



# Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

## 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)

**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

**Melvin Kerr**  
Choir/Music Ministry

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

## From our Pastor

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Emmanuel: When God Moves into Our Neighborhood

As we celebrate Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Gospel gives us a front-row seat to one of the most surprising, unsettling, and grace-filled moments in Scripture: Joseph discovers that Mary is expecting a child, and not just any child, but the Son of God.

Now, most of us have had days where life throws unexpected curveballs: a flat tire, burnt Christmas cookies, or discovering the dog has eaten the roast set aside for dinner. But Joseph's surprise puts all of ours to shame. Yet in the midst of confusion and fear, God sends an angel with a message that changes the course of history: "Do not be afraid... the child has been conceived through the Holy Spirit." And then the name: Emmanuel—God with us.

### What Emmanuel Really Means

If you want a single word that summarizes Christianity, here it is: Emmanuel. Not "God above us." Not "God far from us." Not even "God checking in occasionally like an absent landlord." God with us!

The name Emmanuel means that God has woven Himself into the fabric of human life—into our joys, our sorrows, our sleepless nights, and our unanswered questions. God is not waiting for us to climb up to Him; He comes down into our world to lift us up.



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In Jesus, God takes a human face, a human voice, a human family, and yes—even a human schedule. Emmanuel reassures us that we are never abandoned, never unknown, never left to struggle alone. God is in our story always.

In all this, Joseph doesn't get a spotlight, a speech, or a solo hymn. But he gets something far greater: the invitation to trust God in the darkness. Scripture calls him a "righteous man," but righteousness here isn't pious perfection—it's courageous obedience. Joseph allows God to rewrite his plans, reorder his expectations, and redirect his future. And by doing so, he becomes the protector of Emmanuel, the guardian of God's presence in the world.

Sometimes God's will comes disguised as inconvenience, confusion, or a path we never planned. Joseph teaches us that faith means saying yes even when the blueprint is unclear.

Advent is not simply about remembering a moment in Bethlehem; it is about recognizing that God desires to enter the world again through us. We are invited to embody Emmanuel. Be present. In a world that is very good at multitasking but terrible at paying attention, genuine presence is a miracle. Sit, listen, accompany—these are Emanuel moments.

Like Joseph carried Mary and the unborn Christ, we carry hope into hospitals, workplaces, broken relationships, and quiet burdens people never speak out loud. God did not enter the world with a lightning bolt but with a gentle cry in a manger. A little gentleness from us can go a long way—especially during stressful holiday shopping lines. Joseph made room for Christ in his home; we make room for Christ in our hearts. Clear out resentment, fear, old grudges, and the clutter that keeps grace from settling in.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, let us not forget that Emmanuel is not just a name—it is a promise. God is with us: in joy, in sorrow, in confusion, in hope. And God desires to be with others through our kindness, our patience, and our love. May Emmanuel find a home in us, and may others find Emmanuel because of us.

Blessed Fourth Sunday of Advent!

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** 1 Samuel 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Luke 1:46-56

**Tuesday:** Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Luke 1:57-66

**Wednesday:** 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Luke 1:67-79

**Thursday:** Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 or John 1:1-5, 9-14

**Friday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Matthew 10:17-22

**Saturday:** 1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; John 20:1a and 2-8

**Sunday:** 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

## Liturgical Assignments

**Sunday, December 28, 2025**

Lectors: Sharon Hardy, Dwight Miller

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Caleb Johnson

Ushers: Team D

Eucharistic Ministers: Sharon Hardy, Elaine Johnson, Syrtiller Kabot, Felicia Menefee, Crystal Miller, Paula Nix

## Offering Reports

**Sunday, December 14, 2025**

Regular Offering:	\$4,387.00
Building Fund	\$135.00
Food Pantry:	\$275.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$75.00
Christmas Offering:	\$25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,897.00</b>

## Fundraising Campaign

### Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$323,822
Percentage of Goal Pledged	12.95%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$10,820

# Announcements

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

## Women's Bible Study



Ladies, please mark your calendars for an amazing opportunity to explore the Word of God together. Our Women's Bible Study group will meet every first and third Saturday from 9:30 to 11:00 am. This is a fantastic chance to grow spiritually and delve into the teachings of the Bible in a supportive and engaging environment. For more information, please contact Paula Nix at (816) 471-3696 or [mspaula.pn@gmail.com](mailto:mspaula.pn@gmail.com).

## Time to Plan for 2026



As 2026 approaches, it's the perfect time to organize our schedules for the upcoming year. We encourage all parish ministries to complete the space reservation forms located near the entrance of the church. Securing your spot ensures your events are included on our calendar for 2026. Please return the completed forms to the parish office, and Biviana will confirm your reservation once it's approved. Don't miss out on this opportunity to plan ahead!

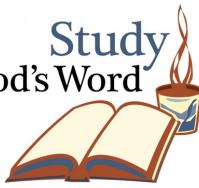
## Help Update our Records



We've recently observed that a number of our parishioners may have outdated contact information on file. If you're unsure whether we have your most current details or if you've made any recent changes, we invite you to reach out to our parish office at 816-471-3696, or you can email Biviana directly at [bradillo@stmonicakc.org](mailto:bradillo@stmonicakc.org). Your connection is important to us, and we want to ensure we stay in touch! Thank you for helping us keep our records up to date.

## Wednesday Prayer Service

### Study God's Word



Join us every Wednesday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM for our uplifting prayer service. We start with an inspiring song, followed by the rosary, and engaging readings. Together, we will discuss the upcoming Sunday gospel, share our prayer intentions, and conclude with a powerful closing prayer. Come and strengthen your faith with our community!

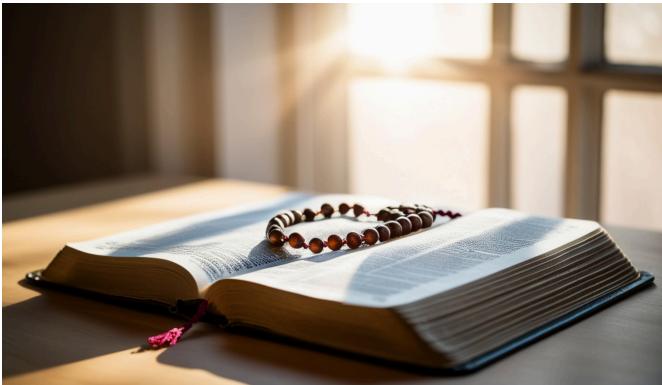


### The Prayer of St. Monica

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.

**“A CHURCH ALIVE IS WORTH THE DRIVE!”**

# Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald Parson, Elaine Lomax, Cheryl Warren, Chaunceyetta Mize, Rhea Holloman, Melva McClellan, Velma Jennings, Brenda A. Martin, Marcella Vaughn, Paris Harrington, Michael Lucas, Lola Jacobs, Evalena Davidson (mother of Dan Davidson), Javan Hardy, Frankie Kemp, Carmelita Newman, Conrad McDonald, Opal C. Blankinship, Patrice Williams (daughter of Pat and Don Williams), John James, Barbara Walters, Janee Green (daughter of Pam and Ronald Green), Jubilatee O'Neal (New Parishioner), Bonita Akridge, Lawrence Ramirez, Edward H. Franklin, Jr. (Father of Tracey Franklin Bradford), Sean Curry (Son of Angela Curry), Bettye Young, Don Williams, Deacon Darwin Dupree, Ramonda Doakes, Yesheka Alexander (daughter of James and Mary Alexander), Lynn Williams

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 if you observe or suspect sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and If the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. report the suspected abuse to the Diocesan Ombudsman at 816.213.6024 or [ombudsman@ombudsmankcsj.org](mailto:ombudsman@ombudsmankcsj.org)

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact the Victim Advocate, at 816.714.2357 or [victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org) for more information.

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

# Leadership Corner

## Lector Ministry

Coordinator	
Michele Jones	Rose Palmer
Brenda Lofton	Ken Bacchus
Elton Lombard	Darthene Buckman
Phaedra Lombard	Gerald Buckman
Dwight Miller	Diane Charity
Melba Myers	Ernest Collins
Jim Newland	Bernadette Cook
Michele Perez	Angela Curry
Cristina Ramirez	Everett Curry
Robin Richardson	Ramonda Doakes
Rose Roos	Jackie Dinvaut
Deborah Scott	Arimeta Dupree
Pat Williams	Carolyn Greene
Rita Womack	Sharon Hardy
	Brandy Roos Johnson

## Calendar of Events this Week

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

9:00 AM Mass  
10:30 AM GriefShare Group (C)  
10:30 AM Dance Rehearsal (S)

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

8:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 AM Christmas Day Mass

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

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