



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 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

From our Pastor

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Behold the Lamb of God": What Are We Really Saying?

Every Sunday at Mass we hear the priest lift the consecrated Host and echo the words of John the Baptist: "*Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.*" Perhaps we repeat those words so often that we forget how revolutionary they are. In this Sunday's Gospel (John 1:29), John points at Jesus and announces a truth that will shape the entire Christian faith: Jesus is the Lamb of God, and His mission is to take away sin.

To understand this title, we have to travel back in Scripture. For the Jewish people, the lamb was not just an animal — it was a symbol loaded with meaning. Three images stand out:

1. The Passover Lamb

In the book of Exodus, God commanded the Israelites to sacrifice a lamb without blemish and mark their doorposts with its blood. The blood of that lamb saved them from death and opened their path to freedom. When John calls Jesus the Lamb of God, he is proclaiming that Jesus is the new Passover Lamb—whose blood saves not from physical death or political slavery, but from spiritual death and the slavery of sin.

2. The Sacrificial Lamb of the Temple

Every day in the Temple, lambs were offered to atone for sin. They were innocent victims offered on behalf of the guilty. Jesus fulfills and surpasses these sacrifices. There is no longer need for daily offerings because Christ, the true Lamb, offers Himself once and for all. The blood of animals covered sin; the blood of Jesus removes it.



continued on page 2



3. The Suffering Servant

The prophet Isaiah describes a servant who suffers for the sins of the people, “led like a lamb to the slaughter” (Isaiah 53:7). When John calls Jesus the Lamb, he declares that this prophecy is now being fulfilled. Jesus is the servant who carries our iniquities so that we may be healed.

When we put these threads together, we discover that calling Jesus the Lamb of God is not soft or poetic language — it is a bold proclamation of His identity and mission. To say “Behold the Lamb of God” means:

- Behold the One whose sacrifice saves
- Behold the One who stands in our place
- Behold the One whose blood brings freedom
- Behold the One who conquers sin by love

And then John adds the mission statement of Jesus: “who takes away the sin of the world.” Notice the phrase **takes away**, not just “forgives,” “reduces,” or “ignores.” Jesus removes sin at its root. He breaks its power and offers a way back to the Father.

This is why we repeat John’s words before receiving Communion. We are not remembering history — we are recognizing a mystery: the same Lamb of God who stood by the Jordan stands on our altar. The same Lamb who died on Calvary now feeds His people. The same Lamb who takes away the sin of the world wants to take away our sin — not only globally, but personally.

So when we hear “Behold the Lamb of God” next Sunday, may we pause, lift the eyes of our heart, and truly behold the One who loves us enough to save us, heal us, and set us free.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Samuel 15:16-23; Psalm 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23; Mark 2:18-22

Tuesday: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 89:20, 21-22, 27-28; Mark 2:23-28

Wednesday: 1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Psalm 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Mark 3:1-6

Thursday: 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Psalm 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13; Mark 3:7-12

Friday: 1 Samuel 24:3-21; Psalm 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11; Mark 3:13-19

Saturday: 2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Psalm 80:2-3, 5-7; Mark 3:20-21

Sunday: Isaiah 8:23-9:3; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17; Matthew 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, January 25, 2025

Lectors: Arimeta Dupree, Michele Perez

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Contact Parish Office

Ushers: Team D

Eucharistic Ministers: Pamela Green, Ronald Green, Carolyn Greene, Ben Gruber, Sharon Hardy, Elaine Johnson

Offering Reports

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Regular Offering:	\$2,748.00
Food Pantry:	\$180.00
Christmas Offering:	\$30.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$393.00
Total	\$3,351.00

Fundraising Campaign
Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$410,952
Percentage of Goal Pledged	16.44%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$16,479

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



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!

Help Update our Records

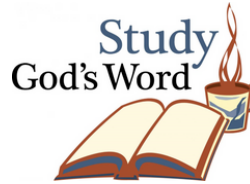


We've recently observed that a number of our parishioners may have outdated contact information on file. If you're unsure whether we have your most current details or if

you've made any recent changes, we invite you to reach out to our parish office at 816-471-3696, or you can email Biviana directly at bradillo@stmonicakc.org. Your connection is important to us, and we want to ensure we stay in touch! Thank you for helping us keep our records up to date.

Please join BCIT directly after mass February 1, 2026, in the cry room for a meeting aimed at increasing voter registration and participation in the upcoming election session. Please contact Jenise Comer with any questions.

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!

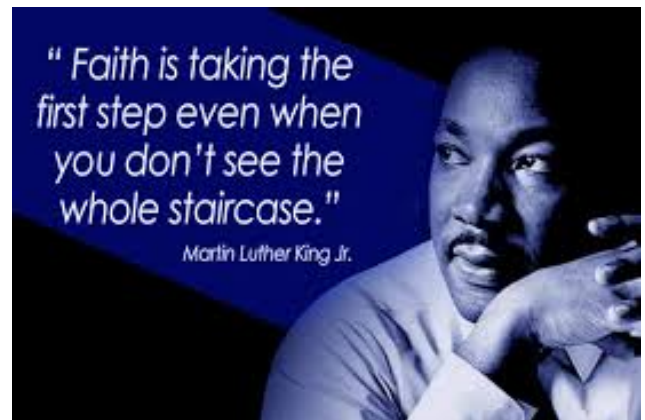
You Are Invited



Diocesan Council
of Catholic Women
Kansas City - St. Joseph

We invite you to attend 'Seeing Jesus Through the Eyes of Women,' a DCCW Retreat for all women of the Diocese.

Join us on Saturday, February 7th, from 10 am to 4 pm, followed by an optional Mass at 4:30 pm at St. Bernadette Church, 9020 E. 51st Terrace, KCMO 64133. There is a \$25.00 registration fee, which includes lunch, drinks, and snacks. Please register by January 15th. Mail a check made out to DCCW, along with your name, phone number, and email address, to Linda Lysakowski at 12708 E 62 Ct, Kansas City, MO 64133-4568. Bring a friend (be sure to register her) and bring a written quotation from a favorite saint or holy woman. We will hang your quotation on our Tree of Saintly Women



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), Lynn Williams, 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

Praise Dancer Ministry

Leader/Choreographer

Marilyn Scott

Cathy Johnson	Ann Suellentrop
Terese Brown	Keva Alexander
Mauriah Francis	Nylia Russell
Vickie Shackelford	Allison McDonald
Arimeta Dupree	Latrice Johnson
Iia Dupree	Jordan Johnson
Dalice Dupree	Jersey Johnson
Phaedra Lombard	Jamie Johnson
Diana Alexandria	Kalesha Brown
Marsha Willis	Janet Henry
Emily Elizabeth Willis	Kendra Kemp McGee

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

9:00 AM Mass
10:30 AM Catechumen Class

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

Matin Luther King Jr. Day

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

9:00 AM Mass
6:00 PM Prayer Service

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

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