



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

“A CHURCH ALIVE IS WORTH THE DRIVE!”

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Parish Staff

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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

Good Shepherd Sunday

Today, on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday. It is a day when we reflect upon the tender image of Jesus as the Shepherd of us all. It is also a day set aside to pray for more shepherds within our Church who will shepherd God’s flock with the Heart of Christ.

Our Gospel passage comes from John 10 which, in part, is a commentary on the previous chapter that includes the long and detailed story of the healing of the blind man. Recall that Jesus healed this man who was blind from birth. He did this healing “so that the works of God might be made visible through him.” As a result of this man’s healing, the Pharisees cast the blind man out of the synagogue, not believing that Jesus’ healing was from God. After the man was cast out of the synagogue, Jesus spoke with him again and he professed his deep faith in Jesus, the true Shepherd. The healed blind man said, “I do believe, Lord.” Then he worshiped Jesus. Thus, the greater healing of this man was that he became a member of God’s flock, accepting Jesus as his true Shepherd.

Our Gospel today is Jesus’ commentary upon the actions of the Pharisees in contrast to His own. The Pharisees, as religious leaders, were not shepherds. They were “thieves and robbers” who came to “steal and slaughter and destroy.” Jesus, however, came so that those who listened to His voice “might have life and have it more abundantly.”

The Gospel passage quoted above explains why the Pharisees were not true shepherds. It was because they “work for pay” and have “no concern for the sheep.” Think about that statement as it applies to the Pharisees and their treatment of this man who was blind from birth. First of all, the “pay” that these Pharisees worked for was their own self importance—a fleeting and worldly reward.

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They saw themselves as the true teachers and interpreters of the Law and saw anyone who did not follow them as a threat. The Pharisees clearly perceived Jesus as such a threat to them. For that reason, they took their envy out on this humble and simple blind man. They were not shepherds to him. They did not encourage him, support him, point him to God or act in any way as an instrument of God's grace. Instead, they condemned this innocent and holy man out of their pride.

Though God shepherds us today through His sacred pastors, we are all called to participate in this shepherding of the Good Shepherd in our own unique way. We are called to lead those within our families, at work, at school, within our neighborhoods, social circles and in every other societal context. But too often we imitate these Pharisees by allowing our own selfishness and desire for self importance to interfere with our ability to put others first and love them with the Shepherd's heart.

Reflect, today, upon the calling you have received to lay down your life for others in imitation of the Good Shepherd. In order to imitate this love in the Heart of Christ, we must love without seeking love in return. Laying our lives down is an act of sacrificial love that enables us to look only at the needs of those around us. Pride and selfishness must disappear, and the good of the other must become our only goal. Reflect upon how well you do this, and pray that the Good Shepherd will use you to shepherd those in your life who need it the most.

Saint Monica Prayer

Dear Saint Monica, you were once the mournful mother of a prodigal son. Your faithfulness to prayer brought you and your son so close to God that you are now with him in eternity. By your intercession and God's grace, your son St. Augustine became a great and venerable Saint of the Church. Please take my request to God with the same fervor and persistence with which you prayed for your own son.

(Mention your intentions here)

With your needs, worries and anxieties, you threw yourself on the mercy and providence of God. Through sorrow and pain, you constantly devoted yourself to God. Pray for me that I might join you in such a deep faith in God's goodness and mercy.

Above all, dear Saint Monica, pray for me that I may, like your son, turn from my sin and become a great saint for the glory of God.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; John 10:1-10

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Psalm 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; John 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts 12:24-13:5a; Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8; John 12:44-50

Thursday: 1 Peter 5:5b-14; Psalm 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mark 16:15-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Psalm 2:6,-7, 8-9, 10-11ab; John 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; John 14:7-14

Sunday: Acts 9:26-31; Psalms 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32; 1 John 3:18-24

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Lectors: Brenda Lofton

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Karen Groves

Ushers: Team D

Eucharistic Ministers: Ronald Green, Carolyn Greene

Offering Reports

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Regular Offering:	\$3,996.00
Food Pantry:	\$210.00
Second Collection:	\$0.00
Miscellaneous:	\$165.00
Total	\$4,371.00

➔ Join us at the next Legion of Mary meeting and Pray the Rosary



Join Our Lady of Kibeho/Our Lady of Sorrows Praesidium at St. Monica Catholic Church on the last Monday of every month starting April 29, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or text 816-457-5538.

➔ Women's Bible Study



Ladies, mark your calendars for a wonderful opportunity to delve into the Word of God together. Our Women's Bible Study group will gather every

first and third Saturday, from 9:30 to 11:00am. This is a fantastic chance to grow spiritually and explore the teachings of the Bible in a supportive and engaging environment. For more information please reach out to Paula Nix at (816) 471- 3696 or mstpaula.pn@gmail.com.

➔ Rediscover Your Faith



Our next meeting will be on Saturday, April 27 at 10am in the St. Monica Room. During each meeting we focus in on a special topic to explore. Our next topic will be on the Church's teachings on Mary and her importance in our salvation history.

➔ Join the Celebration



Join us in celebrating Fr. Leonard's 10th Ordination Anniversary! We will be having a dinner on Saturday, May 25th at 5:00 PM. The following day, Sunday, May 26th at 9:00 AM, we will be having a mass and reception at St. Monica. If you have any questions or would like to RSVP, please call the parish office at 816) 471-3696.

*Please send bulletin announcements to Biviana at bradillo@stmonicakc.org by Wednesdays at noon.

➔ Behold KC: Uniting Faith, Music, & Community



Join us for Behold KC, a remarkable gathering of the "one holy catholic and apostolic Church" presented by the Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph and the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas.

Taking place on May 4 from 4:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the National WWI Museum and Memorial North Lawn, this event offers Mass, Confession, live musical talent, a live performance from St. Monica's gospel choir, a public Rosary, and the largest Eucharistic Adoration opportunity in our city in over 80 years. Registration is free but strongly encouraged for accurate planning and updates. Visit BEHOLDKC.ORG for more details and to register. Don't miss this extraordinary celebration of faith and unity!

➔ Help Make St. Monica Stand Out at Behold KC



Imagine the thrill of hearing the St. Monica choir perform at the "Behold KC" event on May 4. But here's the thing: the choir needs your help. They want to represent with 40 plus voices and musicians, but they can't do it without you. They're looking for 20 or more individuals to join them for rehearsals on April 25 and May 2, from 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm. And here's the best part: you can become an Honorary choir member for one day by joining them in rehearsals. Don't miss this chance to be a part of something truly special. Join the St. Monica choir and make beautiful music together.

➔ Catholic Movie Night



Our next Catholic Movie Night, hosted by the Legion of Mary, will be Sunday, May 5th at 6pm in the Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Hall. Our next movie will be Fatima:

Three young shepherds in Fátima, Portugal report visions of the Virgin Mary, inspiring believers and angering officials of the Church and the government, who try to force them to recant their story. Based on historical events. Mark your calendars as the next movie will be A Man For All Seasons on June 22nd.

Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Beverly Dyer, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald and Mable Parson, Sergio Mendoza, Elaine Lomax, Donna Dupree, Cheryl Warren, Chaunceyetta Mize, Rhea Holloman, Melva McClellan, Velma Jennings, Brenda A. Martin, Margaret Sams, Deacon, Marcella Vaughn, Paris Harrington, Maxine Harvey, Michael Lucas, Lola Jacobs, Evalena Davidson (mother of Dan Davidson), Javan Hardy, Frankie Kemp, Carmelita Newman, Conrad McDonald, Greta Nash, Opal C. Blankinship, Patrice Williams (daughter of Pat and Don Williams), Louie Jones, John James, Barbara Walters, Janee Green (daughter of Pam and Ronald Green)

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 suspect sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline, at 1-800-392-3728 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18)
2. Contact your local Law Enforcement Agency, or call 911,
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, crayon@ombudsmankc.org, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.
4. The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing healing and resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families.

Safety Environment Coordinator for St. Monica Parish -
Ramonda Doakes, P-816) 457- 5538, E- rdoakes@stmonicakc.org

Saints & Special Observances

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Easter; 2017 Roy Edward Campbell, Jr. ordained Auxiliary Bishop for Washington, DC; 1966 Pvt. Milton L. Olive III, 1st African American of the Vietnam War posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor

Monday: 1953 Joseph D. Bowers, SVD, ordained Bishop, Bay St. Louis, MS

Tuesday: St. George; St. Adalbert

Wednesday: St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen; 1886 Rev. Augustus Tolton, 1st Black Catholic Priest ordained in Rome

Thursday: St. Mark; 1944 United Negro College Fund established

Saturday: 1927 Coretta Scott King, wife of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. born in Heiberger, AL

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

9:00 AM Mass
10:00 AM Evangelization Team Meeting (FH)

MONDAY, APRIL 22

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

9:00 AM Mass
6:00 PM Prayer Service

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

10:00 AM Rediscover Your Faith (STM)
10:00 AM Youth & Young Adults Focus Meeting (FH)

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