

FOURTH SUNDAY IN

ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 31, 2021

Come let us bow down in worship;

*Let us kneel before the LORD
who made us.*

~ Psalm 95:6



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FALSE PROPHETS, TRUE PROPHETS

In Deuteronomy today we hear that God's very words will fill the mouth of a true prophet, but a false prophet will, in a manner of speaking, put mere mortal words into God's mouth. In Mark's Gospel, we see Jesus teaching and healing as a true prophet, one filled with the authority of God's own voice, the Holy One of God.

The whole history of our church is filled with both true and false prophets. But in today's Gospel we learn that Jesus' fame spread because he taught with authority; he wasn't an authority because he was popular or famous. We also learn from him, in his desert temptation confrontations with Satan, that anyone can quote scripture, even against God's purposes. And today we hear that his authority was not like that of the scribes, who held the official positions of religious authority in his day. Our work is to do our best to discern the true prophets in our midst, and to be true prophets as well. The psalmist tells us how to do this: by not hardening our hearts when God speaks. If we truly listen to God, it will be God's very words filling our mouths.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Moses spoke to all the people, saying: "A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you"
(Deuteronomy 18:15-20).

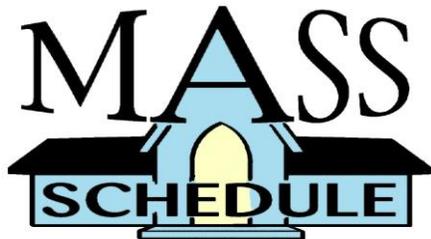
Psalm — If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95).

Second Reading — Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties
(1 Corinthians 7:32-35).

SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

Edith Bolder	Holmesdale Care Center
Jeanette Hamilton Evans	Home
Inell Hunter	Home
Carlos Nix	Home
Lavel McCullough	Home
Rosa Birch	Home
Sandra Cloyd	Home
Kevin Brown	Home
Jackie Countee	Home
Sharon Shackelford-Allen	Home
Earnestine Nard	Home
Earl Greene	Home
Michael Mize	Home
Chaunceyetta Mize	Home
Margaret Jones	Home
Flora Waddell	Home
Delores Bazy	Home
Deacon Greene	Home
Vera Brown	Home
Ovell Thomas	Home
Joann James	Home
Dorothy Wyatt	Home
Terese Spears Chambers	Home
Alvin Brooks	Home
Cathy Johnson	Home
Mary Ann Grayson	St. Joseph Medical
Herman Lovett	Home
Mabel & Donald Parson	Home
Marjorie Green	Home
Dominque Williams	Home
John Johnson	Home

FAMILY MEMBERS: Please inform our Pastor, Fr. Leonard when a loved-one is home bound or has been hospitalized. Call 818-471-3696
or email: stmonica1616kc@hotmail.com



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Must wear mask at all times
— to attend.

SUNDAY:

8:00 a.m. (Live)

10:00 a.m. (Live & Recorded)

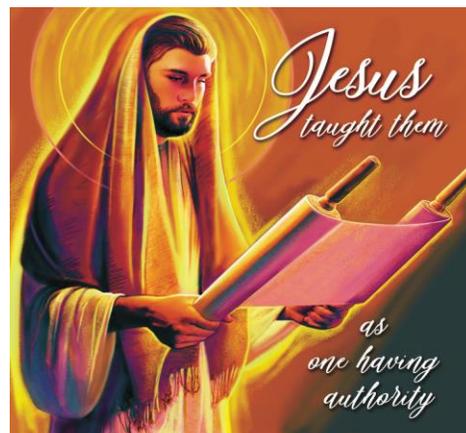
WEDNESDAY

9:00 a.m. MASS (Live)

6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

GOSPEL

~ The people were astonished at Jesus' teaching; he taught them as one having authority
(Mark 1:21-28).



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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Heb 11:32-40; Ps 31:20-24; Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday:	Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]
Wednesday:	Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 103:2, 13-14, 17-18a; Mk 6:1-6
Thursday:	Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Ps 48:2-4, 9-11; Mk 6:7-13
Friday:	Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9; Mk 6:14-29
Saturday:	Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Ps 23:1-6; Mk 6:30-34
Sunday:	Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; Ps 147:1-6; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catholic Schools Week
Tuesday:	Presentation of the Lord; Blessing of Candles; Groundhog Day
Wednesday:	St. Blaise; St. Ansgar; Blessing of Throats;
Friday:	St. Agatha; First Friday
Saturday:	St. Paul Miki and companions; First Saturday

CONDOLENCE

To Mrs. Earnestine Nard / Rutherford Family. Our hearts were deeply saddened when we learned of the loss of your beloved, Son, brother, uncle, **Mr. Homer Nard, Jr.**, in St. Louis, MO. Be assured that your church family is lifting up each one of you in our prayers. May he rest in peace, until we meet again.

CONDOLENCE

To parishioner Melva McClellan, and the Olgletree Family, Please accept our deepest sympathy for the sudden passing of your cousin, **Mr. Jarquis Davis**, in Houston, Texas.

HOMEGOING

Funeral Service for **Mr. Leroy Walker** (Father of Kimberly Mize), have are planned for Friday, February 5, 2021 **Serenity Chapel, 1101 E. Bannister Rd**
Visitation: 1-2 p.m.,
Funeral Service: 2:00 p.m.
Please Remember the Nard / Rutherford, Family, the Olgletree / McClellan Family, and the Walker / Mize Family in your prayers.

FEAST OF FAITH ~ I Confess

One form of the penitential rite at the beginning of Mass is the traditional Confiteor, or "I confess," a prayer that was formerly prayed by the priest alone at the foot of the altar, but which is now prayed by the entire assembly. The Confiteor is at once personal—"I confess"—and communal, prayed aloud, together. We recognize that sin does not just separate us from God; sin comes between us and others, isolating us. We acknowledge that sin has many dimensions, individual and communal: sins of thought, sins of speech, sins of action, sins of omission. Sin is not something that happens to us; sin is something we do. In the Confiteor, we take responsibility for our own actions. The repeated insistence on our "fault," with the ritual gesture of striking the breast, an ancient sign of penitence, is not meant to lower our self-esteem. Rather, it acknowledges our human instinct to transfer the blame whenever we can ("The devil made me do it!"). This prayer stops us short. We take responsibility for ourselves, our actions, our failure to act. Then we cry out to God in those ancient words, Kyrie, eleison—Lord, have mercy. For the sinner who repents, there is mercy. This truth is at the heart of our faith, and it is where the Mass, our feast of faith, begins.
—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



ST. MONICA – 2020-2021 CONFIRMATION CLASS

September 2020 marked our inaugural, virtual class format via **Zoom**. The challenge involved providing interactive, engaging, and spiritually motivating sessions while maintaining safety during a pandemic. We are pleased with the success experienced and grateful our selected Confirmation curriculum meets the intended standards of training for this important sacrament.

This year's parish candidates will join other area candidates to celebrate the **Rite of Confirmation Friday, March 26, 2021, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Catholic Church, Independence, Missouri.**

Please keep them in your prayers.

Dominion Doakes Yarbrough

Freshman, Rockhurst High School
Son of Vaughn Yarbrough and Dr. Caresa Doakes Yarbrough
Sponsor: Ramonda Doakes

Gabriel Kagwanja,

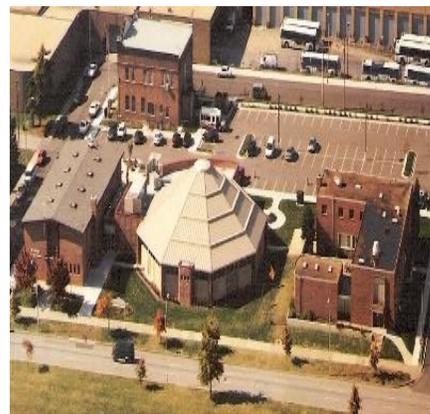
Sophomore, Pembroke Hill School
Son of Domenic Kagwanja and Patricia Mutiso
Sponsor: Richard Bukenya

*The Confirmation Training Team,
Rose Alexander, Remona Miller and
Linda Hall, Coordinator*

OFFERING ENVELOPES

This year, our 2021 Offering Envelopes will be mailed to your homes every two months.. If you have not yet received yours, please use the Supplemental Envelopes / located on the two small tables behind the back pews at the entry of the Sanctuary. Please call the Church Office 816-471-3696, if you have a **change of address** and / or **telephone number**.

FORWARD IN FAITH



The Stewardship Committee extends a heartfelt thank you to all the St. Monica parishioners for the success of our 110 Anniversary Celebration and Virtual Silent Auction. The Committee worked with precision as a team, under the capable leadership of Mrs. Shirley Thaw, with expert guidance on the auction from Mrs. Angela Curry. Kim Urenda's technical assistance, and Dwight's performance as the announcer contributed to raising a total amount that exceeded our goal! Our success would not have been possible without your support. You donated and bid on many of the 56 available items.

During the process, we added St. Monica Twitter and Instagram accounts to expand our reach on social media. We expect the addition will attract new members as the downtown and 18th and Vine areas expand housing opportunities near the church. Thank you again and look forward to future events to work on together as our parish moves "**Forward in Faith.**"

Our goal is, to raise **\$150,000** by October 2020. So far, we have received **\$47,411.20**, and **\$102,588.50**, still to go.

The goal is huge, but God is faithful.

God bless you all,

Fr. Leonard