



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

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Melvin Kerr
Choir/Music Ministry

George Hans
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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

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands. Mark 7:1-2

What a foolish thing for these Pharisees and scribes to be concerned about! They were in the presence of the Son of God, the Savior of the World, a man of perfect virtue and pure goodness, and all they could do was to observe that some of Jesus' disciples failed to follow the scrupulous teaching on how they should wash their hands before a meal.

The reason for this was their pride. These teachers of Israel had devised a large body of detailed, unwritten, human laws that they treated with the same binding force as the Law of Moses that they received from God. But the scribes' and Pharisees' human traditions were not from God; they were a body of regulations flowing from their own self-righteous need to act as interpreters of the Law. Therefore, whenever someone failed to follow the traditions the Pharisees and scribes taught as binding, they took it personally and reacted with judgment.

One lesson we can learn from these religious leaders is that we should never take things personally. Allowing ourselves to become personally offended at anything at all is, in fact, an act of our own pride. We do need to have sorrow for the sin we see, but that is different than allowing ourselves to become personally offended. For example, even if we were to teach the very Law of God and someone rejects that teaching, our response must be sorrow for them as we reject their error.

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Jesus went on to respond to the Pharisees and scribes by quoting to them the Prophet Isaiah: “This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts” (See Isaiah 29:13). What’s interesting is that Jesus didn’t really engage them in conversation about this, defending Himself or His disciples in their eyes. Instead, He rebuked the Pharisees and scribes in a general way so as to dismiss their criticism as false, and then turned away from them and addressed the crowds.

We will all experience unjust condemnation at times. If we are in the wrong, then we must receive the condemnation as if it were from God and repent. But if the condemnation flows from someone’s wounded pride or error, then Jesus set the example on how we ought to respond. The best response is to reject their error and then refuse to become engaged in the conversation further. Too often when we are criticized unjustly, we also take it personally. We tend to fight back and justify ourselves, trying to prove that the other person is wrong. But when we do that, we are most likely acting out of our own wounded pride. This will result in angry sulking feelings and the experience of oppression that the evil one inflicts upon us. Jesus’ model is to reject the lie and then refuse to engage it further. The reason for this is that the unjust condemnation is actually the seed of the evil one. The person delivering it is only the instrument. So we rebuke the lie of the evil one and refuse to get into a personal battle with the person delivering the lie. Doing so brings freedom from oppression and allows our hearts to remain at peace, no matter what we endure.

Reflect, today, upon any ways that you have taken some conversation personally, allowing it to oppress you with anger, becoming defensive or argumentative. Know that whenever that happens, this is an attack from the evil one as he seeks to oppress you. Do not accept that abuse. The guide for each of us is the peace and joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. Even the greatest martyrs remained at peace and felt joy in the midst of their persecution. Reflect upon any ways that you have allowed the evil one to agitate you and leave you upset with your wounded pride. Do not fall into his trap. Hold on to the truth and remain at peace, and that will be all the defense you need to make.

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Psalm 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102; Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 2:10b-16; Psalm 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14; Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Psalm 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21; Luke 4:38-44

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 3:18-23; Psalm 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Luke 5:1-11

Friday: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Psalm 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40; Luke 5:33-39

Saturday: 1 Corinthians 4:6b-15; Psalm 145:17-18, 19-20, 21; Luke 6:1-5

Sunday: Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, September 8, 2024

Lectors: Pat Williams, Rita Womack

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Ramonda Doakes

Ushers: Team B

Eucharistic Ministers: Rose Roos, Terese Brown, Katie Stewart, Kirk Thaw, Shirley Thaw, Pat Williams

Offering Reports

Sunday, August 25, 2024

Regular Offering:	\$4,525.25
Food Pantry:	\$80.00
Second Collection:	\$0.00
Miscellaneous:	\$5.00

Total	\$4,610.25
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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.

Thank You for Your Support



We express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who generously contributed to the school supply drive and backed the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary in this fundraiser. Your support will have a meaningful impact on the children aided by Jackson County CASA. Thank you for being part of this important cause.

First Holy Communion



Join us for a special celebration of First Communion on September 8, 2024. After the Mass, we invite you to join us for a joyous reception in Ferguson Hall. We hope you can join us for this joyous occasion!

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.

Thank You!

The Alexandria, Alexander, and Wine family would like to express their gratitude to the church family for their love and support during our difficult time of loss. The choir's performance was excellent. Thank you! The love we received was truly felt.

Come Enjoy an Evening of Sharing, Learning, and Fun!



Join us at the DCCW Quarterly meeting on Wednesday, September 4th, 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM at St. Mark Catholic Church, 3736 S Lee's Summit Rd, Independence, MO 64055. Please bring a dish to share and RSVP by September 2nd to Beverly South at 816-304-1568 or marydccw@gmail.com.

You Are Invited to a Retreat



Members of our Diocesan Seven Sisters Apostolate and women interested in joining are invited to a retreat at St. Gabriel the Archangel Church, 4737 N. Cleveland Ave, Kansas City, MO on Saturday, September 7. The day will begin with Holy Mass at 8:00 am and end by 3:00 pm. The cost is \$15, which includes lunch and presentations by Janette Howe, the Foundress of Seven Sisters Apostolate from St. Paul, MN.



Contact Us

Please help us maintain accurate records by informing us of any changes to your contact information, household composition, or personal status. Whether you've moved, acquired a new phone number, changed your email address, or experienced significant life changes, we value staying connected with you. Your prompt communication ensures that we can provide you with the most relevant and up-to-date 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, Beverly Dyer, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald Parson, Sergio Mendoza, Elaine Lomax, Donna Dupree, 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, Greta Nash, Opal C. Blankinship, Patrice Williams (daughter of Pat and Don Williams), Louie Jones, John James, Barbara Walters, Janee Green (daughter of Pam and Ronald Green), Jublatee O'Neal (New Parishioner), Bonita Akridge, Deacon Kenneth Greene, Lawrence Ramirez, Roland Miller (Husband of Diana Miller), Mary Ann Grayson

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 suspect sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline, at 1-800-392-3728 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local Law Enforcement Agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, crayon@ombudsmankc.org, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City- St. Joseph.
4. The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing healing and resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families.

Safety Environment Coordinator for St. Monica Parish -

Ramonda Doakes, P-(816) 457- 5538, E- rdoakes@stmonicakc.org

Saints & Special Observances

Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time; 1989 Fr. James E. White, 1st Black priest assigned St. Patrick's Cathedral in NYC

Monday: Labor Day; 1997 Venus Williams, 1st time reaching the Grand Slam Semifinals at the U.S. Open

Tuesday: St. Gregory the Great; 1838 Frederick Douglass escaped from slavery

Thursday: 1877 'Pap' Singleton left Tennessee with 73 African Americans to establish Singleton's Colony in Kansas

Friday: 1848 National Convention of Black Freemen was held in Cleveland



Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

9:00 AM Mass
11:20 AM RCIA Class (CR)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Labor Day- Office Closed

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

9:00 AM Mass
6:00 PM Prayer Service

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study (STM)
11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal (S)
11:30 AM Ladies Knight of Peter Claver (STM)
1:00 PM Knights of Peter Claver (STM)

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