Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026 1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

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Custodian

Melvin Kerr
Choir/Music Ministry

George Hans
Accountant
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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

Fifth Sunday of Lent

"Roll Away the Stone"

In the Gospel for this Fifth Sunday of Lent, we hear one of the most powerful stories in the entire Bible—the raising of Lazarus. It is dramatic, emotional, and deeply human. We see friendship, grief, confusion, faith, and finally a miracle that leaves everyone astonished. But if we look closely, one small line in the story carries a powerful message for us. When Jesus arrives at the tomb, He says something very simple:

"Take away the stone."

Now imagine the scene. Lazarus has been dead for four days. In that culture, everyone knew what that meant. Martha even warns Jesus: "Lord, by now there will be a stench." In other words, "Jesus… I don't think this is a good idea."

Yet Jesus insists: "Take away the stone."

Why would Jesus ask the people to move the stone? After all, if He could raise the dead, surely, He could roll away a stone by Himself. He could have snapped His fingers and done it. But He doesn't. Instead, He asks the people standing there to do something first. And that is the lesson for us this Lent.

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Very often we pray and ask God for miracles in our lives. We ask Him to fix our problems, heal our relationships, strengthen our faith, or bring life back into something that feels dead. Yet sometimes God waits for us to move the stone first. The stone may be small, or it may be very heavy.

For some of us, the stone is resentment. Someone hurt us, and we have carried that wound for years. Every time we see that person, the stone sits right there in front of the tomb of our hearts. For others, the stone may be fear. Fear of change. Fear of forgiveness. Fear of trusting God more deeply. For others, the stone might simply be spiritual laziness. We know we should pray more, come to confession, read Scripture, or serve others—but we keep saying, "Maybe next week."

Lent is the season when Jesus stands in front of our tombs and says gently but firmly: **"Take away the stone."**

Notice something else in the Gospel. Jesus does not say, "Lazarus, come out!" until after the stone is removed. The miracle happens after the stone moves. Sometimes we want the opposite. We want the miracle first, and then we promise God we will change. But the Lord often works differently. He invites us to take a step of faith first.

I once heard someone say that many Catholics treat confession like a dentist appointment—we wait until the pain is absolutely unbearable before we go! But Lent reminds us that God is not waiting to punish us. He is waiting to raise us to life.

And when Lazarus finally comes out of the tomb, Jesus gives another instruction: **"Untie him and let him go."** Because when God gives life, He does not want us walking around wrapped in the old bandages of sin, fear, or guilt.

Brothers and sisters, as we approach the final weeks of Lent, Jesus stands before each of us and asks one question: **What stone in your life needs to be rolled away?** Move the stone—and watch what God can do.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62, or 13:41c-62; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; John 8:1-11

Tuesday: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; John 8:1-11

Wednesday: Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Psalm 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38

Thursday: Genesis 17:3-9; Psalm 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; John 8:51-59

Friday: Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7; John 10:31-42

Saturday: Ezekiel 37:21-28; Psalm 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; John 11:45-56

Sunday: Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Philippians 2:6-11; 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Lectors: Pat Williams, Darthene Buckman, Gerald Buckman

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Peter Callan

Ushers: Volunteers

Eucharistic Ministers: Bernadette Cook, Angela Curry, Arimeta Dupree, Mary Graham, Pamela Green, Ronald Green

Offering Reports

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Regular Offering:	$4,686.50
Fundraising Campaign:	$1,434.00
Social Services:	$80.00
Second Collection:	$296.00
Easter Flowers:	$205.00
Total	**$6,701.50**

Fundraising Campaign Weekly Update

Goal	$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	$425,256
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.01%
Actual Cash Received to Date	$72,163

Announcements

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026

Silent Auction

In an effort to support our fundraising goal, the Stewardship Committee is hosting a SILENT AUCTION this fall. We are looking for fundraising gurus to join the auction committee. We will have a strategy meeting directly after mass on Sunday, March 22nd. in Ferguson Hall. Please pray fully and consider joining our efforts. We know you have lots of ideas!!!

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!

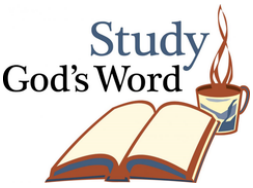
Seder Meal

Celebrate the Seder Meal with us in Ferguson Hall on April 1 at 6:00 PM. Reserve your spot with a $20 prepaid donation, collected after Mass starting today and on the following Sundays. We're seeking volunteers for set-up, serving, and clean up—your help will make this evening meaningful. To RSVP or volunteer, please see Donna Murff after Mass.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Lawn Care Team needs your help for a brief cleanup. We're looking for volunteers to pick up leaves and toss filled lawn bags into the dumpster. Please join us at 8:00 AM on Saturday, March 21st, and again on March 28th. Your help makes a difference!

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!

Easter is right around the corner, and the Easter Bunny is thrilled to be hopping in to see the children at Saint Monica's.

Please donate individually wrapped candies for the Easter Egg Hunt – that will take place following Mass on Easter Sunday.

For any questions, please contact Burnetta Burtin at (816) 377-6067.

Holy Week Mass Schedule

April 1st
6:00 PM Seder Meal
April 2nd
6:00 PM Holy Thursday
April 3rd
6:00 PM Good Friday
April 4th
8:00 PM Holy Saturday
April 5th
10:00 AM Easter Sunday

"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

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

Hospitality Usher Ministry

Coordinators

Kim Urenda
Mary Pearison

Mary Alexander
Stephanie Broils
Arimeta Dupree
Carolyn Greene
De'Trice Green
Elaine Johnson
Phaedra Lombard
Alphonse Mendy
Charles Nzali
Erin Pullen
Katie Steward
Vicki Schackelford
Anson Taitt
Shirley Thaw
Don Williams, Sr.

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

9:00 AM	Mass
10:00 AM	Dance Rehearsal (S)
10:00 AM	Silent Auction Meeting (FH)
10:30 AM	OCIA Class (STM)
10:45 AM	GriefShare Group (CH)
2:00 PM	4th Degree KPC Ladies (STM)

MONDAY, MARCH 23

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

9:00 AM	Mass
6:00 PM	Prayer Service

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

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