



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

Fr. Leonard Gicheru
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frleonard@stmonicakc.org

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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

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Faith That Refuses to Give Up

There is something wonderfully stubborn about the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel. She comes to Jesus carrying the pain of a mother whose daughter is suffering. She cries out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David!" But at first, Jesus says nothing.

Silence.

Most of us do not handle silence very well, especially when we are praying. We pray once, twice, maybe three times, and then begin checking heaven as though we are tracking a delayed package: "Lord, did you receive my request? Was it delivered? Did somebody sign for it?"

The Canaanite woman receives no immediate answer, but she does not leave. Then things become even more difficult. The disciples want her sent away. Jesus tells her that his mission is first to the lost sheep of Israel. Still, she does not leave. She comes closer, kneels before him, and says perhaps one of the simplest and most powerful prayers in Scripture: "Lord, help me."

And when Jesus gives her another difficult response, she does something remarkable. She does not become angry. She does not argue about what she deserves. She does not walk away offended.



continued on page 2



She takes his words and turns them into an expression of faith: “Even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters.” In other words, she is saying, “Lord, even the smallest thing that comes from you is enough for me.”

That is faith.

Faith is not believing only when everything goes our way. Faith is continuing to trust when God seems silent. Faith keeps praying when the answer is delayed. Faith remains close to Jesus when life becomes confusing.

Many of us are carrying prayers that have not yet been answered. We pray for children who have wandered from the Church and from the faith. We pray for healing. We pray for marriages, employment, peace in our families, freedom from addiction, financial stability, or reconciliation with someone we love.

After praying for a long time, we can become tired. We may begin to wonder, “Lord, are you listening?”

Today, the Canaanite woman tells us: **Do not walk away too quickly.** Sometimes the greatest growth in faith happens between the prayer and the answer. The woman begins the Gospel crying from a distance. By the end, she is kneeling at the feet of Jesus. Her struggle has actually brought her closer to him.

And Jesus finally says something every believer would love to hear: “O woman, great is your faith!” Notice that Jesus does not praise her education, her background, her status, or even the perfection of her prayer. He praises her faith.

Perhaps that is the challenge for us this week. Is our faith strong only when life is easy? Or can we continue trusting when heaven seems silent? When God seems quiet, keep praying. When the door seems closed, keep knocking. When others tell you to give up, stay close to Jesus. And when you do not know what else to say, borrow the prayer of this courageous woman: “Lord, help me.”

Sometimes three words spoken with faith are more powerful than three pages of perfect prayers. The Canaanite woman teaches us that genuine faith does not easily give up. It holds on to Christ until fear becomes trust, discouragement becomes hope, and even the smallest crumbs of grace become more than enough.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Ezekiel 24:15-23; Deuteronomy 32:18-19, 20, 21; Matthew 19:16-22

Tuesday: Ezekiel 28:1-10; Deuteronomy 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab; Matthew 19:23-30

Wednesday: Ezekiel 34:1-11; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Matthew 20:1-16

Thursday: Ezekiel 36:23-28; Psalm 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Matthew 22:1-14

Friday: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Matthew 22:34-40

Saturday: Ezekiel 43:1-7ab; Psalm 85:9ab, 10, 11-12, 13-14 ; Matthew 23:1-12

Sunday: Isaiah 22:19-23; Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, August 23, 2026

Lectors: Deborah Scott, Dwight Miller

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Jackie McGhee-Dinvaut

Ushers: Team D

Eucharistic Ministers: Katie Stewart, Pat Williams, Rita Womack, Kirk Thaw, Shirley Thaw, Stephanie Broils

Offering Reports

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Regular Offering: \$2,990.00

Fundraising Campaign: \$1,144.00

Food Pantry: \$225.00

Total \$4,359.00

Fundraising Campaign

Weekly Update

Goal \$2,500,000

Total Amount Pledged \$425,872

Percentage of Goal Pledged 17.03%

Actual Cash Received to Date \$122,607

St. Monica Day Celebration



Mark your calendars for St. Monica Day Weekend, August 29-30! The weekend will kick off with a Health and Wellness Event on Saturday,

August 29, from 10 am to 12 pm and will commence with a Spiritual Wellness celebration at the 9 am Mass on August 30th. Please invite your friends and family, and remember to wear your African attire to Sunday Mass.

Silent Auction



To help reach our fundraising goal, the Stewardship Committee is hosting a Silent Auction this fall. Our next meeting will be held immediately

after Mass on Sunday, August 23rd, in Ferguson Hall. Please prayerfully consider joining us—everyone is welcome!

Religious Education



Religious Education will begin in September, and we are currently looking for parishioners who are willing to help with this important ministry. There are still a

few grade levels that need volunteers. If you feel called to share your faith and help form the next generation of our parish, please stop by the table at the back of the church after Mass and see what grade level you may be able to assist with. For those who will be working with our children, VIRTUS training and the required Missouri Mandated Reporter training will be offered. Please prayerfully consider giving your time and talents to this vital ministry of our parish. Your presence can make a meaningful difference in the faith formation of our children and young people.

Mission Appeal at St. Monica



Next Sunday, August 23, we will hear from Fr. Aloysius Kasoma of the Diocese of Masaka, Uganda, as he makes a Mission Appeal on behalf of his community. Due to current

travel restrictions related to an Ebola outbreak in the region, Fr. Aloysius is unable to be with us in person, but he will share his appeal with us from Uganda. This year's appeal will support the construction of a science laboratory for a Catholic high school in Uganda, providing students with much-needed opportunities for practical learning in biology, chemistry, and physics. Fr. Aloysius expresses his deep gratitude to the parishioners of St. Monica for their generous support over the years. Through your past contributions, his community has been able to construct girls' and boys' dormitories and complete a vital water project. Please prayerfully consider supporting this important mission next weekend. Thank you for your continued prayers, generosity, and solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Uganda.



ST. MONICA MUSEUM
of Black Catholic Culture & History

Capturing The Black Catholic Experience

The St. Monica Museum of Black Catholic Culture & History will be coordinating video tapings to capture and permanently preserve meaningful stories, events, information, and memories that reflect the Black Catholic experience. Initially, the focus for the oral history project will be for the time period prior to 1960. If you or someone you know has memories or information about churches, schools, priests, nuns, meaningful experiences, etc. that occurred prior to the year 1960, we would like to hear from you. Ultimately, the Museum will seek information that captures the Black Catholic experience, not just in Kansas City, but nationwide and worldwide. Please contact Alvin Brooks, Jackie Dinvaute, or Lawrence Blankinship for more information.

"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, 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, Bernadette Cook

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

Stewardship Committee

Lawrence Blankinship
M. Jenise Comer
Fr. Leonard Gicheru
Carolyn Greene
Shirley Thaw
Jackie Dinvaut

Chair
Recorder
Kenneth Bacchus
David Barnes
Alvin Brooks
Angela Curry

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, AUGUST 16

9:00 AM Mass
10:45 AM Evangelization Meeting (STM)

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

4:00 PM Legion of Mary Meeting

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

9:00 AM Mass
6:00 PM Wednesday Night Prayer (S)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

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