



# Saint Monica Catholic Church

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2024**

**1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108**

## Parish Staff

**Fr. Leonard Gicheru**  
**Pastor**  
[frleonard@stmonicakc.org](mailto:frleonard@stmonicakc.org)

**Reverend Darwin Dupree, Sr.**  
**Deacon**  
[dawn2127@hotmail.com](mailto:dawn2127@hotmail.com)

**Reverend Kenneth Greene**  
**Deacon**

**Brad Geist**  
**Pastoral Associate**  
[bgeist@stmonicakc.org](mailto:bgeist@stmonicakc.org)

**Biviana Radillo**  
**Office Manager**  
[bradillo@stmonicakc.org](mailto:bradillo@stmonicakc.org)

**Ramonda Doakes**  
**Religious Education**  
**Safety Environment Coordinator**  
[rdoakes@stmonicakc.org](mailto:rdoakes@stmonicakc.org)

**Rita Womack**  
**Food Pantry/Social Services**  
**Director**  
[ritawomack70@yahoo.com](mailto:ritawomack70@yahoo.com)

**Richard Jolevette**  
**Custodian/Maintenance**

**Melvin Kerr**  
**Choir/Music Ministry**

**George Hans**  
**Accountant**  
[finance@stmonicakc.org](mailto: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](http://www.stmonicakc.org)

## 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus said to the crowds: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." John 6:51

It must have been somewhat shocking to the people who heard Jesus say this for the first time. Immediately after Jesus said this, we read that "The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'" Jesus addressed their confusion even more directly by saying, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you." Those who were confused must have become even more confused, and those who believed must have deepened their faith as they heard Jesus teach so clearly and profoundly.

Of course, Jesus was speaking about the Eucharist. The Eucharist is truly His Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. We know that. We believe it. But from time to time, it is a helpful spiritual practice to revisit our Lord's very direct and definitive teaching. On the deepest level, the Eucharist will always remain a profound mystery of faith. How can we eat His flesh and drink His blood? To someone without faith and without a basic understanding of the Eucharist, this teaching seems shocking and unbelievable. In fact, it's easy to understand how some of the first hearers of this teaching quarreled among themselves in confusion. For that reason, we must listen to Jesus' words with the spiritual gift of understanding so that we are not among those who are confused. Understanding is a gift of the Holy Spirit that opens our minds to the deep spiritual truths Jesus is revealing. If we attempt to listen to this teaching using our human reason alone, we will never understand.

*continued on page 2*





When you consider Jesus’ teaching on Holy Eucharist, what do you understand and believe? Especially consider what goes through your mind when you attend the Holy Mass and go forward to receive Communion. What normally takes place within you at that moment? Some come forward distracted or even disinterested, paying more attention to the others around them than to the Eucharist. Others simply go forward out of habit because that’s what they have always done. Some see the Eucharist more as a symbol of our sharing in God’s banquet. But some come forward with a deep spiritual hunger and thirst for God, receive Him in faith, love Him deeply as they consume Him, and are filled with hopeful anticipation that their reception of this holy gift will transform them interiorly and set them more firmly on the path to holiness. Which person are you most like?

Believing in the Holy Eucharist and receiving it with the utmost faith and devotion will only happen when we believe. But believing doesn’t come automatically. It first requires understanding. And understanding will only come when we allow our minds to engage the mystery and teaching of Jesus, ponder it, contemplate it, penetrate it and open ourselves to God’s gentle and revealing voice. Words do not suffice to explain this mystery. Prayer that opens oneself to the voice of God alone suffices.

Reflect, today, upon how you approach Holy Communion each week. Start by thinking about the last few times you went forward to receive our Lord in this way. From there, think about how deeply you understand that moment. Is it transforming for you? Are you among those who hunger and thirst for Jesus? Do you notice the spiritual effects that take place within you as a result of your reception of the Eucharist? If so, then deepen your faith by committing yourself to a more prayerful participation in the Mass the next time you attend. If not, then try to step back and examine that which you actually believe, are confused about or do not believe. There is no greater gift we will ever receive in life than the Eucharist. Believe it with all your heart, and the Eucharist will change your life.

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Ezekiel 24:15-24; Deuteronomy 32:18-19, 20, 21; Matthew 19:16-22

**Tuesday:** Ezekiel 28:1-10; Deuteronomy 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab; Matthew 19:23-30

**Wednesday:** Ezekiel 34:1-11; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Matthew 20:1-16

**Thursday:** Ezekiel 36:23-28; Psalm 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Matthew 22:1-14

**Friday:** Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Matthew 22:34-40

**Saturday:** Revelation 21:9b-14; Psalm 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18; John 1:45-51

**Sunday:** Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Psalm 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Ephesians 5:21-32; John 6:60-69

## Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, August 25, 2024

Lectors: Rose Roos, Debora Scott

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Allison McDonald

Ushers: Team D

Eucharistic Ministers: Allison McDonald, Felicia Menefee

## Offering Reports

Sunday, August 11, 2024

Regular Offering:	\$3,983.35
Food Pantry:	\$255.00
Second Collection:	\$674.39
Miscellaneous:	\$1,565.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,477.74</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.

### The Feast of St. Monica



Join us in celebrating St. Monica Day by bringing a delicious side dish! St. Monica Day is coming up on August 25th, and your contribution would make the celebration even more special. If you haven't signed up yet, please remember to do so after mass.

### School Supply Drive



Please support the children served by Jackson County CASA by donating school supplies for the annual school drive organized by the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary. For any inquiries about this event, feel free to contact Carrie Miller at (816) 804-5167. A collection tub will be available in the church vestibule every Sunday in August to gather supplies. Your generosity will make a meaningful difference in these children's education. Thank you for your support!



*Thank you for your invaluable contribution in aiding our mission to support children in Brazil. Your participation plays a crucial role in making a difference in their lives.*

*Sister Andrea Kantner*

### Luau & Lei Party



You are invited to a fun day of good friends, good food, and good fun. Join us on Wednesday, August 28th from 10 am - 2 pm at St. Therese Little Flower, 5814 Euclid, KCMO 64130. Please RSVP at ssanders@stlfkc.org.

### Come Enjoy an Evening of Sharing, Learning, and Fun!



Bring a friend and join us at our evening DCCW (Diocesan Council of Catholic Women) Quarterly meeting on Wednesday, September 4th, 530 PM- 830 PM at St. Mark Catholic Church, 3736 S Lee's Summit Rd, Independence, MO 64055. Bring your favorite food dish to share as we learn about our Missouri migrant farmworkers. Reserve your seat by noon on Monday, September 2nd; call Beverly South @ 816-304-1568 (leave a message please) or email her at marydccw@gmail.com.

### You Are Invited to a Retreat



Members of our Diocesan Seven Sisters Apostolate and ladies who want to learn about this Apostolate are invited to a retreat at St. Gabriel the Archangel Church, 4737 N. Cleveland Ave, Kansas City, MO on Saturday, September 7, beginning with Holy Mass at 8:00am and ending by 3:00pm. The cost is \$15 and includes lunch, three talks and Q&A. Seven Sisters Apostolate Foundress Janette Howe from St. Paul, MN will join us as a presenter.

## Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Beverly Dyer, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald Parson, Sergio Mendoza, Elaine Lomax, Donna Dupree, Cheryl Warren, Chaunceyetta Mize, Rhea Holloman, Melva McClellan, Velma Jennings, Brenda A. Martin, 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), Jublatee O'Neal (New Parishioner), Bonita Akridge, Deacon Kenneth Greene, Lawrence Ramirez, Roland Miller (Husband of Diana Miller), Phyllis Weaver, Mary Ann Grayson, Katie Wine

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 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), and
  2. Contact your local Law Enforcement Agency or call 911, and
  3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, [crayon@ombudsmankc.org](mailto: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](mailto:rdoakes@stmonicakc.org)**

## Saints & Special Observances

**Sunday:** 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time; 1963 James Meredith, 1st African American to graduate from the University of Mississippi

**Monday:** St. John Eudes; 1884 M.C. Harvey patented improvement on Lantern

**Tuesday:** St. Bernard; 1619 The first twenty Africans brought to Jamestown, VA as slaves

**Wednesday:** St. Pius X; 1831 Nat Turner led a slave revolt in Southampton, VA

**Thursday:** The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Friday:** St. Rose of Lima; 1900 Booker T. Washington elected president of the National Negro Business League in Boston, MA

**Saturday:** St. Bartholomew, Apostle; 1950 Edith Sampson, 1st African American woman to serve as a representative to the United Nations

## Calendar of Events this Week

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

9:00 AM	Mass
10:00 AM	St. Monica Day Meeting (FH)
10:30 AM	Praise Dancer Ministry Practice (S)

### MONDAY, AUGUST 19

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

6:00 PM	Team Review Session (STM)
---------	---------------------------

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

9:00 AM	Mass
6:00 PM	Prayer Service

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal (S)
---------	---------------------

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

10:00 AM	Funeral
3:00 PM	St. Monica Day Decoration of Hall

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