



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2025

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

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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

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.” Luke 12:51-53

Jesus introduces this passage by saying, “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!” The “fire” of which He speaks is His purifying fire of mercy that He poured forth from the Cross as He offered His life for the salvation of the world. His mercy is given to free us from our sins and to cleanse our souls so that God Himself can come to dwell within us. This is why we exist. God wants to dwell within us, and He wants us to be in perfect union with Him.

One of the glorious effects of uniting yourself to God is that this union also brings about a spiritual bond with others who are united to God.

We are made for communion with God, but also for communion with each other. God especially invites family members to share in this unity. Though there are many levels of friendship and unity we can have with each other, the deepest bonds come from two souls each being united to God.



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For example, two people may both like the same sports team or have the same interests, resulting in a bond or form of friendship. This is good. But when each of those friends also is deeply united to God, the unity comes from God and not from something more superficial.

The challenging Gospel passage above reveals to us what happens when one or more members of a household fail to open themselves to the cleansing fire of God’s love and, therefore, fail to live in union with God. The result is disunity, at least on the deepest and truest level. God is not the cause of disunity; sin is. When one person is united to God and another is immersed in a life of sin, true spiritual unity is not possible. Of course the two might still share some common interests and might even superficially get along each day, but there will never be an experience of authentic spiritual friendship and communion if God is absent from one or both hearts.

When Jesus says that He has come to establish division within a household, He is simply pointing out that there will indeed be a division within a household when all are not united to God. Additionally, Jesus is warning us that if someone within our household tries to draw us into a life of sin with them, that person’s invitation must be rejected. And when that happens, that rejection is often experienced as a rejection of the person and results in even greater disunity. The bottom line is that it is not possible to be authentically united in sin or any form of lie.

Reflect, today, upon the deepest spiritual desire you have. If you are honest with yourself, you will discover that this deepest desire in your heart is the desire for love. We are made to give and receive love. First, this desire is fulfilled by opening ourselves to the love of God. When that happens, we will be able to share God’s love with others and receive God’s love from them. Nothing in life could be more fulfilling than this.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Judges 2:11-19; Psalm 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44; Matthew 19:16-22

Tuesday: Judges 6:11-24a; Psalm 85:9, 11-12, 13-14; Matthew 19:23-30

Wednesday: Judges 9:6-15; Psalm 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Matthew 20:1-16

Thursday: Judges 11:29-39a; Psalm 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Matthew 22:1-14

Friday: Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Psalm 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10; Matthew 22:34-40

Saturday: Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Psalm 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Matthew 23:1-12

Sunday: Isaiah 66:18-21; Psalm 117:1, 2; Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13; Luke 13:22-30

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, August 24, 2025

Lectors: Deborah Scott, Diane Charity

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Sharon Hardy

Ushers: Team D

Eucharistic Ministers: Elaine Johnson, Syrtiller Kabot, Felicia Menefee, Crystal Miller

Offering Reports

Sunday, August 3, 2025

Regular Offering:	\$4,441.00
Building Fund:	\$25.00
Food Pantry:	\$290.00
Total	\$4,756.00

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.

St. Monica of Africa Feast Day Celebration



We will honor St. Monica of Africa on Sunday, August 24th, at the 9 am mass. Due to our air situation, we are celebrating by encouraging you to wear your African attire, praying with us, and ending with a treat after mass. We will continue celebrating St. Monica into November for Black Catholic History Month.

Parish Revival



Mark your calendars for an inspiring Parish Revival on September 21st, 22nd, and 23rd! We are excited to welcome Father Kareem Smith, revivalist and president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, from New York. Stay tuned for more details.

Grief Share Group



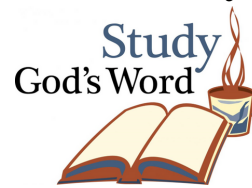
If you have experienced the loss of a loved one and would like to participate in the GreifShare Group, please contact Kim Urenda to reserve your spot. This 13 week group will meet after mass on Sundays starting on Sunday, September 7th at 10:30 am. This group has a personalized workbook for you to use during your grief journey for a \$20 fee.

All St. Monica Ministries



Attention all organizations: As you plan your upcoming events at the church, please remember the importance of notifying the parish council in addition to Fr. Leonard. Thank you for your understanding and collaboration!

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!

Summer Social Potluck



Join the Ladies of Charity for a Summer Social Potluck on Wednesday, August 27th, at the Church of the Nativity. Mass is at 5 PM, followed by dinner. Enjoy a 50/50 cash raffle and Retro Music Bingo after dinner. There's no cost to attend! Please RSVP by Monday, August 25th, at signupforlocevents@gmail.com. For more information, visit <https://ladiesofcharitykc.org/>.

WELCOME
BACK TO
SCHOOL

Dear Lord,
As our students begin a new school year,
I pray that you will keep them in your care.
Send your Spirit to open their minds
to all that is true and beautiful and good
Help them to see the gifts and talents
you have given them and to use them well.
Help them to grow in knowledge and wisdom.
Help them to be kind to others
and lead others to be kind to them.
Give their teachers patience and understanding
and help them teach what is just and true.
Send your angels to guide and guard our
children and to keep them from all harm.
Open their young hearts to your presence
and enfold them in your peace and protection.
Hold them in the palm of your hand
and bring them home safely at day's end.
Amen.

Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Beverly Dyer, 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, Maxine Harvey, 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), Alvin Brooks, Bettie Young, Don Williams, Deacon Darwin Dupree, Ramonda Doakes

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@diocesekcsj.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 ext. 516 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

Altar & Rosary Society

President	Treasurer	Secretary
Rosetta Palmer	Crystal Marie Miller	Donna Murff
Paula Nix	Jackie Countee	Remona Miller
Mary Pearson	Angela Curry	Elaine Johnson
Keith Peltier	Beverly Dyer	Cheryl Jones
Rose Roose	Pamela Green	Margaret Jones
Carrie Miller	Pat Williams	Michelle Jones
Kim Urenda	Alma Hughes	Naomi Holt
Ronald Green	Linda Hall	Carolyn Greene
Carol Lewis	Shirley Thaw	Katie Steward
Margaret Sams	Diane Bacchus	
Deborah Scott	Burnetta Burtin	
Phyllis Weaver	Stephanie Broils	
Vickie Shackelford	Dawn Collins	
Annie Marie Lovett	Jenise Comer	
Robin Richardson	Nellie Thompson	
Carmen Johnson	Yvonne Dillahunty	
Chaunceyetta Mize	Sr. Sandra Thibodeaux	

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

9:00 AM Mass
10:00 AM Dance Rehearsal (S)

MONDAY, AUGUST 18

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

9:00 AM Mass
6:00 PM Prayer Service

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

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