



# Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

## Parish Staff

**Fr. Leonard Gicheru**  
Pastor  
frleonard@stmonicakc.org

**Reverend Darwin Dupree, Sr.**  
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dawn2127@hotmail.com

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**Ramonda Doakes**  
Religious Education  
Safety Environment Coordinator  
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**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

4th Sunday of Easter

### Recognizing the Voice That Leads to Life

There is one powerful theme running through this Gospel: the voice we choose to follow determines the life we will live.

Jesus paints a vivid image of a sheepfold—a place of safety, belonging, and care. The sheep are not led by force or fear, but by recognition. “The sheep hear his voice... he calls his own sheep by name.” That is deeply personal. God does not deal with us as a crowd. He knows you. He calls you by name. He speaks into your life.

But here is the challenge: many voices are competing for your attention.

We live in a world filled with noise—social media, news, opinions, cultural pressures, and even our own fears and desires. Not every voice that sounds convincing is trustworthy. Jesus is clear: “A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy.” In other words, some voices promise freedom but lead to confusion, anxiety, and ultimately emptiness.

So the real spiritual question is not simply, “Do I believe in Jesus?” but rather, “Do I recognize His voice—and do I follow it?”

Because it is possible to hear many voices and still miss His.

The sheep in the Gospel have learned something essential: they **discern**. They do not follow strangers. They run away from voices that do not belong to the shepherd.



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That means discipleship is not just about saying yes to God—it is also about saying no to what is not from Him.

Here is the lesson: a mature Christian learns to recognize the difference between the voice of Christ and the noise of the world.

But how do we do that in practical terms?

First, we must **spend time with the Shepherd**. Sheep recognize the shepherd’s voice because they hear it often. If we only turn to God occasionally—perhaps on Sundays or in moments of crisis—it becomes difficult to recognize His voice clearly. Prayer, Scripture, and the sacraments are not obligations; they are how we become familiar with the voice that gives life.

Second, we must **pay attention to the fruits of the voices we follow**. Jesus tells us plainly: the thief steals, kills, and destroys. Ask yourself: *Does this voice lead me to peace or to anxiety? To hope or to fear? To generosity or to selfishness?* The voice of Christ always leads toward life—toward deeper love, deeper trust, and deeper freedom.

Third, we must **have the courage to walk away from false voices**. That is not always easy. Some voices are attractive. Some are popular. Some even seem reasonable. But if they do not lead you closer to Christ, they are not worth following.

Finally, Jesus says something remarkable: “I am the gate.” He is not just the shepherd; He is also the way. Through Him, we find safety, direction, and nourishment. “Whoever enters through me will be saved... and find pasture.” That is the promise: not just survival, but abundant life.

My brothers and sisters, this Gospel is both comforting and challenging. Comforting, because we are known and loved by a Shepherd who calls us by name. Challenging, because we must decide whose voice we will follow.

This week, take a moment to listen. In the silence of your heart, ask: *Which voices are shaping my life?* And more importantly: *Am I truly following the voice of the Good Shepherd?*

Because in the end, the voice you follow will determine the life you live.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; John 10:11-18

**Tuesday:** Acts 11:19-26; Psalm 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; John 10:22-30

**Wednesday:** Acts 12:24-13:5a; Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8; John 12:44-50

**Thursday:** Acts 13:13-25; Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27; John 13:16-20

**Friday:** Acts 13:26-33; Psalm 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab; John 14:1-6

**Saturday:** Acts 13:44-52; Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; John 14:7-14

**Sunday:** Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12

## Liturgical Assignments

*Sunday, May 3, 2026*

Lectors: Youth

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Ann Suellentrop

Ushers: Team A

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

## Offering Reports

*Sunday, April 19, 2026*

Regular Offering:	\$2,548.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$584.00
Social Services:	\$75.00
Mother’s Day:	\$25.00
Our Lady of Sorrows:	\$3,488.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,720.40</b>

## Fundraising Campaign

### Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$425,872
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.03%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$84,066

## 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!

## Silent Auction Meeting



We are excited to begin planning our silent auction for this November. We'll get organized and begin the process of making this a successful auction. **Our next MEETING is May 3 and again May 17** in Ferguson Hall immediately after Mass. See you there. We need everyone's participation! Shirley Thaw & Jackie McGhee-Dinvaut, Stewardship Committee.

## Voting Rights for All



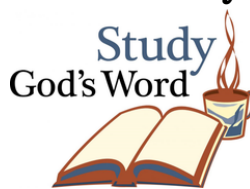
The leadership team of Kansas City Catholics Addressing Racism (KCCAR) invite you to attend our next Continuing the Conversation on Racism and Our Faith event, Our Moral Call: Voting Rights for All on Thursday, May 7th, at Visitation Catholic Church, 5141 Main Street. We'll gather at 6:30, with the program beginning at 6:50 pm.

## Kids Fishing Derby



The Knights of Peter Claver and Junior Knights invite you to join them for a morning of fishing on May 2nd at Lake Jacomo, 9200 Beach Road, Lee's Summit, MO. Registration begins at 8:30 am. This free event is hosted by Jackson County Parks and Rec. The first 200 participants will receive a free fishing pole. For more information, contact 816-229-8980 ext. 2 or [kemper@jacksongov.org](mailto:kemper@jacksongov.org).

## 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!

## Senior Day Party



Councilman Curly 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](mailto:seniorparty@kclinc.org) or call (816) 513-6519.

## Save the Date



Mark your calendar for May 17, 2026 at 3:00 PM! St. Monica will host "To Pray Marvelously Well: The Spiritual Friendship of St. Edith Stein and St. Teresa of Avila," a one-woman show by Still Point Theatre Collective. Written by Jenny Magnus and performed by Lisa Wagner-Carollo, this play explores the friendship that led to Edith Stein's conversion. Don't miss this inspiring event—more details soon!

## Congratulations

Please join us in congratulating Lady Rita Womack on being elected to the position of District Deputy for the Central State Conference of the Ladies of Peter Claver.

# 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](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

## Lawn & Beautification Ministry

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

## 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.*

## Calendar of Events this Week

### SUNDAY, APRIL 26

9:00 AM	Mass
10:00 AM	Evangelization Meeting (FH)
10:00 AM	Dance Rehearsal (S)
10:30 AM	BCIT Meeting (STM)
10:45 AM	GriefShare Support Group (CR)
2:00 PM	4th Degree KPC Ladies (STM)

### MONDAY, APRIL 27

4:00 AM	Legion of Mary Meeting(STM)
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### TUESDAY, APRIL 28

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

9:00 AM	Mass
6:00 PM	Wednesday Night Prayer (S)

### THURSDAY, APRIL 30

### FRIDAY, MAY 1

### SATURDAY, MAY 2