


# Saint Monica Catholic Church

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 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**

**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

**32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### Is There Oil in Your Lamp?

Most of us know the panic of seeing our phone battery turn red just when we need it most. We had every intention of charging it. We simply kept putting it off. Then, when the important call comes, good intentions cannot supply the power we failed to replenish.

In today's Gospel, Jesus presents a far more serious version of that experience. Ten young women take their lamps to meet the bridegroom. All expect to attend the wedding. All grow tired. All fall asleep. But when the bridegroom arrives, only five have enough oil to keep their lamps burning.

Notice that Jesus does not criticize them for sleeping. The difference is preparation. Five brought what they needed to endure the delay. Five assumed that what they already had would be enough.That assumption can quietly become our approach to faith.



We were baptized. We received our First Communion. We were confirmed. We belong to a parish. Perhaps we have served on committees, raised our children Catholic, or occupied the same pew for years. These are meaningful parts of our story. But today Jesus asks an uncomfortable question: Are we still nourishing the relationship those experiences began?

A lamp can look beautiful and still be empty.

We can know the responses at Mass while rarely speaking honestly with God.

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We can defend Church teaching while refusing to forgive someone at home. We can admire generosity while carefully protecting ourselves from its demands. The outward shape of faith may remain even as the flame grows weak.

What, then, replenishes the oil?

The Gospel invites us to consider the daily habits through which we remain close to Christ: prayer, the sacraments, attention to Scripture, repentance, and concrete acts of love. These practices open our hearts to the grace God freely offers. Through them, we learn to recognize his presence and respond to his call.

And they require our personal response. The wise women's refusal to share their oil may sound selfish. Yet some things cannot simply be borrowed at the last minute. Someone else can pray for us, encourage us, and walk beside us. But no one can surrender our hearts to God for us. A grandmother's devotion can inspire our faith; it cannot replace our own yes to Christ.

This is where the parable challenges our favorite spiritual promise: "Someday." Someday I will return to confession. Someday I will make time for prayer. Someday I will reconcile with my brother. Someday I will take my faith seriously. But love continually postponed becomes love continually withheld.

The closed door is a sobering reminder that our opportunities are not endless. Jesus tells us this while there is still time to respond. We hear his warning today as an invitation to begin.

This week, choose one way to replenish your lamp. Spend ten quiet minutes with God each morning. Arrange to celebrate reconciliation. Make the phone call you have avoided. Help someone whose needs have become easy to overlook. Do it before another week disappears beneath your good intentions.

The bridegroom is coming to welcome his people into joy. Our preparation begins in the ordinary choices of today, where grace is already waiting and love is already asking something of us. When Christ calls, will our lamps hold the oil of a relationship we have faithfully nourished?

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

# Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17; John 2:13-22

**Tuesday**: Titus 2:1-8, 11-14; Psalm 37:3-4, 18 and 23, 27 and 29; Luke 17:7-10

**Wednesday**: Titus 3:1-7; Psalm 23:1b-3a, 3bc-4, 5, 6; Luke 17:11-19

**Thursday:** Philemon 7-20; Psalm 146:7, 8-9a, 9bc-10; Luke 17:20-25

**Friday:** 2 John 4-9; Psalm 119:1, 2, 10, 11, 17, 18; Luke 17:26-37

**Saturday**: 3 John 5-8; Psalm 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Luke 18:1-8

**Sunday**: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30 or Matthew 25:14-15, 19-21

# Liturgical Assignments

*Sunday, November 15, 2026*

Lectors: Dwight Miller, Brenda Lofton

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Ernest Collins

Ushers: Team C

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

# Offering Reports

*Sunday, November 1, 2026*

| | |
|---|---|
| Regular Offering: | $5,083.00 |
| Food Pantry: | $145.00 |
| Fundraising Campaign: | $1,642.00 |
| All Souls Day: | $88.00 |
| **Total** | **$6,958.00** |

# Fundraising Campaign Weekly Update

| | |
|---|---|
| Goal | $2,500,000 |
| Total Amount Pledged | $441, 772 |
| Percentage of Goal Pledged | 17.67% |
| Actual Cash Received to Date | $143,041 |

# Announcements

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026**

## Online Auction Fundraiser




Spread the Word! The online auction fundraiser begins on **Saturday, November 14**, and ends **Sunday, November 22** at 9pm. Time to shop for the holidays! Our online auction features something for everyone—shoes, trips, games, TVs, grocery, Amazon and airline gift cards, alcohol, coffee makers, spa, and sooooo much more!!! Go online to view and BID. There's also a raffle fundraiser that begins **Saturday, November 8,** and ends **Sunday, November 22, at 9 PM**. Wouldn't you love to have a chain diamond bracelet or a white sapphire necklace for you or as a fantastic gift? The more raffle tickets you buy, the better your chances of winning! Tickets are $20 each or 3 for $50. Use the QR code to view and BUY! See the church website for the QR code, auction list, and raffle details. You can also visit the website at https:This is a nation-wide auction—please share this with everyone: friends, coworkers, neighbors, relatives, and even strangers. Promote on social media every day! Questions? Contact Shirley Thaw at sthaw@aol.com or (816) 729-3186. Michele Perez, Jackie McGhee-Dunvaut. Let's make this our best fundraiser ever!

## Fundraising Campaign



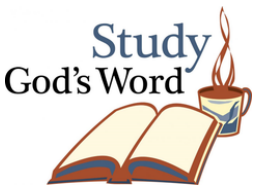

Thank you to all who have already submitted a pledge card for our parish fundraising campaign. If you have not yet participated, pledge cards are available at the back of the church. Please return your completed card in the red collection box. Every gift helps move our parish forward.

## Legion of Mary Meeting



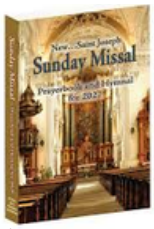
Please join us for the Legion of Mary meetings here at St. Monica every Wednesday at 3:00 PM in the St. Monica building. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please reach out to Rose Palmer, Ramonda Doakes, or Yvonne Dillahunty.

## 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!

## Altar and Rosary Society Annual Fundraiser




Don't miss out on the opportunity to purchase the new 2027 St. Joseph Sunday Missals! The Altar and Rosary Society will be in the vestibule every Sunday starting today until they are all sold. Cost is $5.00. If you have any questions, please see a member of the Altar and Rosary Society. Table will be located in the back of the church.

## 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.

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

# Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald Parson, Cheryl Warren, Chaunceyetta Mize, Rhea Holloman, Melva McClellan, 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, 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, Yesheka Alexander (daughter of James and Mary Alexander), Carolyn Turner, Bernadette Cook, Duane Murff, Luisa Olarte

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

**Black Catholic Implementation Team**

**Co-Leaders**

Jackie Dinvaut  Ernest Collins

Rose Palmer  Alvin Brooks  Jenise Comer
Marilyn Scott  Angela Curry  Shirley Thaw
Melba Myers  Rita Womack  Carrie Miller
Grace Okonta  Sharon Sanders  Jackie Countee
Crystal Miller  Ramonda Doakes
Arimeta Dupree  Vickie Shackelford
Nellie Thompson  Linda Parker Hall

**Most Reverend Jerome Feudjio**



The Catholic Church, guided by its Social Teaching, has always upheld the dignity and rights of every human being, regardless of their immigration status. Our faith teaches us to welcome the stranger and to see Christ in every person, especially those who are vulnerable and marginalized. As it is written in the Gospel according to Matthew, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt 25:35).

# Calendar of Events this Week

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

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|---|---|
| 9:00 AM | Mass |
| 10:00 AM | Dance Rehearsal (S) |
| 10:30 AM | Sunday School (FH) |
| 10:30 AM | OCIA Classes (STM) |
| 3:00 PM | St. Francis African Community (FH) |

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

| | |
|---|---|
| 9:00 AM | Mass |
| 3:00 PM | Legion of Mary Meeting (STM) |
| 6:00 PM | Wednesday Night Prayer (S) |
| 6:00 PM | Parish Council Meeting (STM) |

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

| | |
|---|---|
| 11:30 AM | Altar & Rosary Society (FH) |