



# Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 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**  
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

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

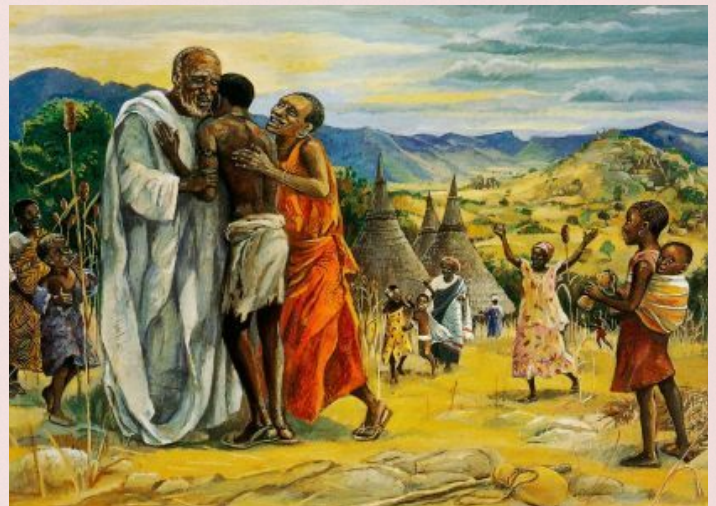
Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them Jesus addressed this parable. Luke 15:1-3

This is good news! Our Lord "welcomes sinners and eats with them." For that reason, there is room at His table for you!

Sometimes it's hard to admit that we are sinners. Of course we know in our minds that we are. But our pride can easily lead us to justify our sin, downplay it and conclude that we are not that bad after all. If you find yourself thinking this way, be careful. Doing so will make you like the Pharisees and scribes in the passage above. Clearly they did not see themselves as sinners, which is why they condemned Jesus for welcoming sinners and eating with them.

The passage above comes from the beginning of Chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel and serves as an introduction to three subsequent parables.

First, our Lord tells the Parable of the Lost Sheep, then the Parable of the Lost Coin, and then the Parable found in the rest of today's Gospel passage, the Parable of the Lost Son. In the first parable, the shepherd who finds his lost sheep rejoices.



Jesus Mafa: The Prodigal Son ©

continued on page 2





In the second parable, the woman who finds her lost coin rejoices. And in the parable we read today, the father who finds his lost son rejoices and throws a party to celebrate.

Return, again, to the passage above that introduces these three parables: "Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus." Once they drew near, Jesus spoke to them about the joy of finding that which was lost. Perhaps as Jesus initially spoke about the finding of the lost sheep and lost coin, this would have resonated with these tax collectors and sinners to a certain degree. But then our Lord tells them the long and detailed story about this boy who disrespects his father, takes his inheritance, squanders it on illicit living, and ends up with nothing. The story expresses the confusion of this boy, his desperation, his guilt and his shame. We learn of his interior thinking, reasoning, fears and anxiety.

As you ponder this parable, try to understand the effect that it would have had upon the tax collectors and sinners who all drew near to our Lord. They were spiritually hungry, just as the prodigal son was. They had a past full of regret, just as this boy. They were unsatisfied in life and were looking for a way out, just as this son of the loving father was. For these reasons, those tax collectors and sinners who drew near Jesus would have been mesmerized by all that Jesus taught them and filled with hope that they, too, could share in the joy that was so generously bestowed upon this wayward son.

Reflect, today, upon the touching image of these tax collectors and sinners drawing near to Jesus. Though they may have had a certain fear and caution, they would have also had hope. Try to understand what they must have thought and felt as they heard this story of the father's abundant mercy. Think about how they would have related as they discovered that there was hope for them, too. If you struggle with being like the scribes and Pharisees, reject that temptation. Instead, see yourself as one of those sinners who drew near to our Lord and you will be the cause of joy in the Heart of the Father in Heaven.

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Isaiah 65:17-21; Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b; John 4:43-54

**Tuesday:** Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; John 5:1-16

**Wednesday:** Isaiah 49:8-15; Psalm 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; John 5:17-30

**Thursday:** Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; John 5:31-47

**Friday:** Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; Psalm 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Saturday:** Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; John 7:40-53

**Sunday:** Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11

## Liturgical Assignments

*Sunday, April 6, 2025*

Lectors: Youth

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Karen Groves

Ushers: Team A

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Charity, Dawn Collins, Angela Curry, Arimeta Dupree, Mary Graham, Pamela Green

## Offering Reports

*Sunday, March 23, 2025*

Regular Offering: \$3,128.00

Building Fund: \$50.00

Food Pantry: \$50.00

---

**Total** **\$3,228.00**

### **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.*

## Stations of The Cross



Join us every Friday during Lent at 6 PM in the Church to pray the Stations of the Cross. Let us come together in faith and reflection for this meaningful devotion. April 4th will be led by Africa Rising and The Black Catholic Implementation Team.

## Lenten Soup Dinner



Join us for Lenten soup after the Stations of the Cross on April 11th in the St. Monica Building. Let's come together in fellowship during this special season!

## 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!

## Friends and Family Event



Mark your calendars for a delightful Family and Friends Event on May 18th! Enjoy a delicious brunch along with exciting prizes. Begin to think about the special

people you'd like to bring along for this memorable gathering. Stay tuned for more details—we can't wait to celebrate with you!

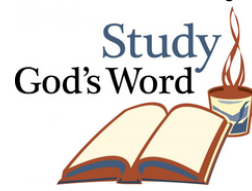
## Seder Meal



Join us for a Seder Ceremony and Dinner on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 6:00 PM. We need volunteers for preparations! Please RSVP with a \$13.00 donation for the

meal catered by Karen Anderson. After Mass, see Donna Murff and Chaunceyetta Mize to RSVP and volunteer. We look forward to celebrating this special occasion with you!

## 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!

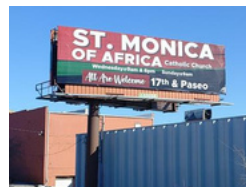
## Easter Egg Hunt



Easter Sunday is fast approaching, and we are preparing for our yearly Easter Egg Hunt, which will be held directly following Mass on Easter Sunday. We would

like to ask each family/parishioner to donate 1 bag of wrapped candies for this year's Easter Egg Hunt for the children of our Parish and those visiting. There will be an Easter basket placed in the back of the church vestibule on Sunday, March 23rd for your donations. We look forward to yet another fun, safe and successful Easter Egg Hunt this year. Thank you, Burnetta Burtin and Elton Lombard.

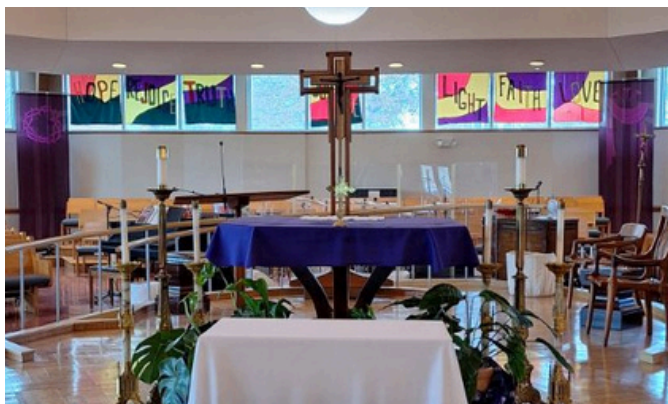
## St. Monica Billboard



We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. David Odegard at Lamar Advertising for generously providing us with a complimentary billboard

display for our St. Monica advertisement. The billboard can be found on Highway 71, positioned for northbound traffic at the Truman Road exit.

# 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, Roland Miller (Husband of Diana Miller), Mary Ann Grayson, 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, Joe Crayon, at 816.812.2500 or [crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org](mailto:crayon@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 816.392.0011 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

## Parish Council Members

Carolyn Greene	Chairperson
Duane Murff	Vice-Chairperson
Kim Urenda	Secretary
Father Leonard Gicheru	
Brad Geist	
Robin Richardson	
Vincent Alexandria	
Patricia Gray	

## HOLY WEEK MASS SCHEDULE

**April 16th**  
6:00 PM Seder Meal

**April 17th**  
6:00 PM Holy Thursday

**April 18th**  
5:15 PM Good Friday Stations  
6:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy

**April 19th**  
8:00 PM Holy Saturday

**April 20th**  
9:00 AM Easter Sunday

## Calendar of Events this Week

### SUNDAY, MARCH 30

9:00 AM Mass  
10:30 AM Dance Rehearsal (S)  
11:30 AM RCIA Classes (CR)

### MONDAY, MARCH 31

6:00 PM Legion of Mary Meeting (STM)

### TUESDAY, APRIL 1

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

9:00 AM Mass  
6:00 PM Prayer Service

### THURSDAY, APRIL 3

### FRIDAY, APRIL 4

6:00 PM Stations of The Cross

### SATURDAY, APRIL 5

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study (STM)  
11:30 AM Choir Rehearsal (S)  
11:30 AM Ladies of St. Peter Claver (STM)  
1:00 PM Knight of Peter Claver (STM)

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