



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

Fr. Leonard Gicheru
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Director
ritawomack70@yahoo.com

Richard Jolevette
Custodian

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

From our Pastor

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus Did Not Bring a Shredder

Every so often, we imagine Jesus showing up with a giant red marker, crossing out half of the Old Testament and scribbling, “Never mind—new rules!” But in today’s Gospel, Jesus gently but firmly tells us: “Not so fast.”

“I have not come to abolish the law or the prophets,” He says, “but to fulfill.” In other words, Jesus did not arrive with a shredder for God’s commandments. He arrived as their living meaning.

That word fulfill is key. To fulfill something is not to discard it but to bring it to completion—like finishing a sentence so it finally makes sense, or like a melody resolving into harmony. Jesus takes the law, which can sometimes feel heavy or technical, and fills it with love, mercy, and purpose.

Think of it this way: the law is the recipe; Jesus is the meal. You don’t throw out the recipe once dinner is served—you finally understand why it mattered.

Then Jesus makes a bold claim that probably caused a few jaws to drop: “Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” That’s like telling a pickup basketball team they need to outplay Michael Jordan. The scribes and Pharisees were professionals at following the law. They knew every comma, every footnote, and every exception clause.



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So what does Jesus mean? He’s not calling us to be better rule-followers. He’s calling us to be better lovers.

The Pharisees followed the law meticulously—but often without mercy. They obeyed outwardly but struggled inwardly. Jesus invites us into a deeper righteousness, one that doesn’t stop at being technically correct but moves toward being truly transformed.

It’s the difference between saying, “I didn’t break the rule,” and asking, “Did I love well?” Jesus isn’t impressed by checkbox faith. He wants a heart that beats in rhythm with God’s own heart. That’s why He warns against breaking even the “least” commandments or teaching others to do so. He’s not nitpicking—He’s protecting the integrity of love. When we treat God’s commandments casually, we risk turning faith into something convenient rather than something faithful.

But notice: Jesus doesn’t just say obey the commandments. He says obey and teach them. Faith is not meant to be hoarded like a secret recipe. It’s meant to be lived visibly, shared humbly, and taught by example. Parents teach it at kitchen tables. Grandparents teach it through stories and prayers. Friends teach it by forgiveness. Parishioners teach it by showing up—especially when it’s inconvenient.

And here’s the good news: this kind of righteousness is not about being perfect. It’s about being honest. It’s about letting God’s Word shape how we speak, forgive, serve, and love—especially when it costs us something.

Jesus fulfills the law not by lowering the bar, but by lifting us up. He doesn’t say, “Try harder.” He says, “Come closer.”

So no, Jesus didn’t bring a shredder. He brought Himself. And in Him, the law stops being a burden and becomes a path—one that leads not just to heaven, but to a life filled with meaning, mercy, and joy.

And that, thankfully, is a rule worth keeping.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: James 1:1-11; Psalm 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76; Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday: James 1:12-18; Psalm 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19; Mark 8:14-21

Wednesday: Joel 2:12-18; Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Luke 9:22-25

Friday: Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Matthew 9:14-15

Saturday: Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Luke 5:37-32

Sunday: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17; Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Matthew 4:1-11

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, February 22, 2026

Lectors: Deborah Scott, Pat Williams

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Contact Parish Office

Ushers: Team D

Eucharistic Ministers: Dawn Collins, Bernadette Cook, Angela Curry, Arimeta Dupree, Mary Graham, Pamela Green

Offering Reports

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Regular Offering:	\$5,469.00
Food Pantry:	\$181.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$2,568.00
Funeral Service:	\$300.00
Total	\$8,518.00

Fundraising Campaign

Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$423,072
Percentage of Goal Pledged	16.92%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$57,951

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.

Legion of Mary Meeting



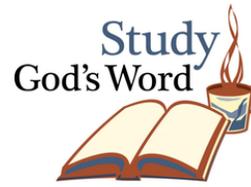
Please join us for the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Kibeho/Our Lady of Sorrows Praesidium meetings every Monday at 4 PM at Our Lady of Sorrows, except on the last Monday of the month, when we meet at 4 PM here at St. Monica in the St. Monica building. Your presence will be greatly appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you there!

GriefShare Support Group



If you have experienced the loss of a loved one and would like to participate in the GreifShare Group, please contact Kim Urenda to reserve your spot. This 13-week group will meet after mass on Sundays starting on Sunday, February 22nd at 10:45 am. This group has a personalized workbook for you to use during your grief journey for a \$20 fee.

Wednesday Prayer Service



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.

Our Ash Wednesday services are scheduled as follows: 9:00 AM here at St. Monica, and a later service at 12:00 PM at Our Lady of Sorrows.



Thank You

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for your prayers and kind expressions of sympathy on the loss of our Mother Cleora Womack.
Rita and Melvin Womack

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), Jublatee 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), Carolyn Turner

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.

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

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 for more information.

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

Leadership Corner

Parish Executive Leadership

Janice Smith	Lawrence Blankinship
Carolyn Greene	Elton Lombard
Shirley Thaw	Fr. Leonard Gicheru



Martin Luther King Jr.

We have learned to fly the air like birds and swim the sea like fish, but we have not learned the simple art of living together as brothers. Our abundance has brought us neither peace of mind nor serenity of spirit.

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

9:00 AM	Mass
10:30 AM	OCIA Class (STM)
10:30 AM	Social Media Meeting

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

9:00 AM	Ash Wednesday Mass
6:00 PM	Prayer Service

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

9:30 AM	Women's Bible Study (STM)
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*If you do not see your event listed, please contact the parish office at (816) 471-3696