



# Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 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

**Reverend Kenneth Greene**  
Deacon  
kegger1969@hotmail.com

**Brad Geist**  
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bgeist@stmonicakc.org

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**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

## Third Sunday of Easter

### Returning to Old Ways — and Hearing the Call Again.

After the Resurrection, one might expect the disciples to be filled with unstoppable energy, boldly proclaiming the Good News to all the world. After all, they had seen the Risen Christ! Yet in today's Gospel, we find them doing something surprising: they return to their old profession — fishing. Despite the astonishing events they have witnessed, they drift back to the life they knew before Jesus called them. Simon Peter says, “I am going fishing,” and the others quickly follow. It's a simple statement, but it reveals much about the human heart.

This moment captures something deeply true about all of us. When life becomes uncertain, stressful, or overwhelming, it is easier to go back to old habits — even ones that no longer satisfy. Instead of boldly walking into the unknown with faith, we cling to what is familiar. We find comfort in the routines, even if they are fruitless, much like the disciples' long night of fishing that yielded nothing.

Yet notice what happens next: Jesus meets them right where they are. He doesn't criticize them for returning to the fishing boats. He doesn't shame them for falling short of their calling. Instead, with tender familiarity, He calls out to them, “Children, have you caught anything to eat?” When they answer “No,” He invites them to cast their net once more — but this time, in obedience to His word.



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Immediately, their nets are overflowing, too heavy to haul in. In this simple act, Jesus reminds them — and us — that success, fulfillment, and fruitfulness come when we listen to Him, not when we rely solely on our own efforts.

Peter’s response is beautiful. As soon as he recognizes that it is Jesus, he leaps into the water, leaving everything else behind, to rush toward the Lord. It is an image of passionate, unfiltered love. His heart, despite all his past failures, remains deeply tied to Christ.

After breakfast, Jesus tenderly addresses Peter’s earlier denial — not with anger, but with healing. Three times He asks, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Three times Peter responds, and three times Jesus commissions him: “Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Feed my sheep.” With these words, Jesus restores Peter and reaffirms his role as the leader of His flock. Peter’s past failure does not disqualify him from future mission; rather, it becomes the foundation upon which his ministry of humble service is built.

This Gospel is a powerful reminder for all of us. It is so easy to fall back into old patterns when the road of discipleship becomes difficult. We may even feel ashamed when we realize we have slipped into old habits of self-reliance, fear, or distraction. But Jesus does not abandon us. He stands on the shore of our lives, patiently waiting, calling us back to Himself.

Each day, He asks us the same question: “Do you love me?” Our love, even if imperfect and hesitant, is enough. If we answer “yes,” He renews His call: to trust Him, to follow Him, and to care for those He entrusts to us.

This Easter season, may we have the courage to leave the empty nets behind, jump out of the boat, and follow the voice of the One who calls us forward into life, love, and mission.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Acts 6:8-15; Psalm 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; John 6:22-29

**Tuesday:** Acts 7:51-8:1a; Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab; John 6:30-35

**Wednesday:** Acts 8:1b-8; Psalm 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a; John 6:35-40

**Thursday:** Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; John 6:44-51

**Friday:** Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 117:1bc, 2; John 6:52-59

**Saturday:** Acts 9:31-42; Psalm 116:12-13, 14-15, 19-17; John 6:60-69

**Sunday:** Acts 13:14, 43-52; Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 5; Revelation 7:9, 14b-17; John 10:27-30

## Liturgical Assignments

*Sunday, May 11, 2025*

Lectors: Michele Perez, Michele Jones

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Ann Suellentrop

Ushers: Team B

Eucharistic Ministers: Sharon Hardy, Elaine Johnson, Syrtiller Kabot, Felicia Menefee, Crystal Miller, Dianna Miller

## Offering Reports

*Sunday, April 27, 2025*

Regular Offering:	\$3,808.00
Food Pantry:	\$125.00
Seder Meal:	\$154.55
Mother’s Day	\$20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,953.00</b>

### 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.



### Friends and Family Update



Our prize list is growing! We have an air fryer, a \$45 gift card to Bath & Body Works, \$75 in Lowe's gift cards, and a QT gas card. Come on, parish family! Invite your

young adult and adult friends and family to join us on May 18th for Mass, fellowship, brunch, and prizes!

### Juneteenth Parade



Save the date for the Juneteenth Parade on June 7th. The Juneteenth Heritage Festival will take place on June 21st. We are the reigning champions for

our float and welcome your ideas, time, and talents as we prepare to win again!

### 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.

### Guess Who? Guess What?

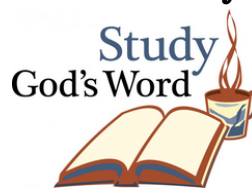


Don Williams and Alvin Brooks proudly showcase the new St. Monica banner displayed on the Paseo Blvd. side of the church. Be sure to check it out!

### Altar Servers Needed

We are in need of more altar servers. If you are interested, please contact Victor Ammons at (816) 446-2936.

### 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!

### Volunteers Needed



We need volunteers to lend a hand in brightening up our church! We need your help painting various areas both inside and out. If you're interested in volunteering

your time, please connect with Don Williams. He will be in the vestibule after mass, ready to sign you up.



We join in celebrating Mr. Alvin Brooks, a devoted member of St. Monica Catholic Church, for his unwavering commitment to faith and justice. The newly completed Alvin Brooks Center for Faith Justice located at 6401 Troost, on the Rockhurst University campus is now open to the public. This center stands as a testament to his lifelong dedication to building a more just and compassionate society. We give thanks for his inspiring witness and pray that this space will continue to form and empower future generations of leaders.

Congratulations, Mr. Brooks!

**"A CHURCH ALIVE IS WORTH THE DRIVE!"**

## Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Beverly Dyer, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald Parson, Sergio Mendoza, 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, Deacon Kenneth Greene, Lawrence Ramirez, Edward H. Franklin, Jr. (Father of Tracey Franklin Bradford), Sean Curry (Son of Angela Curry), Alvin Brooks, Bettye Young

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@diocesekcsj.org](mailto: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](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

### Finance Committee

Janice Smith  
Ernest Collins  
Tracey Lewis  
Fr. Leonard

Chair  
Recorder



## Calendar of Events this Week

### SUNDAY, MAY 4

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

### MONDAY, MAY 5

### TUESDAY, MAY 6

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

9:00 AM Mass  
6:00 PM Prayer Service

### THURSDAY, MAY 8

### FRIDAY, MAY 9

### SATURDAY, MAY 10

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