



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 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

Brad Geist
Pastoral Associate
bgeist@stmonicakc.org

Biviana Radillo
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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

From our Pastor

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

When You Do Not Know What to Say to God

Have you ever tried to pray and found that no words would come? You sit down, make the Sign of the Cross, close your eyes, and then... nothing. Your mind wanders to tomorrow's schedule, an unpaid bill, a difficult conversation, or what you are going to eat after Mass. You begin with, "Dear God..." and five minutes later you realize you have been planning dinner.

In today's second reading, Saint Paul gives us deeply comforting news: "The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought."

Notice that Paul does not say we sometimes fail to pray properly because we are bad Christians. He simply acknowledges a human reality: there are moments when we do not know how to pray. Sometimes the pain is too deep. Sometimes the situation is too confusing. Sometimes we do not even know what to ask God for.

A loved one is seriously ill. Should we pray for healing, acceptance, strength, or a peaceful death? A relationship is breaking apart. Should we pray for reconciliation or the courage to let go? A new opportunity appears. Should we ask God to open the door or close it? We may come before God with nothing but confusion.



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But Saint Paul tells us that we are not praying alone. The Holy Spirit prays within us. The Spirit takes our tears, our silence, our frustration, our fear, and even our sighs, and carries them before the Father. What feels like an empty prayer may actually be a very deep prayer.

Sometimes the most honest prayer is simply, “Lord, I do not know.” I do not know what to ask. I do not know what will happen. I do not know why this is happening. I do not know how much longer I can carry this.

That prayer may not sound impressive, but God is not impressed by long speeches. Jesus himself warned against thinking that many words automatically make a prayer better. God is not grading our vocabulary. He is searching our hearts.

Prayer is not a performance. It is a relationship.

A child does not always need to explain everything to a loving parent. Sometimes the child simply cries, reaches out, or rests in the parent’s arms. The parent understands. In the same way, God understands the prayer beneath our words.

This does not mean that we stop making time for prayer. It means that we stop being discouraged when prayer feels difficult. We still show up. We sit before God. We breathe. We listen. We place our lives in his hands.

Some days we may pray the Rosary with great attention. Other days we may lose track of which Hail Mary we are on and wonder whether we are in the third decade or the seventh. God is patient with us! The important thing is not perfect concentration but faithful presence.

So when you cannot find the right words, do not walk away from prayer. Stay there. Let the silence become your prayer. Let your tears become your prayer. Let your longing become your prayer. The Holy Spirit is already at work within you, carrying the deepest desires of your heart to God.

And when all you can say is, “Lord, help me,” that may be more than enough.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Micah 6:1-4, 6-8; Psalm 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Matthew 12:38-42

Tuesday: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Psalm 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8; Matthew 12:46-50

Wednesday: Song of Songs 3:1-4b or 2 Corinthians 5:14-17; Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; John 20:1-2, 11-18

Thursday: Jeremiah 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Psalm 36:6-7ab, 8-9, 10-11; Matthew 13:10-17

Friday: Jeremiah 3:14-17; Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; Matthew 13:18-23

Saturday: 2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Psalm 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Matthew 20:20-28

Sunday: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Psalm 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52 or Matthew 13:44-46

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Lectors: Patricia Williams, Melba Myers

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Sharon Hardy

Ushers: Team D

Eucharistic Ministers: Kirk Thaw, Shirley Thaw, Stephanie Broils, Terese Brown, Gerald Buckman, Diane Charity

Offering Reports

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Regular Offering:	\$3,373.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$502.00
Food Pantry:	\$295.00
Total	\$4,170.00

Fundraising Campaign

Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$425,872
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.03%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$111,020

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 Dillahunt.

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.

Silent Auction



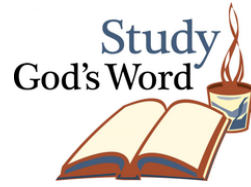
To help reach our fundraising goal, the Stewardship Committee is hosting a Silent Auction this fall. Our next meeting will be held immediately after Mass on Sunday, July 26, in Ferguson Hall. Please prayerfully consider joining us—everyone is welcome!

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.

BINGO Night



St. Monica's Parish Council invites you to a free BINGO night on Saturday, July 25th at 6:30 PM in Ferguson Hall. Enjoy an evening of fellowship, fun, and exciting prizes!

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, 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

Parish Council Members

Carolyn Greene	Chairperson
Duane Murff	Vice-Chairperson
Kim Urenda	Secretary
Father Leonard Gicheru	
Robin Richardson	
Vincent Alexandria	
Vickie Shackelford	
Teresa Johnson	

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, JULY 19

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

MONDAY, JULY 20

4:00 PM	Legion of Mary Meeting
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TUESDAY, JULY 21

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

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

THURSDAY, JULY 23

FRIDAY, JULY 24

SATURDAY, JULY 25

6:30 PM	BINGO Night (FH)
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