



# Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 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  
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**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

## The Most Holy Trinity

### The Trinity: Relationship

The doctrine of the Holy Trinity was not always my favorite subject in the seminary. In fact, I still remember taking Trinity I and Trinity II classes and wondering at times whether the professors were speaking English or some heavenly language reserved only for theologians and saints. We spent long hours reading St. Augustine and other great theologians trying to explain the mystery of one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I remember one phrase from St. Augustine that almost gave me a headache: "The Son proceeds from the Father by eternal generation, while the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son by spiration." I can still remember sitting in class thinking, "What exactly does that even mean?" Words like consubstantial, procession, generation, and spiration sounded intimidating and complicated. To be honest, at the time I was just trying to survive the class and pass the exams.

But something interesting happened near the end of the course. I slowly began to appreciate why the Church spent so much time reflecting on the Trinity. I realized that theology was not trying to complicate God. It was trying to protect something beautiful and important about God.

The doctrine of the Trinity tells us one simple but life-changing truth: God is relationship. God is not lonely. God is not isolated.



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From all eternity, the Father loves the Son, the Son loves the Father, and the Holy Spirit is the bond of love between them. At the very heart of the universe is not power, fear, or selfishness—but love.

That realization changes how we see our lives.

Many people today struggle with loneliness, division, and broken relationships. Families stop talking to one another. Communities become polarized. People hide behind phones and social media yet still feel deeply disconnected. The Trinity reminds us that we were created for communion, for relationships, for love.

This is why human beings suffer tremendously when relationships break down. We are made in the image of a Trinitarian God. Deep within us is the desire to love and to be loved.

The Trinity also teaches us humility. Even St. Augustine himself admitted that the Trinity is ultimately a mystery beyond complete human understanding. There is a famous story about him walking along the beach trying to understand the Trinity. He saw a small child attempting to pour the entire ocean into a little hole in the sand. Augustine realized that trying to fully explain the Trinity is like trying to fit the ocean into a tiny hole. God is always greater than our minds.

Yet the beautiful thing is this: even if we cannot fully understand the Trinity, we can experience the Trinity. Every time we make the Sign of the Cross, we invoke the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Every Mass begins in the name of the Trinity. Every baptism is celebrated in the name of the Trinity. The Trinity is not just a theological formula buried in old books. The Trinity surrounds our daily Christian life.

Perhaps the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity is inviting us to ask ourselves a simple question: Do our lives reflect the love and unity of the Trinity? Do we bring peace into our homes? Do we forgive? Do we build communion or division? Do we love only when convenient, or do we love sacrificially like God Himself?

In the end, the mystery of the Trinity is not merely something to study. It is a mystery to live.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** 2 Peter 1:2-7; Psalm 91:1-2, 14-15b, 15c-16; Mark 12:1-12

**Tuesday:** 2 Peter 3:12-15a, 17-18; Psalm 90:2, 3-4, 10, 14 and 16; Mark 12:13-17

**Wednesday:** 2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12; Psalm 123:1b-2ab, 2cdef; Mark 12:18-27

**Thursday:** 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Mark 12:28-34

**Friday:** 2 Timothy 3:10-17; Psalm 119:157, 160, 161, 165, 166, 168; Mark 12:35-37

**Saturday:** 2 Timothy 4:1-8; Psalm 71:8-9, 14-15AB, 16-17, 22; Mark 12:38-44

**Sunday:** Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a; Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; John 6:51-58

## Liturgical Assignments

*Sunday, June 7, 2026*

Lectors: Robin Richardson, Michele Jones

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Margaret Mendy

Ushers: Team A

Eucharistic Ministers: Sharon Hardy, Elaine Johnson, Syrtiller Kabot, Felicia Menefee, Crystal Miller, Dianna Miller

## Offering Reports

*Sunday, May 24, 2026*

Regular Offering:	\$3,387.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$229.00
Social Services:	\$50.00
Second Collection:	\$170.00
Play Love Offering:	\$469.25
Our Lady of Sorrows	\$3,598.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,903.65</b>

## Fundraising Campaign

### Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$425,872
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.03%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$97,055

## 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!

## 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](mailto:mspaula.pn@gmail.com).

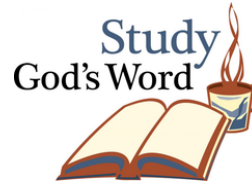
## Juneteenth Blood Drive



Join us for a Blood Drive at St. Monica Catholic Church in Ferguson Hall on Saturday, June 20, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All presenting

donors will receive a complimentary ticket to Worlds of Fun, while supplies last! Tickets are non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter "StMonicas."

## 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!

## Ready, Set, Learn Workshop



Families with children between 1-5 years old, will receive developmental services to increase the child's social and emotional development, address mental health and

behavioral health needs, and receive parenting education. This event takes place on the 4th Wednesday of the Month from 10:30 am to noon, at Catholic Charities located at 8001 Longview Rd, KCMO. Bring your kids and join our community of families!

## We Need Your Help



Please mark your calendar for June 19 and 20, 2026. St. Monica will host a Parking Lot Fundraiser during the Juneteenth Celebration, with all proceeds supporting the

St. Monica Fundraising Campaign. We need volunteers to work 2-hour shifts collecting parking fees or directing traffic. If you can help, please sign up on the sheet in the church vestibule. Thank you for your support, The Parking Team

## 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, Yesheka Alexander (daughter of James and Mary Alexander), 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](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

### 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 31

9:00 AM	Mass
10:00 AM	Evangelization Meeting (FH)
10:45 AM	GriefShare Support Group (CH)
2:00 PM	4th Degree KPC Ladies (STM)

### MONDAY, JUNE 1

### TUESDAY, JUNE 2

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

6:00 PM	Wednesday Night Prayer (S)
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### THURSDAY, JUNE 4

### FRIDAY, JUNE 5

### SATURDAY, JUNE 6

9:30 AM	Women's Bible Study (STM)
11:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal
11:30 AM	Knights of Peter Claver (FH)