



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

Fr. Leonard Gicheru
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Rita Womack
Food Pantry/Social Services
Director
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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

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Let the Word Do Its Work

In the reading from Isaiah, God gives us a beautiful image: rain and snow coming down from heaven, watering the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the sower and bread to the hungry. Then God says, "So shall my word be." In other words, God's Word is not just information. It is not just nice religious poetry. It is not simply something we hear on Sunday and forget by Monday morning. God's Word is living, active, powerful, and fruitful.

The lesson is simple. **Let the Word do its work.**

We live in a world where we want instant results. We plant a seed today and expect tomatoes by Tuesday. We pray once and expect the full miracle package by Friday, preferably with free shipping. But God's Word often works like rain. It comes gently. It soaks slowly. It softens hard ground. It reaches places we did not even know were dry.

Think of the earth after a long dry season. The soil becomes hard. It cracks. It resists. But when the rain begins to fall, something changes. The ground softens. Seeds awaken. Life begins to rise again. That is what the Word of God does in the human heart. It softens what has become hardened by disappointment.



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It refreshes what has become tired. It awakens hope where we thought nothing good could grow anymore.

But here is the challenge: rain only helps the ground that receives it. If we cover the soil with concrete, the rain may fall, but nothing grows. In the same way, God’s Word can be proclaimed every Sunday, read in our homes, heard on, preached from the pulpit, but if our hearts are closed, distracted, bitter, or too busy, the Word cannot bear fruit in us.

Sometimes we come to Mass and the Word of God is read, but our minds are already at lunch, Fifa World Cup, the grocery list, or what someone said to us three weeks ago that we are still rehearsing like a favorite movie. We may be physically present, but spiritually waterproof. The Word falls, but it runs off.

Isaiah reminds us that God’s Word does not return empty. It will accomplish what God sends it to do. But we must allow it to enter us. That means listening with faith. It means taking one sentence, one phrase, one word from Scripture and carrying it into the week. Maybe the word is “forgive.” Maybe it is “do not be afraid.” Maybe it is “come to me.” Maybe it is “love your neighbor.” Whatever word God gives you, do not leave it in the pew.

Let it disturb you a little. Let it comfort you. Let it challenge your habits, your attitudes, your grudges, your priorities. God’s Word is not meant to decorate our lives; it is meant to transform them.

Every Sunday, the Lord sends His Word like rain. The question is not whether the Word has power. It does. The question is: what kind of soil am I giving it?

This week do not simply hear the Word. Receive it. Sit with it. Pray with it. Act on it. Let it water the dry places in your soul. Because when God’s Word enters a willing heart, something always begins to grow.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Isaiah 1:10-17; Psalm 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Matthew 10:34-11:1

Tuesday: Isaiah 7:1-9; Psalm 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8; Matthew 11:20-24

Wednesday: Isaiah 10:5-7, 13b-16; Psalm 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15; Matthew 11:25-27

Thursday: Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Psalm 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21; Matthew 11:28-30

Friday: Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Isaiah 38:10, 11, 12abcd, 16; Matthew 12:1-8

Saturday: Micah 2:1-5; Psalm 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14; Matthew 12:14-21

Sunday: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Psalm 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Lectors: Sharon Hardy, Rose Palmer

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Sharon Hardy

Ushers: Team C

Eucharistic Ministers: Rose Palmer, Lydia Ramirez, Rose Roos, Katie Stewart, Pat Williams, Rita Womack

Offering Reports

Sunday, July 5, 2026

Regular Offering:	\$3,779.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$1,630.00
Food Pantry:	\$75.00
Hall Rental:	\$400.00
Total	\$5,884.00

Fundraising Campaign Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$425,872
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.03%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$110,518

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



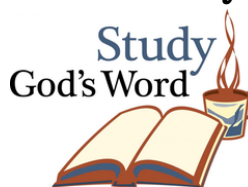
Ladies, please mark your calendars for an amazing opportunity to explore the Word of God together. Our Women's Bible Study group will meet every first and third Saturday from 9:30 to 11:00 am. This is a fantastic chance to grow spiritually and delve into the teachings of the Bible in a supportive and engaging environment. For more information, please contact Paula Nix at (816) 471- 3696 or mspaula.pn@gmail.com.

Fundraising Campaign



Thank you to all who have already submitted a pledge card for our parish fundraising campaign. If you have not yet participated, pledge cards are available at the back of the church. Please return your completed card in the red collection box. Every gift helps move our parish forward.

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!

Your Vote Matters



St. Monica is hosting Kansas City Catholics Addressing Racism "Conversation" on Thursday, July 16. 6:30pm. This "Conversation" is about how YOUR VOTE matters. Learn what's on the ballot. We'll discuss each amendment and learn how it affects you individually. Our very own, Jenise Comer, is one of the 3 conversationalists. If you haven't registered, it's not too late! You may do so at this event. We look forward to seeing you and a friend.



Juneteenth Parking Lot Campaign Fundraiser

WE RAISED \$1,000.00

Thank you to our energetic and enthusiastic volunteers who helped greet, served as Ambassadors, directed parking and traffic, and collected parking fees:

Jenny Gillis	Ernest Collins	Pam Green
Rose Roos	Dawn Collins	Don Williams
Duane Murff	Kirk Thaw	Patricia Williams
Mike Hughes	Shirley Thaw	Carolyn Greene
Deborah Scott	Liley Villazan	Elton Lombard
Quiana Spero	Juan Villazan	Jackie Dinvaut
Carrie Miller	Crystal Miller	Ryan Dinvaut
Cheryl Jones	Donna Murff	Elaine Johnson
Kim Urenda	Ronald Green	Jeanette Countee

"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), 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.

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

Parish Council Members

Carolyn Greene	Chairperson
Duane Murff	Vice-Chairperson
Kim Urenda	Secretary
Father Leonard Gicheru	
Robin Richardson	
Vincent Alexandria	
Vickie Shackelford	
Teresa Johnson	

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, JULY 12

9:00 AM	Mass
10:00 AM	Dance Rehearsal (S)
10:30 AM	BCIT Meeting (STM)
11:00 AM	Ladies of St. Peter Claver (FH)
2:30 PM	Oblates of Conception Abbey (STM)

MONDAY, JULY 13

TUESDAY, JULY 14

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

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

THURSDAY, JULY 16

FRIDAY, JULY 17

SATURDAY, JULY 18

9:30 AM	Women's Bible Study
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