



# Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026

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

3rd Sunday of Easter

### “Stay With Us” – The Courage to Invite Jesus In

There is something deeply human in today’s Gospel. Two disciples are walking away—from Jerusalem, from hope, from everything they thought would turn out differently. They are not just walking to Emmaus... they are walking away from disappointment.

And haven’t we all taken that walk before?

You had a plan. You had faith. You trusted God. And then something didn’t work out—prayers unanswered, relationships strained, doors closed. And without even realizing it, you start heading toward your own “Emmaus”—that place of quiet resignation where you say, “Well... I guess that’s just how life is.”

What is fascinating is this: Jesus is already walking with them. But they don’t recognize Him. Not because Jesus is hiding—but because their expectations are blinding them. They expected a victorious Messiah, not a crucified one. They expected glory without suffering. Sound familiar?

Sometimes we miss Jesus not because He is absent, but because He does not show up the way we expected.

And then comes my favorite part of the story —Jesus asks a question He already knows the answer to: “What are you discussing?” You can almost imagine Cleopas thinking, “Where have you been?”



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It's like someone asking you, "How was the game?" when your team just lost in the final seconds. You're thinking, "Are you serious right now?"

But Jesus is doing something powerful. He is inviting them to tell their story—to name their disappointment, their confusion, their pain. And here is the first challenge for us: Have you told Jesus your real story lately? Not the polite, church-version prayer. Not the "I'm fine, Lord." But the honest one: "Lord, I'm tired. I don't understand. I thought things would be different."

Because healing begins when we stop pretending.

Then Jesus does something unexpected. He doesn't fix their situation right away. He doesn't perform a miracle on the spot. Instead, He opens the Scriptures. He walks them through the story of God. Why? Because before God changes your situation, He often changes your understanding. He helps you see that your story is bigger than your moment of pain. That suffering is not the end. That even the cross is part of the plan.

Now here is the turning point of the Gospel: They arrive at Emmaus. Jesus makes as if to continue. And everything depends on what they do next. They say: "**Stay with us.**" That simple invitation changes everything. Because the truth is this: Jesus will walk with you... but He will not force His way into your home, your heart, your life. You have to invite Him.

And let's be honest—sometimes we don't. We invite Him to Mass... but not into our decisions. We invite Him into prayer... but not into our relationships. We invite Him into Sunday... but not into Monday morning.

But the moment they say, "Stay with us," everything shifts. At the table, Jesus takes bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to them.

And suddenly—their eyes are opened. My brothers and sisters, that is not just a moment in the past—that is the Eucharist.

### **Every Mass is Emmaus.**

We come in with our questions, our burdens, our disappointments. We listen to the Word. And then, at the altar, Jesus is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

So the question is not whether Jesus is present—He is—but whether our hearts are ready to recognize Him. And if we truly see Him in the Eucharist, we cannot leave the same way we came; we leave changed, renewed, and sent forth with burning hearts.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

## **Readings for the Week**

**Monday:** Acts 6:8-15; Psalm 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; John 6:22-29

**Tuesday:** Acts 7:51-8:1a; Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab; John 6:30-35

**Wednesday:** Acts 8:1b-8; Psalm 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a; John 6:35-40

**Thursday:** Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; John 6:44-51

**Friday:** Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 117:1bc, 2; John 6:52-59

**Saturday:** 1 Peter 5:5b-14; Psalm 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mark 16:15-20

**Sunday:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6; 1 Peter 2:20b-25; John 10:1-10

## **Liturgical Assignments**

*Sunday, April 26, 2026*

Lectors: Jackie Dinvaux, Cristina Ramirez

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Karen Groves

Ushers: Team D

Eucharistic Ministers: Angela Curry, Arimeta Dupree, Mary Graham, Pamela Green, Ronald Green, Carolyn Greene

## **Offering Reports**

*Sunday, April 12, 2026*

Regular Offering:	\$6,518.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$729.00
Social Services:	\$223.00
Mother's Day:	\$45.00
Easter Flowers:	\$34.00
Sedar Meal:	\$870.00
Second Collection:	\$70.32
Easter Vigil:	\$861.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,350.32</b>

## 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](mailto:mstpaula.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!

## Senior Day Party



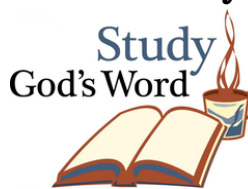
Councilman Curls invites you to a Senior Day Party! Enjoy food, dancing, music, exciting giveaways, and a variety of fun activities. Community partners will be on hand to help with benefits such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and vaccinations. This free event takes place Saturday, May 2nd, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ruskin High School, 7000 E 111th St., Kansas City, MO 64134. For more information, email [seniorparty@kclinc.org](mailto:seniorparty@kclinc.org) or call (816) 513-6519.

## Join Us for Breakfast



At this very moment, The Knights of Peter Claver are cooking a full breakfast for you in Ferguson Hall. Please try to attend immediately after mass and enjoy the food and fellowship. Tickets only \$8.00.

## 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!

## Bloom & Boogie Senior Prom



Put on your dancing shoes and celebrate the season in style! Join us for an unforgettable afternoon filled with music, dancing, light refreshments, and springtime cheer. This prom is specially designed for adults 60 and older. Come dressed to impress and get ready to boogie among the blooms at the Gregg/Klice Community Center, 1600 John "Buck" O'Neil Way, KCMO, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$15. For more details, call 816-513-0650 or visit [kcparks.org](http://kcparks.org).

## Save the Date



Mark your calendar for May 17, 2026 at 3:00 PM! St. Monica will host "To Pray Marvelously Well: The Spiritual Friendship of St. Edith Stein and St. Teresa of Avila," a one-woman show by Still Point Theatre Collective. Written by Jenny Magnus and performed by Lisa Wagner-Carollo, this play explores the friendship that led to Edith Stein's conversion. Don't miss this inspiring event—more details soon!

## 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](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 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](mailto: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](mailto:victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org) for more information.

**Safety Environment Coordinator for St. Monica Parish -  
Ramonda Doakes, P-(816) 457- 5538, E- [rdoakes@stmonicakc.org](mailto:rdoakes@stmonicakc.org)**

## Leadership Corner

### Lawn & Beautification Ministry

Duane Murff	Captain
Threquinta Peltier	Co Captain
David Parker	Donna Murff
Daniel Kacprowicz	Carrie Miller
Jenny Gillis	Domenic Kagwanja
Anson Taitt	Patricia Kagwanja
Jan Powell	Carmen Johnson
Jim	

## Fundraising Campaign Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$425,872
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.03%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$83,371

## Calendar of Events this Week

### SUNDAY, APRIL 19

9:00 AM	Mass
10:00 AM	KPC Pancake Breakfast
10:00 AM	Dance Rehearsal (S)
10:45 AM	GriefShare Support Group (CR)
11:00 AM	Ladies of St. Peter Claver, Fr. Constantine Court 57 (STM)

### MONDAY, APRIL 20

### TUESDAY, APRIL 21

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

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

### THURSDAY, APRIL 23

### FRIDAY, APRIL 24

### SATURDAY, APRIL 25