



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

Fr. Leonard Gicheru
Pastor
frleonard@stmonicakc.org

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

Brad Geist
Pastoral Associate
bgeist@stmonicakc.org

Biviana Radillo
Office Manager
bradillo@stmonicakc.org

Ramonda Doakes
Religious Education
Safety Environment Coordinator
rdoakes@stmonicakc.org

Rita Womack
Food Pantry/Social Services
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

Second Sunday of Lent

Transfigured in Lent: From Mountain Glory to Daily Grace

Each year on the Second Sunday of Lent, the Church leads us up a mountain with Jesus. We walk beside Peter, James, and John and witness a moment so radiant that words struggle to contain it: Christ's face shining like the sun, His garments dazzling white, heaven touching earth. The Transfiguration is not merely a spectacle of glory; it is a revelation of identity and a preview of destiny. It reveals who Jesus truly is—and who we are called to become.

Notice that Jesus *leads* the disciples up the mountain. They do not wander there by accident. The spiritual life is never accidental. Lent itself is a climb, a deliberate ascent through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Like any climb, it requires effort. Mountains are not comfortable places; they stretch our lungs and strain our legs. Yet it is precisely in the climb that vision clears. Lent invites us to step away from the noise of the valley—distractions, worries, sins that cling too easily—and to ascend toward God's light.

On the mountain, Jesus is transfigured before them. The Greek word used in Scripture is *metamorphosis*—a transformation from within. This is the heart of Lenten spirituality. God does not merely want to improve us externally; He desires to transform us internally.



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True holiness is not cosmetic. It is not a mask we wear at church or a temporary spiritual mood. It is a change of heart, mind, and soul that radiates outward. Just as Christ's divine glory shone through His humanity, so God's grace longs to shine through our ordinary lives

Peter's reaction is wonderfully human: "Lord, it is good that we are here." He wants to build tents and stay in the moment. Who wouldn't? We all want mountaintop experiences—moments of clarity in prayer, peace in worship, joy in community. Yet Jesus does not let them remain there. The mountain is not the destination; it is preparation. Faith is not meant to be contained in sacred moments alone but carried into daily life. The purpose of encountering Christ in glory is to follow Him in obedience.

Then comes the voice from the cloud: "This is my beloved Son... listen to him." That command is the key to Lent. Listen to Him. Not to our fears. Not to the world's noise. Not to the voice that says change is impossible. Listen to Him—in Scripture, in silence, in conscience, in the needs of the poor, in the whisper of grace. Transformation begins when listening replaces distraction.

The disciples fall in fear, but Jesus touches them and says, "Rise, and do not be afraid." What tenderness! The same Lord who shines with divine glory also bends down to lift trembling hearts. Lent reminds us that conversion is not something we accomplish alone; it is something Christ does in us. He touches our wounds, raises us from sin, and leads us forward.

At the end of the vision, they see "Jesus alone." This is the goal of every spiritual journey: to see Jesus clearly, to love Him deeply, and to follow Him faithfully.

This Lent, let us climb the mountain with intention. Let us allow Christ to transfigure our habits, our attitudes, and our relationships. If we open ourselves to His light now, we will not only witness His glory—we will reflect it.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Daniel 9:4b-10; Psalm 79:8, 9, 11 and 13; Luke 6:36-38

Tuesday: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Psalm 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23; Matthew 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Psalm 31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Luke 16:19-31

Friday: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Psalm 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday: Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Lectors: Robin Richardson, Melba Myers

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Peter Callan

Ushers: Team B

Eucharistic Ministers: Felicia Menefee, Crystal Miller, Dianna Miller, Paula Nix, Rose Palmer, Lydia Ramirez

Offering Reports

Sunday, February 22, 2026

Regular Offering:	\$3,337.00
Food Pantry:	\$680.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$1,290.00
Second Collection:	404.00
KPC Ladies 45 th Anniversary:	25.00
Total	\$5,736.00

Fundraising Campaign

Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$423,072
Percentage of Goal Pledged	16.92%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$63,239

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!

Stations of The Cross

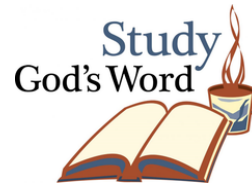


Join us every Friday during Lent at 6 PM in the Church to pray the Stations of the Cross. Let us come together in faith and reflection for this meaningful devotion.

Reminder

Please send bulletin announcements to Biviana at bradillo@stmonicakc.org by noon on Wednesdays.

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!

Parish Mental Health Ministry



In partnership with Catholic Charities, parishes launched parish-based mental health ministries. Parishes continue to have events and groups. All are welcomed. To stay up-to-date about current events, visit <https://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/mentalhealthministry/> and scroll down to view the calendar.

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.

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

Hospitality Usher Ministry

Coordinators

Kim Urenda	Mary Pearison
Mary Alexander	Charles Nzali
Stephanie Broils	Erin Pullen
Arimeta Dupree	Katie Steward
Carolyn Greene	Vicki Schackelford
De'Trice Green	Anson Taitt
Elaine Johnson	Shirley Thaw
Phaedra Lombard	Don Williams, Sr.
Alphonse Mendy	

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

9:00 AM	Mass
10:00 AM	Dance Rehearsal
10:30 AM	OCIA Class (STM)
10:45 AM	GriefShare Group (CH)

MONDAY, MARCH 2

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

9:00 AM	Mass
6:00 PM	Prayer Service

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

9:30 AM	Women's Bible Study
11:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal
11:30 AM	KPC (FH)
11:30 AM	Ladies of Peter Claver (STM)

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