



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

Fr. Leonard Gicheru
Pastor
frleonard@stmonicakc.org

Reverend Darwin Dupree, Sr.
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dawn2127@hotmail.com

Brad Geist
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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

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Pharisee, the Tax Collector, and the Rest of Us

Jesus' story about the Pharisee and the tax collector is one of those parables that makes everyone squirm because it's not really about them. It's about us.

If Jesus were telling this parable today, He might have said, "Two people logged onto Facebook to pray..." One began typing: "Lord, I thank You that I'm not like those people who skip Mass on Sundays, don't recycle, and still use plastic straws. I volunteer, tithe online, and my prayer life is perfectly color-coded in my bullet journal." The other quietly posted: "Lord, have mercy on me... I'm still a mess." And guess which one got God's "like"?

The Pharisee wasn't a villain; he was the parish star the kind of guy we'd elect chair of the Parish Council. He fasted, tithed, and probably knew the parish directory by heart. The tax collector, on the other hand, was the guy people whispered about after Mass: "Isn't that the one who..."

Yet, in the temple that day, the religious man's prayer went up and bounced right back down like a text to the wrong number. Why? Because he wasn't really praying to God, he was praying about himself. His "O God, I thank you" quickly turned into "that I'm better than..." Meanwhile, the tax collector simply stood in the back, head down, beating his chest. He didn't list achievements; he confessed a need. And that's what got heaven's attention.



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Humility isn't self-hatred; it's honesty before God. The Pharisee brought a résumé; the tax collector brought repentance. The first came to impress; the second came to be transformed.

If we're honest, there's a little Pharisee and a little tax collector inside each of us. We want to look holy and successful to others, maybe even to God. But grace can't fill a heart that's already full of self-admiration.

Imagine God interrupting our prayers sometimes: "Thank you for the update, but how's your heart doing?" Jesus' punchline hits hard: "*Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.*" In God's Kingdom, the elevator only goes down and that's how you rise.

So here's the challenge for this week: next time you pray, don't list your spiritual credentials. Instead, bring your spiritual wounds. Tell God where it hurts. Pray like the tax collector: short, honest, real. You don't need big words just a big heart.

And if you catch yourself thinking, "*At least I'm not like that Pharisee,*" congratulations — you've just become one.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Prayer for the Week: Lord, teach me to pray like the tax collector humbly, honestly, and from the heart. Strip away my pride and fill me with mercy for others. Help me to stop comparing and start confessing, so that when I walk away from prayer, I go home justified and not satisfied. Amen.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Romans 8:12-17; Psalm 68:2 and 4, 6-7ab, 20-21; Luke 13:10-17

Tuesday: Ephesians 2:19-22; Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5; Luke 6:12-16

Wednesday: Romans 8:26-30; Psalm 13:4-5, 6; Luke 13:22-30

Thursday: Romans 8:31b-39; Psalm 109:21-22, 26-27, 30-31; Luke 13:31-35

Friday: Romans 9:1-5; Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Luke 14:1-6

Saturday: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; Psalm 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12a

Sunday: Wisdom 3:1-9; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Romans 5:5-11 or Romans 6:3-9; John 6:37-40

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, November 2, 2025

Lectors: Youth

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Ernest Collins

Ushers: Team A

Eucharistic Ministers: Rose Roos, Katie Stewart, Kirk Thaw, Shirley Thaw, Pat Williams, Rita Womack

Offering Reports

Sunday, October 19, 2025

Regular Offering: \$5,367.96

Food Pantry: \$105.00

Building Fund: \$30.00

Second Collection: \$392.25

Total **\$5,895.21**

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, OCTOBER 26, 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.

Save the Date



Save the Date! November is Black Catholic History Month and we'll celebrate each Sunday led by or with a focus on various ministries or organizations.

On November 2nd, Bishop Johnston will join us for Mass. So, we'll kick things off in grand style on November 2nd, and we'll have the group Africa Rising with us on the 1st and third Sunday, plus a special focus with our youth making a presentation on a Sunday in November as well. Mark your calendars, the entire month of November will be really important for us at St. Monica, and we'd like to see how many parishioners and visitors we can have, especially on November 2nd.

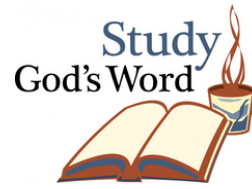
Join Our Choir



St. Monica Music Ministry has been invited to help build a 100-voice Interfaith/Multi-Cultural choir for an upcoming music video and documentary. If you're

interested in singing or would like more information, please see Marilyn Scott or Melvin Kerr. The first rehearsal is scheduled for Saturday, November 1, and filming will take place on Saturday, December 6, in the sanctuary. Please note that there will be a maximum of two rehearsals before the filming. To participate, you must sign a release form and attend the rehearsal(s).

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!

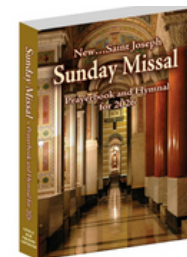
Spaghetti Dinner



Join the Little Sisters of the Poor for their Annual Spaghetti Dinner! Enjoy delicious homemade spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread, dessert, and a

drink. Eat here or take it to go Sunday, November 9th from 11 am to 4 pm. Adult meals \$15. Kid's meals (3-10 years) \$8. While you're here, browse our bake sale and craft sale, then try your luck in our 50/50 Raffle or Silent Auction. All proceeds benefit our Home for the elderly. Call 816-761-4744 or visit our website at www.littlesistersofthepoorkansascity.org for more information.

Altar and Rosary Society Annual Fundraiser



We're excited to announce that the 2026 Missalettes will be available for purchase starting Sunday, 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.

"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, Vincent Alexandria

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

Bereavement Ministry

Carolyn Greene	Chairperson
Christine Johnson	Vickie Shackelford
Rose Palmer	Shirley Thaw
Margaret Jones	Angela Curry
Naomi Holt	Alma Hughes
Crystal Miller	Judy Blankinship
Dianna Miller	Mary Graham



Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

9:00 AM	Mass
10:00 AM	Dance Rehearsal (S)
10:30 AM	GriefShare Group (CH)
10:30 AM	Catechumen Class (STM)
2:00 PM	4th Degree KPC Ladies (STM)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29

9:00 AM	Mass
6:00 PM	Prayer Service

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

9:20 AM	Women's Bible Study
11:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal
11:30 AM	KPC Council #57 (FH)
4:00 PM	Catholic Women Ass. Meeting (Chapel & CR)