



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Parish Staff

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Director
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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

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16-17

If Jesus would never have given His life on a cross for the salvation of the world, then a cross would never have been seen in "exultation." A cross, in and of itself, is an instrument of death, a horrific and violent death. It's also an instrument of humiliation and torture. Yet, today, the Cross is seen as a holy and blessed object. We hang crosses in our homes, wear them around our neck, keep them in our pocket on the end of the rosary, and spend time in prayer before them. The Cross is now an exalted image by which we turn to God in prayer and surrender. But that is only the case because it was on a cross that we were saved and brought to eternal life.

If you step back and consider the amazing truth that one of the worst instruments of torture and death is now seen as one of the holiest of images on earth, it should be awe inspiring. Comprehending this fact should lead us to the realization that God can do anything and everything. God can use the worst and transform it into the best. He can use death to bring forth life.



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Though our celebration today, the “Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross,” is first and foremost a feast by which we give glory to the Father for what He did in the Person of His divine Son, it is also a feast by which we must humbly understand that God can “exalt” every cross we endure in life and bring forth much grace through them.

What is your heaviest cross? What is the source of your greatest suffering? Most likely, as you call this to mind, it is painful to you. Most often, our crosses and sufferings are things we seek to rid ourselves of. We easily point to crosses in life and blame them for a lack of happiness. We can easily think that if only this or that were to change or be removed, then our life would be better. So what is that cross in your life?

The truth is that whatever your heaviest cross is, there is extraordinary potential for that cross to become an actual source of grace in your life and in the world. But this is only possible if you embrace that cross in faith and hope so that our Lord can unite it to His and so that your crosses can also share in the exaltation of Christ’s Cross. Though this is a profoundly deep mystery of faith, it is also a profoundly deep truth of our faith.

Reflect, today, upon your own crosses. As you do, try not to see them as a burden. Instead, realize the potential within those crosses. Prayerfully look at your crosses as invitations to share in Christ’s Cross. Say “Yes” to your crosses. Choose them freely. Unite them to Christ’s Cross. As you do, have hope that God’s glory will come forth in your life and in the world through your free embrace of them. Know that these “burdens” will be transformed and become a source of exaltation in your life by the transforming power of God.

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Psalm 28:2, 7, 8-9; John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35

Tuesday: 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Psalm 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6; Luke 7:11-17

Wednesday: 1 Timothy 3:14-16; Psalm 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Luke 7:31-35

Thursday: 1 Timothy 4:12-16; Psalm 111:7-8, 9, 10; Luke 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Timothy 6:2c-12; Psalm 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20; Luke 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Timothy 6:13-16; Psalm 100:1B-2, 3, 4, 5; Luke 8:4-15

Sunday: Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8; 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, September 21, 2025

Lectors: Brandy Roos Johnson, Arimeta Dupree

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Ramonda Doakes

Ushers: Team C

Eucharistic Ministers: Terese Brown, Gerald Buckman, Diane Charity, Dawn Collins

Offering Reports

Sunday, September 7, 2025

Regular Offering:	\$6,145.00
Building Fund:	\$487.00
Food Pantry:	\$145.00
Youth Scholarship:	\$10.00
Memorial/Religious Ed:	\$250.00
Total	\$7,037.00

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 mstpaula.pn@gmail.com.

Parish Revival



Mark your calendars for an inspiring Parish Revival on September 21st, 22nd, and 23rd! We are excited to welcome Father Kareem Smith, revivalist and president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, from New York. Stay tuned for more details.

We Need Your Help



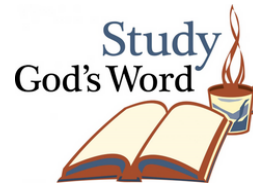
As we continue with our capital campaign we are looking for grant writers. Please notify Elton Lombard, Lawrence Blankinship, Carolyn Greene, Shirley Thaw or Janice Smith if you have that skill. It takes all of our gifts and talents to make this campaign successful.

The Jericho Walk Is Back



In honor of Deacon Ken Greene, the Black Catholic Implementation Team (BCIT) is reinstating the Jericho Walk to benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital. This initiative was very dear to his heart, and we will participate on September 20, 2025, by walking around the campus seven times. You can make a pledge or volunteer to walk on September 15, 2025. Sign-up sheets will be available after Mass.

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!

Parish Mental Health Ministry



In partnership with Catholic Charities, parishes launched parish-based mental health ministries. Parishes continue to have events and groups. All are welcomed. To stay up-to-date about current events, visit <https://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/mentalhealthministry/> and scroll down to view the calendar.

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!

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), Alvin Brooks, Bettye Young, Don Williams, Deacon Darwin Dupree, Ramonda Doakes, Vincent Alexandria

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

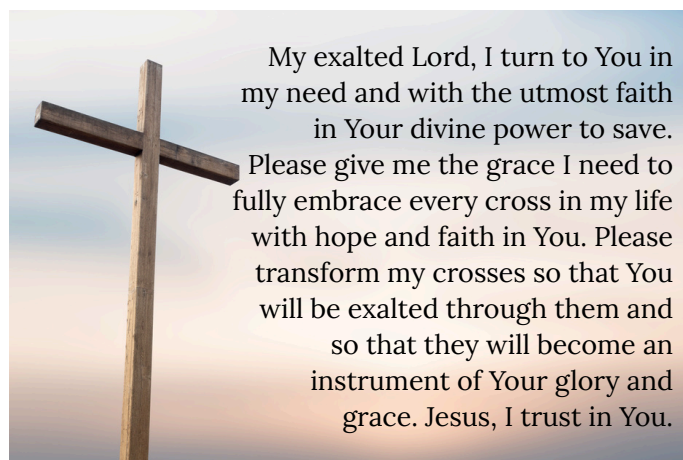
The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact the Victim Advocate, at 816.714.2357 ext. 516 or victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

Safety Environment Coordinator for St. Monica Parish -
Ramonda Doakes, P-(816) 457- 5538, E- rdoakes@stmonicakc.org

Leadership Corner

Social Services & Food Pantry Ministry

Rita Womack Director
 Donna Murff
 Dawn Collins
 Dianna Miller
 Rita Humphrey



My exalted Lord, I turn to You in my need and with the utmost faith in Your divine power to save. Please give me the grace I need to fully embrace every cross in my life with hope and faith in You. Please transform my crosses so that You will be exalted through them and so that they will become an instrument of Your glory and grace. Jesus, I trust in You.

Calendar of Events this Week

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

9:00 AM Mass
 6:00 PM Prayer Service

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study (STM)