



# Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

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

**Reverend Kenneth Greene**  
Deacon

**Brad Geist**  
Pastoral Associate  
bgeist@stmonicakc.org

**Biviana Radillo**  
Office Manager  
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/Maintenance

**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

## 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Practically speaking, how do we follow Jesus and save our souls? Is it enough to profess that we believe in Jesus? If we were to arrive at the conclusion that Jesus is God and the Savior of the World, would we then be saved? Certainly not. Even the demons believe this truth. Jesus is quite clear that salvation requires action on our part. We must deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Him. Furthermore, the road to salvation requires that we lose ourselves for the sake of Christ and the Gospel. What exactly does this mean, practically speaking?

To answer this question, let's first consider the way that many people live. We tend to desire that which is the easiest in life, the most enjoyable, the greatest, and the most consoling. We often seek out those things that make us feel good and the path of least resistance. For example, if you could choose to fast on bread and water or feast on the most delicious foods, which would you choose? If you could choose between a vacation in the most exotic and luxurious location or a week of very difficult work, which would you choose? If you could choose to drive a brand new, high-end car or a very old beater, which one would you prefer? Most people would quickly pick the nice food, luxurious vacation and fancy new car.

In his spiritual classic, the Ascent to Mount Carmel, Saint John of the Cross outlines a very different path. He gives a series of spiritual maxims to use for prayer and meditation to help purify your soul of every unhealthy attachment so that you can become more fully attached to God and His holy will. St. John says, "Strive always to prefer, not that which is easiest, but that which is most difficult; Not that which is most attractive, but that which is most unpleasant; Not that which gives most pleasure, but rather that which gives least..." These spiritual maxims, when read in their entirety, challenge us to the core of our being.

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They quickly reveal to those who are honest that they often prefer the easiest, most pleasant and best that this world has to offer. But what is best for your eternal soul?

Jesus' teaching, that we must deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him, is the road map to saving your eternal soul and to discovering a spiritual fulfillment that far surpasses anything this world or our flesh have to offer. But in order to understand this road map and then to follow it, we often need to make a "spiritual U-turn" so to speak. This U-turn begins with us choosing the Cross on every level of our being and concludes with God stripping away all selfish desires and replacing them with a desire for sacrificial love.

If you were to carefully examine your thoughts throughout the day, you might find that you think about yourself a lot. "I like this, don't want to do that, am angry about this, and am trying to avoid that..." Very often, our thoughts begin with "I" and end with "me." Denying yourself, taking up your cross, and losing your life means that you no longer think about yourself. It means that the eyes of your soul have turned away from yourself and focus exclusively upon the will of God and the love of others. But this will never be possible until we are freed of the numerous selfish desires that often direct most of our actions day in and day out.

Reflect, today, upon that which you desire throughout your day. What occupies your thoughts the most? What are you drawn to the most? Do you spend most of your day thinking about how you can better serve God and His holy will? Or do you spend most of your day thinking about yourself? Do the eyes of your soul most often turn to the selfless service of others? Or do they more often think about what you want in a selfish way? Reflect upon these difficult questions and seek to eradicate everything within you that is selfish. Doing so will enable you to make a spiritual U-turn so that you can carry the glorious and transforming Cross of Christ.

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** 1 Corinthians 11:17-26, 33; Psalm 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17; Luke 7:1-10

**Tuesday:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31a; Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Luke 7:11-17

**Wednesday:** 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13; Psalm 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22; Luke 7:31-35

**Thursday:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Psalm 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28; Luke 7:36-50

**Friday:** 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Psalm 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15; Luke 8:1-3

**Saturday:** Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5; Matthew 9:9-13

**Sunday:** Wisdom 2:12, 17-20; Psalm 54:3-4, 5, 6-8; James 3:16-4:3; Mark 9:30-37

## Liturgical Assignments

*Sunday, September 22, 2024*

Lectors: Gerald Buckman, Darthene Buckman

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Ramonda Doakes

Ushers: Team D

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

## Offering Reports

*Sunday, September 8, 2024*

Regular Offering: \$8,671.00

Food Pantry: \$415.00

Second Collection: \$0.00

Miscellaneous: \$1,819.00

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**Total** **\$10,905.00**

### **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.*

## 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.

## Legion of Mary Meeting



Join us for the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Kibeho/Our Lady Sorrows Praesidium meeting, Monday, September 30, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the St. Monica building. Your presence will be greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Catholic Movie Night



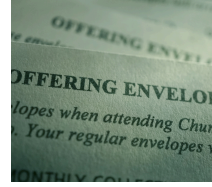
Join us for our next Catholic Movie Night, hosted by the Legion of Mary, on Sunday, September 29th at 6pm in the Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Hall. We will be watching the mesmerizing film "Thérèse: The Story of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux." This captivating movie portrays the inspiring story of a young girl's profound spiritual journey and her unwavering connection with God. Through her faith, trials, and sacrifices, she illuminates a life founded on love and simplicity. This contemplative film is based on the true story of Saint Therese of Lisieux, the most beloved saint of modern times. Don't miss this incredible portrayal of true events.

## CONTACT US

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!

## St. Monica Offering Envelopes



If you're not receiving envelopes for your parish contributions, we have a simple solution for you! Find a parish registration form located at the back of the church, fill it out with your details, and return it to the office. Once you do this, you'll start receiving envelopes regularly and can continue to support our parish.

## In Loving Memory



Please join us in paying tribute to the incredible life of Donna Dupree as we gather to honor and celebrate her. Her funeral service will be held at St. Monica Catholic Church tomorrow, September 16, 2024. The visitation will begin at 9:00 am, followed by a rosary at 10:00 am and mass at 11:00 am. Afterward, a repast will be held at Ferguson Hall at 3:00 pm. Your thoughts and prayers for her family and loved ones during this trying time are greatly appreciated.



St. Monica Parishioners! We have an amazing opportunity to expand the reach of our beloved St. Monica Catholic Church and extend a warm welcome to more people in our community. This exposure will allow us to embrace new visitors and members, supporting our goal of growing our parish through evangelization. Envelopes will be provided for your convenience to enclose your contribution. Your cooperation and support are greatly appreciated.

**"A CHURCH ALIVE IS WORTH THE DRIVE!"**

## Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Beverly Dyer, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald Parson, Sergio Mendoza, Elaine Lomax, Donna Dupree, Cheryl Warren, Chaunceyetta Mize, Rhea Holloman, Melva McClellan, Velma Jennings, Brenda A. Martin, Marcella Vaughn, Paris Harrington, Maxine Harvey, Michael Lucas, Lola Jacobs, Evalena Davidson (mother of Dan Davidson), Javan Hardy, Frankie Kemp, Carmelita Newman, Conrad McDonald, Greta Nash, Opal C. Blankinship, Patrice Williams (daughter of Pat and Don Williams), Louie Jones, John James, Barbara Walters, Janee Green (daughter of Pam and Ronald Green), Jublatee O'Neal (New Parishioner), Bonita Akridge, Deacon Kenneth Greene, Lawrence Ramirez, Roland Miller (Husband of Diana Miller), Mary Ann Grayson, Edward H. Franklin, Jr. (Father of Tracey Franklin Bradford)

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](mailto: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 suspect sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline, at 1-800-392-3728 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local Law Enforcement Agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, [crayon@ombudsmankc.org](mailto:crayon@ombudsmankc.org), if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City- St. Joseph.
4. The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing healing and resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families.

**Safety Environment Coordinator for St. Monica Parish -**

**Ramonda Doakes, P-(816) 457- 5538, E- [rdoakes@stmonicakc.org](mailto:rdoakes@stmonicakc.org)**

## Saints & Special Observances

**Sunday:** 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; 1963 Four little Black girls killed in 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, AL

**Monday:** Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian; Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 permits African American to enlist in all branches of the U.S Armed Forces

**Tuesday:** St. Robert Bellarmine; St. Hildegard of Bingen

**Wednesday:** 2008 The USNS Carl Brashear, named after the 1st African American Navy master diver, is christened and launched in San Diego, CA

**Thursday:** St. Januarius

**Friday:** Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon and Paul Chong Hasang Companions; 1830 Beginning of the National Negro Convention Movement in Philadelphia, PA

**Saturday:** St. Matthew, Apostle; 1872 John H. Conyers, 1st African American admitted to U.S. Naval Academy

## Calendar of Events this Week

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

9:00 AM Mass  
11:30 AM RCIA Class (CR)

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

9:00 AM Funeral (S)  
3:00 PM Repass (FH)

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

9:00 AM Mass  
6:00 PM Prayer Service

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study (STM)  
11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal (S)

\*If you do not see your event listed, please contact the parish office at (816) 471-3696