



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

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

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

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

Third Sunday of Advent

"Go and tell John what you hear and see."

On this Third Sunday of Advent, *Gaudete Sunday*, the Church invites us to rejoice because the Lord is near. And yet today's Gospel begins with a surprising moment of doubt. John the Baptist, the fiery prophet who boldly proclaimed Jesus as the Lamb of God, now sends his disciples to ask: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

It is a reminder that even the strongest believers can experience moments of uncertainty, especially in seasons of suffering. John is in prison. His ministry appears to have stalled. His expectations of the Messiah may have included divine judgment, not gentle healings. So he asks the question that many of us have whispered in our hearts at one time or another: "Lord, are You really here? Is this really Your work?"

Jesus responds not with an explanation but with evidence: "Go and tell John what you hear and see. "The signs are unmistakable; the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are made clean, the deaf hear, the dead rise, and the poor receive good news. Jesus is saying that the Kingdom of God is not a theory, it is visible, tangible, and alive. Anyone with open eyes and ears can recognize it.



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This same truth applies today. The ministry of Jesus in the world is still meant to be seen and heard. God’s grace is not invisible. It takes shape in works of mercy, acts of justice, moments of compassion, and lives transformed by faith.

And this is where the Gospel challenges us. If Jesus continues His mission through His disciples, then our lives must bear visible witness to Him. We are not called to be silent admirers of Jesus but active participants in His work.

People today still ask, “Where is God? Is Christ truly alive in the world?” And often, they will look to us for the answer. When they see our forgiveness, our patience, our courage in difficult moments, they see something of Christ. When they hear our words of comfort, encouragement, and truth, they hear echoes of His voice. When they witness our service to the poor, our care for the lonely, our attention to the suffering, they recognize the same signs Jesus pointed out to John.

Advent is not only a season of waiting; it is a season of revelation. Christ desires to reveal Himself through us. The question is not simply “Is Jesus the One?” but “Are we allowing Him to be seen and heard through our discipleship?”

This week, we might reflect on:

- What parts of my life show the presence of Christ?
- How do I make the Gospel visible to others?
- What simple action can I take that allows someone to hear the Good News through me?

On this Gaudete Sunday, we rejoice because Christ is near—not only in the manger we prepare to celebrate, but also in the mission He entrusts to us today. May our lives become living signs that point others to Him, signs that confidently proclaim: Yes—He is the One who has come.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23; Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Matthew 1:1-17

Thursday: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Matthew 1:18-25

Friday: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Psalm 71:13-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Luke 1:5-25

Saturday: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Luke 1:26-38

Sunday: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Lectors: Angela Curry, Everett Curry

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Caleb Johnson

Ushers: Team C

Eucharistic Ministers: Terese Brown, Gerald Buckman, Diane Charity, Dawn Collins, Bernadette Cook, Angela Curry

Offering Reports

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Regular Offering:	\$4,579.00
Building Fund	\$359.00
Food Pantry:	\$195.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$250.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$199.00
Total	\$5,582.00

Fundraising Campaign Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$274,080
Percentage of Goal Pledged	10.96%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$10,820

Announcements

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

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.

Time to Plan for 2026



As 2026 approaches, it's the perfect time to organize our schedules for the upcoming year. We encourage all parish ministries to complete the

space reservation forms located near the entrance of the church. Securing your spot ensures your events are included on our calendar for 2026. Please return the completed forms to the parish office, and Biviana will confirm your reservation once it's approved. Don't miss out on this opportunity to plan ahead!

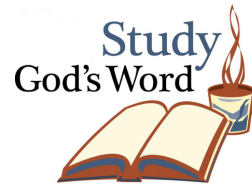
Help Update our Records



We've recently observed that a number of our parishioners may have outdated contact information on file. If you're unsure whether we have your most current details or if

you've made any recent changes, we invite you to reach out to our parish office at 816-471-3696, or you can email Biviana directly at bradillo@stmonicakc.org. Your connection is important to us, and we want to ensure we stay in touch! Thank you for helping us keep our records up to date.

Wednesday Prayer Service



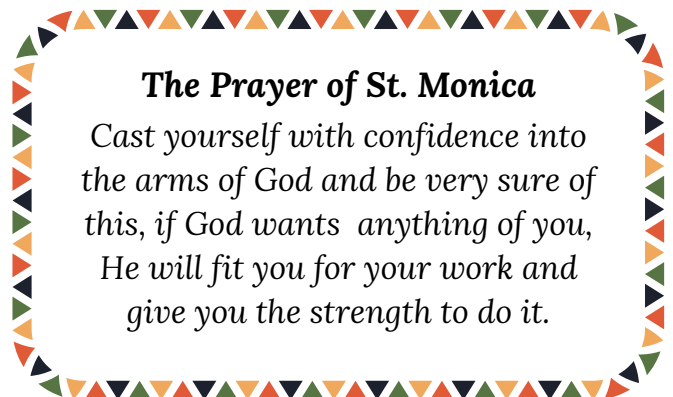
Join us every Wednesday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM for our uplifting prayer service. We start with an inspiring song, followed by the rosary, and engaging readings.

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!



Christmas Eve Mass
December 24th at 8pm

Christmas Day Mass
December 25th at 10am



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.

"A CHURCH ALIVE IS WORTH THE DRIVE!"

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, Ramonda Doakes, Yesheka Alexander (daughter of James and Mary Alexander), Lynn Williams

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

Lector Ministry

	Coordinator
Rose Palmer	Michele Jones
Ken Bacchus	Brenda Lofton
Dartheene Buckman	Elton Lombard
Gerald Buckman	Phaedra Lombard
Diane Charity	Dwight Miller
Ernest Collins	Melba Myers
Bernadette Cook	Jim Newland
Angela Curry	Michele Perez
Everett Curry	Cristina Ramirez
Ramonda Doakes	Robin Richardson
Jackie Dinvaut	Rose Roos
Arimeta Dupree	Deborah Scott
Carolyn Greene	Pat Williams
Sharon Hardy	Rita Womack
Brandy Roos Johnson	

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

9:00 AM	Mass
10:30 AM	GriefShare Group (C)
10:30 AM	Dance Rehearsal (S)
1:00 PM	St. Francis African Community (FH)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:00 AM	Mass
6:00 PM	Prayer Service

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

11:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal (S)
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