



# Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

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

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Deacon

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**Rita Womack**  
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Director  
ritawomack70@yahoo.com

**Richard Jolevette**  
Custodian/Maintenance

**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

## 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out...”  
Mark 9:43-47

Sometimes we need to wake up to the horror of sin. Sin and sin alone is capable of sending you to hell. Hell is real, and going there for eternity is a real possibility. Therefore, we must do whatever it takes to avoid that frightful possibility. This teaching from Jesus might not, at first, be thought of as one of His most inspiring teachings, but it should be. It's not inspiring in the sense that it is quite graphic. But it is very inspiring in the sense that it has the potential to motivate us to action.

Are you motivated to do all that you can to avoid sin? Would you even go so far as to cut off your hand or foot, and to pluck out your eye so as to avoid sin? First of all, this should not be seen as a literal command in which Jesus is telling us to mutilate ourselves. But He is the one Who chose such graphic language. Therefore, we should not shy away from pondering these images in a prayerful way so as to more clearly see those things that lead us into sin. When we see them, we must take the radical step of completely eliminating them from our lives.

Many of the Church Fathers say that the hand, foot and eye in this teaching refer to our friends. Just as a hand, foot and eye are good in and of themselves, so also are friends. We are made for friendship with God and with others. However, not every friendship helps us grow closer to God. Therefore, when an earthly friend becomes a source of sin, we must eliminate that friendship.

continued on page 2





Friendship is different from charity. We owe charity to all people, even those who are the most sinful. But acting with charity toward others is different from being friends with them. To be a friend implies mutual giving and receiving. And though we must always give of ourselves to others, we ought not always receive from them when what they have to offer is an invitation to sin. This is how we “cut it off” and “pluck it out.” When another person tries to relate to us in such a way that they lead us into sin, we must take that temptation very seriously and reject it with much vigor.

The hand, foot and eye in this teaching also represent every situation in life that tempts us to sin. For example, consider material possessions. If buying a very expensive car, house, or electronic gadget tempts you to become more materialistic, then you must avoid buying it. People are drawn to nice things. But does possessing nice things help your soul to become holy? One could argue that they can have nice things, while at the same time remain spiritually detached from them. But this is difficult to live. The more luxurious our material possessions, the more tempted we will be to rely upon them for our happiness. Therefore, choosing to live simply is almost always better for your soul than choosing to live in luxury. This teaching also applies to anything else that could become a source of temptation.

Reflect, today, upon those things or persons in your life that have become an occasion of sin for you. Do not fool yourself into believing that you can handle the temptation. If you have some source of ongoing temptation in your life, you need to eliminate it. Ponder this very graphic teaching from Jesus and try to apply it to your life. Identify those things that lead you into sin and eliminate them with much determination.

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Job 1:6-22; Psalm 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7; Luke 9:46-50

**Tuesday:** Job 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23; Psalm 88:2-3, 4-5, 6, 7-8; Luke 9:51-56

**Wednesday:** Job 9:1-12, 14-16; Psalm 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15; Matthew 18:1-5, 10

**Thursday:** Job 19:21-27; Psalm 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14; Luke 10:1-12

**Friday:** Job 38:1, 12-21, 40:3-5; Psalm 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab; Luke 10:13-16

**Saturday:** Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Psalm 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130; Luke 10:17-24

**Sunday:** Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Hebrews 2:9-11; Mark 10:2-16 or 10:2-12

## Liturgical Assignments

*Sunday, October 6, 2024*

Lectors: Youth

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Arimeta Dupree

Ushers: Team A

Eucharistic Ministers: Paula Nix, Rose Palmer, Lydia Ramirez, Rose Roos, Terese Brown, Katie Stewart

## Offering Reports

*Sunday, September 22, 2024*

Regular Offering:	\$3,547.10
Food Pantry:	\$0.00
Second Collection:	\$0.00
Miscellaneous:	\$4,940.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,487.16</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.*

## 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.

## Legion of Mary Meeting



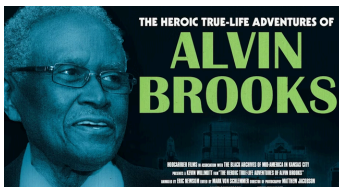
Join us for the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Kibeho/Our Lady Sorrows Praesidium meeting, tomorrow, September 30, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the St. Monica building. Your presence will be greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Catholic Movie Night



Join us in celebrating Mary's birthday today, September 29th at 5pm in the parish hall at Our Lady of Sorrows with a special dinner hosted by the Legion of Mary. Delicious dinner will be provided, and we encourage everyone to attend. Following the dinner at 6pm, we will be screening a captivating movie about St. Therese, offering a glimpse into the life of this extraordinary saint.

## The Heroic True-Life Adventures of Alvin Brooks



The "Heroic True-Life Adventures of Alvin Brooks" is scheduled for two more airings on our Kansas City PBS 2 channel:  
Saturday, September 28, 7:30 pm on Kansas City PBS 2  
Monday, September 30, 12:30 am on Kansas City PBS 2

## Second Collection for Youth Recognition Sunday



Our parish recently celebrated the baptism of three youth, and four children made their First Holy Communion. What a blessing for us all. Fr. Leonard ended the baptism by saying "We will continue to support you." His promise is consistent with the strategic plan to develop youth and young adults. One goal to fulfill the strategic initiative is to recognize the accomplishments and participation of our youth on the last Sunday in June every year. Starting today, September 29, there will be a second collection on the 5th Sunday of the month to fund the Youth Recognition celebration. There are only 4 months with 5 Sundays. Future second collections will be taken on December 29, March 30, and June 29, 2025. Please plan carefully to help fund scholarships and recognize all the youth involved in church ministry throughout the year. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



St. Monica Parishioners! We have an amazing opportunity to expand the reach of our beloved St. Monica of Africa Catholic Church and extend a warm welcome to more people in our community. This exposure will allow us to embrace new visitors and members, supporting our goal of growing our parish through evangelization. Envelopes will be provided for your convenience to enclose your contribution. Your cooperation and support are greatly appreciated.

**"A CHURCH ALIVE IS WORTH THE DRIVE!"**

## Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Beverly Dyer, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald Parson, Sergio Mendoza, Elaine Lomax, Cheryl Warren, Chaunceyette Mize, Rhea Holloman, Melva McClellan, Velma Jennings, Brenda A. Martin, Marcella Vaughn, Paris Harrington, Maxine Harvey, Michael Lucas, Lola Jacobs, Evalena Davidson (mother of Dan Davidson), Javan Hardy, Frankie Kemp, Carmelita Newman, Conrad McDonald, Greta Nash, Opal C. Blankinship, Patrice Williams (daughter of Pat and Don Williams), Louie Jones, John James, Barbara Walters, Janee Green (daughter of Pam and Ronald Green), Jublatee O'Neal (New Parishioner), Bonita Akridge, Deacon Kenneth Greene, Lawrence Ramirez, Roland Miller (Husband of Diana Miller), Mary Ann Grayson, Edward H. Franklin, Jr. (Father of Tracey Franklin Bradford)

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 suspect sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline, at 1-800-392-3728 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local Law Enforcement Agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, [crayon@ombudsmankc.org](mailto:crayon@ombudsmankc.org), if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City- St. Joseph.
4. The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing healing and resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families.

**Safety Environment Coordinator for St. Monica Parish -**

**Ramonda Doakes, P-(816) 457- 5538, E- [rdoakes@stmonicakc.org](mailto:rdoakes@stmonicakc.org)**

## Saints & Special Observances

**Sunday:** 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Monday:** St. Jerome

**Tuesday:** St. Terese of the Child Jesus; 1989 Army Gen. Colin Powell took office as the 1st African American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, highest U.S. military position

**Wednesday:** The Holy Guardian Angels

**Thursday:** Our Lady of Perpetual Help, SE Washington, DC 100th Anniversary-1920

**Friday:** St. Francis of Assisi; 1864 New Orleans Tribune, 1st African American owned daily newspaper began

**Saturday:** St. Faustina Kowalska; Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos

## Calendar of Events this Week

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

9:00 AM Mass  
11:30 AM RCIA Class (CR)

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

6:00 PM Legion of Mary Meeting (STM)

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

9:00 AM Mass  
6:00 PM Prayer Service

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study (STM)  
11:00 AM Choir Practice  
11:30 AM Ladies Knight of Peter Claver (STM)  
1:00 PM Knights of Peter Claver (STM)

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