



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 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

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pray Without Ceasing: The Power of Persistent Faith

This Sunday's Gospel presents one of Jesus' most vivid parables—the story of a persistent widow and an unjust judge. The widow's tireless pleading for justice eventually wears down the judge, who admits that though he neither fears God nor respects man, he will grant her request “lest she finally come and strike me.” Jesus tells this story not to compare God to the unjust judge, but to contrast them. If even a corrupt, indifferent man can be moved by persistence, how much more will our loving Father respond to the cries of His children!

Jesus introduces this parable “to show the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary.” Prayer is not an optional act for the believer—it is the lifeline of our faith. Through prayer, we remain rooted in God's presence, attentive to His will, and strengthened for daily trials. It is through prayer that our relationship with God grows from ritual to intimacy, from mere words to deep communion.

Yet, Jesus knows how easily we grow weary. Life often tests our patience and faith—when our prayers seem unanswered, when suffering persists, when injustice prevails. In those moments, we may wonder: Does God hear me? The parable reminds us that faith is not proven by how quickly prayers are answered but by our steadfastness in praying even when the answer delays.



continued on page 2



The widow’s perseverance teaches us that authentic faith endures silence. Her persistence springs from deep trust—she believes justice will come, even if not immediately. In the same way, prayer is less about changing God’s mind and more about shaping our hearts. Persistent prayer purifies our desires, aligns us with God’s timing, and strengthens us to bear what we cannot change.

Jesus’ haunting question at the end—“When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?”—turns the parable inward. Do we still believe in God’s goodness when our prayers are delayed? Do we still trust His love when life feels unfair? Faith that endures through silence is the faith that transforms us.

In today’s fast-paced culture, where instant results are prized, the call to “pray always” challenges our impatience. True discipleship requires the long obedience of faith—a rhythm of hope that refuses to quit. Persistent prayer is not nagging God but standing firm in relationship with Him, knowing that His justice and mercy never fail.

So, let us be like the widow—unyielding in prayer, confident that God’s silence is never His absence. Every prayer we offer—whether whispered in despair, shouted in anger, or spoken in gratitude—is gathered in His heart. And though justice may seem delayed, it will surely come, “speedily,” says the Lord, in His perfect time.

May our perseverance in prayer deepen our faith, sustain our hope, and make us witnesses of God’s unchanging love in a weary world.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Romans 4:20-25; Luke 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75; Luke 12:13-21

Tuesday: Romans 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Psalm 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17; Luke 12:35-38

Wednesday: Romans 6:12-18; Psalm 124:b-3, 4-6, 7-8; Luke 12:39-48

Thursday: Romans 6:19-23; Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Luke 12:49-53

Friday: Romans 7:18-25a; Psalm 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94; Luke 12:54-59

Saturday: Romans 8:1-11; Psalm 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Luke 13:1-9

Sunday: Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18; Psalm 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Lectors: Gerald Buckman, Darthene Buckman

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Arimeta Dupree

Ushers: Team D

Eucharistic Ministers: Felicia Menefee, Crystal Miller, Dianna Miller, Paula Nix, Rose Palmer, Lydia Ramirez

Offering Reports

Sunday, October 12, 2025

Regular Offering: \$7,845.00

Food Pantry: \$280.00

Building Fund: \$35.00

Our Lady of Sorrows: \$7,331.80

Total \$15,491.80

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.

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 mstpaula.pn@gmail.com.

Save the Date



Save the Date! November is Black Catholic History Month and we'll celebrate each Sunday led by or with a focus on various ministries or organizations.

On November 2nd, Bishop Johnston will join us for Mass. So, we'll kick things off in grand style on November 2nd, and we'll have the group Africa Rising with us on the 1st and third Sunday, plus a special focus with our youth making a presentation on a Sunday in November as well. Mark your calendars, the entire month of November will be really important for us at St. Monica, and we'd like to see how many parishioners and visitors we can have, especially on November 2nd.

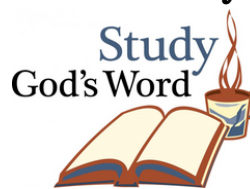
Join Our Choir



St. Monica Music Ministry has been invited to help build a 100-voice Interfaith/Multi-Cultural choir for an upcoming music video and documentary. If you're

interested in singing or would like more information, please see Marilyn Scott or Melvin Kerr. The first rehearsal is scheduled for Saturday, November 1, and filming will take place on Saturday, December 6, in the sanctuary. Please note that there will be a maximum of two rehearsals before the filming. To participate, you must sign a release form and attend the rehearsal(s).

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!

Spaghetti Dinner



Join the Little Sisters of the Poor for their Annual Spaghetti Dinner! Enjoy delicious homemade spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread, dessert, and a

drink. Eat here or take it to go Sunday, November 9th from 11 am to 4 pm. Adult meals \$15. Kid's meals (3-10 years) \$8. While you're here, browse our bake sale and craft sale, then try your luck in our 50/50 Raffle or Silent Auction. All proceeds benefit our Home for the elderly. Call 816-761-4744 or visit our website at www.littlesistersofthepoorkansascity.org for more information.

Help Update Our Records



Please help us keep our records accurate by updating your contact information or personal details. Whether you've moved, changed your phone

number or email, or experienced significant life changes, prompt communication ensures we can provide relevant support. Reach out to us at (816) 471-3696 or via email at bradillo@stmonicakc.org. Thank you for your cooperation!

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, Vincent Alexandria

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

Bereavement Ministry

Carolyn Greene	Chairperson
Christine Johnson	Vickie Shackelford
Rose Palmer	Shirley Thaw
Margaret Jones	Angela Curry
Naomi Holt	Alma Hughes
Crystal Miller	Judy Blankinship
Dianna Miller	Mary Graham



Most just Judge, You desire to transform every injustice into mercy by calling us to freely embrace those injustices out of love. This is a high calling, dear Lord, but it is also a glorious one. Please give me the grace I need to follow Your example and to persevere in this form of prayer always.
Jesus, I trust in You.

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

9:00 AM	Mass
10:00 AM	Dance Rehearsal (S)
10:30 AM	GriefShare Group (CH)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

St. Monica Dedication Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

9:00 AM	Mass
6:00 PM	Prayer Service

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25