



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 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

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Take My Yoke Upon You

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest... Take my yoke upon you and learn from me." (Matthew 11:28-29)

At first glance, Jesus' words seem contradictory. He invites the weary and burdened to come to Him for rest, and then immediately speaks about taking His yoke. The last thing a tired and overwhelmed person wants is a yoke! When we are exhausted, stressed, grieving, or weighed down by life's struggles, we are not looking for something else to carry. We are looking for relief. We want something that lifts us up, not something that weighs us down.

So why does Jesus speak of a yoke?

To understand His words, we need to understand the image Jesus is using. In ancient farming, a yoke was a wooden beam placed over two animals so they could work together. Often, a young and inexperienced animal was yoked to an older, stronger, and more experienced one. The stronger animal carried most of the weight and guided the weaker one.

This changes everything.

Jesus is not inviting us to carry another burden by ourselves. He is inviting us to be yoked to Him.



continued on page 2



He is saying, “You don’t have to do this alone anymore. Walk with Me. Let Me carry what you cannot carry. Let Me guide you.”

How many of us try to carry our burdens alone? We carry the weight of family problems, financial worries, loneliness, disappointments, illnesses, grief, and fears about the future. We carry guilt from our past and anxieties about tomorrow. We tell ourselves that we have to be strong and figure everything out on our own.

Yet the Christian life was never meant to be lived alone.

The greatest burden many of us carry is not our circumstances but our stubborn independence. We often want Jesus to remove our burdens while still remaining in control of our lives. We want His peace without surrender. We want His comfort without discipleship. But rest comes not from escaping the yoke; it comes from sharing the yoke with Christ.

His yoke is different because He is different.

He tells us, “For I am gentle and humble of heart.” The world often places heavy burdens upon us—expectations, pressures, competition, and endless demands. Christ, however, never crushes us. His presence strengthens us. His guidance brings peace. His love gives us hope.

The irony of the Gospel is this: when we surrender our burdens to Christ and allow ourselves to be yoked to Him, we actually become lighter. The burdens that once seemed impossible become manageable because we are no longer carrying them alone. He is carrying them with us—and often for us.

Perhaps today Jesus is asking each of us a simple question: “Why are you still struggling by yourself?” Bring your worries to Him. Bring your fears, your failures, your disappointments, and your weariness. Step into His yoke. Walk beside Him. Trust His strength more than your own. For the One who invites us to take His yoke is also the One who promises, “I will give you rest.” And there is no greater comfort than knowing that our Savior never asks us to carry anything alone.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Hosea 2:16, 17c-18, 21-22; Psalm 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Matthew 9:18-26

Tuesday: Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13; Psalm 115:3-4, 5-6, 7ab-8, 9-10; Matthew 9:32-38

Wednesday: Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12; Psalm 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Matthew 10:1-7

Thursday: Hosea 11:1-4, 8e-9; Psalm 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16; Matthew 10:7-15

Friday: Hosea 14:2-10; Psalm 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-13, 14, 17; Matthew 10:16-23

Saturday: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; Matthew 10:24-33

Sunday: Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalm 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Lectors: Elton Lombard, Phaedra Lombard

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Sharon Hardy

Ushers: Team B

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

Offering Reports

Sunday, June 28, 2026

Regular Offering:	\$4,521.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$2,390.00
Food Pantry:	\$115.00
Total	\$7,026.00

Fundraising Campaign Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$425,872
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.03%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$108,888

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!

Women's Bible Study



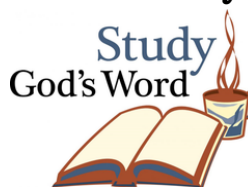
Ladies, please mark your calendars for an amazing opportunity to explore the Word of God together. Our Women's Bible Study group will meet every first and third Saturday from 9:30 to 11:00 am. This is a fantastic chance to grow spiritually and delve into the teachings of the Bible in a supportive and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

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!

Your Vote Matters



St. Monica is hosting Kansas City Catholics Addressing Racism "Conversation" on Thursday, July 16. 6:30pm. This "Conversation" is about how YOUR VOTE matters. Learn what's on the ballot. We'll discuss each amendment and learn how it affects you individually. Our very own, Jenise Comer, is one of the 3 conversationalists. If you haven't registered, it's not too late! You may do so at this event. We look forward to seeing you and a friend.



Juneteenth Parking Lot Campaign Fundraiser

WE RAISED \$1,000.00

Thank you to our energetic and enthusiastic volunteers who helped greet, served as Ambassadors, directed parking and traffic, and collected parking fees:

Jenny Gillis	Ernest Collins	Pam Green
Rose Roos	Dawn Collins	Don Williams
Duane Murff	Kirk Thaw	Patricia Williams
Mike Hughes	Shirley Thaw	Carolyn Greene
Deborah Scott	Liley Villazan	Elton Lombard
Quiana Spero	Juan Villazan	Jackie Dinvaut
Carrie Miller	Crystal Miller	Ryan Dinvaut
Cheryl Jones	Donna Murff	Elaine Johnson
Kim Urenda	Ronald Green	Jeanette Countee

"A CHURCH ALIVE IS WORTH THE DRIVE!"

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, 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 Council Members

Carolyn Greene	Chairperson
Duane Murff	Vice-Chairperson
Kim Urenda	Secretary
Father Leonard Gicheru	
Robin Richardson	
Vincent Alexandria	
Vickie Shackelford	
Teresa Johnson	

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, JULY 5

9:00 AM Mass

MONDAY, JULY 6

TUESDAY, JULY 7

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

9:00 AM Mass

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Prayer (S)

THURSDAY, JULY 9

FRIDAY, JULY 10

SATURDAY, JULY 11

11:30 AM Altar & Rosary (FH)

11:30 AM Knights of Peter Claver Council
#57 (STM)