

Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 **1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108**

Parish Staff

Fr. Leonard Gicheru
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ritawomack70@yahoo.com

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Custodian

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

From our Pastor

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

From "No" to "Yes"

Most parents understand the frustration described in today's Gospel. You ask one child to do something, and the child quickly answers, "Yes, I will." But hours later, nothing has been done. Another child initially refuses, perhaps with a little attitude, but later thinks better of it and completes the task.

Jesus asks a simple question: "Which of the two did his father's will?" The answer is obvious—the first son. Although he initially said no, he changed his mind and went to work in the vineyard.

The second son said all the right things. He was polite and respectful: "Yes, sir." His words sounded obedient, but his actions told a different story. The first son began badly. He was disrespectful and disobedient, but he reconsidered his decision, changed his heart, and acted.

Jesus told this parable to the chief priests and elders—religious leaders who knew the Scriptures, observed religious customs, and appeared faithful before others. They knew how to speak about God, but when John the Baptist called them to repentance, they refused to listen. Meanwhile, tax collectors and prostitutes—people publicly labeled as sinners—heard John's message, recognized their need for mercy, and changed their lives.



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Jesus was not praising sin. He was praising the humility that allows a sinner to repent. He was warning religious people about the danger of appearing faithful while resisting God within their hearts.

This Gospel invites each of us to examine the difference between our words and our actions. We may say, "Yes, Lord," on Sunday, but what happens during the rest of the week? We promise to forgive, but continue holding a grudge. We say that prayer is important, but seldom make time for it. We speak about loving our neighbor, but ignore someone who needs our attention. We promise to serve the parish, help our family, or care for those in need, but never quite get around to doing it.

Faith is more than saying the right things. It is putting our "yes" into action.

At the same time, this Gospel is filled with hope. The first son reminds us that our initial "no" does not have to be our final answer. Perhaps we have refused God in the past. Perhaps we have made poor choices, neglected our responsibilities, or wandered away from the Church. God does not define us only by our worst decision. He gives us another opportunity to reconsider, turn around, and enter the vineyard.

Repentance means more than feeling sorry. It means changing direction. It is recognizing that we are walking away from God and choosing to return to him. God is not looking for perfect people who never make mistakes. He is looking for humble people who are willing to be changed.

This week, let us ask ourselves: Is there something God has been asking me to do? Is there someone I need to forgive, encourage, visit, or help? Is there a habit I need to change or a commitment I need to honor?

It is never too late to change our minds and do the Father's will. God can still transform yesterday's "no" into today's faithful "yes."

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Job 1:6-22; Psalm 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7; Luke 9:46-50

Tuesday: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12ab; Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5; John 1:47-51

Wednesday: Job 9:1-12, 14-16; Psalm 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15; Luke 9:57-62

Thursday: Job 19:21-27; Psalm 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14; Luke 10:1-12

Friday: Job 38:1, 12-21, 40:3-5; Psalm 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab; Matthew 18:1-5, 10

Saturday: Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Psalm 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130; Luke 10:17-24

Sunday: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Lectors: Youth

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Diane Brooks-Alexandria

Ushers: Team A

Eucharistic Ministers: Dawn Collins, Bernadette Cook, Angela Curry, Mary Graham, Pamela Green, Ronald Green

Offering Reports

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Regular Offering:	$2,968.00
Fundraising Campaign:	$419.00
Food Pantry:	$10.00
Second Collection:	$317.40
Hall Rental Fee:	$350.00
Miscellaneous:	$730.32
Total	**$4,794.72**

Fundraising Campaign Weekly Update

Goal	$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	$425,872
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.45%
Actual Cash Received to Date	$129,926

Announcements

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 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.

Legion of Mary Meeting



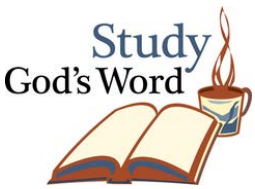
Please join us for the Legion of Mary meetings here at St. Monica every Wednesday at 3:00 PM in the St. Monica building. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please reach out to Rose Palmer, Ramonda Doakes, or Yvonne Dillahunty.

Join us for Breakfast



Mark your calendars for Sunday October 4. The Knights of Peter Claver are hosting a breakfast next Sunday in Ferguson Hall. Tickets are only $8.00. Please try to attend and enjoy the food and fellowship.

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!

GriefShare Support Group



GriefShare support group will be starting another 12-week meeting schedule. Anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one is welcome to participate. Workbooks cost $20/person. See Kim Urenda (urendak@gmail.com) with any questions.

Volunteers Needed



Hospitality Ministry is looking for a few more volunteers. The time commitment is once a month during Mass. Please see Kim Urenda with questions or interest.

You're Invited to a Tea Party



Come sip, savor, sparkle, and socialize with us in your Tea Party finest! Enjoy delightful treats and a touch of old-fashioned elegance. Join us on Wednesday, September 30th at St. Therese Senior Center, 5814 Euclid, KCMO, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Please RSVP by 9/25 at (816) 444-3514.

"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

Finance Council

Janice Smith-**Chair**
Stacey Lewis
Ernest Collins
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.

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

9:00 AM	Mass
3:00 PM	Legion of Mary Meeting (STM)
5:00 PM	Museum Video Taping Sessions (S)
6:00 PM	Wednesday Night Prayer (S)
6:00 PM	Leadership Meeting (FH)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

9:30 AM	Women's Bible Study (STM)
11:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal (S)
11:30 AM	Knights of Peter Claver (FH)
11:30 AM	Ladies of St. Peter Claver (STM)
6200 PM	Museum Video Taping Sessions (S)