mspaula.pn@gmail.com.

Legion of Mary Meeting



Please join us for the Legion of Mary meetings here at St. Monica every Monday at 4:00 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.

Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald Parson, 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

Stewardship Committee

Lawrence Blankinship
M. Jenise Comer
Fr. Leonard Gicheru
Carolyn Greene
Shirley Thaw
Jackie Dinvaut

Chair
Recorder
Kenneth Bacchus
David Barnes
Alvin Brooks
Angela Curry

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, AUGUST 2

9:00 AM Mass
10:00 AM KPC Breakfast
10:00 AM Dance Rehearsal (S)
10:30 AM BCIT Meeting (STM)

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

4:00 PM Legion of Mary Meeting

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

9:00 AM Velma Jennings Funeral

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

9:00 AM Religious Education Meeting (STM)
11:30 PM Altar & Rosary Meeting (FH)