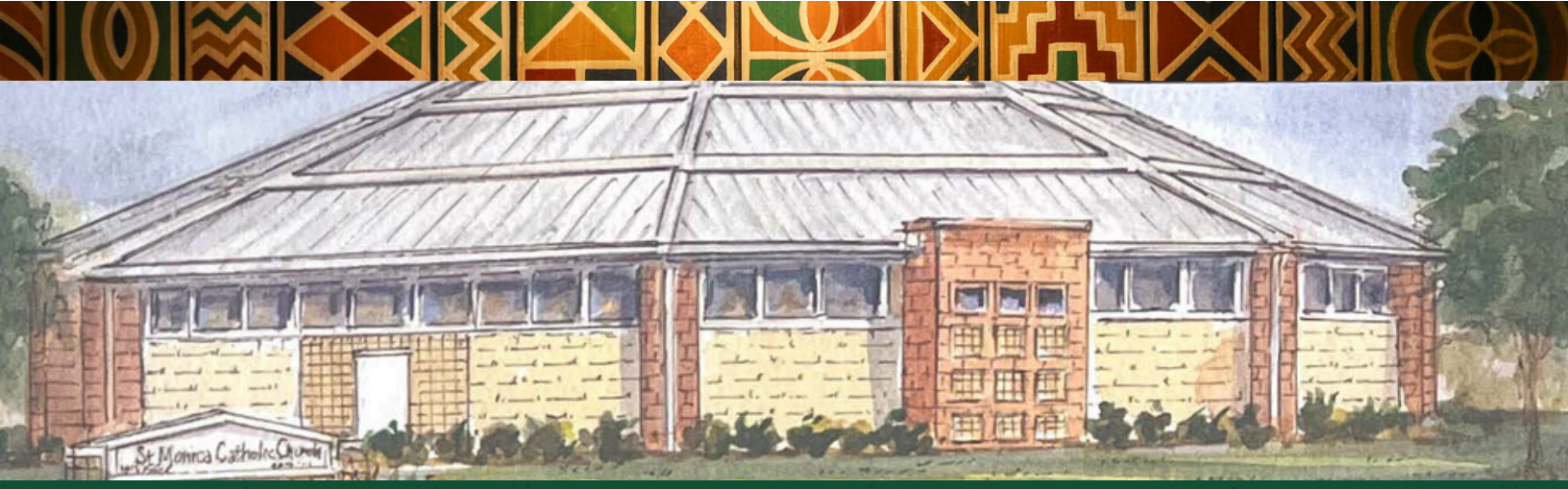


Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026 **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

Biviana Radillo
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Ramonda Doakes
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Safety Environment Coordinator
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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

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Whose Image Do We Carry?

The Pharisees and Herodians thought they had found the perfect question to trap Jesus: "Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" If Jesus said yes, some would accuse him of supporting the Roman occupation. If he said no, the authorities could call him a troublemaker. It was the ancient version of asking someone to choose a side in an argument where every answer gets you in trouble.

Jesus asks for a coin. "Whose image is this?" They answer, "Caesar's." Then he gives them a response that is brief, wise, and difficult to argue with: "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

The coin bears Caesar's image, so it can be returned to him. But the deeper question is: Whose image do we bear? Scripture tells us that every human person is created in the image of God. We may carry money in our wallets with Caesar's picture on it, but our lives carry the image of the Creator.



Jesus is not saying that faith and daily life have nothing to do with each other. He reminds us that we have responsibilities in both. We should be honest citizens: paying what we owe, obeying just laws, caring for our communities, and treating our neighbors with respect.

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Paying taxes may not feel like a spiritual exercise, especially when we see how much is taken out of a paycheck—but Jesus does not suggest that we can cross out the tax line and write, "I gave at church."

At the same time, no earthly authority can claim what belongs to God. Our deepest loyalty, our worship, and our conscience belong to God. We cannot give God only the hour we spend at Mass and keep the rest of our lives for ourselves. God's image is stamped on our whole person: our work, our family life, our choices, our words, and the way we treat people who cannot repay us.

This Gospel invites us to ask a practical question: What part of my life am I holding back from God? Perhaps it is the patience we need to show at home, the forgiveness we have postponed, the truth we avoid telling, or the time we could give to someone who is lonely. Maybe we are generous with our money but stingy with our attention. We can put an envelope in the collection basket and still keep our hearts tightly folded.

The coin belongs to Caesar. We belong to God. That does not mean we ignore our duties in the world. It means we carry God's image into them. When we act with honesty, kindness, courage, and compassion, we show whose image is stamped on us. Caesar may have his coin back—but God asks for the whole person, and offers us the grace to give ourselves freely.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

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.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Ephesians 2:1-10; Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 4ab, 4c-5; Luke 12:13-21

Tuesday: Ephesians 2:12-22; Psalm 85:9ab-10, 11-12, 13-14; Luke 12:35-38

Wednesday: Ephesians 3:2-12; Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Luke 12:39-48

Thursday: Ephesians 3:14-21; Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19; Luke 12:49-53

Friday: Ephesians 4:1-6; Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Luke 12:54-59

Saturday: Ephesians 4:7-16; Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; Luke 13:1-9

Sunday: Exodus 22:20-26; Psalm 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51; 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10; Matthew 22:34-40

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, October 25, 2026

Lectors: Carolyn Greene, Patricia Williams

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Diane Brooks-Alexandria

Ushers: Team D

Eucharistic Ministers: Katie Stewart, Pat Williams, Rita Womack, Kirk Thaw, Shirley Thaw, Stephanie Broils

Offering Reports

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Regular Offering:	$4,354.00
Fundraising Campaign:	$688.00
Food Pantry:	$200.00
Total	**$7,019.00**

Fundraising Campaign Weekly Update

Goal	$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	$441, 772
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.67%
Actual Cash Received to Date	$134,976

Announcements

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 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



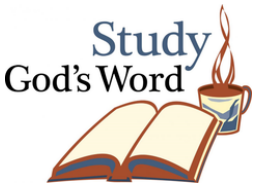
Thank you to all who have already submitted a pledge card for our parish fundraising campaign. If you have not yet participated, pledge cards are available at the back of the church. Please return your completed card in the red collection box. Every gift helps move our parish forward.

Silent Auction Meeting



Our next meeting will take place immediately after Mass today, October 18th, in the sanctuary on the north side. We will be collecting all donated items at the church. Please bring a description of your donation and retail price. If you plan to donate a large item, kindly notify the committee as soon as possible. We are excited to see the wonderful items you have for this event! Remember, you do not need to be a committee member to donate an auction item. If you have any questions, please contact us. Shirley Thaw, Michele Perez, Jackie McGhee-Dinvaut

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.

What's on the Ballot?



Kansas City Catholics Addressing Racism invites you to continue the conversation with us on Thursday, October 29, 2026, at 6:30 pm at Visitation Church, Tighe Hall (5141 Main Street, KCMO 64112). Please mark your calendar for this Conversations event, sponsored by St. Monica and Visitation. These gatherings bring together members from Visitation, St. Monica, and neighboring parishes to engage in meaningful discussions on topics that matter to our community. This session will focus on the November election, featuring speakers Stephen Miller and Judge Jon R. Gray. All are welcome!

"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	President	Vice President
Melvin Kerr	Paula Nix	Randy Fuller

Secretary	Treasurer
Marilyn Scott	Diane Charity

Sharon Hardy	Karen Hernandez	Terese Brown
Shirley Barber	Michelle Malone	Rita Womack
Pamela Green	Bernadette Cook	Cynthia Hardy
Roy Moye	Gabriel Kagwanga	Robert Moore
Michele Perez	Fred Fuqua	Dwight Miller
Ann Suellentrop	Benjie Givens	Cathy Johnson
Kaitlin O'Malley	Duane Murff	Rose Roos
Avery Johnson	Isabel Johnson	John Perez

Karen Hardy Groves
Carolyn Childs Gruber
Alecia Lacroix Durena
Vincent Alexandria

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

9:00 AM	Mass
10:30 AM	BCIT Meeting (FH)
10:30 AM	RCIA Classes (STM)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

9:00 AM	Mass
3:00 PM	Legion of Mary Meeting (STM)
4:30 PM	Museum Videotaping Session (S)
6:00 PM	Wednesday Night Prayer (S)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24