



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 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

From our Pastor

Feast of Baptism of the Lord: Remember Who You Are

Every year, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord brings us to the banks of the Jordan River, where something quietly revolutionary happens. Jesus steps into the water. No thunder yet. No miracles. No preaching. Just Jesus, standing in line with sinners, asking John to baptize Him.

John is understandably confused. "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" In other words: This doesn't make sense. And John is right—at least by human logic. Jesus has no sin to wash away. He doesn't need repentance. Yet Jesus insists: "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."

Why does this matter? Because in this moment, Jesus teaches us what baptism truly means. Baptism is not first about what we do for God; it is about who we become in God.

When Jesus rises from the water, the heavens open. The Spirit descends like a dove. And the Father speaks: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Notice the order. Before Jesus preaches a sermon, heals a sick person, or dies on the cross, the Father declares His identity. Jesus is loved—not because of achievement, but because of relationship.

The Baptism of The Lord



Art: JESUS MAFA

continued on page 2

That same truth applies to us. At our baptism, the heavens opened over our lives too—perhaps not visibly, but truly. God claimed us as His own. Baptism is not a spiritual decoration or a childhood memory to be framed and forgotten. It is a lifelong identity. To be baptized is to be named: *beloved son, beloved daughter.*

This is where the challenge comes in. Many of us live as if baptism were something in our past instead of the foundation of our present. We define ourselves by our failures, our successes, our titles, our regrets, or what others think of us. But baptism tells a different story. Before we are workers, parents, leaders, retirees, or sinners trying to do better—we are beloved.

And yet baptism is not passive. Jesus does not remain in the Jordan forever. He comes up from the water and immediately begins His mission. Baptism launches Him into the wilderness, into ministry, into sacrifice. In the same way, our baptism commissions us. It calls us to live differently, love boldly, forgive generously, and resist the temptation to blend quietly into a culture that often forgets God.

To be baptized is to say: *My life no longer belongs only to me.* Every time we bless ourselves with holy water, we are reminded of this truth. We are reminded that we have died with Christ and risen with Him. That we are not self-made people, but God-claimed people. That holiness is not reserved for saints on stained glass windows, but expected of ordinary believers living ordinary lives with extraordinary faith.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord invites us to ask a simple but demanding question: **Do I live like someone who knows they are beloved?**

Because when we remember who we are, we begin to live as we should. And that is the real power of baptism—not just water on the skin, but identity written on the heart.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Samuel 1:1-8; Psalm 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19; Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Samuel 1:9-20; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Psalm 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Mark 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Samuel 4:1-11; Psalm 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mark 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Psalm 89:16-17, 18-19; Mark 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Psalm 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mark 2:13-17

Sunday: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, January 18, 2025

Lectors: Elton Lombard, Phaedra Lombard

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Contact Parish Office

Ushers: Team C

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Charity, Dawn Collins, Bernadette Cook, Angela Curry, Arimeta Dupree, Mary Graham

Offering Reports

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Regular Offering:	\$ 6,908.00
Building Fund:	\$ 665.00
Food Pantry:	\$ 255.00
Christmas Offering:	\$ 87.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$ 555.00
Miscellaneous:	\$ 787.50
Total	\$ 9,257.50

Fundraising Campaign Weekly Update

Goal	\$ 2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$ 406,092
Percentage of Goal Pledged	16.24%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$ 16,090

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



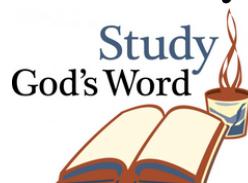
Please join us for the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Kibeho/Our Lady of Sorrows Praesidium meetings every Monday at 4 PM at Our Lady of Sorrows, except on the last Monday of the month, when we meet at 4 PM here at St. Monica in the St. Monica building. Your presence will be greatly appreciated, and we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

Help Update our Records



We've recently observed that a number of our parishioners may have outdated contact information on file. If you're unsure whether we have your most current details or if you've made any recent changes, we invite you to reach out to our parish office at 816-471-3696, or you can email Biviana directly at bradillo@stmonicakc.org. Your connection is important to us, and we want to ensure we stay in touch! Thank you for helping us keep our records up to date.

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.

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), Lynn Williams, 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

Praise Dancer Ministry

Leader/Choreographer
Marilyn Scott

Cathy Johnson	Ann Suellentrop
Terese Brown	Keva Alexander
Mauriah Francis	Nylia Russell
Vickie Shackelford	Allison McDonald
Arimeta Dupree	Latrice Johnson
Iia Dupree	Jordan Johnson
Dalice Dupree	Jersey Johnson
Phaedra Lombard	Jamie Johnson
Diana Alexandria	Kalesha Brown
Marsha Willis	Janet Henry
Emily Elizabeth Willis	Kendra Kemp McGee

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

9:00 AM Mass
10:30 AM Dance Rehearsal (S)
10:30 AM BCIT Meeting (STM)

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

9:00 AM Mass
6:00 PM Prayer Service
6:00 PM Parish Council Meeting (STM)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

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

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