

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64108

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 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

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Melvin Kerr
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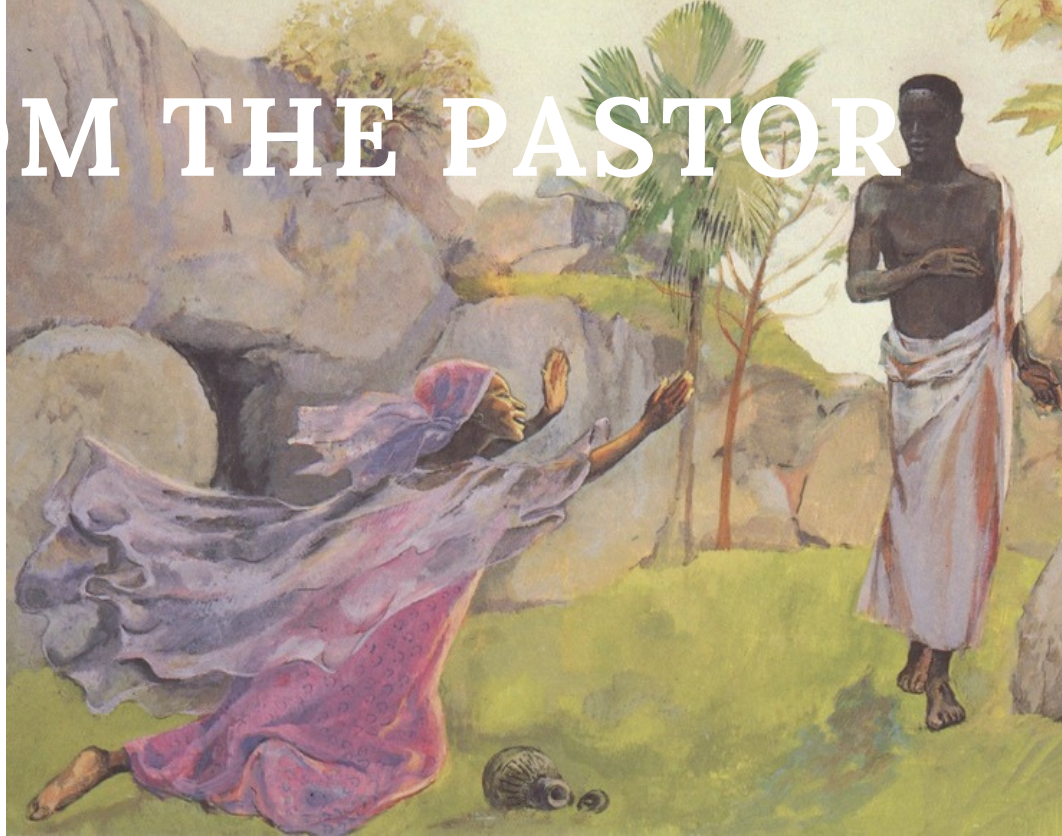
ST. MONICA
CATHOLIC CHURCH
culture, family, love

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



M THE PASTOR



Christ appears to Mary Magdalene, Jesus Mafa via Vanderbilt Divinity Library

Alleluia! He has risen. Alleluia! He has conquered death. Alleluia! He has brought salvation to the world. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Every now and then, we see on TV or in the newspapers a notice about a missing person, with the person's photograph and some details. Whether the person was eventually found or not, we cannot be certain because very often there are no follow-up reports on the case in the media. What is certain is that when a loved one is missing, the anxiety is painful; hearts are broken and the search is relentless.

This may express the pain and grief that Mary Magdalene was experiencing on Easter Sunday morning as she looked for the One she loved in the tomb. Not finding Jesus in the tomb; Mary Magdalene searched relentlessly and persistently for Him.

Mary Magdalene's love for Jesus was enormous. Nothing could come between her and the love of Jesus. Not even despair or death. In life, Mary Magdalene loved Jesus, but also in death she searched for Him.

Mary's deep love for Jesus was because He loved her first and healed her of her sufferings and sin. Because of her great love for Jesus Mary Magdalene was given the first privilege to not only see but also to touch the glorious body of the Risen Christ. Jesus also gave her the gift of being the first to witness the resurrection. She became the apostle to the apostles.

continued to page 2

The Resurrection of the Lord

continued from page 1

As we celebrate Easter today and in the coming weeks, let us contemplate how much we love Jesus, guided by the example of Mary Magdalene, the greatest disciple of love. Let us ask ourselves: How much do we love Jesus? Is our love contingent only on our fortunes, when hopes are high and things are going well, or do we search for Jesus even in the darkest nights of our lives?

May our faith and love for Jesus be strengthened today as we celebrate His resurrection. Let us remember that just as Christ loved Mary Magdalene while she was still in her sins. God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). With Mary Magdalene, let us sing, Alleluia! He has risen. Alleluia! He has conquered death. Alleluia!

This Easter, let us also extend our love and support to those in our community who are in need. Whether it be through prayer, service, or a simple act of kindness, let our actions reflect the love and resurrection of Jesus Christ. May our community be a beacon of hope and a testament to the endless love of Christ. Happy Easter!



Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him. But go and tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you."

Mark 16:6-7

Catholic Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, on this joyous Easter, I pray that you will help me to hold on to your resurrection and find strength in it. May you transform every burden and difficulty in my life into a source of joy, as only you can. Please fill my heart with your joy and let it guide me through all the challenges I may face. **Amen**

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024

Today's Readings

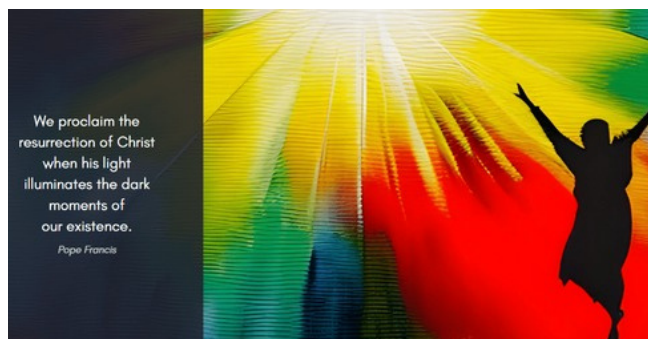
First Reading – “He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him” (Acts 10:34a, 37-43)

Psalm – “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad” (Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23)

Second Reading – “Therefore, if you be risen with Christ, seek the things that are above; where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God” (Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8)

Victimae Paschali Laudes

Gospel – “Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb” (John 20:1-9)



Saints & Special Observances

Sunday: Easter Sunday

Monday: Easter Monday; 1854 Venerable Augustus Tolton; 1868 Hampton University founded

Thursday: 1968 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinated

Saturday: 1830 James Healy first Black Catholic Bishop in U.S.; 2002 SSJ & African American community celebrate 100 years in Texas

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Psalms 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41; Psalms 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22; John 20:11-18

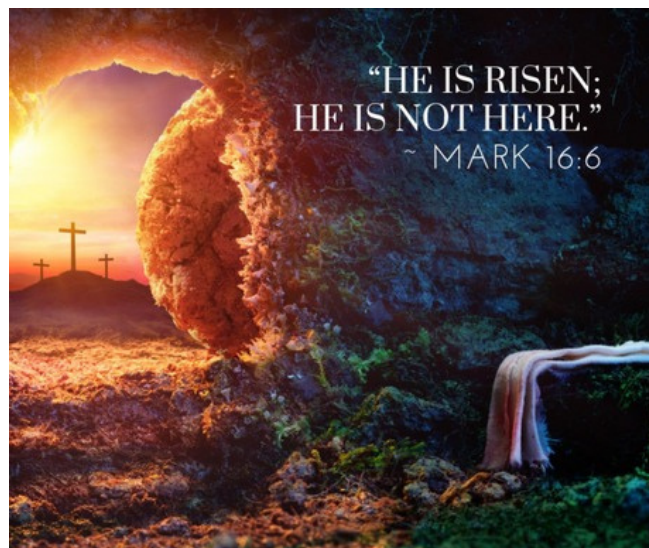
Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10; Psalms 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Luke 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26; Psalms 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9; Luke 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12; Psalms 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a; John 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21; Psalms 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21; Mark 16:9-15

Sunday: Acts 4:32-35; Psalms 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31



Offering Reports

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Regular Offering:	\$4,923.01
Food Pantry:	\$10.00
Building Fund:	\$50.00
Miscellaneous:	\$435.00
Total	\$5,418.01

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Lectors: Youth Sunday

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Karen Groves

Ushers: Team C

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Charity and Dawn Collins

Counters: Team 1



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.

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, John James, Barbara Walters

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.

The Parable Of Bamboo

Key Word: **Hollow**

Key Verse: Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed. *John 20:8*

In the heart of a kingdom lay a beautiful garden. The most beautiful and beloved to the master of the garden was the splendid and noble Bamboo. Every year, Bamboo grew more beautiful and gracious. He was conscious of his master's love, yet he was modest and gentle. When Wind came to revel in the garden, Bamboo would dance and sway, tossing and leaping. He delighted his master's heart.

One day the master spoke: "Bamboo, I would use you." Bamboo flung his head to the sky in delight. He would now find his destiny. "Master, I am ready, use me as you want."

"Bamboo," the master's voice was sad, "I would be obliged to take you and cut you down." Horror shook Bamboo, "Cut ... me ... down? Me whom you have made the most beautiful in all your garden? Use me for your joy, Master, but don't cut me down."

"Beloved Bamboo," the master said, "if I do not cut you, I cannot use you."

Bamboo slowly bent his proud, glorious head. "Master, if you cannot use me unless you cut me down, then do your will," he whispered. The master said, "Bamboo, beloved Bamboo, I would cut your leaves and branches also. If I do not cut them away, I cannot use you." Bamboo shivered,

"Master, cut away." "Bamboo, I would divide you in two and hollow you out, for if I do not, I cannot use you," said the master. "Master, then cut and divide," whispered Bamboo.

So the master of the garden took Bamboo and cut him down. He hacked off his branches, stripped his leaves, and divided him in two. He hollowed him out, and lifting him gently, carried him to where there was a spring of fresh water in the midst of the master's dry fields. Putting one end of broken Bamboo into the spring and the other end into the water channel in the field, the master gently laid down his beloved Bamboo. The sparkling water raced joyously down the channel of Bamboo's body into the waiting fields. The rice was planted and the days went by. Shoots grew. The harvest came. Bamboo, then, became more glorious. In his beauty he was life abundant, in his brokenness he became a channel of abundant life to his master's world.

Questions

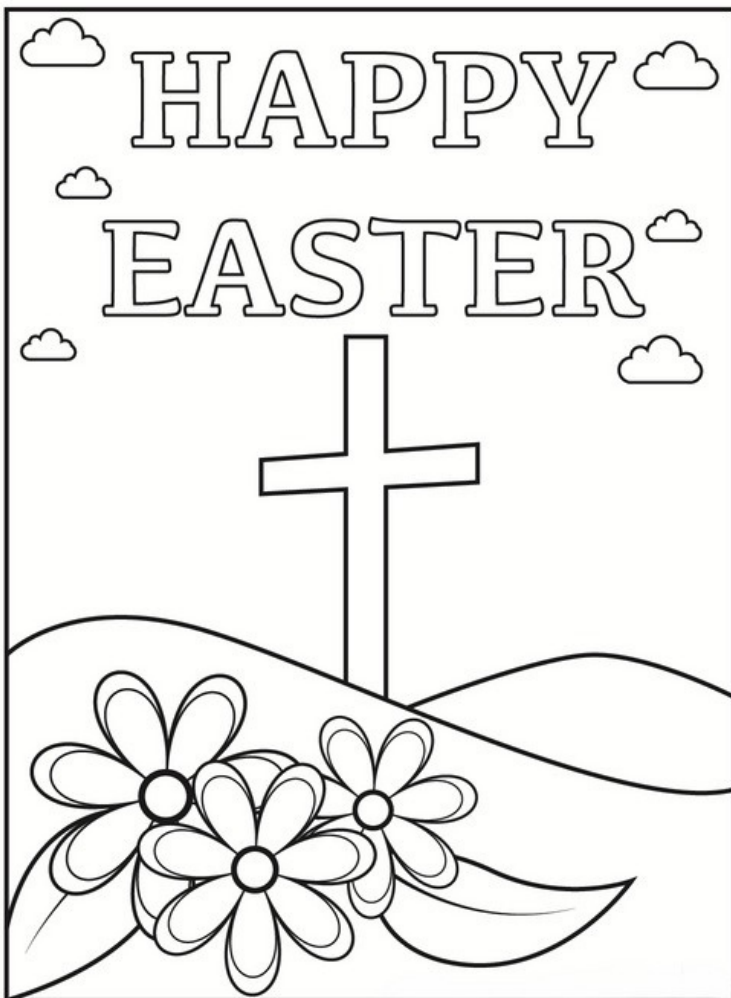
How did Bamboo help his master grow rice?

What did the disciples think when they saw that Jesus was gone from the tomb?

Gospel Gems

Today's Gospel Story
is from
John 20:1-18

2



Word Find Puzzle

Here are thirteen words from today's Gospel story. Some are printed upside down, backwards, or at an angle. One is done for you. How many can you find?

FIND: THEY HAVE TAKEN AWAY MY LORD, AND I DO NOT KNOW WHERE THEY HAVE LAID HIM (v. 13).

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

➔ District Fun at First Friday



It's First Friday at 18th & Vine on April 5 starting at 3:00pm for an unforgettable evening of community engagement and fun! This event offers FREE youth activities

Encounter a vibrant atmosphere with retail vendors, food vendors, captivating art displays and the Exotic Petting Zoo. It's a fantastic opportunity to come together and enjoy the historic 18th & Vine District. Don't miss out—bring your friends, family, and neighbors for an evening filled with joy, culture, and connection. We'll see you there!

➔ St. Monica Coat Drive



The St Monica October 2023 "Community Coat Drive" was a great success. We collected 167 coats! Our Food Pantry distributed 45 coats to their clients during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Parishioners Crystal Miller and Ramonda Doakes provided 30 coats to True Light Family Resources Center and donated 92 coats to the city-wide coat drive sponsored by NLB (Nat'l Baseball League) and Carter Broadcast Group. Another example of how St Monica is striving to be a viable part of our community. A special "THANK YOU" to everyone who donated. Let's do even better this upcoming October!

➔ Women's Bible Study



Ladies, mark your calendars for a wonderful opportunity to delve into the Word of God together.

Our Women's Bible Study group will gather every first and third Saturday, from 9:30 to 11:00am. This is a fantastic chance to grow spiritually and explore the teachings of the Bible in a supportive and engaging environment. For more information please reach out to Paula Nix at (816) 471- 3696 or mspaula.pn@gmail.com.

➔ Behold KC: Uniting Faith, Music, & Community



Join us for Behold KC, a remarkable gathering of the "one holy catholic and apostolic Church" presented by the Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph and the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas.

Taking place on May 4 from 4:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the National WWI Museum and Memorial North Lawn, this event offers Mass, Confession, live musical talent, a live performance from St. Monica's gospel choir, a public Rosary, and the largest Eucharistic Adoration opportunity in our city in over 80 years. Registration is free but strongly encouraged for accurate planning and updates. Visit BEHOLDKC.ORG for more details and to register. Don't miss this extraordinary celebration of faith and unity!

➔ St. Monica Quilt Raffle

A special "Thank You" to Tonya Foster, youngest daughter of Deacon Ken Greene, who donated the 2 handmade quilts in celebration of our Black History Month program. The first quilt "African Queens" depicted their royalty. The second quilt, "The Glass Menagerie", reflects African animals. The response from our parishioners was outstanding. And, St. Elizabeth parish was also very supportive. Some of you even sold raffle tickets to others. We appreciate your extra efforts. Thanks to the Stewardship members and especially Lawrence (Judy) Blankinship who led this successful project.

We are pleased to report the total amount raised:

Raffle tickets sold	230
Total sales	\$2,300.00
Donations	\$ 41.00
TOTAL	\$2,341.00

FIRST PLACE WINNER: Brenda Lofton

SECOND PLACE WINNER: Michele Kerwin

The Stewardship Committee extends a heartfelt thank you to all who purchased or sold tickets to make this a successful activity. St. Monica, you continue to be "A church alive is worth the drive!"



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	Sunday School
First Communion	Junior Youth Group
Reconciliation	Senior Youth Group
Men's Bible Study	Women's Bible Study

For more information or to schedule an appointment call (816) 471-3696