



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

Fr. Leonard Gicheru
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Director
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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

Pentecost Sunday

“Goose” Spirit

This Sunday we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit—Pentecost—the birthday of the Church. But unlike Christmas or Easter, Pentecost doesn’t get the same attention. There are no Pentecost sales at Walmart, no fancy hats or candy baskets, and certainly no trees decorated with red flames. Maybe there should be, and we should! Because Pentecost is not an ordinary feast. It is the explosive, unpredictable, Spirit-driven moment that changed everything. If the Spirit never ascended to the Apostles in the upper room, you and I won’t be here in this church today, and many other churches across the world. So Pentecost is such a big deal.

Part of the reason we overlook Pentecost may be because the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Blessed Trinity, tends to stay behind the scenes. While God the Father thunders from clouds and Jesus delivers the Sermon on the Mount and raises the dead, the Spirit often is perceived as the Trinity’s silent partner. But don’t let the Holy Spirit fool you. Today, I’d like to suggest that the Holy Spirit is not silent at all. The Holy Spirit is alive and well.

We’re used to seeing the Holy Spirit as a gentle dove, descending quietly upon Jesus at His baptism. The dove is elegant and serene—comforting, sure—but also tame and sentimental. It’s a soft, sweet symbol. But the ancient Celts—the Irish—had another idea that I like.



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In old Irish tradition, the Holy Spirit was depicted not as a dove, but as a wild goose. Think about that for a moment. Geese are noisy. They bite. They honk. They travel in flocks and never leave one of their own behind. They don't tiptoe into your life—they barge in. And they refuse to be domesticated.

This is the Spirit of Pentecost. Not tame. Not manageable. Not housebroken.

When the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, it wasn't a whisper but a roar—wind and fire and a crash of languages. The apostles didn't stay in the upper room and meditate. They ran out into the streets, proclaiming boldly in every language under heaven. Their message? The mighty acts of God. And everyone heard it—no matter their background, dialect, or country.

The goose, then, reminds us that the Spirit drives us out of comfort. It compels us to honk the Gospel—loudly. It makes us dangerous to the status quo. And when the Spirit lands on someone, that person can no longer sit quietly.

It's the goose of St. Patrick, who returned to the very land where he had been enslaved to proclaim Christ. It's the goose of Francis Xavier, who journeyed to Asia and died proclaiming the Gospel in China. It's the goose of Dorothy Day, jailed for her witness to justice in New York. It's the goose of every nurse who comforts the dying, every whistleblower who defends the oppressed, and every college student who volunteers in forgotten places.

And sometimes, the wild goose challenges us to honk at injustice in our own backyard.

- When we hear politicians using faith as a prop while ignoring the cries of the poor, the goose honks in holy defiance, "This is not the Gospel!"
- When we see churches remain silent while injustice reigns outside their doors, the goose ruffles its feathers and warns, "If you will not speak, the stones will cry out!"
- When we watch the earth groaning from pollution, forests burning, oceans choking on plastic, the wild goose stirs the prophets within us to act, to shout, to protect God's creation.

The Holy Spirit is not here to keep things the same. The Spirit is here to stir the pot. And so we ask: have you domesticated the Holy Spirit in your lives? Do you allow the goose to unsettle you? Or have we trained it to sit quietly in the corner like a pet dove?

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Genesis 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; Psalm 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7; John 19:25-34

Tuesday: 1 Peter 1:10-16; Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Mark 10:28-31

Wednesday: 1 Peter 1:18-25; Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mark 10:32-45

Thursday: 1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-12; Psalm 100:2, 3, 4, 5; Mark 10:46-52

Friday: 1 Peter 4:7-13; Psalm 96:10, 11-12, 13; Mark 11:11-26

Saturday: Jude 17, 20b-25; Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6; Mark 11:27-33

Sunday: Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; John 3:16-18

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, May 31, 2026

Lectors: Ken Bacchus, Rose Roos

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Ann Suellentrop

Ushers: Team D

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

Offering Reports

Sunday, May 17, 2026

Regular Offering: \$3,312.00

Fundraising Campaign: \$590.00

Social Services: \$20.00

Total **\$3,922.00**

Fundraising Campaign

Weekly Update

Goal \$2,500,000

Total Amount Pledged \$425,872

Percentage of Goal Pledged 17.03%

Actual Cash Received to Date \$96,826

Legion of Mary Meeting



Please join us for the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Kibeho/Our Lady of Sorrows Praesidium meetings every Monday at 4 PM at Our Lady of Sorrows, except on the last Monday of the month, when we meet at 4 PM here at St. Monica in the St. Monica building. Your presence will be greatly appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you there!

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 mstpaula.pn@gmail.com.

Juneteenth Blood Drive

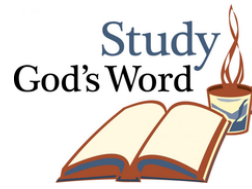


Join us for a Blood Drive at St. Monica Catholic Church in Ferguson Hall on Saturday, June 20, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All presenting

donors will receive a complimentary ticket to Worlds of Fun, while supplies last! Tickets are non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter "StMonicas."

We invite you to join the Evangelization Ministry for a meeting in Ferguson Hall on May 31st at 10:45 AM. We look forward to welcoming you and hope you'll be able to join us.

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!

Ready, Set, Learn Workshop



Families with children between 1-5 years old, will receive developmental services to increase the child's social and emotional development, address mental health and

behavioral health needs, and receive parenting education. This event takes place on the 4th Wednesday of the Month from 10:30 am to noon, at Catholic Charities located at 8001 Longview Rd, KCMO. Bring your kids and join our community of families!

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.

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

Accounting Team

Team Leads

Janice Smith	Burnetta Burtin
Ernest Collins	Jenise Comer
Mary Alexander	Jeanette Countee
Tracy Bradford	Fred Taylor
Marcus Moye	Karen Curls
Fredarecca Parker White	



Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, MAY 24

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| 9:00 AM | Mass |
| 10:00 AM | First Communion Celebration (FH) |
| 10:45 AM | GriefShare Support Group (CH) |

MONDAY, MAY 25

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| 4:00 PM | Legion of Mary Meeting (STM) |
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TUESDAY, MAY 26

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

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| 6:00 PM | Wednesday Night Prayer (S) |
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THURSDAY, MAY 28

FRIDAY, MAY 29

SATURDAY, MAY 30