



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 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

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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

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

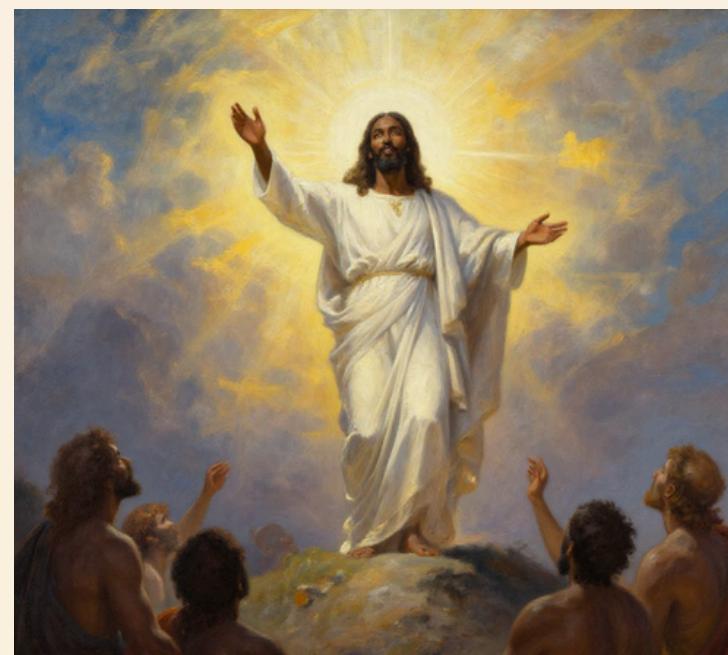
The Beatitudes: The Strange Road to Real Happiness

The Beatitudes are some of the most quoted words of Jesus—and some of the most quietly ignored. Not because we dislike them, but because we silently wonder, “Lord... were You serious?”

Think about it: Jesus stands on a mountain and announces that the people we usually pity are actually the blessed ones. The poor, the grieving, the meek, the merciful, the persecuted—these are His VIPs. If someone tried to sell that message in modern advertising, it wouldn’t get past the first marketing meeting.

Yet Jesus isn’t joking, exaggerating, or being poetic. He is giving us God’s roadmap to real happiness—not the kind that depends on money, success, popularity, or comfort—but the kind that comes from being aligned with the heart of God.

And that’s exactly why the Beatitudes challenge us so much. They demand that we re-examine what “the good life” looks like. For most people, the “good life” means having everything under control: finances stable, relationships smooth, health good, reputation intact, and maybe a vacation once in a while.



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But Jesus suggests that being “blessed” may look more like trusting God when you have nothing left to lean on, seeking justice when it costs you social approval, forgiving when you’d rather hold a grudge, or staying gentle in a world that rewards loudness and aggression.

In real life, we see this all the time. The most joyful people are not necessarily the wealthiest or most comfortable. Sometimes they are the cancer patient who encourages others in the hospital waiting room. Or the grandmother who prays quietly for her family every night. Or the teenager who refuses to join in on bullying. Or the man who tells the truth at work even when it jeopardizes his promotion. They are blessed not because life is easy, but because their lives reflect the values of Jesus.

Of course, living the Beatitudes is not glamorous. There are no trophies for meekness, no award shows for mercy, and no viral TikToks celebrating persecution. If anything, the Beatitudes feel like the anti-resume of the world.

And yet, what Jesus is doing is genius. He is telling us that the world is not the final judge of success—God is. That means if you are overlooked, God sees it. If you are hurting, God comforts. If you refuse to compromise, God honors it. If you take a hit for doing the right thing, God counts it as victory.

The secret ingredient of the Beatitudes is this: they are not commands, they are invitations. Jesus is not scolding us—He is inviting us to live a freedom that no circumstances can steal.

So yes, the Beatitudes are challenging. They poke at our pride, humble our egos, and stretch our love. But interestingly enough, they also rescue us from the exhausting project of trying to look perfect, win every argument, and pretend we are in control.

Because at the end of the day, Jesus doesn’t say “Blessed are the impressive.” He says “Blessed are the faithful.”

And that is a path every one of us can walk—starting today.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Psalm 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mark 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17; Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7; Mark 6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chronicles 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd; Mark 6:7-13

Friday: Sirach 47:2-11; Psalm 18:31, 47 and 50, 51; Mark 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kings 3:4-13; Psalm 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; Mark 6:30-34

Sunday: Isaiah 58:7-10; Psalm 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Lectors: Ramonda Doakes, Rita Womack

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Contact Parish Office

Ushers: Team B

Eucharistic Ministers: Lydia Ramirez, Rose Roos, Katie Stewart, Kirk Thaw, Shirley Thaw, Pat Williams

Offering Reports

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Regular Offering:	\$0
Food Pantry:	\$0
Fundraising Campaign:	\$0
Total	\$0

(Collections not counted due to poor weather conditions and low attendance.)

Fundraising Campaign Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$410,952
Percentage of Goal Pledged	16.44%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$30,968

Announcements

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 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.

Legion of Mary Meeting



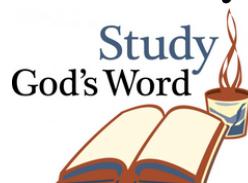
Please join us for the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Kibeho/Our Lady of Sorrows Praesidium meetings every Monday at 4 PM at Our Lady of Sorrows, except on the last Monday of the month, when we meet at 4 PM here at St. Monica in the St. Monica building. Your presence will be greatly appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you

Thank You to the more than 400 people who joined us for our 4th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Service and Day of Service. The overwhelming participation and support for this annual event was filled with love and caring and blessed us and all who attended. We are so grateful and have already started planning for next year to make this day even bigger and better. Thank you. Be blessed and be a blessing.

St. Therese Little Flower Parish

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!

You Are Invited



Diocesan Council
of Catholic Women
Kansas City - St. Joseph

We invite you to attend 'Seeing Jesus Through the Eyes of Women,' a DCCW Retreat for all women of the Diocese.

Join us on Saturday, February 7th, from 10 am to 4 pm, followed by an optional Mass at 4:30 pm at St. Bernadette Church, 9020 E. 51st Terrace, KCMO 64133. There is a \$25.00 registration fee, which includes lunch, drinks, and snacks. Please register by January 15th. Mail a check made out to DCCW, along with your name, phone number, and email address, to Linda Lysakowski at 12708 E 62 Ct, Kansas City, MO 64133-4568. Bring a friend (be sure to register her) and bring a written quotation from a favorite saint or holy woman. We will hang your quotation on our Tree of Saintly Women

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.

“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), Jubilatee 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

Parish Executive Leadership

Janice Smith
Carolyn Greene
Shirley Thaw

Lawrence Blankinship
Elton Lombard
Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Thea Bowman



I think the difference between me and some people is that I'm content to do my little bit. Sometimes people think they have to do big things in order to make change. But if each one would light a candle, we'd have a tremendous light.

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

9:00 AM Mass
10:00 AM KPC Breakfast
10:30 AM Catechumen Class (STM)
10:30 AM BCIT Meeting (CR)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

9:00 AM Mass
6:00 PM Prayer Service

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

9:00 AM Funeral (S & FH)

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