



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

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Melvin Kerr
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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

From our Pastor

Second Sunday of Easter

Remembering Pope Francis: A Personal Reflection

By now, since Monday, you have likely heard so much about Pope Francis in the news and across various tributes that I don't think it's worth repeating it all here in this bulletin. His life, teachings, travels, and papal milestones have been well-covered. But I felt it was important to take a moment to share a more personal reflection—how Pope Francis' papacy has shaped my own priesthood and faith journey.

Pope Francis was elected in March 2013, just a year before I was ordained to the priesthood. In that sense, he is the only pope I have known as a priest—his voice, his gestures, and his shepherding presence have accompanied me all through this sacred vocation. From the very beginning, his election surprised many. He was a cardinal not widely known and not mentioned among the likely successors to Pope Benedict XVI. Even his choice of name —Francis—signaled something new. He came from the peripheries, both geographically and institutionally, and many of us, me included, wondered how he would lead the Church and how he would be received.

But almost immediately, Pope Francis began to leave a mark—not just on the Vatican, but on the hearts of many, including my own. His deep prayerfulness, his simplicity, and his humble gestures spoke louder than any preaching. I remember being stuck by his decision to live in the Casa Santa Marta questhouse instead of the papal apartments.



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That simple act spoke volumes: he was a pope who would walk among us.

He made it clear early on that he came from the margins, and he wanted the Church to move outward—toward those who feel forgotten, excluded, or unloved. That resonated with me. It reminded me that priesthood is not about status, but about service. It's about finding Christ in the poor, the broken, and the invisible. That has shaped how I interact with those entrusted to my care.

One of the defining moments of his pontificate, for me, was when he called the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015. He reminded us that “God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking His mercy.” This statement changed the way I approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation, both as a confessor and a penitent. It reminded me that mercy is not a soft option—it is the very face of God.

Pope Francis was never afraid to initiate uncomfortable but necessary conversations—within the Church, among clergy, and in society at large. He challenged clericalism, the abuse of power, and called out life-draining bureaucracy in the Church's structures. And in recent years, his focus on the Synod on Synodality encouraged us to walk together, to listen deeply, and to grow as a family of God—not as isolated voices, but in communion.

He has been referred the People's Pope, and rightly so. Even in his final hours, he wished to be known not by title, but by his deep connection to the people he loved and served so passionately. He didn't retreat into grand halls of isolation and despair despite his frail health. Instead, he has remained close to the suffering, the marginalized, and the faithful till the end.

His legacy continues to influence how I treat people, how I welcome them, and how I strive to walk with them. He taught us that the Church must be a field hospital, not a fortress. That we are called not to condemn, but to accompany.

I was blessed to see Pope Francis in person for the first time during the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in September 2015.

I saw him again in Rome—twice on the same day—on Ash Wednesday in 2019. Those brief moments were life changing and affirming to my priesthood and ministry.

He will be greatly missed and always deeply loved. May his example continue to inspire us all to be people of mercy, simplicity, and joy.

May Pope Francis rest in peace. Amen.
Fr. Leonard

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 4:23-31; Psalm 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9; John 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; John 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; John 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; Psalm 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20; John 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; John 6:1-15

Saturday: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5; John 14:6-14

Sunday: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Lectors: Youth

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Ann Suellentrop

Ushers: Team A

Eucharistic Ministers: Arimeta Dupree, Mary Graham, Pamela Green, Ronald Green, Carolyn Greene, Ben Gruber

Offering Reports

Sunday, April 20, 2025

Regular Offering:	\$3,348.00
Building Fund:	\$30.00
Food Pantry:	\$110.00
Seder Meal:	\$154.55
Our Lady of Sorrows:	\$3,528.06
Total	\$7,170.61

Bingo Night



B-I-N-G-O! Yes, we are going to have a Parish Council Bingo Night at St. Monica on Saturday, April 26th at 6:30 pm. We hope you can join us to play, socialize and win some prizes. Questions? See Kim Urenda (913) 226-2085

Friends and Family Update



We'd like to share an exciting update! This event is a wonderful opportunity for evangelization, and we want to remind everyone that to qualify for the prize, we will only be counting young adult and adult visitors. St. Monica, we believe in you! Let's come together and fill the pews on the 18th and every Sunday after that.

Juneteenth Parade



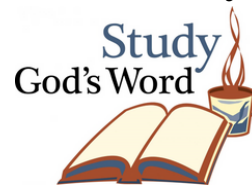
Save the date for the Juneteenth Parade on June 7th. The Juneteenth Heritage Festival will take place on June 21st. We are the reigning champions for our float and welcome your ideas, time, and talents as we prepare to win again!

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.

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



Join us for the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Kibeho/Our Lady Sorrows Praesidium meeting, tomorrow, April 28th, at 6:00 PM in the St. Monica building. Your presence will be greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you there!

Memorial Mass for Pope Francis

Bishop Johnston will preside at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 6:30 pm, Monday, April 28, a Memorial Mass for Pope Francis during the nine days of mourning. All are welcome.

In addition to the parking lot at the Cathedral, additional parking information is available by accessing <https://www.kcgolddome.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Cathedral-Parking.pdf>. Attendees can enter through the doors at the Bishop Hogan Center or the Cathedral doors from 11th Street.

Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Beverly Dyer, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald Parson, Sergio Mendoza, 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, Deacon Kenneth Greene, Lawrence Ramirez, Edward H. Franklin, Jr. (Father of Tracey Franklin Bradford), Sean Curry (Son of Angela Curry), Alvin Brooks, Bettye Young

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, Joe Crayon, at 816.812.2500 or crayon@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 816.392.0011 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

Kenneth Bacchus	Fr. Leonard Gicheru
David Barnes	Carolyn Greene
Lawrence Blankinship	Shayla Mendy
Alvin Brooks	Shirley Thaw
Jenise Comer	Jackie Dinvaut
Angela Curry	

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us. Jesus, I trust in You.

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

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

MONDAY, APRIL 28

6:00 PM	Legion of Mary Meeting (STM)
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TUESDAY, APRIL 29

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

9:00 AM	Mass
6:00 PM	Prayer Service

THURSDAY, MAY 1

FRIDAY, MAY 2

SATURDAY, MAY 3

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

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