

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64108

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024
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
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ST. MONICA
CATHOLIC CHURCH
culture, family, love

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 THE PASTOR



As we gather on this second Sunday of February and continue to reflect on Black History Month, I would like to introduce you to one of my favorite saints, Saint Josephine Bakhita. She holds a special place in our hearts as the first saint canonized from Sudan.

Bakhita was born in 1869, and her early years were marked by unimaginable suffering. At the tender age of seven, she was kidnapped and thrust into a life of slavery. For the next six years, she endured the cruel fate of being bought and sold more than 10 times; treated as a mere commodity, and deemed worthless by her various owners. She bore the physical scars of her ordeal, with 114 lash marks on her body; a constant reminder of the brutality she endured.

However, a glimmer of hope emerged when Bakhita, at the age of 13, was purchased by an Italian ambassador residing in Sudan. Recognizing her strong work ethic and endearing personality, he treated her with kindness and compassion. Yet, when she turned 18, Bakhita was once again sold, this time to another Italian family who decided to return to Italy. It was in Italy that Bakhita's life took a profound turn. There, she encountered the Christian faith for the first time, meeting devout Catholics who lived their faith deeply.

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Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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After attending church, someone gifted her a crucifix and explained to her the significance of Jesus choosing the cross as the ultimate symbol of love. This encounter deeply moved Bakhita, and she found solace in Christ crucified. In Him, she discovered a figure who endured torture, scourging, and mockery, yet never ceased to love.

Bakhita realized that despite her own wounds and the degrading treatment she had endured, she was called to love in a manner akin to Jesus.

Bakhita went on to be baptized and became a Canossian Sister; dedicating herself to the education of children. The children affectionately referred to her as "Moretta," meaning "Black Mother." When she shared her story of being a former slave with the children, they would sometimes gently tug at her sleeve to glimpse at her scars.

One day, a young child asked Sister Bakhita, "What would you do if you were to meet your captors?"

Without hesitation, she replied, "If I were to encounter those who kidnapped me, and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands. For without those painful experiences, I would not have embraced the Catholic faith and my calling as a nun today."

In the remarkable life of Saint Josephine Bakhita, we find a powerful example of forgiveness, resilience, and the transformative power of faith. May her story inspire us all to love and forgive as she did.



Catholic Prayer for the Week

Lord, may I grow in love for others and express that love in a pure way. May I never be motivated by a desire for vain praise. Jesus, I trust in You.

Amen

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024

Today's Readings

First Reading — “As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean” (Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46)

Psalms — “I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation” (Psalms 32:1-2, 5, 11)

Second Reading — “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1)

Gospel — “See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed” (Mark 1:40-45)



Saints & Special Observances

Sunday: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time; 1993 Dominic Carmon, SVD ordained Bishop, New Orleans, LA

Monday: 1909 NAACP founded

Wednesday: Ash Wednesday; World Marriage Day

Saturday: The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

Readings for the Week

Monday: James 1:1-11; Psalms 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76; Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday: James 1:12-18; Psalms 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19; Mark 8:14-21

Wednesday: Joel 2:12-18; Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Psalms 95:8; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Matthew 4:17; Luke 9:22-25

Friday: Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Amos 5:14; Matthew 9:14-15

Saturday: Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalms 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Ezekiel 33:11; Luke 5:27-32

Sunday: Genesis 9:8-15; Psalms 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Matthew 4:4b; Mark 1:12-15



Saint Josephine Bakhita art print by Jen Norton

Offering Reports

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Regular Offering:	\$6,702.00
Food Pantry:	\$250.00
Debt Reduction:	\$483.00
Miscellaneous:	\$475.00
Total	\$7,910.00

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024



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.

Liturgical Assignments

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Lectors: Contact Parish Office

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Kim Urenda

Ushers: Contact Parish Office

Eucharistic Ministers: Contact Parish Office

Sunday, February 18, 2024

Lectors: Cynthia Eastman and Ramonda Doakes

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Kim Urenda

Ushers: Team D

Eucharistic Ministers: Allison McDonald and Felicia Menefee

Counters: Team 2

Prayer List

Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Beverly Dyer, Bernadette Cook, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald and Mable Parson, Sergio Mendoza, Earl Greene, Jr., Elaine Lomax, Donna Dupree, Cheryl Warren, Chaunceyette Mize, Rhea Holloman, Clara Mays, Melva McClellan, Velma Jennings, Brenda A. Martin, Margaret Sams, Debra Johnson, Deacon Ken Greene, 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, Thurman Hall, Opal C. Blankinship, Patrice Williams (daughter of Pat and Don Williams), Louie Jones

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.

Keeping A Secret

Key Word: **Proclaim**

Verse: But he went out and began to proclaim it freely.... *Mark 1:45*

Once upon a time in a little village lived a tiny, old lady who made wonderful cakes. She made cakes in all shapes and sizes and flavors. If she knew there was a special occasion in someone's home, she would bake a cake and wrap it neatly in a box with ribbon and while everyone was sleeping she would sneak over and place the cake in a safe place so that in the morning it would be the first thing the family saw.

She baked cakes for birthdays, anniversaries, honor roll graduates, new babies, engagements, and all kinds of wonderful events. Because the village was not very big, she could bake the cakes and deliver them without feeling rushed or pressured.

One evening it had snowed and she had made beautiful blue frosting on a cake for a new blue-eyed baby. She didn't see it in the dark, but the frosting dripped in the snow, leaving a little path from her house to the house where she delivered the cake. When

the morning came, the baby's dad was knocking on her door.

"It's you," he said, "you have been bringing all of us these wonderful cakes for years, haven't you?" The tiny, old lady nodded yes, but she asked the new dad to keep it a secret.

"If you tell everyone this secret, I will have so many orders I will not be able to keep filling them."

The new dad went home and thought about what she said, but he was so excited about knowing the secret that he told his wife and his brother and his aunt and his doctor. Of course, those people told more people and soon it was just like the tiny, old lady had said. She had so many orders that she could not keep up. So she packed up and moved away.

Questions

Why is it so hard to keep a secret?

Why did Jesus want the healed leper to keep a secret?

Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story
is from
Mark 1:40-45



The ashes remind us that one day, when God calls us to Heaven, our bodies will return to ash. The ash also reminds us that our hearts are stained by sin. The beginning of Lent helps us think about our actions. During Lent we pray, "God, if I am doing anything to make You sad, please show me and help me to change."

Crossword Puzzle

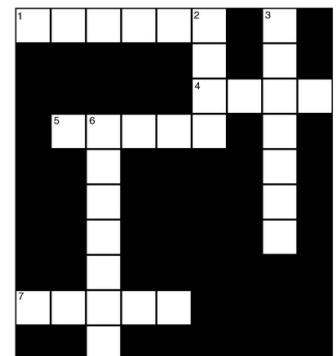
Fill in this crossword using clues from today's Gospel story.

ACROSS

1. Show yourself to the _____. (vs. 44)
4. He went out and spread the _____. (vs. 45)
5. You can make me _____. (vs. 40)
7. _____ touched him. (vs. 41)

DOWN

2. Jesus could no longer go into a _____. (vs. 45)
3. Jesus gave the healed man a stern _____. (vs. 43)
6. A man came to Jesus with a disease called _____. (vs. 42)



➔ Ash Wednesday Mass



As we embark on the solemn journey of Lent, we invite you to join us for Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Monica, 9:00 am on Wednesday, February 14. This sacred day marks the beginning of our Lenten season—a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. During this Mass, ashes will be distributed as a sign of our mortality and our desire for repentance. Let us unite in faith as we seek God's grace and guidance during this holy season. We look forward to worshiping with you and starting our Lenten journey together.

➔ Blood Pressure Checks



We are thrilled to announce a collaborative effort between Catholic Charities and local nursing schools aimed at enriching our health ministry. As part of this initiative, nursing

students will be available to provide blood pressure checks following each 9:00 am Wednesday Mass. By promoting health awareness within our parish, we strive to enhance the overall well-being of our community. For more information contact the church office at (816) 471-3696.

➔ Sick & Homebound Team



Attention all parishioners: You are invited to attend the Sick & Homebound Team Meeting on Saturday, March 16. This vital gathering will take place in Ferguson Hall from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. All who are

interested in learning more about this dynamic ministry and serving our community in this meaningful capacity are welcome to attend. Your presence and contributions are greatly appreciated. Let's come together to extend our care and support to those who are unable to join us in person. For questions, contact the Parish Office at (816) 471-3696.

➔ Special Guest Saxophonist



On Sunday, February 25, during the 9:00 am Mass, we will welcome renowned saxophonist Darryl Terrell as our guest instrumentalist.

Experience the uplifting harmony of his music complementing the heartfelt voices of our choir. Don't miss this soulful and inspiring morning of worship. All are invited to share in the joy of music and faith.

➔ St. John Vianney Happy Hour



Save the date for the Third Annual St. John Vianney Happy Hour on Monday, May 13, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Boulevard Brewery. It's a fun-filled evening in

support of seminarian education. Space is limited. Stay tuned for registration and sponsorship details. Enjoy gourmet food, an open bar, and meet seminarian celebrities. Don't miss out on this event!

➔ Annual Catholic Appeal Update



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to those of you who have already contributed to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Over the past month, **your generous donations have helped us**

raise our total from \$741 to \$2,896, which now represents 25% of our annual goal of \$11,697. With five months still ahead, we are confident that, with your continued support, we will successfully hit our target. For those of you who haven't had the chance to make a contribution, I kindly urge you to consider taking an ACA envelope available at the back of the church. Your participation in this vital appeal for our diocese is greatly appreciated. Once again, thank you for your unwavering support.

➔ Third Annual HBCU Sunday



This event is a fantastic opportunity for students and families eager to learn more about or consider attending Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs). Join us on

February 18 from 10 am to noon for #STM #HBCUSunday—an inclusive and free gathering to meet HBCU alumni, gain insights into the significance of HBCUs, and gather information on college readiness programs, scholarships, and alumni associations. Whether you're considering higher education options or simply want to explore the rich legacy of HBCUs, this event is tailored for you. Call (816) 471-3696 for details.



Submit all bulletin announcements by **Wednesday noon** to kmcgee@stmonicakc.org. Thank you!



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



ST. MONICA

CATHOLIC CHURCH

culture, family, love

Worship With Us

Sunday Eucharist Celebration
9:00 a.m. Mass

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. Mass
6:00 p.m. Prayer Service

First Friday Adoration

9:00 a.m.

Join Us Online!



SUBSCRIBE



LIVE

Social Service/Food Pantry

Wednesday & Thursday
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Call for appointment (816) 842-1877

Sacramental Preparation

Baptism

Anointing the Sick

Marriage: (9 Months Preparation)

Reconciliation/Confirmation

Religious Education

RCIA

First Communion

Reconciliation

Men's Bible Study

Sunday School

Junior Youth Group

Senior Youth Group

Women's Bible Study

For more information or to schedule an appointment call (816) 471-3696