



# Saint Monica Catholic Church

**SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024**

**1616 THE PASEO BLVD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108**

**6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

## Parish Staff

**Fr. Leonard Gicheru**  
Pastor  
frleonard@stmonicakc.org

**Reverend Darwin Dupree, Sr.**  
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dawn2127@hotmail.com

**Reverend Kenneth Greene Deacon**

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**Rita Womack**  
Food Pantry/Social Services  
Director  
ritawomack70@yahoo.com

**Richard Jolevette**  
Custodian/Maintenance

**Melvin Kerr**  
Choir/Music Ministry

**George Hans**  
Accountant  
finance@stmonicakc.org

**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

## Friendship with God

There are many images we use for God. We call Him Father, Savior, Master, Lord, King, Redeemer, Spirit, and Friend. When it comes to God as our divine Friend, it is important to understand the nature of that friendship properly. Jesus' friendship is not one that simply makes us "buddies." Friendship with our Lord is not the same as a friendship between two equals. He is God. And because He is God, our friendship with Him takes on unique characteristics that are not present in other friendships. With that said, there could be no greater friend than the Lord Himself.

Among humans, our friendships have various foundations. It could be that two people have mutual interests and they enjoy engaging in those interests together. It could be that two people have spent much pleasant time together since childhood. Or it could be that two people have endured some difficulty together and that experience has bonded them together. But according to Saint Thomas Aquinas, friendship in its purest form is based on just one thing: mutual charity.

Charity is the form of love that is purely selfless. It's a way of relating to another in which a person's sole focus is the good of the other. It is not based on one's own self interests. It's not a matter of "what do I get out of it?" In 1 Corinthians 13:4-8,, St. Paul defines the love of charity this way: "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." This is not only the definition of charity, it is also the only foundation for true friendship.

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When you consider all of these qualities of charity, you will find that God relates to us in each of these ways. For that reason, God offers us the purest friendship possible. Whether or not we reciprocate these qualities to God will determine the depth of the bond of friendship that we establish with Him. But there is more. When we love God, we must love Him in a way that is proper and proportionate to Who God is. For example, if we offer charity to God, we seek to fulfill only God's interests and rejoice in the Truth of Who He is. Thus, the charity we offer to God comes in the form of worship. He is God and is worthy of worship, adoration, surrender, trust and perfect obedience. When it is God we are loving, the very essence of the Person we love requires these responses.

One beautiful and consoling thing to recognize with this form of charity given to God is that it also establishes a true friendship with God. When we offer our worship to God, we are in a position to receive the very life of God in return. And the giving of ourselves, coupled with the reception of the life of God, establishes a bond of holy friendship that will transform us, unite us with Him and fulfill us to perfection. Friendship with God makes us one with Him and opens us to receive everything that He shares with us—namely, His very Self.

Reflect, today, upon the invitation Jesus has offered you to enter into a true friendship with Him. This means that God becomes the center of your life. It means that you seek to give yourself, selflessly and without reserve, to Him Who is deserving of all your love. It means you choose worship and obedience to perfection. The reward of such love is that you are able to enter into a bond that is so holy, so pure and so fulfilling that it completes you, enabling you to become who you were meant to be.

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Acts 16:11-15; Psalm 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; John 15:26-16:4a

**Tuesday:** Acts 16:22-34; Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; John 16:5-11

**Wednesday:** Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; Psalm 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14; John 16:12-15

**Thursday:** Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Ephesians 1:17-23 or Ephesians 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13; Mark 16:15-20

**Friday:** Acts 18:9-18; Psalm 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; John 16:20-23

**Saturday:** Acts 18:23-28, ; Psalm 47:2-3, 8-9, 10; John 16:23b-28

**Sunday:** Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; Psalms 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20; 1 John 4:11-16; John 17:11b-19

## Liturgical Assignments

*Sunday, May 12, 2024*

Lectors: Gerald Buckman, Darthene Buckman

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: David Holstein

Ushers: Team B

Eucharistic Ministers: Elaine Johnson, Kabot Syrtiller

## Offering Reports

*Sunday, April 28, 2024*

Regular Offering:	\$4,653.05
Food Pantry:	\$0.00
Second Collection:	\$0.00
Miscellaneous:	\$55.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,708.05</b>

### **The Prayer of St. Monica**

*Cast yourself with confidence into the arms of God and be very sure of this, if God wants anything of you, He will fit you for your work and give you the strength to do it.*



## ➔ Join the Celebration



Join us in celebrating Fr. Leonard's 10th Ordination Anniversary! There will be a dinner on Saturday, May 25th at 5:00 PM. The following day, Sunday, May 26th at 9:00 AM, we will be having a mass and reception at St. Monica. If you have any questions or would like to RSVP, please call the parish office at (816) 471-3696.

## ➔ St. Monica Offering Envelopes



If you're not receiving envelopes for your parish contributions, don't worry! We have a simple solution. You can find a parish registration form located at the back of the church. Just fill out the form with your details and return it to the office. Once you do this, you'll start receiving envelopes regularly and you can continue to support our parish as you wish.

## ➔ Catholic Movie Night



Our next Catholic Movie Night, hosted by the Legion of Mary, will be Sunday, May 5th at 6pm in the Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Hall. Our next movie will be Fatima:

Three young shepherds in Fátima, Portugal report visions of the Virgin Mary, inspiring believers and angering officials of the Church and the government, who try to force them to recant their story. Based on historical events. Mark your calendars as the next movie will be A Man For All Seasons on June 22nd.

## ➔ Celebrate Louie Jones' 90th Birthday With Us



Join us in celebrating a milestone! The Saint Monica Church family is invited to honor the 90th birthday of Louie Jones, a cherished member of our community. The Jones family extends a warm welcome to the festivities in Ferguson Hall after the 9:00 am mass on May 12th, 2024. Don't miss this opportunity to show your love and appreciation for a remarkable individual who has touched so many lives. See you there!

## ➔ 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](mailto:mspaula.pn@gmail.com).

## ➔ A Message From Our Choir



The choir will introduce New Mass Setting music for the congregation to learn. They will sing the new music during communion.

**"A CHURCH ALIVE  
IS WORTH THE  
DRIVE!"**

# REMINDER

Send bulletin announcements to Biviana at [bradillo@stmonicakc.org](mailto:bradillo@stmonicakc.org) by Wednesdays at noon.

## Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Beverly Dyer, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald and Mable Parson, Sergio Mendoza, Elaine Lomax, Donna Dupree, Cheryl Warren, Chaunceyetta Mize, Rhea Holloman, Melva McClellan, Velma Jennings, Brenda A. Martin, Margaret Sams, Deacon, 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, Opal C. Blankinship, Patrice Williams (daughter of Pat and Don Williams), Louie Jones, John James, Barbara Walters, Janee Green (daughter of Pam and Ronald Green), Jublatee O'Neal (New Parishioner)

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).

### Office of Child & Youth Protection- Sexual Abuse

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), and
2. Contact your local Law Enforcement Agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan 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.

Safety Environment Coordinator for St. Monica Parish -  
Ramonda Doakes, P-(816) 457- 5538, E- [rdoakes@stmonicakc.org](mailto:rdoakes@stmonicakc.org)

## Saints & Special Observances

**Sunday:** 6th Sunday of Easter; 1988 Eugene A. Marino 1st Black Archbishop in U.S., Atlanta, GA

**Monday:** 1962 St. Martin de Porres canonized a Saint, Rome; 1960 President Eisenhower signed the Civil Rights Act

**Tuesday:** 1888 Fenton Johnson one of the 1st African American writers to emphasize Black awareness, born in Chicago, IL

**Wednesday:** 1926 Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, first predominantly black labor union was founded

**Thursday:** The Ascension of The Lord (Holy Day of Obligation) for Ecclesiastical Provinces of Boston, Hartford, NY, Omaha, Philadelphia

**Friday:** St. John of Avila; St. Damien de Veuster; 1994 Nelson Mandela inaugurated as 1st President of South Africa

**Saturday:** 1895 William Grant Still, classical composer was born; 1981 Bob Marley, reggae legend passed in Miami, FL

## Calendar of Events this Week

### SUNDAY, MAY 5

9:00 AM Mass  
9:00 AM Crowning of Mary  
10:00 AM Fellowship Sunday (FH)

### MONDAY, MAY 6

### TUESDAY, MAY 7

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

9:00 AM Mass  
6:00 PM Prayer Service

### THURSDAY, MAY 9

### FRIDAY, MAY 10

### SATURDAY, MAY 11

11:30 AM Altar & Rosary Meeting (STM)

\*If you do not see your event listed, please contact the parish office at (816) 471-3696