



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025

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

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." The Lord replied, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." Luke 17:5-6

Is it possible to completely uproot a tree and plant it in the sea? It's certainly hard to imagine how. It is especially hard to imagine doing so with a simple command of faith. Uprooting a tree is hard enough to imagine, but it is even more difficult to imagine a tree being planted in the sea. Though water is necessary, one cannot plant a tree in the sea and expect it to grow. But that's partly the point. We often underestimate the power of true faith. Saint Matthew's Gospel says that faith can move mountains. Saint Luke's says it can uproot a tree and replant it in the sea. All it takes to do so is faith the size of a mustard seed.

How much faith is equal to a mustard seed? A mustard seed is small, very small. It measures only about one millimeter in length. People who worked the soil at that time would have known that it was among the smallest of seeds they planted. For that reason, Jesus uses this familiar image to teach the apostles that faith, even a little faith, is powerful.

Jesus' teaching comes in response to a prayer on the part of the apostles. "Increase our faith," they said. Jesus' response, inviting them to have only a little faith, implies that their faith was quite weak. To increase their faith to the size of a mustard seed suggests that they did not even have a little faith yet.



continued on page 2



Most likely they were aware of that fact, and that was the reason they asked Jesus to increase their faith. They perceived their lacking and turned to Him Who could help.

One of the first steps to increasing faith is to humbly admit our lack of faith. In our pride, we often want to convince ourselves and others that we are filled with faith. But if that were the case, God would be doing incredible things through us. He would be doing that which is otherwise humanly impossible.

Obviously, faith does not give us magical powers by which we can literally command a tree to uproot itself and plant itself in the sea. This imagery is meant to tell us that faith will work miracles of faith, not necessarily physical miracles. In fact, if God ever did use us and our faith to work a physical miracle, it would only happen because it was a motivation for the far more important gift of the increase of faith.

What, then, can a little faith do? It can uproot sin from your heart and from the hearts of those around you. It can nourish you and others in ways that seem impossible. Just as a tree cannot normally be planted in the sea and survive, the gift of faith, even a little faith, will enable the soul to be nourished and strengthened in ways that otherwise seem impossible. A martyr perfectly illustrates this fact. Normally, persecution and death are not considered to be nourishing to a person. But when a person has faith and suffers martyrdom on account of Christ, then their soul will be fed by the persecution itself. And that is among the greatest of miracles possible. Suffering, persecution, illness, poverty, and every other difficulty imaginable are transformed by God into a source of nourishment when we endure them with true faith.

Reflect, today, upon the prayer of the apostles: "Increase our faith." Some of the greatest mystics taught that faith darkens the intellect. By this darkening, they mean that, by faith, God will lead us into the unknown, on a path that He alone is aware of. We will become instruments of His transforming grace in ways that are completely beyond our natural abilities. Pray for an increase of faith. When our Lord hears your humble prayer, by which you also confess your lack of faith, He will increase that faith, uproot sin and evil, and plant your soul in places in which you become nourished in ways that you could have never imagined possible.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Jonah 1:1-2:2, 11; Jonah 2:3, 4, 5, 8; Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday: Jonah 3:1-10; Psalm 130:1b-2, 3-4ab, 7-8; Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday: Jonah 4:1-11; Psalm 86:3-4, 5-6, 9-10; Luke 11:1-4

Thursday: Malachi 3:13-20b; Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4, and 6; Luke 11:5-13

Friday: Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Psalm 9:2-3, 6 and 16, 8-9; Luke 11:15-26

Saturday: Joel 4:12-21; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Luke 11:27-28

Sunday: 2 Kings 5:14-17; Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4; 2 Timothy 2:8-13; Luke 17:11-19

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, October 12, 2025

Lectors: Youth

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Arimeta Dupree

Ushers: Team B

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

Offering Reports

Sunday, September 28, 2025

Regular Offering:	\$5,169.00
Food Pantry:	\$110.00
Building Fund:	50.00
Revival:	\$1,701.10
Total	\$7,030.10

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.

We Need Your Help



As we continue with our capital campaign we are looking for grant writers. Please notify Elton Lombard, Lawrence Blankinship, Carolyn Greene, Shirley Thaw or Janice Smith if you have that skill. It takes all of our gifts and talents to make this campaign successful.

Capital Campaign Events



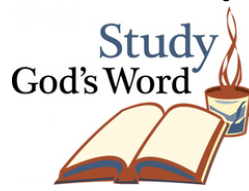
Several dinner parties are scheduled to take place in the homes of parishioners throughout October and November. Additionally, a big free pizza party is planned for November 13th in Donnelly Hall, located next to the downtown Cathedral. The purpose of these events is to share information about the vision for our Church and Ferguson Hall. To be added to the invitation list, please email Peter Callan at callanpo@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.

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!

Chicken Dinner and Bake Sale



Please join us in supporting the Ladies Auxiliary of St. Peter Claver's Chicken Dinner Fundraiser and Bake Sale! The event will take place on Sunday, October 12th, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in Ferguson Hall at St. Monica. Tickets are \$10.00 each and include 2 pieces of chicken, two sides, a roll, and water. Tickets are available for purchase starting today after mass, or you can contact Lady Crystal Marie Miller at 816-665-6753 for more information.

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).

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@diocesekcsj.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 ext. 516 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 5

9:00 AM	Mass
10:00 AM	Dance Rehearsal (S)
10:30 AM	GriefShare Group (CH)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

9:00 AM	Mass
6:00 PM	Prayer Service
6:00 PM	Parish Council Meeting (STM)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

11:00 AM	Altar & Rosary Meeting (FH)
----------	-----------------------------