

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64108

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 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  
Pastor  
[frleonard@stmonicakc.org](mailto:frleonard@stmonicakc.org)

Reverend Darwin Dupree, Sr.  
Deacon  
[dawn2127@hotmail.com](mailto:dawn2127@hotmail.com)

Reverend Kenneth Greene  
Deacon

Brad Geist  
Pastoral Associate  
[bgeist@stmonicakc.org](mailto:bgeist@stmonicakc.org)

Biviana Radillo  
Office Manager  
[bradillo@stmonicakc.org](mailto:bradillo@stmonicakc.org)

Ramonda Doakes  
Religious Education  
Safety Environment Coordinator  
[rdoakes@stmonicakc.org](mailto:rdoakes@stmonicakc.org)

Rita Womack  
Food Pantry/Social Services  
Director  
[ritawomack70@yahoo.com](mailto:ritawomack70@yahoo.com)

Richard Jolevette  
Custodian/Maintenance

Melvin Kerr  
Choir/Music Ministry

George Hans  
Accountant  
[finance@stmonicakc.org](mailto: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](http://www.stmonicakc.org)



Today, we're celebrating Palm Sunday, a special day in the story of Jesus. In the Gospel, we read about Jesus entering Jerusalem, a big city, on a little donkey. The people were very happy and shouted "Hosanna!" They put their coats and palm branches on the road for Jesus. This event fulfills an old promise from the Bible that said the King would come riding on a donkey. Jesus chose a donkey instead of a big, strong horse to show that he is a different kind of King – one of humility and peace, not someone who conquers with force.

In today's Liturgy, we face quite a contrast of experiences and emotions. We begin our celebration by listening to the story of Jesus being welcomed into Jerusalem with great joy and exultation! "Hosanna!" they cried out. "Hosanna in the Highest!" Jesus was treated as He should have been treated. People were excited to see Him and there was much excitement. When the crowd shouted "Hosanna," they were asking Jesus to save them.

But sometimes, like those people, we might expect God to fix our immediate problems, not realizing that Jesus brings a deeper and everlasting kind of help. But this excitement quickly turned to shock and horror as we enter more deeply into today's readings.

The Gospel culminates with Jesus hanging on the Cross crying out "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And with that, "Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last." At that moment the entire congregation kneels in silence as we ponder the reality of Christ's death.

How things can change in one short week. What happened to all the people who were shouting and praising Him as He entered Jerusalem? How could they allow Him to enter into this Crucifixion and death? The deepest answer to this question is one that we may not expect. The answer is that the Father willed it.

The Father willed, by His permissive will, that so many would turn on Him, abandon Him, and allow Him to be crucified. This is so very important to understand. At any time during that first Holy Week, Jesus could have exercised His divine power and refused to embrace His Cross.

But He didn't. Instead, He willingly walked through this week anticipating and embracing the suffering and rejection He received. And He didn't do so begrudgingly or even with regret. He embraced this week willingly, choosing it as His own will.

*continued on page 2*

# Palm Sunday

*continued from page 1*

Why would He do such a thing? Why would He choose suffering and death? Because in the Father's perfect wisdom, this suffering and death was for a greater purpose.

God chose to confound the wisdom of the world by using His own suffering and Crucifixion as the perfect means of our holiness. In this act, He transformed the greatest evil into the greatest good. Now, as a result of our faith in this act, the crucifix hangs centrally in our churches and in our homes as a constant reminder that not even the greatest of evils can overcome the power, wisdom, and love of God.

God is more powerful than death itself and God has the final victory even when all seems lost. As we go through this week, from the joy of Palm Sunday to the sadness of Good Friday, let's think about our own hopes and what we expect from God. Let's remember that true salvation comes from Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, not just from quick solutions to our everyday challenges.

The people who cheered for Jesus on Palm Sunday turned against him later in the week. It makes us think about how our own faith can sometimes be unsure. Let's use this Holy Week to reflect on our lives, say sorry for our mistakes, and renew our commitment to follow Jesus, the humble King, who loves us without limits.

Reflect, today, upon the contrast of emotions from Palm Sunday through Good Friday. Ponder the fear, confusion, and despair that many would have had as they saw Jesus murdered. Upon this being a divine act by which the Father permitted this grave suffering so as to use it for the greatest good ever known.

The Lord gave His life freely and calls you to do the same. Reflect upon the cross in your life. Know that the Lord can use this for good, bringing forth an abundance of mercy through your free embrace as you offer it to Him as a willing sacrifice.

Blessed Holy Week! Put your eyes upon the Lord's Cross as well as your own.



## **Catholic Prayer for the Week**

Lord, when I am tempted to despair, give me hope. Help me to see your presence in all things, even in those things that are most troubling to me. May this Holy Week transform my darkest moments and weakness as I surrender all to You, my God. Jesus, I trust in You.

**Amen.**

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

# Today's Readings

**Procession With Palms** — “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord” (Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16)

**First Reading** — “The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced” (Isaiah 50:4-7)

**Psalms** — “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me” (Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24)

**Second Reading** — “He humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:6-11)

**Verse Before The Gospel** — “Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:8-9)

**Gospel** — “They clothed him in purple and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him” (Mark 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39)



## Saints & Special Observances

**Sunday:** Palm Sunday

**Monday:** International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery & the Transatlantic Slave Trade

**Thursday:** Holy Thursday

**Friday:** Good Friday

**Saturday:** Holy Saturday; Servant of God Thea Bowman; 1870 15th Amendment granted Black men the right to vote

# Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Isaiah 142:1-7; Psalms 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14; John 12:1-11

**Tuesday:** Isaiah 49:1-6; Psalms 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17; John 13:21-33, 36-38

**Wednesday:** Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalms 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34; Matthew 26:14-25

**Thursday:** Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; Psalms 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15

**Friday:** Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Psalms 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1–19:42

**Saturday:** Genesis 1:1–2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a; Psalms 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 or 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20 and 22; Genesis 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Psalms 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11; Exodus 14:15–15:1; Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18; Isaiah 54:5-14; Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13; Isaiah 55:1-11; Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Baruch 3:9-15, 32, 4:4; Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28; Psalms 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 or Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Psalms 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Romans 6:3-11; Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mark 16:1-7

**Sunday:** Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; Victimae Paschali Laudes; John 20:1-9

## Offering Reports

*Sunday, March 17, 2024*

Regular Offering: \$5,242.00

Food Pantry: \$155.00

Debt Reduction: \$155.00

Miscellaneous: \$4,158.02

**Total \$9,710.02**

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

## Liturgical Assignments

*Sunday, March 31, 2024*

Lectors: Angela Curry and Everett Curry

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Peter Callan

Ushers: Team B

Eucharistic Ministers: Stephanie Broils and Gerald Buckman

Counters: Team 4



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, 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).



## ➔ Pray For an End to Gun Violence



Join us at St. Francis Xavier Parish, located at 1001 E 52nd Street, Kansas City, 64110, as we come together to pray for an end to gun violence. Every Wednesday and Friday morning at 8:00 am, we gather at the corner of 52nd and Troost to pray the Rosary for the victims of gun violence. In case of inclement weather, the Rosary will be prayed in the chapel of St. Francis Xavier following the 7:30am Mass. Your presence and prayers are deeply appreciated as we stand in solidarity against the scourge of gun violence.

## ➔ 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).



- 6:00 PM Thursday, March 28, 2024  
*Holy Thursday*
- Friday, March 29, 2024
- 5:15 PM *Stations of the Cross*
- 6:00 PM *Good Friday Liturgy*
- 8:00 PM Saturday, March 30, 2024  
*Holy Saturday*
- 9:00 AM Sunday, March 31, 2024  
*Easter Sunday*

## ➔ Altar & Rosary Society 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.

## ➔ Quilt Raffle Fundraiser



THANK YOU for supporting the parish's Quilt Raffle Fundraiser. Immediately following Mass, in Ferguson Hall, Deacon Ken Greene will draw two names from the raffle bucket to determine the winners of the two quilts. Winner does not have to be present to win.



# 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