



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 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

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus said to the Pharisees: "There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores. When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham." Luke 16:19-22

No rational person would want to go to hell. The rich man in this parable certainly did not desire hell, but his actions led him there. Most people, however, do want to be rich in this world. In fact, many people would think it irrational not to desire wealth. It is very rare to find a person who chooses to live in simplicity as a means to deeper spiritual fulfillment and as a preparation for the riches of Heaven. But one clear message from our Gospel story today is that the life that Lazarus lived on earth was far better than that of the rich man. So which life do you prefer here and now? While it is true that the rich man's riches were not the exclusive cause of his eternal damnation, it is also true that his riches imposed upon him a temptation toward selfishness and indifference to the needs of others, which ended in his eternal demise.

Imagine that you won many millions of dollars. What would you do with it? As a good Christian, you might immediately profess that you would use that money for good, to help the poor and make a difference in the lives of others.



continued on page 2



What would the ideal response be to winning many millions of dollars? Would it suffice to give away ten percent and then use the rest for yourself? Probably not.

One thing that this parable teaches is that material wealth not only adds nothing of value to our eternal reward, it also adds much temptation to our lives. True, if you received a lot of money and then used that money exclusively for good in accord with God’s will, that would be a holy act of charity on your part and good for your eternal soul. But doing so would be very difficult. It would be very difficult to resist the temptations that come from material wealth.

Is it good to be rich? It is certainly good to be able to take care of your basic needs in life and those of your family. Having money helps you do that. But once our basic needs have been met, the money left over is far more of a temptation than it is a blessing. We have to believe that. And if you are among those who want to become rich so that you can help others, consider this scenario. If that is your motivation, and if you did win a large amount of money, would it be possible for you to continue living the way you are living now? Imagine staying in the same home, driving the same car, having the same lifestyle, and using all the money you obtained 100% for the glory of God and the good of others. That would be hard to do. But if you could do it, not only would it be good for others, it would be exceptionally good for your own soul. Though this Gospel story has many valuable lessons in it, one of the clearest messages is that earthly poverty benefits a soul far more than earthly wealth. Many people will find that hard to accept.

Reflect, today, upon the stark contrast between Lazarus and the rich man. One dined sumptuously every day, was clothed in fine linen and purple garments and then spent eternity in the netherworld where he was tormented. The other longed to eat the scraps from another’s table, had no home, was covered in sores, but spent eternity in Heaven after being carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. Choose to imitate Lazarus rather than the rich man. If you have many material possessions, work hard at being detached from them. Live simply, be generous, and never neglect those in need. If you have very little, do not covet more. Eliminate envy, don’t despair, trust in the providence of God, and rejoice that, like Lazarus, you are able to build up eternal riches within your soul that will remain with you forever.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12a; Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5; John 1:47-51

Tuesday: Zechariah 8:20-23; Psalm 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; Luke 9:51-56

Wednesday: Nehemiah 2:1-8; Psalm 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Luke 9:57-62

Thursday: Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Matthew 18:1-5, 10

Friday: Baruch 1:15-22; Psalm 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9; Luke 10:13-16

Saturday: Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29; Psalm 69:33-35, 36-37; Luke 10:17-24

Sunday: Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4; Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14; Luke 17:5-10

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, October 5, 2025

Lectors: Youth

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Arimeta Dupree

Ushers: Team A

Eucharistic Ministers: Rita Womack, Shirley Barber, Terese Brown, Stephanie Broils, Gerald Buckman, Diane Charity

Offering Reports

Sunday, September 21, 2025

Regular Offering: \$2,829.00

Food Pantry: \$80.00

Second Collection: \$203.01

Total \$3,112.01

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.

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.

Join Our Choir



St. Monica Music Ministry has been invited to help build a 100-voice Interfaith/Multi-Cultural choir for an upcoming music video and documentary. If you're

interested in singing or would like more information, please see Marilyn Scott or Melvin Kerr. The first rehearsal is scheduled for Saturday, November 1, and filming will take place on Saturday, December 6, in the sanctuary. We encourage you to join us! Please note that there will be a maximum of two rehearsals before the filming. To participate, you must sign a release form and attend the rehearsal(s).

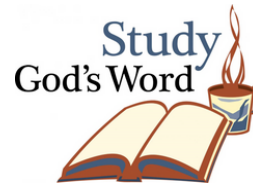
Capital Campaign Events



Several dinner parties are scheduled to take place in the homes of parishioners throughout October and November. Additionally, a big free pizza party is planned for

November 13th in Donnelly Hall, located next to the downtown Cathedral. The purpose of these events is to share information about the vision for our Church and Ferguson Hall. To be added to the invitation list, please email Peter Callan at callanpo@gmail.com.

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!

Chicken Dinner and Bake Sale



Please join us in supporting the Ladies Auxiliary of St. Peter Claver's Chicken Dinner Fundraiser and Bake Sale! The event will take place on Sunday, October

12th, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in Ferguson Hall at St. Monica. Tickets are \$10.00 each and include 2 pieces of chicken, two sides, a roll, and water. Tickets are available for purchase starting today after mass, or you can contact Lady Crystal Marie Miller at 816-665-6753 for more information. We hope to see you there!

Continuing the Conversation



Join us on Thursday, October 16th, in Ferguson Hall at 6:30 PM for a workshop led by Ebony Reed, co-author of *Fifteen Cents on the Dollar: How

Americans Made the Black-White Wealth Gap.* This workshop will focus on redlining and economic inequality. Ebony will facilitate a discussion and reflection session, helping participants identify meaningful action steps to address inequality in Kansas City.

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, 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 of true riches, the spiritual wealth of true virtue, charity, faith and hope are all that matters in life. Material possessions mean little in this life and are a source of many temptations. Please free me from the desire for wealth. Free me from greed, selfishness and envy. Fill me with a spirit of detachment and generosity, and help me to build up true treasure in Heaven.
Jesus, I trust in You.

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

9:00 AM Mass
10:00 AM Dance Rehearsal (S)
10:30 AM GriefShare Group (CH)
2:00 PM 4th Degree KPC Ladies (STM)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

9:00 AM Mass
6:00 PM Prayer Service

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study (STM)
11:30 AM Choir Rehearsal (S)
11:30 AM Knight of Peter Claver (FH)
11:30 AM Ladies of Peter Claver (STM)