

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64108

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 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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frleonard@stmonicakc.org

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Reverend Kenneth Greene
Deacon

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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

9:00 a.m. Wednesday Mass

6:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Service

Main Office Hours:

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

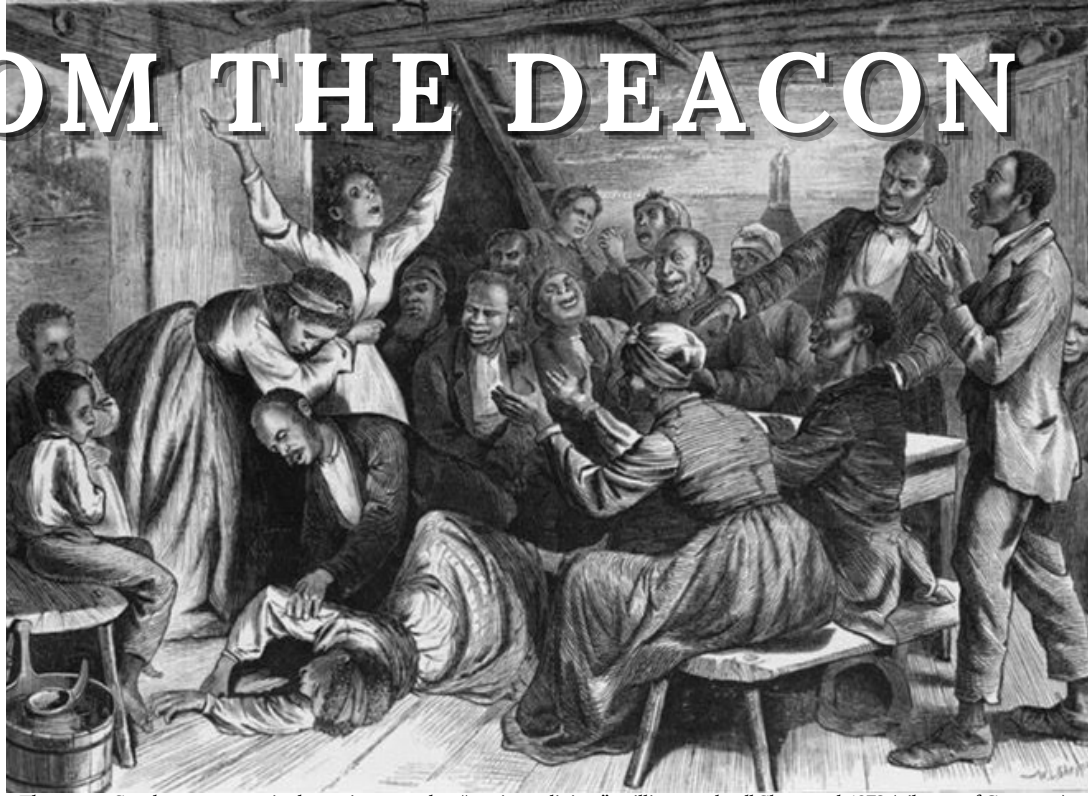
Mon, Wed, Thur & Fri

(816) 471-3696

www.stmonicakc.org



FROM THE DEACON



The sunny South—a negro revival meeting—a seeker “getting religion,” William Ludwell Sheppard, 1873 (Library of Congress)

On the Second Sunday of Lent, St. Monica celebrated Black History Month in a uniquely powerful manner. Parishioners were welcomed in the vestibule by a gallery featuring photos, documents, and mementos from the National Black Catholic Congress XIII, held in July 2024 in Baltimore, Maryland. This display included the sermon of America's first Black Cardinal, His Eminence Wilton Gregory of Washington, D.C.

The celebration commenced with an essay by Jenise Comer, a retired Social Work professor at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, titled "The Significance of Sacred Worship for Enslaved Africans in America." In her essay, Comer explored the history of enslaved Africans who, barred from unsupervised worship, found freedom to practice their faith in secluded spots in the woods surrounding their plantations.

There, they blended African and Christian traditions, employing brooms for cleaning their sacred space, cauldrons to muffle and keep their worship secret, and quilts, blankets, and rags for additional privacy. Their worship included dancing, drumming, singing hymns, and sermons by their spiritual leaders.

Following Comer's essay, Liturgical Dancers, choreographed by Marilyn Scott, Kendra Kemp McGee and Mauriah Francis re-enacted these sacred worship practices, using music from South Africa and the US. Their performance, guided by Tina Turner's rendition of the gospel song "Walk with Me, Lord," included the use of brooms, hand-crafted quilts, and mud cloth blankets to bring the narrative to life.

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Second Sunday of Lent

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The Mass, led by Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr., the Bishop of our Diocese, followed the performances. Bishop Johnston, serving as the celebrant and homilist, incorporated texts from the Old Testament, including Abraham's testing by God and the New Testament's transfiguration of Christ.

Deacon Darwin DuPree's portrayal of a senior house slave singing and Lia Jane Dupree sweeping, symbolized the resilience of secret worship practices.

Alvin Brooks made a presentation from Sister Thea Bowman's address to the 1990 gathering of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, urging the Church to confront racism.

The choir enhanced the worship experience with Negro hymns and spirituals, accompanied by piano, organ, drums, and saxophones.

The congregation then gathered in the Juanita Ferguson Social Hall for a shared meal and conversation. Attendees enjoyed a variety of breakfast pastries, fresh fruit, juices, and coffee, provided by a consortium known as the Kansas City Catholics Addressing Racism.

A soul food brunch, featuring fried chicken, greens, rice, sweet potatoes, and cornbread, was offered by the Black Catholic Implementation Team.

Two hand-crafted quilts were displayed in the social hall, with a raffle of \$20 a piece to benefit the parish endowment. The celebration was well-received, marking a significant experience unlikely to be forgotten.

~Deacon Kenneth Greene



Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman, Catholic Standard photo/Michael Hoyt

Catholic Prayer for the Week

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Today's Readings

First Reading — "... and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing – all this because you obeyed my command" (Genesis 22:1-2, 9A, 10-13, 15-18)

Psalms — "I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living" (Psalms 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19)

Second Reading — "Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us" (Romans 8:31B-34)

Gospel — "Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him" (Mark 9:2-10)



JESUS MAFA. Transfiguration, Vanderbilt Divinity Library

Saints & Special Observances

Sunday: Second Sunday of Lent; 1870 Hiram Revels First Black US Senator

Tuesday: Saint Gregory of Narek

Wednesday: 2007 Shelton Fabre Ordained Catholic Bishop of New Orleans

Saturday: 1867 Howard University chartered

Readings for the Week

Monday: Daniel 9:4b-10; Psalms 79:8, 9, 11 and 13; Luke 6:36-38

Tuesday: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Psalms 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23; Matthew 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Psalms 31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Luke 16:19-31

Friday: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Psalms 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday: Exodus 17:3-7; Psalms 195:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42



Offering Reports

Sunday, February 18, 2024

Regular Offering:	\$6,920.00
Food Pantry:	\$190.00
Debt Reduction:	\$210.00
Miscellaneous:	\$928.00
Total	\$8,248.00

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 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

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Lectors: Youth Sunday

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Peter Callan

Ushers: Team B

Eucharistic Ministers: Paula Nix and Rose Palmer

Counters: Team 4



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.

Barbie Five

Key Word: **Jealousy**

Key Verse: "If any want to become my followers let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." *Mark 8:34b*

Five Barbies in the toy box were jealous of each other. "Have you seen the Princess?" asked Barbie One. "Caitlin's made a mess of her hair!" All the Barbies hated the Princess because she was Caitlin's favorite and they were just waiting in the toy box to be played with. Barbie Two whispered to Barbie Three, "The Princess looks a mess! You should see her!" Barbie Three nudged Barbie Four and whispered, "That Princess is such a mess!" For the first time, Barbie Four spoke to Barbie Five, who was the oldest of the Barbies. Her hair was straggly. "That Princess looks hideous!"

Barbie Five felt sorry for the Princess. When she had been new, Caitlin had played with her all the time, loving her and dressing her. Caitlin had cut her hair once and she was thrown into the toy box. A new Barbie appeared after that, and Barbie Five had rarely been out since. The Princess was played with daily. Even in the toy box she sat next to Ken in chairs just their size.

Caitlin brought the Princess in and sat her gently next to Ken. Her hair looked funny, but she was still the favorite. "I love your new hair style!" cried Barbies One, Two, Three,

and Four, smiling at the princess. Barbie Five couldn't believe her ears. She thought the Princess should know the truth so she told the Princess, "I think you need to know that you may find yourself thrown in the toy box. It's not so bad here, I enjoy it." The Princess turned her back. "I shall never sink to that," she replied unkindly. Barbie Five was hurt, but she knew she'd told the truth. Barbie Five always spoke the truth.

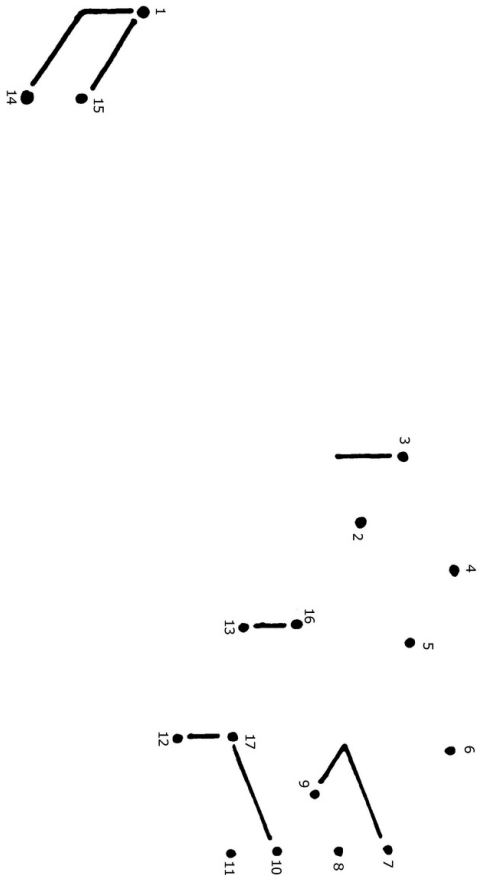
As Caitlin grew up, both the Princess and Ken were thrown into the toy box. The dolls were all unhappy except Barbie Five. One day the toys were packed into boxes for a garage sale. Caitlin picked up Barbie Five and hugged her. "You were my very first Barbie, and you're the nicest. I'm going to keep you forever. When I have a little girl I will give you to her as her very first toy." And that was exactly what happened.

Questions

Why did the other Barbies hate the Princess?

Why does Jesus tell us to be on our best behavior at all times?

Finish The Picture. Jesus told his friends he would have to suffer and die at Jerusalem. Here is a picture of something that reminds us of how Jesus died for us. Connect all the numbers to see what it is.



Gospel Grams

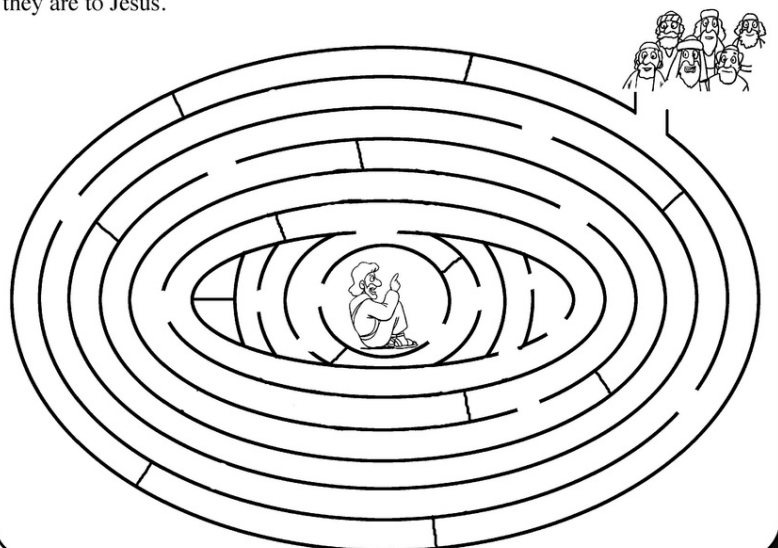
Today's Gospel Story
is from
Mark 8:31-38

2



Maze

These people want to follow Jesus. Help them by drawing a path from where they are to Jesus.



➔ Synod Listening Session



Join us on Saturday, March 2, from 9:00 to 11:30am for the Synod Interim Phase Listening Sessions. Your insights will be compiled and shared with the USCCB. These sessions

will be held at two convenient locations:

- Visitation Parish: 5141 Main St., KCMO
- Holy Family Parish: 919 NE 96th St. KCMO

Register now at diocesewebsite.org/synod to secure your spot. Your presence and input are vital as we engage in meaningful discussions about the future of our Church. Don't miss this opportunity to be heard and to contribute to the dialogue.

➔ Claver Ladies Auxiliary



St. Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary, Fr. Constantine Court 57 will take place on Saturday, March 2, starting at 11:30a.m. in the St. Monica Room. For your convenience, please note

that our meetings typically occur on the first Saturday of every month, or the second Saturday following major holidays. For more information, questions, or simply to connect, please don't hesitate to reach out to Grand Lady Paula Nix at (816) 721-8731 or via email at mspaula.pn@gmail.com.

➔ Altar & Rosary Membership



Join the Altar & Rosary Society today and become an active participant in our parish community. We are excited to welcome new members who are eager to serve and connect with

fellow parishioners. The deadline to enroll is March 31 so don't miss out on this opportunity. Red membership envelopes are conveniently located on the table behind the pews, making it easy for you to join. By becoming a member, you'll not only enrich your own spiritual journey but also contribute to the mission of our church. For more information or assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Office at (816) 471-3696.

➔ 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 9:00am 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.

➔ Save the Date! 15th Annual School Bell Breakfast



Mark your calendars for a remarkable event! Join us for the 15th Annual School Bell Breakfast on April 11 where we'll celebrate with Super Bowl LVIII Champions, KC Chiefs General

Manager Brett Veach, and the 'voice of the Chiefs' Mitch Holthus. Together, we'll continue our 34-year tradition of 'Making Dreams Come True' for our schools. This special event will take place in Arrowhead Stadium's North Club. You don't want to miss this celebration. For tickets and sponsorship information, contact Kendra Kemp McGee or visit brightfuturesfund.org.

➔ BEHOLD Pilgrimage Passport



Grab a copy of the BEHOLD Eucharistic Pilgrimage Passport and begin a journey of Eucharistic revival within our diocese. Visit stops along the

pilgrimage map and collect a sticker to chart your progress. Collect a sticker from at least five stops along the pilgrimage route – or challenge yourself to visit all eight. Download your passport at BEHOLDKC.org

➔ 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. If you haven't had the chance to make a contribution, consider taking an ACA envelope available at the back of the church. Your participation in this vital appeal for our diocese is greatly appreciated.



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



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