



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 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

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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

When God Interrupts Our Plans

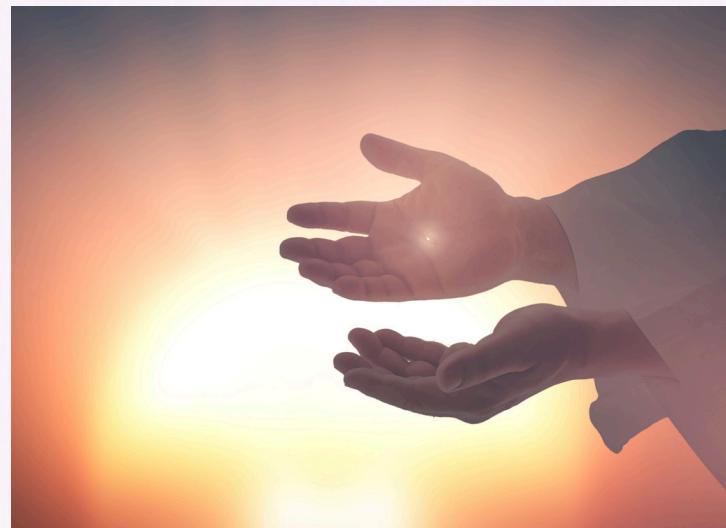
This Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 4:12–23) begins in a moment of disruption. *"When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee."* John's imprisonment marks the end of one chapter in salvation history and the beginning of another. The hinge between those chapters is not peaceful—it is an interruption.

From that disruption, everything unfolds at once: prophecy is fulfilled, light dawns in dark places, and a mission begins. Jesus does not wait for better timing; He does not delay until Nazareth becomes more receptive or Galilee more safe. He moves. He preaches. He calls. He heals. The kingdom advances through interruption.

Most of us do not like interruptions—especially from God. We prefer faith that fits our calendar, discipleship that doesn't disturb our routines, and conversion that doesn't ask too much. But the Gospel refuses to

cooperate with our desire for comfort.

There is nothing "orderly" about the arrival of the Light of the World in the land of Zebulun and Naphtali. Isaiah calls it a place of "darkness" and "death's shadow"—and yet, that is precisely where God shines light.



continued on page 2

But notice how the first disciples experience this same pattern. Peter and Andrew were not in the synagogue praying for a vocation—they were working. James and John were not on a retreat—they were repairing nets with their father. No one filled out a discernment packet, scheduled a spiritual director, or waited for conditions to improve. Jesus walks into their ordinary labor and interrupts it: “Come after me.” The call is abrupt. The response is immediate. The change is total.

And here lies the challenge: the kingdom of God rarely waits for us to “be ready.” Many Catholics say they will serve when life calms down, volunteer when they retire, engage in ministries when the kids get older, pray when they have more time, reconcile when the wounds feel less raw, or evangelize when society is less intimidating. But Jesus enters precisely into the chaos, fatigue, and fish-nets of daily life and says, “Follow Me now.”

And what follows is breathtaking: “He went around all of Galilee... curing every disease and illness among the people.” The Light does not merely reveal what is broken—it heals what is broken. The same Christ who interrupts their plans interrupts the world’s wounds.

So here are the questions today’s Gospel quietly presses upon us:

- Where is God interrupting my plans right now?
- What “nets” am I clinging to for security?
- What excuses have I baptized as prudence?
- Who around me is waiting for the light I refuse to carry?

Many of us want God’s comfort without His call, His mercy without His mission, His healing without His disruption. But discipleship always begins when Jesus steps into our ordinary world and says, “Come after Me.” The only difference between saints and spectators is that saints drop their nets.

This weekend, ask for the grace not merely to admire the Gospel, but to allow it to interrupt you. For in every divine interruption, the kingdom draws near.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: 2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5; Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10; Mark 3:22-30

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 6:12b-15, 17-19; Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Mark 3:31-35

Wednesday: 2 Samuel 7:4-17; Psalm 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30; Mark 4:1-20

Thursday: 2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29; Psalm 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14; Mark 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Samuel 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11; Mark 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17; Psalm 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Mark 4:35-41

Sunday: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13; Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; 1Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12a

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Lectors: Youth

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Contact Parish Office

Ushers: Team A

Eucharistic Ministers: Syrtiller Kabot, Felicia Menefee, Crystal Miller, Dianna Miller, Paula Nix, Rose Palmer

Offering Reports

Sunday, January 18, 2026

Regular Offering:	\$5,726.40
Food Pantry:	\$100.00
Christmas Offering:	\$100.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$14,499.00
Second Collection:	\$324.25
Total	\$20,749.65

Fundraising Campaign Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$410,952
Percentage of Goal Pledged	16.44%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$30,968

Announcements

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026

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!

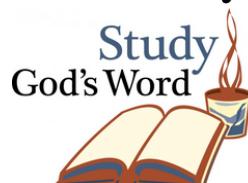
Join Us For Breakfast



You're invited! Join the Knights of Peter Claver for a delicious breakfast on Sunday, February 1st in Ferguson Hall, right after the 9:00 am mass. Tickets are just \$8.00! Come enjoy delicious food, great conversation, and the chance to connect with fellow parishioners. Everyone is welcome, we hope to see you there!

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

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.

"A CHURCH ALIVE IS WORTH THE DRIVE!"

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), Jubilatee 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

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
Ila 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 25

9:00 AM	Mass
10:30 AM	Catechumen Class (STM)
2:00 PM	4th Degree KPC Ladies (STM)

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

4:00 PM	Legion of Mary Meeting(STM)
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TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

WEDNESDAY, JANURAY 28

9:00 AM	Mass
6:00 PM	Prayer Service

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

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