

# Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

## Parish Staff

**Fr. Leonard Gicheru**  
Pastor  
[frleonard@stmonicakc.org](mailto:frleonard@stmonicakc.org)

**Reverend Darwin Dupree, Sr.**  
Deacon  
[dawn2127@hotmail.com](mailto:dawn2127@hotmail.com)

**Brad Geist**  
Pastoral Associate  
[bgeist@stmonicakc.org](mailto:bgeist@stmonicakc.org)

**Biviana Radillo**  
Office Manager  
[bradillo@stmonicakc.org](mailto:bradillo@stmonicakc.org)

**Ramonda Doakes**  
Religious Education  
Safety Environment Coordinator  
[rdoakes@stmonicakc.org](mailto:rdoakes@stmonicakc.org)

**Rita Womack**  
Food Pantry/Social Services  
Director  
[ritawomack70@yahoo.com](mailto:ritawomack70@yahoo.com)

**Richard Jolevette**  
Custodian

**Melvin Kerr**  
Choir/Music Ministry

**George Hans**  
Accountant  
[finance@stmonicakc.org](mailto: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](http://www.stmonicakc.org)

## From our Pastor

### STAY AWAKE: THE ADVENT WAKE-UP CALL

Advent does not begin with a soft lullaby, twinkling lights, or cozy manger scenes. The Church, in her wisdom, begins the new liturgical year with a wake-up call—a Gospel that shakes us from spiritual drowsiness. Instead of shepherds and angels, Jesus gives us Noah, a thief in the night, and a warning: “Stay awake! “Why? Because Advent is not only about remembering the first coming of Christ in Bethlehem but preparing for His second coming the moment when He will return in glory. This season holds both tenderness and urgency, hope and holy fear, a cradle and a trumpet blast.

Jesus tells us that His coming will resemble the days of Noah. What were those days like? Surprisingly... normal. People were eating, drinking, marrying, buying, selling. Weddings were happening, businesses were booming, families were building homes. Nothing evil in those things.

The problem was not their activities; it was their attitude. They were absorbed in daily life and deaf to God’s warnings. Noah preached, hammered, built, and prepared—but no one paid attention until the rain came. By then, it was too late.

Jesus is telling us: The greatest danger to your soul is not catastrophic sin—it is comfortable indifference. Not rebellion, but sleep. Not hatred of God but simply forgetting Him.

## 1st Sunday of Advent



continued on page 2

Advent calls us to spiritual sobriety: What ark is God asking us to build right now? What warnings have we brushed aside? What signs have we ignored because life was “busy”?

Jesus’ words are sobering. Two men working side by side. Two women grinding grain side by side. On the outside identical lives. But inside radically different hearts.

The point is not fear; the point is readiness. Salvation cannot be borrowed or shared. You can work next to a saint, be married to a generous spouse, live with a prayerful child, attend Mass faithfully and still be spiritually asleep. Advent presses a hard question on us: If Jesus came tonight, would He find me ready?

Jesus uses a surprising image for His return: a thief. The thief does not announce his arrival or send a calendar invite. He comes at an hour you do not expect. But here is the grace: Jesus is not stealing to harm us He comes to steal us for Heaven, to take us home. Yet He will not force entry. He comes quietly, unexpectedly, tenderly and yet decisively.

If the master of the house knew the hour of the thief, Jesus says, he would stay awake. Likewise, we must guard our spiritual homes—our minds, hearts, habits, desires. What needs to be locked out? What needs to be let in?

Advent is not a countdown to Christmas. It is a call to conversion. It is Jesus whispering to each of us: “Do not sleep through your salvation.” Stay awake in prayer. Stay awake in charity. Stay awake by forgiving someone you’ve avoided. Stay awake by returning to confession. Stay awake by carving out silence each day. Stay awake by remembering that Christ is near closer than we think. The world will spend December rushing, buying, stressing, decorating.

But the Christian spends Advent preparing. Preparing our homes is good. Preparing our hearts is essential. This Gospel is not meant to frighten us; it is meant to free us. Jesus wants us awake so that His coming whether at the end of time or at the end of our time will be a moment of joy, not regret.

Stay awake. Be ready. Your Lord is coming.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Isaiah 4:2-6; Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Matthew 8:5-11

**Tuesday:** Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Luke 10:21-24

**Wednesday:** Isaiah 25:6-10a; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Matthew 15:29-37

**Thursday:** Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Matthew 7:21, 24-27

**Friday:** Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; Matthew 9:27-31

**Saturday:** Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

**Sunday:** Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

## Liturgical Assignments

**Sunday, December 7, 2025**

Lectors: Youth

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Caleb Johnson

Ushers: Team A

Eucharistic Ministers: Crystal Miller, Dianna Miller, Rose Palmer, Lydia Ramirez, Rose Roos, Katie Stewart

## Offering Reports

**Sunday, November 23, 2025**

Regular Offering:	\$3,134.00
Building Fund:	\$100.00
Food Pantry:	\$170.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$8,670.00
Lector Books:	\$64.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$15.00
Miscellaneous:	\$265.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,418.03</b>

**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.

# Announcements

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 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 [mspaula.pn@gmail.com](mailto:mspaula.pn@gmail.com).

## Hospitality Ministers Needed



Are you a friendly person? Do you like to welcome others? Please consider becoming a Hospitality Minister at St. Monica. Your role is to greet others, guide people during the offering, Eucharist, welcome visitors, and distribute the bulletin. Your commitment is only one Sunday a month. If you are interested in this ministry, please text Kim Urenda at (913) 226-2085.

## GRIEFSHARE Group Updates

As we come to the close of our 13-week sessions, we have our last few meetings on the following dates in the small chapel.

Sunday, November 16th - Session 9

Sunday, November 23rd - Session 10

Sunday, November 30th - NO GROUP MEETING

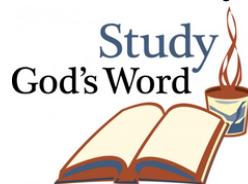
Sunday, December 7th - Session 11

Sunday, December 14th - Session 12

Sunday, December 21st - Session 13 (last session of our group!)



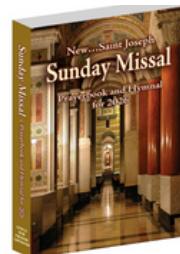
## Wednesday Prayer Service



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!

## Altar and Rosary Society Annual Fundraiser



We're excited to announce that the 2026 Missalettes will be available for purchase starting today, November 2, 2025! Join the Altar and Rosary Society in the vestibule each Sunday to get your copy. Each Missalette is just \$5. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to reach out to Crystal Miller.

## Christmas Concert



On Sunday, December 7 at 2:00 PM, St. Therese Little Flower will host its Third Annual Christmas Concert and Sing-Along. Performers include Julia Haile, Grace Givens, Roberta Gumbel, and Father Paul Turner. Admission is free. The event will take place at 5814 Euclid Ave, Kansas City, MO 64130.

**“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), Jubilatee 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

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 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](mailto: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](mailto:victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org) for more information.

**Safety Environment Coordinator for St. Monica Parish - Ramonda Doakes, P-(816) 457- 5538, E- [rdoakes@stmonicakc.org](mailto:rdoakes@stmonicakc.org)**

# Leadership Corner

## Eucharistic Ministers

Dianna Miller	Coordinator
Shirley Barber	Sharon Hardy
Stephanie Broils	Elaine Joohnson
Terese Brown	Syrtiller Kabot
Gerald Buckman	Felicia Menefee
Diane Charity	Crystal Miller
Dawn Collins	Paula Nix
Bernadette Cook	Rose Palmer
Angela Curry	Lydia Ramirez
Arimeta Dupree	Rose Roos
Mary Graham	Katie Stewart
Pamela Green	Kirk Thaw
Ronald Green	Shirley Thaw
Carolyn Greene	Pat Wlliams
Ben Gruber	Rita Womack

## Calendar of Events this Week

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

9:00 AM	Mass
10:30 AM	Dance Rehearsal
2:00 PM	4th Degree KPC Ladies (STM)

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

9:00 AM	Mass
6:00 PM	Prayer Service

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

9:30 AM	Women's Bible Study (STM)
11:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal (S)
11:30 AM	KPC Council #57 (FH)
11:30 AM	LPC Court 57 (STM)
4:00 PM	Catholic Women Ass. (Chapel & CR)