

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64108

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 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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Melvin Kerr  
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Accountant  
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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](http://www.stmonicakc.org)



In this passage, Jesus refers to the story from the Old Testament where Moses lifted up a serpent in the wilderness, and those who looked upon it were healed. Jesus uses this imagery to foreshadow his own crucifixion, emphasizing that he too will be lifted up for the healing and salvation of humanity. It is from today's passage that we get the command from Jesus that 'the Son of Man must be lifted up' by the way of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

The central message revolves around the concept of belief. Jesus states that just as those who looked upon the lifted serpent were healed, so too will those who believe in him have eternal life. This belief is not merely an intellectual acknowledgment of Jesus' existence, but a deep and transformative trust in him as the source of salvation. The Cross can have different meanings and interpretations from person to person. To Christians, it has a spiritual meaning but for the secular and historical people, it has a tragic and awful meaning.

From the secular and historical perspective, the bad and awful meaning attached to the cross is derived from the story that goes; a long time ago there was a man who was very popular and was loved and hated by many in equal measure. Those who hated this man planned and executed his brutal crucifixion.

We the Christians perceive the Cross, not from a secular point of view, but from a divine perspective. We believe that Jesus Christ was

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# Fourth Sunday of Lent

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lifted up on the Cross for all to see. We believe that He died a horrible death on the Cross to atone for our sins. Jesus, ultimately became victorious for He defeated death on that Cross and rose from the dead. So whenever we see the Cross we see a victorious and glorious throne that deserves to be exalted all the time. During the time of Moses, after the Israelites sinned and rebelled against God, The Lord sent snakes to punish them.

Just as the Israelites looked upon the lifted serpent in the desert, so must we, now, look upon the lifted-up Jesus on the Cross for our healing. We suffer from many issues in life such as ill-health, emotional problems, personal, relational, spiritual and financial issues. Jesus tells us today that when we, with sincere and repentant hearts, direct our gaze at Him on the exalted Cross, with faith, we shall be healed.

The passage concludes with a powerful declaration that those who do what is true come to the light, acknowledging their deeds as being done in God. Those who do evil avoid the light, fearing exposure. Jesus goes on to explain that God sent him into the world not to condemn it, but to save it. As we reflect on this Gospel passage, we are invited to examine our own lives and ask ourselves: Do we believe in Jesus as the one who brings salvation? Are we willing to come into the light, allowing Christ to expose and transform any darkness within us? May our hearts be open to the transformative power of belief in Christ, leading us to a life lived in truth and love.



## **Catholic Prayer for the Week**

Dear Lord, always give me the grace to gaze upon your Cross. May You help me to experience the victory You won for me on the Cross. May I receive your help all the times I seek it when I look at You. Jesus, I love You.

**Amen**

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024

# Today's Readings

**First Reading** – “Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place” (2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23)

**Psalm** – “Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you” (Psalms 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6)

**Second Reading** – “God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ – by grace you have been saved ” (Ephesians 2:4-10)

**Gospel** – “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up” (John 3:14-21)



## Saints & Special Observances

**Sunday:** Fourth Sunday of Lent; Daylight Savings Time begins

**Friday:** International Day Against Police Brutality

**Saturday:** 1792 Denmark abolishes slave trade; National Black Press Day

# Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Isaiah 65:17-21; Psalms 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b; John 4:43-54

**Tuesday:** Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; Psalms 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; John 5:1-16

**Wednesday:** Isaiah 49:8-15; Psalms 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; John 5:17-30

**Thursday:** Exodus 32:7-14; Psalms 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; John 5:31-47

**Friday:** Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; Psalms 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Saturday:** Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalms 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; John 7:40-53

**Sunday:** Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalms 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



## Offering Reports

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Regular Offering:	\$6,360.60
Food Pantry:	\$255.00
Debt Reduction:	\$524.00
Miscellaneous:	\$5,749.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,888.62</b>

**SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024**

## Liturgical Assignments

*Sunday, March 17, 2024*

Lectors: Phaedra Lombard and Elton Lombard

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Peter Callan

Ushers: Team D

Eucharistic Ministers: Terese Spears and Katie Steward

Counters: Team 2



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](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.



## 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](mailto:frleonard@stmonicakc.org).

# Light Or Dark?

Key Word: **Discovery**

Key Verse: For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. *John 3:20*

Taylor loved to read. He went to the library nearly every week and took out one or two new books. He loved to sit in his beanbag chair and read, pretending he was in the story with the other characters.

One rainy afternoon he was reading a mystery book and he suddenly thought about something that was a pattern. Every time something came up missing or something bad happened it was in the dark of the night.

That evening at supper, Taylor thought he should talk to his parents about what he had discovered. "I have a question," he began, "in all of the books I've been reading, why is it that the bad guys always do bad stuff at night?"

His dad always liked to make him think things out. "Why do you think?" he asked.

Taylor was silent for a moment then he said, "I know. In the dark they think they are hidden. They think they can do bad things and no one will know. But that is not true. God sees them, even in the dark. Jesus said for us to come into the light."

"That is true," said Taylor's mom. "That means we should obey the commandments and do as Jesus says. Jesus is the light of the world."

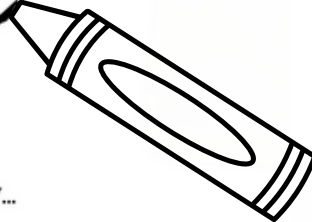
After that, Taylor still read all different kinds of books, but he knew which of the characters were followers of Jesus, and which ones were not.

### Questions

**What did Taylor notice about his mystery books?**

**What does Jesus mean when he says, "Those who do what is true come to the light"?**

FIVE FINGER  
*prayer*



I am sorry...

Tell God what we need.

Help us to do the right thing.

Thank God.



# Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story  
is from  
**John 3:14-21**



### Word Search

Below is a verse from today's Gospel story. Each word is also in the word search puzzle. If a word is used twice in the verse, then it is used twice in the puzzle. The first word is done for you.

~~F~~R T Y U I O P P A D F G H H S I R E P Q R  
C O V B N W S M W A A B J A N E J K H G F S  
V B ~~R~~ N G O D A E R T Y V S D V F G H J K L  
X V C A A R S R T Y U E B N M E U D F M V P  
F J V N B L Z E Z W T J U I N I T M Q R P Q  
U E I A A D U E U N A E E M X L T E J N O E  
B N M Z V X C H W R H T U I P E S D R F G H  
J K L M Z N X T H A T B C V S B E W D N V Q  
F T E I D O Y H I M U I O P U L K H J G A F  
T H H E G X N O S V A N O T R Q Y U M N U L  
D Q V U O A X X O N L Y V Y M N B Y P C I V  
A O E G E E N H U R E G B N J A K L F F J L  
L L V E R T W R T H J N K E N O Y R E V E M

"~~FOR~~ GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, SO THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM MAY NOT PERISH BUT MAY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE."

## ➔ Confirmation Mass Celebration



You are cordially invited to the Confirmation Mass for Jamie Johnson, John Mendy, Justin Pullen, and Luciana Mendy on Thursday, March 14, at 7:00 p.m. The ceremony will be held at St. Mark's Catholic Church, 3736 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, MO 64055. A celebratory reception will follow at St. Monica after Mass on Sunday, March 17. Please keep Jamie, John, Justin, and Luciana in your prayers as they take this important step in their faith journey. Thank you for your support and blessings.

## ➔ Catholic Movie Night



The Legion of Mary will host a Catholic Movie Night on Sunday, March 17, 6pm in the Parish Hall at Our Lady of Sorrows. The next movie will be *The Passion of the Christ* (2004), a highly realistic portrayal of the last twelve hours of Jesus' life on Earth detailing the Agony in the Garden to the burial in the tomb. This film is based on the mystical revelations of Anne Catherine Emmerich. Please note that the movie is rated R and parental discretion is advised. Our next movies will be: *Fatima* on May 5 and *A Man For All Seasons* on June 22.

## ➔ 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, contact the Parish Office at (816) 471-3696.

## ➔ Blood Pressure Checks



Prioritize your health! We are pleased to offer blood pressure checks to interested parishioners and visitors. This service is provided in collaboration with Catholic Charities, local nursing schools and our Health Ministry. Nursing students will be available after Mass on Sunday and Wednesday to conduct blood pressure checks. To schedule your check, please reach out to a member of St. Monica's Health Ministry or contact the Parish office at (816) 471-3696. Together, let us strive to enhance the overall well-being of our community. Your health matters to us!

## ➔ Rediscover Your Faith



The next topic for our adult catechesis series, "Rediscover Your Faith," will be on the Holy Week Liturgy and how to more deeply enter the mystery of the Liturgy. The meeting will take place on Saturday, March 23 at 10am in the St. Monica Room.

## ➔ Nurturing Spiritual Growth



Join us for an enlightening evening at Our Lady's Montessori (OLMS) School's upcoming Parent Education Night on April 10, from 7-8pm. Discover the transformative power of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) as we delve into how it nurtures the spiritual development of children aged 3-12. While OLMS proudly offers CGS as part of its curriculum, this event is open to all parents and students interested in exploring this enriching educational approach. Experience firsthand the profound connection between God and the child, fostering a deep yearning to understand and draw closer to the Divine; cultivating a personal and meaningful relationship with spirituality. To secure your spot at this event call (816) 543-5909. We look forward to welcoming you!

## ➔ 15th Annual School Bell Breakfast



Mark your calendars for a remarkable event! Attend 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. Let's continue our tradition of 'Making Dreams Come True' for our schools by supporting the Bright Futures Fund through this highly anticipated event. The program will take place in Arrowhead Stadium's North Club. For tickets and sponsorship information, contact Kendra Kemp McGee or visit [brightfuturesfund.org](http://brightfuturesfund.org).

## ➔ Quilt Raffle Fundraiser



A special thank you to everyone who has supported the parish's Quilt Raffle Fundraiser. If you have not purchased your raffle tickets yet, the Stewardship Committee will be in the hallway outside of Ferguson Hall before and after each Mass. The two beautiful quilts are valued at \$300 each...the raffle tickets only cost \$10. The more tickets you buy, the better your chance to win and support our Parish.



# 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