

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64108

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023
BULLETIN



SAINT MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH

*St. Monica Mission for Colored Catholics
opened October 2, 1910*

*first church for
Black Catholics in
Kansas City, Missouri*

Parish Staff

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Pastor

frleonard@stmonicakc.org

Reverend Darwin Dupree, Sr.

Deacon

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Deacon

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Religious Education

Safety Environment Coordinator

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Richard Jolevette

Custodian/Maintenance

Melvin Kerr

Choir/Music Ministry

George Hans

Accountant

finance@stmonicakc.org



ST. MONICA
CATHOLIC CHURCH

culture, family, love

Mass Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Sunday Service

6:00 p.m. Wednesday
Prayer Service

Main Office Hours:

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

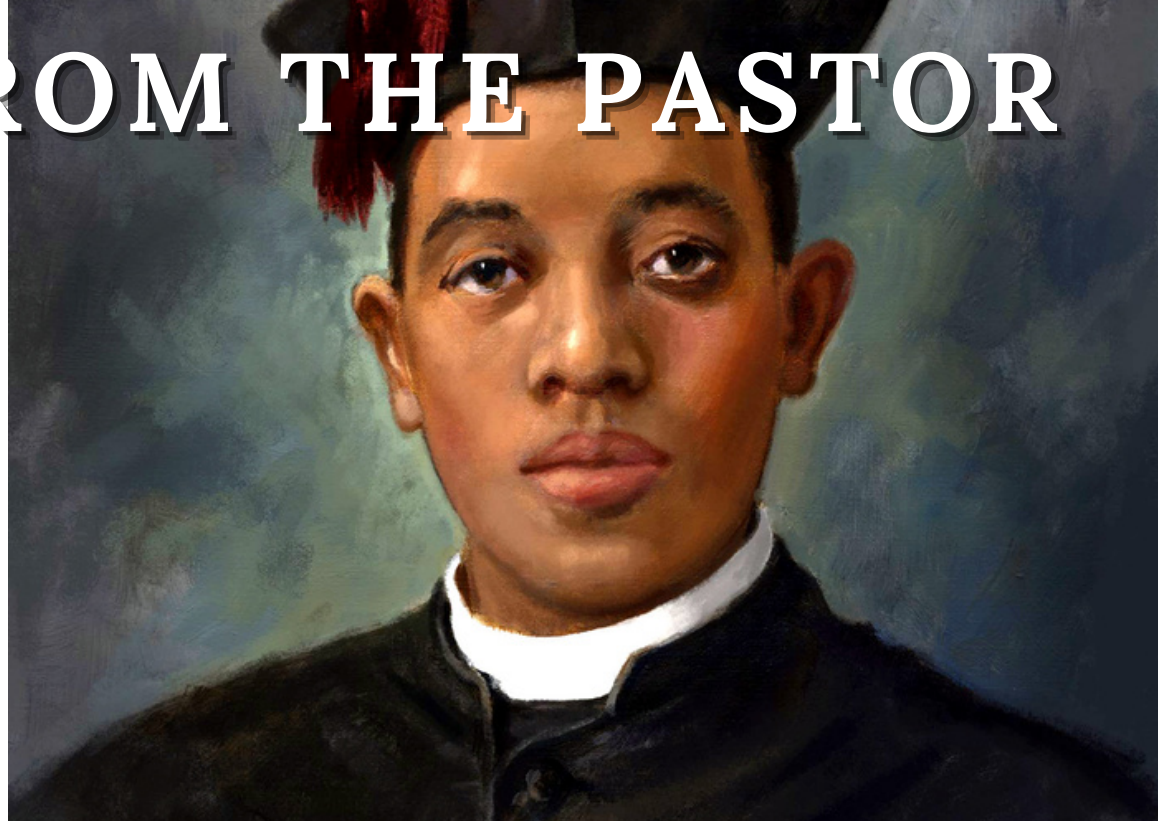
Mon, Wed & Thur

(816) 471-3696

www.stmonicakc.org



FROM THE PASTOR



In celebrating Black History, we'll take a look at the life and legacy of Fr. Augustus Tolton who was born a slave in 1854 in Brush Creek, Missouri. His father, Peter Paul Tolton, escaped slavery to join the Union Army. In the 1860s his mother, Martha Tolton fled with her two sons and an infant daughter, dodging Confederate bullets and traveling at night. The family eventually crossed the Mississippi River in a rowboat and made their way to the free state of Illinois.

At the age of 16, Augustus felt called to the priesthood. Although he was denied acceptance by every Catholic seminary in the country, with the help of two Quincy, Illinois priests and benefactors, he worked for 10 years in tobacco factories and other jobs until he was able to save enough money to study in Rome. On the night before his ordination in 1886, Cardinal Giovanni Simeoni, summoned Tolton to tell him that he was being sent back to America. The Cardinal said, "America has been called the most enlightened nation; we will see if it deserves that honor. If America has never seen a black priest, it has to see one now."

Tolton was assigned to St. Joseph Parish in Quincy, and although he won the hearts of young and old alike, he also endured humiliation, isolation, and condemnation from fellow priests who would not accept him. They called him "the n---r priest," and when a large number of white Catholics attended his parish, the pastor of a neighboring parish told him he should not allow white people in his church. Tolton responded, "We open the doors to the church. We do not tell people to go out; we tell them to go into the church."

Later he was invited to Chicago to minister to the emerging Black Catholic community, for whom he developed and built St. Monica's Parish. Over the years Tolton's health suffered as a result of his tireless work, and in 1897, at the age of 43, he died from complications of heatstroke while returning home from a pastoral retreat.

Let us ask Fr. Tolton for his prayers and blessings during Black History Month.

Fr. Tolton, pray for us!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Disciples Together

Today's readings reflect on our communal identity as disciples. Before we begin Lent together in a few days, we take time to appreciate what God has done by giving us our family of faith.

In Leviticus, God tells Moses to “speak to the whole Israelite community” and give them instructions for living in love. Moses passes along the message—to each and every believer—that God’s people must strive together for holiness. Saint Paul echoes this message, insisting that we are indeed God’s holy children. As temples of the Spirit, we belong to Christ and to one another. This mutual belonging is a blessing and a challenge.

In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus sets a high bar for Christian community: his followers must love not only those who are easy to love, but also the people who upset us.

Together, let us ask God to give us this kind of love.

Be holy, for I, the LORD,
your God, am holy.

— LEVITICUS 19:2B



Prayer of the Week

Loving God, hear this prayer, which I offer on behalf of my family and friends.

Keep them safe in your care.

When they are in trouble, be with them.

When they despair, bring them hope.

When they are joyful, help them share their happiness.

Help us all to realize that we are your sons and daughters and that you love us more than we can imagine. Amen.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023

Today's Readings

First Reading – Take no revenge and cherish no grudge; love your neighbor as yourself. (Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18)

Psalm – Our God shows mercy and graciousness (Psalm 103)

Second Reading – You are the temple of God, and holy (1 Corinthians 3:16-23)

Gospel – Offer no resistance; love your enemies (Matthew 5:38-48)



Saints & Special Observances

Sunday: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: Presidents' Day

Tuesday: St. Peter Damian; Mardi Gras; Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday: Ash Wednesday; Fast and Abstinence; Washington's Birthday

Thursday: St. Polycarp

Friday: Abstinence

Readings for the Week

Monday: Sir 1:1-10; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20 – 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]; Mt 4:1-11



Offering Report

Sunday, February 12, 2023

Regular Offering:	\$4,143.99
Food Pantry:	\$201.00
Forward In Faith::	\$1,150.00
Total	\$5,494.99

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, February 26, 2023

Lectors: Pat Williams and Melba Myers

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Kim Urenda

Ushers: Team 1

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Graham and Pamela Green

Counters: Team 1



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 and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families.



Prayer List

Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Bernadette Cook, Ray Myers, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald and Mable Parson, Sergio Mendoza, Earl Greene, Jr., Frances Thomas, Flora Waddell, Elaine Lomax, Donna Dupree, Cheryl Warren, Chaunceyette Mize, Rhea Holloman, Clara Mays, Melva McClellan, Carlos Nix, Velma Jennings, Brenda A. Martin, Margaret Sams, John and Debra Johnson, Carrie Miller, Deacon Ken Greene, Marcella Vaughn, Paris Harrington, Maxine Harvey, Lorna Lewis, Michael Lucas, Lola Jacobs, James and Evalena Davidson (parents of Dan Davidson)

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.

Charlie Parker

1920-1955



Charlie Parker was a famous jazz saxophonist who helped to invent the musical style called bebop. He grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, which was a lively center of jazz, blues, and gospel. He learned to play the saxophone at school. Charlie moved to New York City and joined a band, where the bandleader gave him the nickname "Bird." In 1942, jazz musicians Dizzy Gillespie and Thelonious Monk heard Charlie play and were impressed by his unique style. They invited Charlie to perform with them. Charlie toured the world playing jazz music, and also made many recordings. A jazz club named Birdland was named after him. After Charlie Parker died, several of his recordings won Grammy Hall of Fame awards.

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Fr. Augustus Tolton



God's Word for Children



LENTEN PREPARATION

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday—the beginning of Lent, an important time in the church year. The season of Lent is the forty days of preparation before the great feast of Easter.

Do you belong to a sports team? Play a musical instrument? Dance? Do gymnastics? In any of these activities you need to practice skills, learn to concentrate, and listen to your coach or instructor. You may even have to do extra work to prepare for a big event. If you don't do the work you will not be ready. The same is true for Lent. We make extra preparations for the great celebration of Easter.

The Church names three principal practices that we should perform every Lent. You can get a head start this year by planning with your family how you will do each one. They can be accomplished in many different ways, so it is important to decide which way is best for you and your family. Take the next two days to make a plan for Lent.

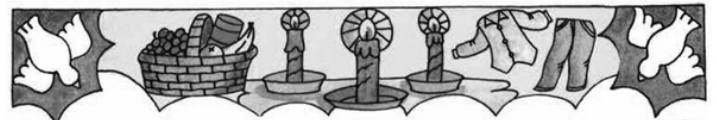


• **Prayer:** We prepare by praying more. During this Lent we will do some extra praying. As a family and individually, how will we do this?

• **Fasting:** We prepare by fasting more often. Fasting means doing without something—food, video games, TV, trips to the mall. When we fast from certain things we make more space in our lives for other things like prayer and good works. What will we do without this Lent?



• **Almsgiving:** We prepare by giving alms more freely. God commands us to give to the poor, not because we are rich but because we have received from God all that we have. Sharing with the poor enriches us in many ways. We each give to one another. As a family and individually, how will we share what we have with those in need?



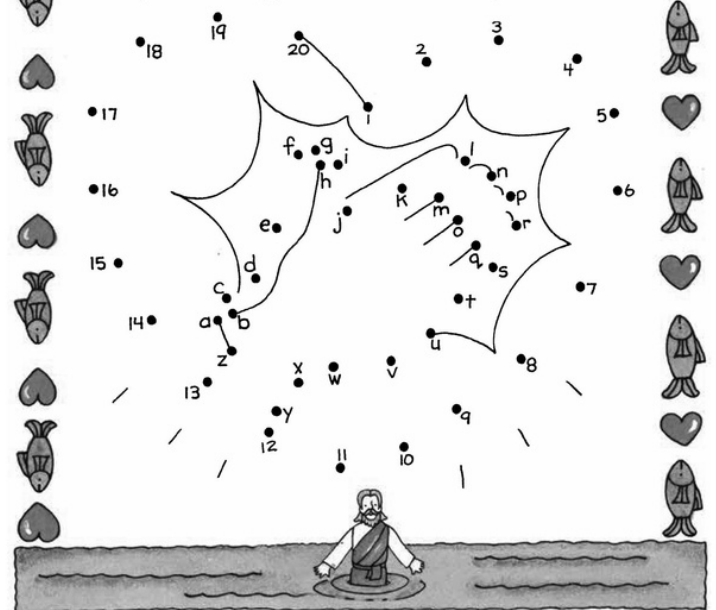
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Do you know what Jesus told his disciples to do for their enemies?

First connect the letters, then connect the numbers.

You'll find two symbols that show the answer.

If you need help, see Matthew 5:44 in your Bible.



Announcements

➔ St. Teresa's Academy



On Sunday, February 26 at the 9 a.m. mass, St. Teresa's Academy's choir will join us for Black History Month.

➔ Senior Youth Group



The Senior Youth Group will meet on Sunday, February 26 immediately following the 9 a.m. mass. The group will meet in the St. Monica Building.

➔ Second Collection



On Sunday February 26 there will be a Second Collection for the Catholic Charities Emergency

Assistance Appeal. Supplemental envelopes will be available in the sanctuary.

➔ HBCU Sunday



Save the date for our second annual HBCU Sunday on February 26. Represent your favorite HBCU by

wearing your school apparel on #STMHBCUSunday.

➔ KPC Ladies of Grace



The KPC Fr. Phillips Chapter 19 meeting will take place on Sunday, February 26 at 2 p.m. in the St. Monica Room.

Ash wednesday MASS

SCHEDULE

- 9:00 AM Mass and distribution of ashes
Wednesday, February 22
- 6:00 PM Communion service and
distribution of ashes
Wednesday, February 22

CONTACT US!

Please help us keep our records current. Let us know if you **move**, get a **new phone number**, change your **email address** or have a different way you wish to be contacted. We would also like to keep our records up-to-date concerning the members of your household; if you have a baby, or if the baby grows up and leaves home, please let us know.

Any significant changes to your household or status (single, married, widowed, divorced etc.) let us know. We do try to keep up, but sometimes the only person to tell us about these changes is you.

Call the church office at (816) 471-3696 or email kmcgee@stmonicakc.org.



Food Pantry

St. Monica's Food Pantry is open on Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. To make an appointment or for more information, call Rita Womack, Food Pantry Director at (816) 842-1877.

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