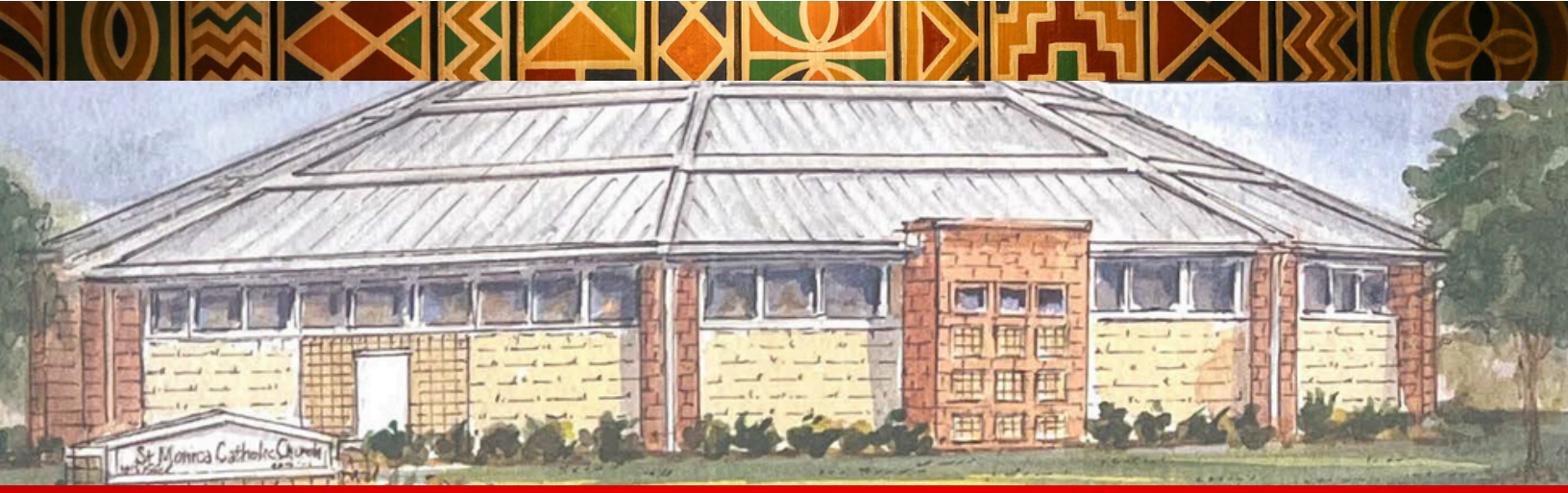


Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 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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Biviana Radillo
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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

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Love Your Neighbor—Even During Election Season

Election season has a remarkable ability to test our Christianity. We can leave church singing about love, then get into the car and begin explaining why everyone who supports the other candidate has lost their mind. Apparently, loving our neighbor becomes more complicated when that neighbor puts the wrong sign in the yard!

As we prepare for the midterm elections, this Sunday's Gospel gives us a necessary examination of conscience.

Asked which commandment is greatest, Jesus answers: love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. These commandments belong together. Our love for God must shape how we treat people, including those whose political choices frustrate us.

Jesus does not make an exception for election season.

Loving God with our whole mind means allowing our faith to question our political loyalties. We must resist the temptation to treat a party platform as though it were another book of the Bible. No candidate deserves the unquestioning loyalty that belongs to God.



Before asking, "Does this candidate agree with me?" we should ask, "How do this candidate's positions measure against the Gospel and the Church's teaching?" That requires effort. A well-formed conscience needs prayer, reliable information, and honest attention to moral truth. It cannot be formed entirely by campaign advertisements, angry commentators, or messages forwarded by a cousin who apparently knows everything.

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We have a responsibility to look deeper.

Love of neighbor also widens the questions we bring to the ballot. What protects human life and dignity? What serves families and the common good? How will decisions affect the unborn, struggling parents, people living in poverty, immigrants, the elderly, and those who are sick? These questions require serious moral discernment; they cannot be answered by slogans alone.

Our choices have consequences for people we may never meet. Christian love asks us to remember them. But our responsibility does not end with evaluating candidates. We must also examine our own conduct.

Do we share accusations without checking whether they are true? Do we excuse cruelty when it comes from our preferred candidate? Do we describe entire groups of people with contempt? Have we allowed political disagreements to destroy friendships or divide our families?

We cannot defend human dignity convincingly while humiliating the human being standing before us.

Respectful disagreement does not require silence about wrongdoing. Love can speak firmly, challenge injustice, and demand accountability. But it seeks truth and the good of others. It does not need insults to make its case.

Before voting, set aside time to pray and study. Before sharing a political post, verify it. Before answering someone angrily, pause. And before assuming the worst about another voter, listen long enough to understand their concerns.

Our parish should be a place where people can seek truth together without fearing contempt. We gather around one altar because Christ calls us into communion, and that belonging carries responsibilities beyond Sunday.

The midterm elections will determine who holds public office. Our words and actions will reveal what holds first place within our hearts.

When this election season ends, we will still be neighbors. We will still need one another. And Jesus will still ask whether we loved.

Let us participate responsibly, form our consciences carefully, and remember whose commandment comes first: love God, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Informed by the U.S. bishops' guidance on conscience, political participation, and human dignity in Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship. USCCB

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Ephesians 4:32-5:8; Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Luke 13:10-17

Tuesday: Ephesians 5:21-33; Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Luke 13:18-21

Wednesday: Ephesians 2:19-22; Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5; Luke 6:12-16

Thursday: Ephesians 6:10-20; Psalm 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Luke 13:31-35

Friday: Philippians 1:1-11; Psalm 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Luke 14:1-6

Saturday: Philippians 1:18b-26; Psalm 42:2, 3, 5cdef; Luke 14:1, 7-11

Sunday: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; Psalm 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12a

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, November 1, 2026

Lectors: Youth

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Ernest Collins

Ushers: Team A

Eucharistic Ministers: Terese Brown, Gerald Buckman, Diane Charity, Dawn Collins, Bernadette Cook, Angela Curry

Offering Reports

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Regular Offering:	$4,515.00
Fundraising Campaign:	$865.00
Food Pantry:	$60.00
Second Collection:	$194.00
Miscellaneous:	$1,502.33
Total	**$7,136.33**

Fundraising Campaign Weekly Update

Goal	$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	$441, 772
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.67%
Actual Cash Received to Date	$135,841

Announcements

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 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



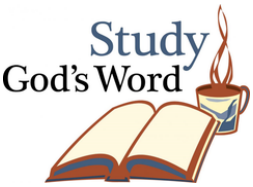
Thank you to all who have already submitted a pledge card for our parish fundraising campaign. If you have not yet participated, pledge cards are available at the back of the church. Please return your completed card in the red collection box. Every gift helps move our parish forward.

What's on the Ballot?



Join Kansas City Catholics Addressing Racism for a community conversation on **Thursday, October 29, 2026, at 6:30 pm at Visitation Church, Tighe Hall (5141 Main Street, KCMO 64112).** In the previous "Conversation" in July, the *Pros* and *Cons* of the amendments were stated to improve understanding of what's on the ballot. Again, information will be provided to address the amendments. Sponsored by St. Monica and Visitation, these events bring together members of Visitation, St. Monica, and neighboring parishes for thoughtful discussions on issues that matter. Featured speakers Stephen Miller and Judge Jon R. Gray will share their insights. All are welcome!

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.

All Saints Eve Vespers



Celebrate All Hallows' Eve—All Saints' Eve—at Redemptorist Church with a special holy hour featuring Evening Prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, Benediction, and a special Litany of the Saints. Gather with us to honor the Saints and seek their intercession on the eve of their feast day. At Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3333 Broadway, Kansas City, MO, on Saturday, October 31, at 7:00 p.m.

"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 25

9:00 AM	Mass
10:30 AM	Sunday School (FH)
10:30 AM	RCIA Classes (STM)
2:00 PM	4th Degree KPC Ladies (STM)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31