

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64108

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 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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Deacon

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Safety Environment Coordinator
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Rita Womack
Food Pantry/Social Services
Director
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Richard Jolevette
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

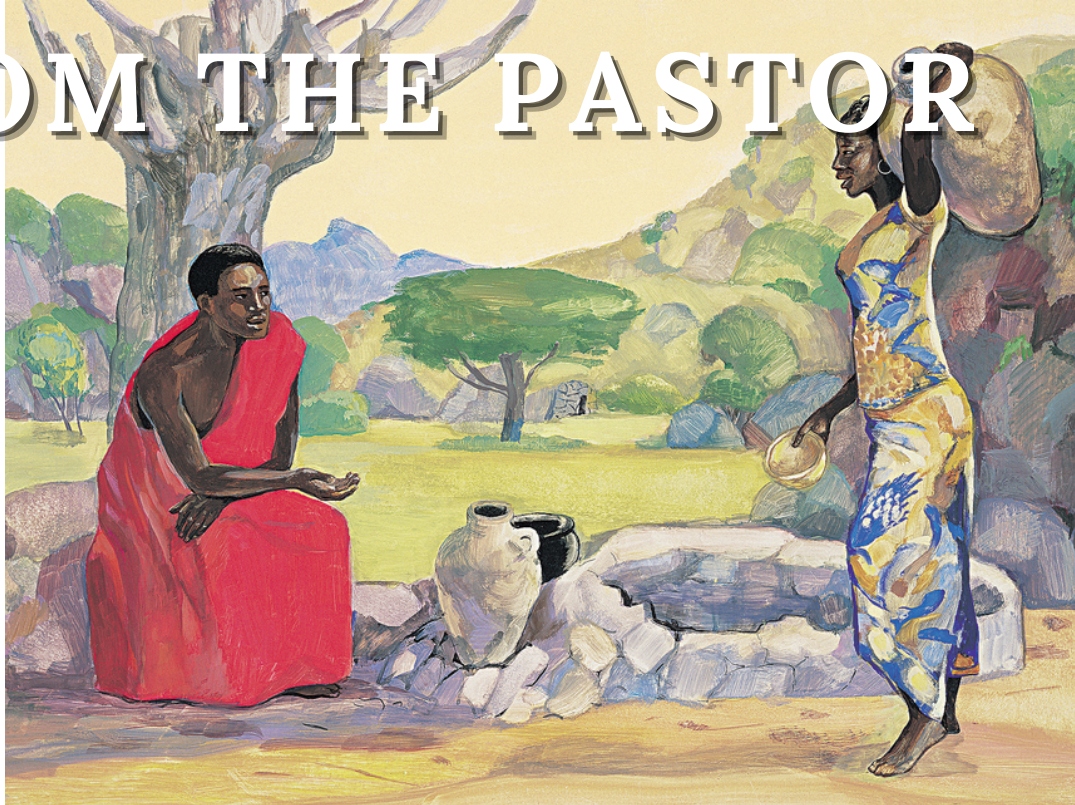
9:00 a.m. Wednesday Mass

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 PASTOR



Jesus and the Samaritan Woman; JESUS MAFA

In the midst of Lent, the Church brings our attention to a poignant narrative that resonates with each of us: the encounter of the Samaritan Woman with Jesus at the well. This story serves as a mirror reflecting our own search for meaning and fulfillment in life.

Just like the Samaritan Woman, we all find ourselves at various wells throughout our lives, seeking to quench an insatiable thirst. These wells are the places, habits, things or people we turn to, hoping to find satisfaction. For some, it might be the pursuit of career success, where endless hours of work promise fulfillment but often lead to burnout and a sense of emptiness. For others, it might be in the fleeting pleasures of material possessions, the instant gratification of social media likes, or even in the numbing escape provided by substances or alcohol. Each of these wells represents our attempt to fill a void that seems perpetually unfulfilled.

The narrative of the Samaritan Woman teaches us a profound lesson about human nature and divine grace. Despite drawing water from Jacob's well daily, the woman remained thirsty until Jesus offered her "living water."

This encounter illustrates our own futile attempts to find lasting happiness in things that are, by their very nature, transient and unsatisfying. It's a vivid reminder that what we often seek in the

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Third Sunday of Lent

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wells of this world is, in truth, a deeper yearning for spiritual nourishment and connection with God. G.K. Chesterton's insightful observation, "Every man who knocks on the door of a brothel is looking for God," underscores this profound truth.

Our deepest desires are not wrong; they are simply misdirected. Every pursuit of pleasure, every attempt to fill the emptiness within, is essentially a search for the Divine. We are creatures made for communion with God, and our hearts are restless until they find rest in Him, as St. Augustine eloquently put it.

Each of us can identify moments when we've stood at our wells, drawing water that never satisfies. Each of these actions reveals a thirst for something greater, a thirst that can only be quenched by the living water Christ offers.

As we journey deeper into Lent, let us ponder the invitation Jesus extends to the Samaritan Woman and to each of us: "Give me a drink." In doing so, He asks for our trust, inviting us to abandon the wells that leave us wanting and to draw instead from His wellspring of eternal life.

This season of Lent, may we reflect on the areas of our lives where we seek fulfillment outside of God. Let us remember that true joy and peace are found not in the wells of this world but in the living water offered by Jesus. Through Him, our deepest thirsts are satisfied, and our souls find their rest.



Catholic Prayer for the Week

Lord, I do pray for the purification of our world, our Church, our families, and most especially my own soul. I invite You to come to me this day to reveal to me what it is that grieves You the most. I invite You to root out, in my heart, all that is displeasing to You. Jesus, I trust in You. **Amen**

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024

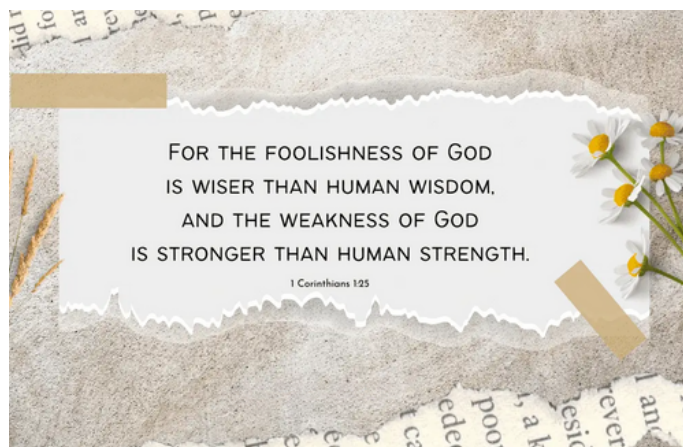
Today's Readings

First Reading — “I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery” (Exodus 20:1-17 or Exodus 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17)

Psalm — “Lord, you have the words of everlasting life” (Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11)

Second Reading — “For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength” (1 Corinthians 1:22-25)

Gospel — “While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing” (John 2:13-25)



Saints & Special Observances

Sunday: Third Sunday of Lent; Saint Katherine Drexel

Monday: Saint Casimir; 1837 Jean Baptiste DuSable founded the area of Chicago

Thursday: Saint Perpetua, Saint Felicity

Friday: Saint John of God

Saturday: Saint Frances of Rome

Readings for the Week

Monday: 2 Kings 5:1-15ab; Psalms 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday: Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Psalms 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Matthew 18:21-35

Wednesday: Daniel 4:1, 5-9; Psalms 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday: Jeremiah 7:23-28; Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Luke 11:14-23

Friday: Hosea 14:2-10; Psalms 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17; Mark 12:28-34

Saturday: Hosea 6:1-6; Psalms 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Luke 18:9-14

Sunday: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Psalms 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21



St. Katherine Drexel provided the funding to establish St. Monica; a mission and school for “the education in religion and secular knowledge for Colored People.”
Image from Saint Mary’s Press

Offering Reports

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Regular Offering:	\$5,550.25
Food Pantry:	\$5.00
Debt Reduction:	\$0.00
Miscellaneous:	\$430.00
Total	\$5,985.25

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 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 10, 2024

Lectors: Syrtiller Kabat and Jim Newland

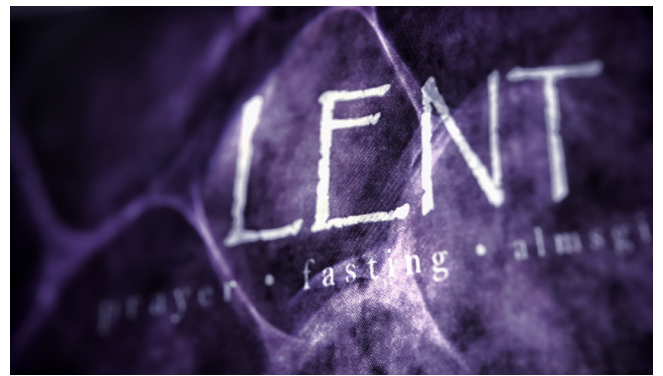
Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Peter Callan

Ushers: Team C

Eucharistic Ministers: Lydia Ramierz and Rose Roos

Counters: Team 1



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.

Key Word: Temple

Key Verse: He told those selling the doves, “take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” *John 2:16*

Cindy walked into her Sunday school class ready to hear a story about Jesus. She and her classmates were very surprised to see their teacher sitting up front with rollers in her hair, slippers on her feet, sipping tea, and knitting a scarf.

The whole class just stared quietly for a while until Cindy said, "Mrs. Smith, are you all right?"

Mrs. Smith smiled. "I was waiting for you to ask me that," she said. "I'm ready for today's lesson." The class was looking around at each other and making funny faces because they still did not understand.

Mrs. Smith went on: "Today's lesson is about knowing the right place and right time for doing things.

Everything has a time and a place.
Wearing rollers and slippers to Sunday
school is not what we consider proper.
Drinking tea and knitting while I am
teaching is not considered proper.

“One day Jesus went to the temple to pray. When he got there, many people were selling doves, or sheep, or

cattle. They were shouting for people to come in and look at the animals and buy them. This made Jesus angry. He knew the temple was a house of prayer. He knew it was God's house. He made the sellers leave and he was very upset.

“When you walked into class today, you were upset with me. You were all polite and sat quietly waiting, but I could see the look on your faces. Sunday school is not the place for rollers or slippers or knitting. It is for learning about Jesus. The temple was for learning about God, and Jesus had to make it right. I promise to never dress like this in Sunday school again!”

Questions

Why did Mrs. Smith wear slippers to Sunday school?

Why was Jesus angry with the people selling animals?

Picture Differences

In the Gospel story pictures below there are 10 differences. Circle each one as you find it.



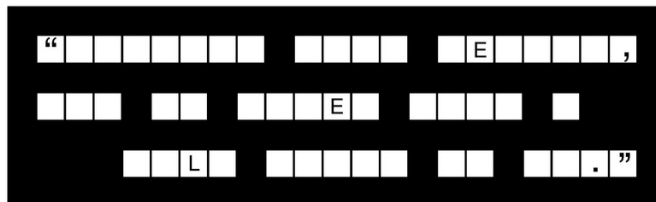
Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story
is from
John 2:13-22



Fallen Letter Puzzle

Insert the letters in each column into the boxes above them to form the words of a quotation from today's Gospel story. The letters are not necessarily in order — it's up to you to determine which letters go in which box above it. Each letter will be used once and only once. Black squares usually indicate the end of a word, but are also used as spacers. Some letters have been filled in for you.



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➔ 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's 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.

➔ 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.

➔ 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.

➔ Gratitude for Generosity



We extend heartfelt thanks to the broom and blanket prop designers, dancers, and musicians for their role in illustrating the Church's significance in the lives of enslaved Africans during the Black History Month

Mass. Your creativity and dedication enriched the understanding of our innate resilience and faith. Special gratitude to PeachTree Cafe'Teria, The Honey Baked Ham Company, J's Fish & Chicken, and St. Monica Food Pantry for their generous contributions to the event Reception. Your support made the event a memorable celebration of unity and heritage. Thank you. ~Kemp McGee Family



from the Pastor...

Thanks to many of you who made our last Sunday National Black History Month celebrations a tremendous success. I would like to extend a special thanks to Dcn. Greene, who choreographed and executed the pre-mass ritual. As many of you commented after mass, it was really timely and meaningful, reminding us of what our ancestors endured to connect with the Divine.

I am also grateful to Janice Comer for creatively and thoughtfully bringing to our attention the significance of sacred worship for enslaved African Americans. Her article and narration enlightened many of us on how enslaved Africans, barred from unsupervised worship, found freedom to practice their faith. Thanks to Marilyn Scott and her Motion Dance Team for enhancing our worship experience with African dance.

A special acknowledgment goes to Alvin Brooks for his rendition and presentation of Sister Thea Bowman's address to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Our music ministry, led by Melvin Kerr, deserves immense appreciation, and the presence of guest saxophonist, Darryl Terrell, was truly remarkable, uplifting our souls to God.

I want to thank the Black Implementation Team for hosting delicious soul food for the occasion. It's important to recognize that the success of such occasions is due to the many people working behind the scenes. Know that your hard work and time do not go unnoticed.

Above all, I thank the Almighty God, who is the source of all that is good and beautiful, for blessing us with such a successful and uplifting celebration of our heritage.

Thank You!

The Stewardship Committee of St Monica Catholic Church congratulates The Black Catholic Implementation Team (BCIT) on hosting an outstanding program last Sunday. The symbolic forbidden worship service of slaves with our outstanding praise dancers, drums beating, soulful description by M. Jenise Comer and the heartfelt reading by Al Brooks made this a very special Mass with Bishop Johnston as the homilist. The BCIT made quite an impact and we look forward to other planned events.



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