



# Saint Monica Catholic Church

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 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

## Second Sunday of Advent

### **"A Shoot from the Stump of Jesse: Hope Growing Out of the Impossible"**

Have you ever seen a tree stump that looked completely dead, cut down, dried out, and absolutely finished, only to find, months later, a tiny green shoot poking out of it? It's as if creation itself whispered, "Not so fast... I'm not done yet." That is exactly the image Isaiah gives us on this second Sunday of Advent: "A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse."

The stump of Jesse is not a poetic decoration. It is a theological punch in the gut. Israel had once been a mighty tree, a flourishing kingdom under David and Solomon. But sin, division, war, and exile had reduced that glory to a stump. No king. No power. No future. Just a memory...and a stump.

Yet God says: Watch that stump. Because Advent is the season when God shows us that the places in our lives that look cut down, broken, and barren are exactly where He loves to plant hope.

Think about it: God rarely starts His greatest works from thriving palaces.

He starts from stumps:

- a forgotten couple, Zechariah and Elizabeth
- a teenage girl in Nazareth with nothing but faith
- a carpenter's workshop
- a manger in Bethlehem
- a cross on Calvary



*continued on page 2*



God specializes in holy surprises sprouting from hopeless places. Isaiah tells us this shoot will be filled with the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, and fear of the Lord. This is no ordinary shoot—this is the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the One who turns spiritual desert land into gardens of grace.

And this is what Advent is about: Waiting, watching, and believing that God is doing something new, right where life feels cut down to the stump.

Let’s be honest many of us have stumps in our lives. The stump of broken relationships. The stump of discouragement. The stump of worry. The stump of “I thought my life would look different by now.” Sometimes we don’t feel like flourishing trees; we feel like people just trying to keep the squirrels away from what’s left. But Advent challenges us: Do you believe that God can make something grow again? Not in theory, not in someone else’s life—in yours.

The challenge of Advent is this, God doesn’t ask if the stump is ready to grow. He doesn’t check its moisture level or call an arborist. He simply acts. Grace sprouts without permission. Christ comes whether we feel ready or not. He comes to the weary, the distracted, the spiritually sleepy (yes, even us who promised last Advent that we would do better this Advent!). He comes not because we have everything in order, but because He is the One who brings order to our chaos.

This Sunday, Isaiah invites us to look at our stumps with new eyes. Not as endings, but as beginnings. Not as proof of failure, but as soil of grace. Not as dead places, but as holy spaces waiting for Christ to bloom. So, this Advent watch your stumps. God is not finished. Hope has already begun to grow.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38

**Tuesday:** Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Matthew 18:12-14

**Wednesday:** Isaiah 40:25-31; Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Matthew 11:28-30

**Thursday:** Isaiah 41:13-20; Psalm 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Matthew 11:11-15

**Friday:** Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47

**Saturday:** Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

**Sunday:** Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

## Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Lectors: Ken Bacchus, Diane Charity

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Caleb Johnson

Ushers: Team B

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

## Offering Reports

Sunday, November 30, 2025

Regular Offering:	\$5,879.00
Food Pantry:	\$30.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$500.00
Second Collection:	\$429.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$10.00
Our Lady of Sorrows:	\$3,653.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,501.40</b>

### 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.



### 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).

### Invitation From Our Choir



The Music Ministry invites singers of all ages (boys, girls, men, and women) to join our Christmas Eve Mass Choir! We will have two rehearsals on Saturday,

December 13, and Saturday, December 20, at 11 AM. The songs are easy to learn. If you show up, God will show off in you!

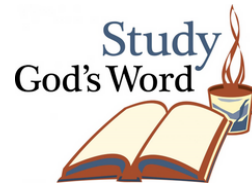
### Time to Plan for 2026



As 2026 approaches, it's the perfect time to organize our schedules for the upcoming year. We encourage all parish ministries to complete the

space reservation forms located near the entrance of the church. Securing your spot ensures your events are included on our calendar for 2026. Please return the completed forms to the parish office, and Biviana will confirm your reservation once it's approved. Don't miss out on this opportunity to plan ahead!

### 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!

### Christmas Concert



Today, December 7 at 2:00 PM, St. Therese Little Flower will host its Third Annual Christmas Concert and Sing-Along. Performers include

Julia Haile, Grace Givens, Roberta Gumbel, and Father Paul Turner. Admission is free. The event will take place at 5814 Euclid Ave, Kansas City, MO 64130.



**Christmas Eve Mass**  
**December 24th at 8pm**

**Christmas Day Mass**  
**December 25th at 10am**

## 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)

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

### **Lector Ministry**

	<b>Coordinator</b>
Rose Palmer	Michele Jones
Ken Bacchus	Brenda Lofton
Darthene Buckman	Elton Lombard
Gerald Buckman	Phaedra Lombard
Diane Charity	Dwight Miller
Ernest Collins	Melba Myers
Bernadette Cook	Jim Newland
Angela Curry	Michele Perez
Everett Curry	Cristina Ramirez
Ramonda Doakes	Robin Richardson
Jackie Dinvaut	Rose Roos
Arimeta Dupree	Deborah Scott
Carolyn Greene	Pat Williams
Sharon Hardy	Rita Womack
Brandy Roos Johnson	

## Calendar of Events this Week

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7**

9:00 AM	Mass
10:30 AM	Catechumen Class (STM)
10:30 AM	GriefShare Group (C)
10:30 AM	Dance Rehearsal (S)

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 8**

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9**

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10**

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

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11**

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12**

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13**