



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 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

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

The Resurrection of the Lord

When God Rewrites the Ending

Every story has a moment when it seems like everything is over. The hero falls. Hope disappears. The future looks sealed and certain—and not in a good way. On Good Friday, that was the story. Jesus was crucified, laid in the tomb, and the disciples believed it was finished.

But Easter reveals something powerful: with God, what looks like the end is often just the beginning.

If we are honest, many of us live as though certain parts of our lives are already “finished.” We quietly tell ourselves: *This situation will never change. This relationship is beyond repair. This mistake defines me. This struggle is here to stay.* Like the disciples, we walk away from the tomb thinking the story is over.

Easter interrupts that thinking.

The resurrection is God’s bold declaration that He is not bound by our conclusions. Where we see finality, God sees possibility. Where we see failure, God sees redemption. Where we see death, God brings life.

The women who went to the tomb on Easter morning carried spices, not expectations. They were preparing to honor a body, not encounter a living Lord. They assumed the story had already been written.



continued on page 2



continued from page 1

But when they arrived, they discovered something that shattered their assumptions—the stone was rolled away, and the tomb was empty. And with that, everything changed.

Easter reminds us that God specializes in rewriting endings.

That moment in your life that feels like a closed chapter—God is not finished with it. That burden you have been carrying—the one you have learned to live with—God is not done there either. That part of your heart that feels lifeless or numb—God can breathe life into it again.

But here is the challenge: we often resist the new story God is trying to write. We cling to old narratives. We define ourselves by past wounds, past sins, or past disappointments. We replay failures and allow them to shape how we see ourselves and others. In a way, we become authors of our own limitations, forgetting that God is the true author of our lives.

Easter calls us to let God hold the pen again.

To live Easter is to believe that your life is still being written—and that the best chapters may still be ahead. It is to trust that God can take even the darkest moments and transform them into something meaningful. It is to walk forward not as someone trapped in the past, but as someone opened to new possibilities.

The disciples eventually moved from confusion to courage. Peter, who denied Jesus, became a bold preacher. Thomas, who doubted, became a witness. Their stories did not end in failure—they were rewritten by grace. And so can yours.

But this new story requires a response. It requires us to step out in faith, to leave behind the certainty of the tomb and embrace the uncertainty of resurrection. It requires us to forgive, to begin again, to hope again, to trust again—even when it feels risky.

Easter is not just about what happened to Jesus; it is about what God wants to do in you.

So this Easter, ask yourself: *What story have I already declared finished that God is still working on?* Bring that to Him. Because the God of Easter is still rolling away stones, still surprising hearts, still rewriting endings. And your story is not over yet.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Psalm 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41; Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22; John 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10; Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Luke 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26; Psalm 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9; Luke 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12; Psalm 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a; John 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21; Psalm 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21; Mark 16:9-15

Sunday: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 118:1-2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Lectors: Elton Lombard, Phaedra Lombard

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Karen Groves

Ushers: Team B

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

Offering Reports

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Regular Offering:	\$5,597.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$1,305.00
Social Services:	\$25.00
Youth Scholarship:	\$1,415.00
Total	\$8,342.00

Fundraising Campaign

Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$425,256
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.01%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$74,082

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!

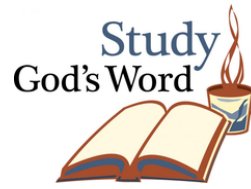
Senior Day Party



Councilman Curls invites you to a Senior Day Party! Enjoy food, dancing, music, exciting giveaways, and a variety of fun

activities. Community partners will be on hand to help with benefits such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and vaccinations. This free event takes place Saturday, May 2nd, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ruskin High School, 7000 E 111th St., Kansas City, MO 64134. For more information, email seniorparty@kclinc.org or call (816) 513-6519.

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!



If you are now making your contributions online, kindly inform the parish office so we can stop sending you church offering envelopes.

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), 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, Jan Powell

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

Lawn & Beautification Ministry

Duane Murff	Captain
Threquinta Peltier	Co Captain
David Parker	Donna Murff
Daniel Kacprowicz	Carrie Miller
Jenny Gillis	Domenic Kagwanja
Anson Taitt	Patricia Kagwanja
Jan Powell	Carmen Johnson
Jim	

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

9:00 AM Mass

MONDAY, APRIL 6

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

9:00 AM Mass

6:00 PM Parish Council Meeting

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

9:00 AM Altar & Rosary (FH)

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