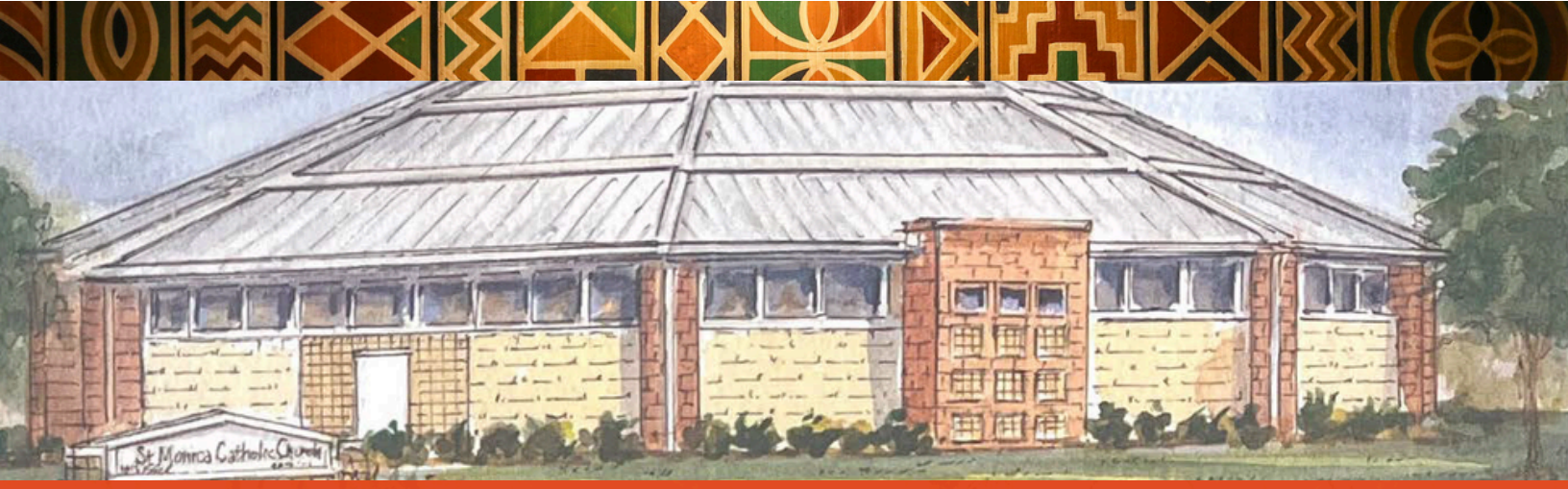


Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

Fr. Leonard Gicheru
Pastor
frleonard@stmonicakc.org

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Biviana Radillo
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Safety Environment Coordinator
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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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Stop Keeping Score

Peter asks Jesus a question many of us have asked: "How often must I forgive?" Peter probably thought he was being generous when he suggested seven times. Most of us might think, "Seven times? After the third time, I would have blocked the person's number!"

But Jesus answers, "Not seven times but seventy-seven times." Jesus is not asking us to carry a notebook and stop forgiving at number seventy-eight. His message is simple: Christians must not keep score. Forgiveness is meant to become a way of life.

To explain this, Jesus tells the story of a servant who owes his king an enormous debt—more than he could ever repay. The servant begs for patience, but the king gives him something even greater: complete forgiveness. The debt is erased.

Yet immediately afterward, this same servant meets a fellow servant who owes him a much smaller amount. Instead of showing mercy, he grabs the man by the throat and demands payment. He has received compassion, but he refuses to offer it.



That is the heart of today's challenge: we cannot ask God for mercy while denying mercy to others.

Every Mass begins with our admission that we have sinned.

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Every time we pray the Our Father, we say, "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." We ask God to treat us in the same way we treat those who have hurt us. Those are serious words.

Forgiveness becomes difficult when the wound is personal. It may involve a family member who betrayed our trust, a friend who spread rumors about us, a spouse who spoke cruelly, a coworker who took credit for our work, or someone who never apologized. We may continue smiling on the outside while replaying the offense inside. We say, "I am over it," yet every time the person's name is mentioned, our blood pressure tells a different story!

Forgiveness does not mean pretending that nothing happened. It does not excuse abuse, remove necessary consequences, or require us to remain in an unsafe relationship. Sometimes healthy boundaries are essential. Forgiveness means refusing to let resentment control our hearts. It means surrendering our desire for revenge and placing justice in God's hands.

We often think refusing to forgive punishes the person who hurt us. In reality, resentment usually imprisons us. The offender may be sleeping peacefully while we are awake at two in the morning arguing with them in our imagination. Forgiveness opens the prison door—and we discover that we were the ones trapped inside.

How can we begin? Start honestly. Tell God exactly what happened and how deeply it hurt. Pray for the willingness to forgive, even if the feelings are not yet there. Stop repeating the story simply to keep the anger alive. If possible and prudent, take one small step toward peace.

We forgive not because the offense was small, but because God's mercy toward us is great. We are the servant whose impossible debt has been canceled. Having received such mercy, how can we seize another person by the throat?

This week, ask yourself: Whose name still makes my heart tighten? Perhaps that is the person Jesus is inviting me to release. Forgiveness may take time, prayer, and repeated decisions. But each time we choose mercy, we become a little more like the merciful King who first forgave us.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Numbers 21:4b-9; Psalm 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38; Philippians 2:6-11; John 3:13-17

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31a; Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; John 19:25-27

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13; Psalm 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22; Luke 7:31-35

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Psalm 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28; Luke 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Psalm 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b, 15; Luke 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Corinthians 15:35-37, 42-49; Psalm 56:10c-12, 13-14; Luke 8:4-15

Sunday: Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a; Matthew 20:1-16a

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Lectors: Phaedra Lombard, Elton Lombard

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Jackie McGhee-Dinvaut

Ushers: Team C

Eucharistic Ministers: Rose Palmer, Lydia Ramirez, Rose Roos, Katie Stewart, Pat Williams, Rita Womack

Offering Reports

Sunday, September 6, 2026

Regular Offering:	$6,630.00
Fundraising Campaign:	$832.00
Food Pantry:	$50.00
Funeral:	$400.00
Total	**$7,912.00**

Fundraising Campaign Weekly Update

Goal	$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	$425,872
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.45%
Actual Cash Received to Date	$128,517

Announcements

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

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.

Help Update Our Records



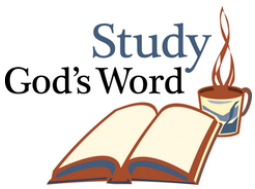
Please help us keep our records accurate by updating your contact information or personal details. Whether you've moved, changed your phone number or email, or experienced significant life changes, prompt communication ensures we can provide relevant support. Reach out to us at (816) 471-3696 or via email at bradillo@stmonicakc.org. Thank you for your cooperation!

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.

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!

Legion of Mary Meeting



Please join us for the Legion of Mary meetings here at St. Monica every Wednesday at 4:00 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.

MARGARET JONES CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF LIFE

THE JONES & RELIFORD FAMILY
WOULD LIKE TO INVITE:
THE SAINT MONICA CHURCH FAMILY
IN CELEBRATING
MARGARET JONES 90TH BIRTHDAY
IN FERGUSON HALL
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
FOLLOWING THE 9:00AM MASS

"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

Finance Council

Janice Smith-**Chair**
Stacey Lewis
Ernest Collins
Fr. Leonard Gicheru

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.

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

9:00 AM	Mass
10:00 AM	Sunday School Kickoff
10:30 AM	RCIA Classes (STM)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

9:00 AM	Mass
4:00 PM	Legion of Mary Meeting
6:00 PM	Wednesday Night Prayer (S)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

9:00 AM	Lesia Jones Memorial Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

9:30 AM	Women's Bible Study (STM)