



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

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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

6th Sunday of Easter

From Belief to Fullness—Receiving the Holy Spirit

Our first reading this weekend come from Acts chapter 8. There is a powerful movement in that reading; it begins with belief, but it does not end there. It moves toward fullness—the fullness of life in the Holy Spirit.

Philip goes down to Samaria and proclaims Christ. And something extraordinary happens. The people listen. They pay attention. They witness signs—healings, deliverance, transformation. The Gospel is not just spoken; it is experienced. And the result? “There was great joy in that city.” That line is worth pausing on: great joy in that city. Not partial joy. Not temporary excitement. But something deep and communal—joy that comes when lives are changed, when hope is restored, when Christ is truly encountered.

But then the reading takes an unexpected turn.

We are told that although the people had accepted the Word of God and had even been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, something was still missing. The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon them in fullness. So the apostles send Peter and John, who come, lay hands on them, and pray that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

Why is this important?

Because it reveals a truth that speaks directly to our lives today: faith is not meant to stop at belief—it is meant to grow into fullness through the Holy Spirit.



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Many of us can relate to the people of Samaria. We believe. We come to church. We have been baptized. We belong to a particular parish ministry. We try to live good lives. And yet, sometimes, something feels incomplete. We may still struggle with fear, with discouragement, with a lack of spiritual energy or direction.

The reading invites us to ask a deeper question: Have I truly opened my life to the full presence of the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is not an abstract idea. The Spirit is the very life of God dwelling within us—bringing courage where there is fear, clarity where there is confusion, and strength where there is weakness. The same Spirit who healed the sick and drove out unclean spirits in Samaria is alive and active today.

But here is the key: the Spirit is not forced upon us. The Spirit is received.

Notice what Peter and John do. They pray. They lay hands. They intentionally call down the Spirit. There is openness, expectation, and a desire for more.

And that is where we come in.

This Sixth Sunday of Easter challenges us not to settle for a minimal faith. It calls us beyond routine and invites us into a deeper relationship with God. It asks us to move from simply “knowing about Jesus” to being filled with His Spirit.

Imagine what would happen if our parish, like Samaria, became a place of “great joy.” Not just because of good programs or events we do here, but because people are truly alive in the Spirit—transformed, renewed, and on fire with faith.

That kind of joy is not manufactured. It is the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

So this week, make a simple but powerful prayer: “Come, Holy Spirit. Fill my heart. Complete what is lacking. Lead me into the fullness of life in Christ.”

Because belief is only the beginning. The goal is fullness—and in the Holy Spirit, that fullness is always possible.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 16:11-15; Psalm 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; John 15:26-16:4a

Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34; Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; John 16:5-11

Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; Psalm 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14; John 16:12-15

Thursday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Psalm 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; John 15:9-17

Friday: Acts 18:9-18; Psalm 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; John 16:20-23

Saturday: Acts 18:23-28; Psalm 47:2-3, 8-9, 10; John 16:23b-28

Sunday: Acts 1:12-14; Psalm 27:1, 4, 7-8; 1 Peter 4:13-16; John 17:1-11a

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, May 17, 2026

Lectors: Dwight Miller, Sharon Hardy

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Ann Suellentrop

Ushers: Team C

Eucharistic Ministers: Kirk Thaw, Shirley Thaw, Pat Williams, Rita Womack, Shirley Barber, Stephanie Broils

Offering Reports

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Regular Offering: \$4,765.00

Fundraising Campaign: \$1,112.00

Social Services: \$175.00

Second Collection: \$4.00

Total \$6,056.00

Fundraising Campaign

Weekly Update

Goal \$2,500,000

Total Amount Pledged \$425,872

Percentage of Goal Pledged 17.03%

Actual Cash Received to Date \$92,295

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!

Silent Auction Meeting



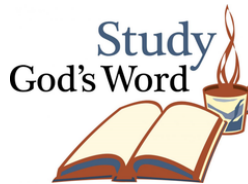
We are excited to begin planning our silent auction for this November. We'll get organized and begin the process of making this a successful auction. **Our next MEETING is May 17 in the St. Monica Building** immediately after Mass. See you there. We need everyone's participation! Shirley Thaw & Jackie McGhee-Dinvaut, Stewardship Committee.

To Pray Marvelously Well



An inspiring, new one-woman show is coming to St. Monica on Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 3:00 PM. To Pray Marvelously Well: The Spiritual Friendship of St. Edith Stein and St. Teresa of Avila. The original play by Still Point Theatre Collective explores the journeys of these two women, combined in one theatrical production. Teresa had a profound impact on Edith, and her autobiography led to Edith's conversion. The play is free, but love offerings will be gladly accepted. Proceeds will benefit St. Monica. For more information, contact Charles Carney at (913) 603-2483 or Ann Sullentrop at (913) 271-7925.

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!



Today, we pause as a parish family to thank God for the gift of mothers—those who have nurtured us, guided us, and loved us with generous hearts. Their quiet sacrifices, constant prayers, and enduring faith are a reflection of God's own love in our lives.

We honor and celebrate all mothers—grandmothers, godmothers, and spiritual mothers—who continue to build up the Church and our families with grace and strength. We remember in prayer those who have gone before us, and we entrust them to God's eternal care. We also hold close in our prayers for those who long to be mothers but are struggling to have children—may the Lord comfort their hearts and fill them with hope.

May the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary inspire all mothers to walk in faith, hope, and love.

Happy Mother's Day! May the Lord bless you and reward you abundantly.

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.

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

Accounting Team

Team Leads

Janice Smith	Burnetta Burtin
Ernest Collins	Jenise Comer
Mary Alexander	Jeanette Countee
Tracy Bradford	Fred Taylor
Marcus Moye	Karen Curls
Fredarecca Parker White	

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.

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, MAY 10

9:00 AM Mass
10:00 AM Dance Rehearsal (S)

MONDAY, MAY 11

TUESDAY, MAY 12

7:00 AM Project Homeless (FH)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

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

THURSDAY, MAY 14

FRIDAY, MAY 15

SATURDAY, MAY 16

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study (STM)