



# Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

## Parish Staff

Fr. Leonard Gicheru  
Pastor  
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dawn2127@hotmail.com

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Ramonda Doakes  
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Safety Environment Coordinator  
rdoakes@stmonicakc.org

Rita Womack  
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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

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

### Seeing with the Eyes of Faith

The Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Lent (John 9:1-41) tells the powerful story of a man born blind whom Jesus heals. At first glance, it appears to be simply a miracle story. But when we look more deeply, we discover that it is really about **two kinds of sight**: physical sight and spiritual sight.

At the beginning of the story, the disciples ask Jesus a question that many people still ask today when they encounter suffering: "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" In their minds, someone must be to blame. Suffering must be punishment. But Jesus rejects that way of thinking. Instead, He says something that completely changes the perspective: "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him."

Jesus then heals the man in an unusual way. He makes clay with His saliva, places it on the man's eyes, and tells him to wash in the Pool of Siloam. The man obeys, washes, and returns able to see. Yet surprisingly, the real drama of the story begins after the miracle.

The neighbors are confused. The Pharisees are suspicious. The man's parents are afraid.

Instead of rejoicing at the miracle, many people begin arguing about it. The religious leaders interrogate the man again and again. They cannot accept the possibility that Jesus could be from God, especially because the healing took place on the Sabbath.



"The Man Born Blind" Original painting by: Ronald Raab, CSC

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The more the Pharisees question him, however, the clearer the healed man's faith becomes.

At first, he simply says that "**the man called Jesus**" healed him. Later, he boldly declares that Jesus must be a prophet. Eventually he defends Jesus openly, even challenging the Pharisees themselves. Finally, when Jesus meets him again and asks, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" the man responds with a beautiful confession of faith: "**I do believe, Lord.**" And he worships Him.

The irony of this Gospel is striking. The man who was blind begins to see both physically and spiritually. Meanwhile, those who claim to be spiritual experts become more and more blind. Jesus ends the encounter with a powerful teaching: "I came into this world so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

This statement challenges us during this Lenten season. Many of us assume we see clearly. We believe we understand faith, morality, and the way life should be lived. But the Gospel reminds us that **true vision begins with humility**. Only those who admit their blindness can receive the light Christ offers.

Spiritual blindness can take many forms.

Sometimes it is the blindness of pride, when we believe we are always right.

Sometimes it is the blindness of indifference, when we fail to notice the suffering around us.

Sometimes it is the blindness of habitual sin, which slowly dulls our ability to recognize God's presence.

Lent invites us to allow Christ to touch our eyes and restore our vision. Through prayer, fasting, and charity, we begin to see more clearly what truly matters: God, our neighbor, and the call to conversion. In a special way, the Sacrament of Reconciliation helps remove the blindness of sin and allows us to experience the light of Christ once again.

Like the man in the Gospel, each of us has a story of healing to tell. Perhaps we cannot explain everything about faith. But if Christ has touched our lives, we can say what the healed man said with conviction: "**One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I see.**"

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Isaiah 65:17-21; Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b; John 4:43-54

**Tuesday:** Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; John 5:1-16

**Wednesday:** Isaiah 49:8-15; Psalm 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; John 5:17-30

**Thursday:** 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a

**Friday:** Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; Psalm 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Saturday:** Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; John 7:40-53

**Sunday:** Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45 or John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

## Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Lectors: Rose Palmer, Rita Womack

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Peter Callan

Ushers: Team D

Eucharistic Ministers: Shirley Barber, Stephanie Broils, Terese Brown, Gerald Buckman, Diane Charity, Dawn Collins

## Offering Reports

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Regular Offering:	\$5,224.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$1,046.00
Building Fund:	\$225.00
Social Services:	\$265.00
Second Collection:	\$4.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,764.00</b>

## Fundraising Campaign

### Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$425,256
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.01%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$69,562

## 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!

## Seder Meal



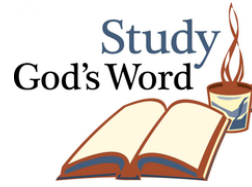
Celebrate the Seder Meal with us in Ferguson Hall on April 1 at 6:00 PM. Reserve your spot with a \$20 prepaid donation, collected after Mass

starting today and on the following Sundays. We're seeking volunteers for set-up, serving, and clean up—your help will make this evening meaningful. To RSVP or volunteer, please see Donna Murff after Mass.

### 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.*

## 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!

## Stations of The Cross



Join us every Friday during Lent at 6 PM in the Church to pray the Stations of the Cross. Let us come together in faith and reflection for this meaningful devotion.

## Silent Auction



In an effort to support our fundraising goal, the Stewardship Committee is hosting a SILENT AUCTION this fall. We are looking for fundraising gurus to join the auction committee. We will have a strategy meeting directly after mass on Sunday, March 22nd. in Ferguson Hall. Please pray fully and consider joining our efforts. We know you have lots of ideas!!!

## Holy Week Mass Schedule

### April 1st

6:00 PM Seder Meal

### April 2nd

6:00 PM Holy Thursday

### April 3rd

6:00 PM Good Friday

### April 4th

8:00 PM Holy Saturday

### April 5th

10:00 AM Easter Sunday

## 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, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org) for more information.

**Safety Environment Coordinator for St. Monica Parish -  
Ramonda Doakes, P-(816) 457- 5538, E- [rdoakes@stmonicakc.org](mailto:rdoakes@stmonicakc.org)**

## Leadership Corner

### Hospitality Usher Ministry

#### Coordinators

Kim Urenda	Mary Pearison
Mary Alexander	Charles Nzali
Stephanie Broils	Erin Pullen
Arimeta Dupree	Katie Steward
Carolyn Greene	Vicki Schackelford
De'Trice Green	Anson Taitt
Elaine Johnson	Shirley Thaw
Phaedra Lombard	Don Williams, Sr.
Alphonse Mendy	

## Calendar of Events this Week

### SUNDAY, MARCH 15

9:00 AM	Mass
10:00 AM	Dance Rehearsal
10:30 AM	OCIA Class (STM)
10:30 AM	BCIT Meeting (FH)
10:45 AM	GriefShare Group (CH)

### MONDAY, MARCH 16

### TUESDAY, MARCH 17

St. Patrick's Day 🍀

7:00 AM	Evergy (PL)
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### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

9:00 AM	Mass
6:00 PM	Prayer Service

### THURSDAY, MARCH 19

### FRIDAY, MARCH 20

### SATURDAY, MARCH 21

9:30 AM	Women's Bible Study (STM)
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\*If you do not see your event listed, please contact the parish office at (816) 471-3696