

Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026 **1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108**

Parish Staff

Fr. Leonard Gicheru
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Richard Jolevette
Custodian

Melvin Kerr
Choir/Music Ministry

George Hans
Accountant
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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

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

What Are You Feeding Your Mind?

Anxiety often begins with two small words: “What if?”

What if the doctor’s report is bad? What if I lose my job? What if my children make the wrong choices? What if I cannot pay the bills? What if the situation never improves? Once these questions begin circling in our minds, they can steal our sleep, weaken our concentration, and keep us from appreciating the blessings already before us.

In his Letter to the Philippians, Saint Paul writes, “Have no anxiety at all.” At first, his advice may sound unrealistic. How can we avoid anxiety when we face real problems and uncertain futures? Yet Paul wrote these words while imprisoned. His freedom had been taken away, his future was uncertain, and his life was in danger. He was not speaking from a place of comfort. He had discovered a peace stronger than his circumstances.

Paul does not simply tell us to stop worrying. He tells us what to do with our worries: “By prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.”



Prayer does not mean pretending that our problems are insignificant. It means remembering that our God is greater than our problems. When anxiety tells us, “Everything depends on you,” prayer reminds us, “You are not carrying this alone.”

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Imagine holding a heavy suitcase for hours while standing beside someone strong enough and willing to carry it. That would be unnecessary suffering. Yet we often do exactly that spiritually. We tell God about our burden, but after praying, we pick it up again and carry it throughout the day. Trust means placing the suitcase in God's hands and resisting the temptation to take it back.

Paul also tells us to pray "with thanksgiving." Gratitude changes our focus. We may still have an unpaid bill, but we remember the ways God has provided before. We may still be waiting for medical results, but we thank God for the people walking beside us. Thanksgiving does not deny our difficulty; it prevents the difficulty from becoming the only thing we can see.

Paul then challenges us to examine what we allow into our minds: whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, gracious, excellent, and worthy of praise—think about these things.

Our minds are like gardens. Whatever we water will grow. If we constantly water fear, resentment, suspicion, and discouraging news, those things will fill our hearts. If we nurture truth, gratitude, hope, and the promises of God, peace will begin to grow. This does not mean ignoring reality. It means refusing to let fear interpret all of reality for us.

When anxiety comes this week, do not merely rehearse the problem. Turn it into prayer. Name the concern honestly. Ask God for what you need. Thank him for one blessing. Then direct your mind toward something true and good.

God may not immediately remove the situation causing our anxiety. Instead, he promises something deeper: his peace will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. The storm may continue outside, but it does not have to control what happens inside.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Galatians 1:6-12; Psalm 111:1b-2, 7-8, 9, 10c; Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday: Galatians 1:13-24; Psalm 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15; Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday: Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14; Psalm 117:1bc, 2; Luke 11:1-4

Thursday: Galatians 3:1-5; Luke 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75; Luke 11:5-13

Friday: Galatians 3:7-14; Psalm 111:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6; Luke 11:15-26

Saturday: Galatians 3:22-29; Psalm 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Luke 11:27-28

Sunday: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22:1-14 or Matthew 22:1-10

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Lectors: Melba Myers, Robin Richardson

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Diane Brooks-Alexandria

Ushers: Team B

Eucharistic Ministers: Carolyn Greene, Ben Gruber, Sharon Hard, Elaine Johnson, Syrtiller Kabot, Felicia Menefee

Offering Reports

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Regular Offering:	$4,590.00
Fundraising Campaign:	$1,159.00
Food Pantry:	$65.00
Total	**$5,814.00**

Fundraising Campaign Weekly Update

Goal	$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	$436,372
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.45%
Actual Cash Received to Date	$132,416

Announcements

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 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.

Fundraising Campaign



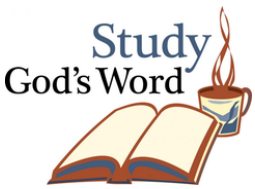
Thank you to all who have already submitted a pledge card for our parish fundraising campaign. If you have not yet participated, pledge cards are available at the back of the church. Please return your completed card in the red collection box. Every gift helps move our parish forward.

Silent Auction Meeting



Our next meetings will take place immediately after Mass on Ocotber 11th and 18th in the sanctuary on the north side. On these days, we will be collecting all donated items at the church. Please bring a description of your donation and retail price. If you plan to donate a large item, kindly notify the committee as soon as possible. We are excited to see the wonderful items you have for this event! Remember, you do not need to be a committee member to donate an auction item. If you have any questions, please contact us. Shirley Thaw, Michele Perez, Jackie McGhee-Dinvaut

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!

Legion of Mary Meeting



Please join us for the Legion of Mary meetings here at St. Monica every Wednesday at 3:00 PM in the St. Monica building. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please reach out to Rose Palmer, Ramonda Doakes, or Yvonne Dillahunty.

Take. Bless. Break. Share.

ACA 2026 – 2027 Annual Catholic Appeal
DIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY-ST. JOSEPH

This past week, you should have received information in the mail about the 2026-2027 Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA). Each year, our Bishop invites every member of the diocese to support the ministries and programs that strengthen our Church and serve those in need throughout our communities. This year's theme, Take. Bless. Break. Share., reminds us that the blessings we receive from God are meant to be shared with others. We invite every family to prayerfully consider how you can share your blessings in service to others through your participation in the ACA. Our parish goal this year is $11,274. With your help we can meet our parish goal.

"A CHURCH ALIVE IS WORTH THE DRIVE!"

Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald Parson, Cheryl Warren, Chaunceyetta Mize, Rhea Holloman, Melva McClellan, 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, 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, Bernadette Cook, Duane Murff, Luisa Olarte

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

St. Monica Choir

Minister of Music
Melvin Kerr

President
Paula Nix

Vice President
Randy Fuller

Secretary
Marilyn Scott

Treasurer
Diane Charity

Sharon Hardy
Shirley Barber
Pamela Green
Roy Moye

Karen Hernandez
Michelle Malone
Bernadette Cook
Gabriel Kagwanga

Terese Brown
Rita Womack
Cynthia Hardy
Robert Moore

Michele Perez
Ann Suellentrop
Kaitlin O'Malley
Avery Johnson

Fred Fuqua
Benjie Givens
Duane Murff
Isabel Johnson

Dwight Miller
Cathy Johnson
Rose Roos
John Perez

Karen Hardy Groves
Carolyn Childs Gruber
Alecia Lacroix Durena
Vincent Alexandria

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

9:00 AM	Mass
9:30 AM	KPC Breakfast (FH)
10:30 AM	RCIA Classes (STM)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

9:00 AM	Mass
3:00 PM	Legion of Mary Meeting (STM)
6:00 PM	Wednesday Night Prayer (S)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

11:30 AM	Altar & Rosary Society (FH)