



# Saint Monica Catholic Church

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025**

**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

## 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” Luke 14:12-14

This Gospel passage goes to the heart of our motivations in life. Because of our fallen human nature, we can easily do what we do for selfish reasons. We want payment for our labors and acknowledgement for our acts of kindness. We want to get ahead in life and try to elevate ourselves over others. But Jesus makes it clear that our motivation for everything we do must only be the glory of God and the love of others.

The poor, crippled, lame and blind in this passage refer to those who are in need of our love. This certainly will include friends and family. When we encounter those in need, we must offer our love, not because we get something out of it, but because it is the right thing to do.

The payment we receive in this case comes directly and exclusively from God. It's not a payment of societal recognition or praise. It's not a payment of material things. It's not a payment that helps us get ahead in life. It's a payment of grace that makes us holy.



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This is the only motivation we should have in life—a motivation for holiness by glorifying God through our love of Him and others.

Think about your motivations in life. Why do you do what you do every day? Clearly we all have certain responsibilities that must be met, such as earning a living, caring for the home and family, strengthening our relationships, etc. But why do you do these things? What is the source of your motivation? Is your motivation based on pure love?

When our love is pure, we are motivated to act in one way or another because we see that it is our holy duty toward God or an act that will benefit another. For example, a loving and holy parent will work hard to earn a living not because they want to get rich so as to indulge in the things of this world, but because they love and care for their family and want to provide for their material needs. Or a friend will seek to be there and listen to another friend not because it is advantageous for them, but because they love their friend and want to provide a listening ear when they need it. True love always looks at the good of the other, looking for the ways they are spiritually poor, crippled, lame and blind so that they can help them in accord with God's will. True love always seeks to fill a void with what is needed at that moment.

The good news for us is that when our motivations are pure and selfless, looking only to glorify God and care for others, God will lavish upon us eternal rewards that begin now. We will grow rich in virtue and rich in the fruits of the Holy Spirit. We will obtain joy, peace, strength, courage, love, goodness and so much more. These good things are the true riches in life and can only be bestowed by God upon a soul whose motivations in life are pure, selfless, sacrificial and merciful.

Reflect, today, upon what motivates you each and every day. Do you think more about yourself when acting or more about God and others? Hopefully you will discover within your motivation a burning desire to serve others and glorify God in everything you do. But where you do see selfishness, know that this motivation can never fulfill you. Humble yourself by turning your attention to the love of God and the needs of others, and make serving them your exclusive mission. Doing so will result in God lavishing upon you more than you could ever imagine.

# Readings for the Week

- Monday:** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Psalm 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13; Luke 4:16-30
- Tuesday:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; Luke 4:31-37
- Wednesday:** Colossians 1:1-8; Psalm 52:10, 11; Luke 4:38-44
- Thursday:** Colossians 1:9-14; Psalm 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6; Luke 5:1-11
- Friday:** Colossians 1:15-20; Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Luke 5:33-39
- Saturday:** Colossians 1:21-23; Psalm 54:3-4, 6 and 8; Luke 6:1-5
- Sunday:** Wisdom 9:13-18b; Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17; Philemon 9-10, 12-17; Luke 14:25-33

# Liturgical Assignments

- Sunday, September 7, 2025*
- Lectors: Youth
- Servers: All Servers
- Welcome: Ramonda Doakes
- Ushers: Team A
- Eucharistic Ministers: Rose Roos, Katie Stewart, Kirk Thaw, Shirley Thaw

# Offering Reports

<i>Sunday, August 24, 2025</i>	
Regular Offering:	\$3,917.11
Building Fund:	\$250.00
Food Pantry:	\$80.00
Our Lady of Sorrows:	\$3,627.44
Funeral Service:	\$300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,174.55</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.*

### Women's Bible Study



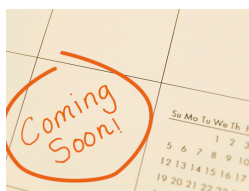
Ladies, please mark your calendars for an amazing opportunity to explore the Word of God together. Our Women's Bible Study group will meet every first and third Saturday from 9:30 to 11:00 am. This is a fantastic chance to grow spiritually and delve into the teachings of the Bible in a supportive and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

### Grief Share 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, September 7th at 10:30 am. This group has a personalized workbook for you to use during your grief journey for a \$20 fee.

### Parish Revival

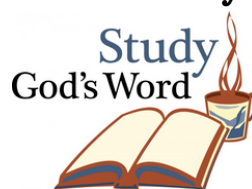


Mark your calendars for an inspiring Parish Revival on September 21st, 22nd, and 23rd! We are excited to welcome Father Kareem Smith, revivalist and president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, from New York. Stay tuned for more details.

### Capital Campaign Update

Join us for an important Capital Campaign Update immediately following Mass on September 14th in Ferguson Hall. Your presence would mean a lot to us, and we warmly encourage everyone to attend as we share exciting developments and vision for our future together!

### 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!

### We Need Your Help



As we continue with our capital campaign we are looking for grant writers. Please notify Elton Lombard, Lawrence Blankinship, Carolyn Greene, Shirley Thaw or Janice Smith if you have that skill. It takes all of our gifts and talents to make this campaign successful.

## Thank You

The family of Mr. Herman Wallace Lovett would like to express sincere appreciation, love, support, and prayers to our entire Saint Monica Church family during our time of grief. May God continue to bless you.

Eric, Burnetta Burtin and Family

## 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, Maxine Harvey, 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), Alvin Brooks, Bettye Young, Don Williams, Deacon Darwin Dupree, Ramonda Doakes, Vincent Alexandria

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@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:ombudsman@diocesekcsj.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 ext. 516 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

### Altar & Rosary Society

President	Treasurer	Secretary
Rosetta Palmer	Crystal Marie Miller	Donna Murff
Paula Nix	Jackie Countee	Remona Miller
Mary Pearson	Angela Curry	Elaine Johnson
Keith Peltier	Beverly Dyer	Cheryl Jones
Rose Roose	Pamela Green	Margaret Jones
Carrie Miller	Pat Williams	Michelle Jones
Kim Urenda	Alma Hughes	Naomi Holt
Ronald Green	Linda Hall	Carolyn Greene
Carol Lewis	Shirley Thaw	Katie Steward
Margaret Sams	Diane Bacchus	
Deborah Scott	Burnetta Burtin	
Phyllis Weaver	Stephanie Broils	
Vickie Shackelford	Dawn Collins	
Annie Marie Lovett	Jenise Comer	
Robin Richardson	Nellie Thompson	
Carmen Johnson	Yvonne Dillahunty	
Chaunceyetta Mize	Sr. Sandra Thibodeaux	

## Calendar of Events this Week

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

9:00 AM Mass  
10:00 AM Dance Rehearsal (S)

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Labor Day

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

9:00 AM Mass  
6:00 PM Prayer Service

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study (STM)  
11:30 AM Choir Rehearsal (S)  
11:30 AM Knights of Peter Claver (FH)  
11:30 AM Ladies of Peter Claver (STM)  
4:00 PM Catholic Women Association (C)