



# Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026

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

2nd Sunday of Easter

### From Doubt to “My Lord and My God!”

There is a moment in today’s Gospel that feels very human—almost too human. The disciples are gathered together behind locked doors, afraid, confused, and most likely replaying everything that had happened on Good Friday. Their hopes had been shattered, their expectations overturned, and their future suddenly uncertain. And right there, in the middle of their fear and confusion, Jesus appears and says something completely unexpected:

“Peace be with you.”

Now let us be honest—if someone suddenly appeared in a locked room, “peace” is probably not the first thing we would feel! Fear, shock, maybe even panic would come first. And yet, that is exactly how Jesus works. He does not wait for everything to be calm and settled. He does not wait for us to have everything figured out. He enters precisely when everything is messy, when our hearts are unsettled, and when our lives feel uncertain.

And then comes Thomas.

Poor Thomas. He has earned a nickname that has followed him for over 2,000 years: Doubting Thomas. Imagine one difficult week defining your entire legacy! But before we judge him too quickly, we need to recognize something very important: Thomas is not the villain of the story—he is actually one of the most honest and relatable disciples.



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He dares to say out loud what many of us quietly think in our own hearts: “Unless I see... unless I touch... I will not believe.”

There are, in fact, two kinds of doubt in the spiritual life.

The first kind of doubt leads to confusion and even distance from God. This is the kind of doubt that closes the door, that refuses to seek, and that settles into skepticism. It quietly says, “I do not understand, and I do not want to understand.” This kind of doubt keeps us stuck where we are. It isolates us, and it locks us in the same room as our fear, uncertainty, and hesitation.

But Thomas shows us a second kind of doubt—the kind that can actually lead to deeper faith.

Even in his doubt, Thomas does not walk away from the community of believers. He does not isolate himself. Instead, he stays with the disciples. He continues to show up. He remains present. And by doing so, he places himself in the very space where Jesus can come and meet him. And that changes everything.

Because a week later, Jesus returns—intentionally, personally, and lovingly—for Thomas. Notice what Jesus does not do. He does not shame Thomas. He does not scold him or say, “Why didn’t you believe the others?” Instead, Jesus meets Thomas exactly where he is, with patience and compassion:

“Put your finger here... bring your hand... do not be unbelieving, but believe.” This is Divine Mercy in its most beautiful form.

Divine Mercy is not God loving us only when our faith is strong and perfect. Divine Mercy is God coming to us precisely when our faith is weak, when our hearts are uncertain, and when we are still wrestling with questions. It is God’s willingness to meet us in our struggle, not to reject us because of it.

And Thomas responds with one of the most powerful professions of faith found anywhere in Scripture: “My Lord and my God!”

If we are honest with ourselves, many of us are a little like Thomas. We long for clarity. We want proof. We desire for God to make everything obvious and unmistakable. And when He does not do so in the way we expect, we can be tempted to pull away, to grow distant, or to remain stuck in uncertainty.

But today’s Gospel gently reminds us of something essential: do not run away from your doubts—bring them to Jesus.

Stay in the community. Stay in prayer. Stay in the life of the Church. Because Jesus always comes back. And when He does, He does not come with condemnation or disappointment. He comes with mercy, with patience, and with peace.

“Peace be with you.”

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Acts 4:23-31; Psalm 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9; John 3:1-8

**Tuesday:** Acts 4:32-37; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; John 3:7b-15

**Wednesday:** Acts 5:17-26; Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; John 3:16-21

**Thursday:** Acts 5:27-33; Psalm 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20; John 3:31-36

**Friday:** Acts 5:34-42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; John 6:1-15

**Saturday:** Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; John 6:16-21

**Sunday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33; Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35

## Liturgical Assignments

*Sunday, April 19, 2026*

Lectors: Angela Curry, Everett Curry

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Karen Groves

Ushers: Team C

Eucharistic Ministers: Stephanie Broils, Terese Brown, Gerald Buckman, Diane Charity, Dawn Collins, Bernadette Cook

## Offering Reports

*Sunday, April 5, 2026*

Regular Offering:	\$5,032.75
Fundraising Campaign:	\$6,178.00
Social Services:	\$180.00
Mother’s Day:	\$250.00
Youth Scholarship:	\$30.00

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**Total** **\$11,670.75**

## 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).

## Legion of Mary Meeting



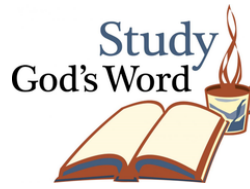
Please join us for the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Kibeho/Our Lady of Sorrows Praesidium meetings every Monday at 4

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!



The Wednesday Night Prayer Group extends heartfelt thanks to all attendees and volunteers, with special appreciation to the Altar & Rosary Society for making the 2026 Seder Ceremony and Dinner a wonderful success.

## 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!

## Senior Day Party



Councilman Curls invites you to a Senior Day Party! Enjoy food, dancing, music, exciting giveaways, and a variety of fun activities. Community

partners will be on hand to help with benefits such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and vaccinations. This free event takes place Saturday, May 2nd, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ruskin High School, 7000 E 111th St., Kansas City, MO 64134. For more information, email [seniorparty@kclinc.org](mailto:seniorparty@kclinc.org) or call (816) 513-6519.



Burnetta and Eric Burtin, along with Carolyn Greene, would like to sincerely thank all parishioners who donated candy and eggs for the Easter egg hunt.

Your generosity made the event a wonderful success. We deeply appreciate your support—thanks a million! Well done, good and faithful servants.

### 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), Carolyn Turner, Jan Powell

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

### Lawn & Beautification Ministry

Duane Murff	Captain
Threuinta Peltier	Co Captain
David Parker	Donna Murff
Daniel Kacprowicz	Carrie Miller
Jenny Gillis	Domenic Kagwanja
Anson Taitt	Patricia Kagwanja
Jan Powell	Carmen Johnson
Jim	

## Fundraising Campaign Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$425,872
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.03%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$80,391

## Calendar of Events this Week

### SUNDAY, APRIL 12

9:00 AM	Mass
10:45 AM	GriefShare Support Group (CR)
10:45 AM	OCIA Class (STM)

### MONDAY, APRIL 13

### TUESDAY, APRIL 14

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

9:00 AM	Mass
6:00 PM	Wednesday Night Prayer (S)

### THURSDAY, APRIL 16

### FRIDAY, APRIL 17

### SATURDAY, APRIL 18

9:30 AM	Women's Bible Study (STM)
12:00 PM	Dance Rehearsal (S)