



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2025

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

Fr. Leonard Gicheru
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Director
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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

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Power of Persistence in Prayer

If there's one word that leaps off the page in this Sunday's Gospel, it's persistence. Jesus doesn't just teach the "Our Father"—He tells a story to drive the point home: a man banging on his friend's door at midnight, refusing to go away until he gets what he needs.

It's uncomfortable, isn't it? We don't like the idea of being annoying, of pushing, of repeating ourselves. And yet Jesus praises this very thing in the spiritual life: the stubborn, unrelenting, shameless insistence that God hears us—and will respond.

Let's be honest: we are often quick to give up on prayer. We pray for something once or twice, and if we don't get an immediate answer, we assume it's not God's will. Or worse—we assume He isn't listening. How often do we say things like, "I tried praying, but nothing changed"? Or, "I guess God doesn't want that for me."

But in this parable, Jesus tells us to keep knocking. Why?

Not because God is asleep. Not because He's reluctant to help. But because persistence shapes us. It grows our faith. It tests our sincerity. It purifies our motives. It stretches our hearts to desire not just what we want—but what God wants to give us.



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Think about it: the man in the story isn't asking for bread for himself. He's pleading for someone else—for a hungry guest who has arrived unexpectedly. This kind of prayer—intercessory, urgent, and unselfish—is the kind of prayer that moves mountains. It's the kind of prayer that doesn't stop when the first door doesn't open. It's the kind of prayer that imitates the love of God: persistent, self-giving, tireless.

Jesus follows the story with a promise: "Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." These are not empty words. They're a call to spiritual perseverance. Not once. Not twice. But continually.

Of course, persistence in prayer doesn't mean we always get what we want, when we want it. But it does mean we open ourselves to receive what we most need: the Holy Spirit. Jesus says, "How much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

That's the hidden gem of this Gospel. The real answer to prayer isn't just a job, a healing, or a solution—it's the presence of God Himself. When we persist, we're not just wearing God down. We're being drawn in. We're learning to rely on grace. So, don't stop praying.

Keep knocking for that child who's strayed. Keep seeking healing for your marriage. Keep asking for strength through grief or addiction or confusion. Don't let the locked door fool you. God is home. And He is listening. And when the door finally opens, you may just find the greatest gift waiting: not the thing you were asking for—but the love of the One you've been seeking all along.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34; Psalm 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; Matthew 13:31-35

Tuesday: Exodus 33:7-11, 34:5b-9, 28; Psalm 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13; John 11:19-27 or Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99:5, 6, 7, 9; Matthew 13:44-46

Thursday: Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38; Psalm 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11; Matthew 13:47-53

Friday: Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Psalm 81:3-4, 5-6, 10-11ab; Matthew 13:54-58

Saturday: Leviticus 25:1, 8-17; Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Matthew 14:1-12

Sunday: Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23; Psalm 90:34, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17; Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11; Luke 12:13-21

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, August 3, 2025

Lectors: Rose Roos, Brandy Roos Johnson

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Sharon Hardy

Ushers: Team A

Eucharistic Ministers: Gerald Buckman, Diane Charity, Dawn Collins, Bernadette Cook

Offering Reports

Sunday, July 20, 2025

Regular Offering: \$3,071.00

Food Pantry: \$50.00

Total \$3,121.00

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 mspaula.pn@gmail.com.

We Need Your Help



We invite you to participate in an important online survey to help us assess our readiness for a capital campaign. Visit stmonicakc.org to complete the quick survey. Just a few minutes of your time will make a big difference.

Prefer a paper copy? Find it in the hallway outside Ferguson Hall, and drop your completed survey into the Church Development box for anonymity. Thank you for your invaluable input! Your participation is greatly appreciated.

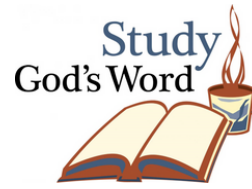
Help Update our Records



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!

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!

Golden Anniversary



The Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass will take place at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, September 28, during the 11:00 AM Mass.

This celebration is for couples and their immediate families celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025. To participate, complete the form at <https://forms.office.com/r/EjvxEJnux0> by September 15, 2025.

Legion of Mary Meeting



Please join us for the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Kibeho/Our Lady of Sorrows Praesidium meeting on Monday, July 28, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the St. Monica building. Your presence will be greatly appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you

"Thank you to the various ministries that have worked so hard to make Mass in Ferguson Hall a positive, faith-filled liturgy, despite the obvious constraints. If you have a question or suggestion, feel free to reach out to the appropriate ministry."

Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Beverly Dyer, 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, Maxine Harvey, 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), Alvin Brooks, Bettye Young, Don Williams, Deacon Darwin Dupree, Herman Lovett (Father of Burnetta Burtin)

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@diocesekcsj.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 ext. 516 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

St. Monica Choir

Minister of Music	President	Vice President
Melvin Kerr	Paula Nix	Randy Fuller
Secretary	Treasurer	Hospitality Chair
Marilyn Scott	Diane Charity	Cynthia Hardy
Sharon Hardy	Karen Hernandez	Latrice Johnson
John James	Michelle Malone	Cheryl Warren
Sheoni Givens	Michelle Sindorf	Terese Brown
Shirley Barber	Bernadette Cook	Rita Womack
Pamela Green	Allison McDonald	Frances Thomas
Michele Perez	Dwight Miller	Fred Fuqua
Bettye Young	Cathy Johnson	Benjie Givens
London Silvers	Rose Roos	Duane Murff
Isaac Sindorf	Roy Moye	John Perez
Lucas Sindorf	Gabriel Kagwanga	Robert Moore
Vincent Alexandria		
Conrad McDonald		
Karen Hardy Groves		
Carolyn Child Gruber		
Ann Suellentrop		
Brenda Foreman		

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, JULY 27

9:00 AM Mass
 2:00 PM 4th Degree KPC Ladies (STM)

MONDAY, JULY 28

6:00 PM Legion of Mary Meeting

TUESDAY, JULY 29

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

9:00 AM Mass
 6:00 PM Prayer Service

THURSDAY, JULY 31

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study (STM)
 11:30 AM Choir Rehearsal (S)
 11:30 AM KPC Council #57 (FH)
 11:30 AM Ladies of Peter Claver (STM)
 4:00 PM Catholic Women Ass. Meeting (C)