



# Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD, KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

## Parish Staff

**Fr. Leonard Gicheru**  
Pastor  
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**Reverend Darwin Dupree, Sr.**  
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dawn2127@hotmail.com

**Brad Geist**  
Pastoral Associate  
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**Biviana Radillo**  
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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

5th Sunday of Easter

### “Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled”

There is something deeply human in a troubled heart. Jesus speaks these words not to strangers, but to His disciples—men who have walked with Him, listened to Him, and trusted Him. And yet, their hearts are still unsettled. Why? Because uncertainty has entered the room. The future feels unclear. Loss feels near. Fear begins to whisper.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.”

That command is not a denial of reality. Jesus is not pretending that everything is easy. He knows what is coming—the cross, the confusion, the scattering of His followers. But He also knows something greater: that fear does not have the final word. Faith does.

If we are honest, our hearts are often troubled too.

We worry about our families—our children, their future, their faith.

We carry burdens about health, finances, and stability.

We struggle with decisions, unsure if we are on the right path.

We are sometimes weighed down by grief, disappointment, or even quiet doubts about God’s presence.



“Jesus Is Our Bridge To Heaven” by artist Elizabeth Wang.

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A troubled heart is not a sign of weak faith—it is a sign of being human. But remaining in that state, allowing fear to take control, is where the danger lies.

Jesus gives us the remedy: “You have faith in God; have faith also in me.” In other words, **trust is the antidote to a troubled heart.**

But what does that trust look like in real life?

First, it means **trusting God’s direction even when we don’t understand it.** Thomas voices what many of us feel: “We do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” We like clarity. We want a roadmap. But Jesus does not give directions—He gives Himself: “I am the way.” Faith is not about having all the answers; it is about walking with the One who does.

Second, it means **trusting God’s presence in the midst of uncertainty.** Philip asks, “Show us the Father.” He wants proof. Something visible, something undeniable. And Jesus responds almost with surprise: “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me?” How often do we do the same? We ask, “God, where are you?”—while He is already at work in our lives, in quiet ways we fail to recognize. A conversation, a moment of grace, strength we didn’t know we had—these are not accidents. They are signs of His presence.

Third, it means **trusting God’s promises over our fears.** Jesus tells them, “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.” This is not just about heaven someday—it is about belonging now. We are not abandoned. We are not forgotten. Our lives are held within a greater promise.

So what is the challenge for us this week? When your heart is troubled, pause and ask: What am I holding onto that I need to surrender? Where is God already present that I am failing to see? Am I trusting my fears more than I trust Christ?

Faith is not the absence of trouble—it is the decision to trust in the middle of it.

Jesus does not say, “You will never be troubled.” He says, “Do not let your hearts remain there.” Because when Christ is the way, even a troubled heart can find peace.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Acts 14:5-18; Psalm 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16; John 14:21-26

**Tuesday:** Acts 14:19-28; Psalm 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21; John 14:27-31a

**Wednesday:** Acts 15:1-6; Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; John 15:1-8

**Thursday:** Acts 15:7-21; Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10; John 15:9-11

**Friday:** Acts 15:22-31; Psalm 57:8-9, 10 and 12; John 15:12-17

**Saturday:** Acts 16:1-10; Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 5; John 15:18-21

**Sunday:** Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21

## Liturgical Assignments

*Sunday, May 10, 2026*

Lectors: Bernadette Cook, Carolyn Greene

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Ann Suellentrop

Ushers: Team B

Eucharistic Ministers: Dianna Miller, Paula Nix, Rose Palmer, Lydia Ramirez, Rose Roos, Katie Stewart

## Offering Reports

*Sunday, April 26, 2026*

Regular Offering:	\$3,301.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$7,118.00
Social Services:	\$95.00
Mass Intention:	\$10.00
Our Lady of Sorrows:	\$1,540.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,064.50</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	\$91,183

## 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



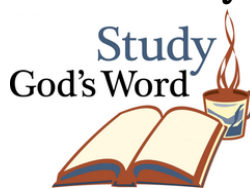
We are excited to begin planning our silent auction for this November. We'll get organized and begin the process of making this a successful auction. **Our next MEETING is May 3 in Ferguson Hall and again May 17 in the St. Monica Building** immediately after Mass. See you there. We need everyone's participation!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

## Voting Rights for All



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 7<sup>th</sup>, at Visitation Catholic Church, 5141 Main Street. We'll gather at 6:30, with the program beginning at 6:50 pm. The SPEAKERS are: Rev. Dr. Bob Hill, Minister Emeritus of Community Christian Church. Melanie Busse, President of the League of Women Voters of Kansas City-Jackson, Clay & Platte counties. M. Jenise Comer, LCSW, Professor Emeritus, University of Central Missouri, and Volunteer. Mark your calendars, invite others, share our flyers, and attend on May 7th. Please note, this event is NOT just for Catholics, but for ALL who are interested in preserving our right to vote!

## 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.

## To Pray Marvelously Well



An inspiring, new one-woman show is coming to St. Monica on Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 3:00 PM. To Pray Marvelously Well: The Spiritual Friendship of St. Edith Stein and St. Teresa of Avila. The original play by Still Point Theatre Collective explores the journeys of these two women, combined in one theatrical production. Teresa had a profound impact on Edith, and her autobiography led to Edith's conversion. The play is free, but love offerings will be gladly accepted. Proceeds will benefit St. Monica. For more information, contact Charles Carney at (913) 603-2483 or Ann Sullentrop at (913) 271-7925.

# 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

## Accounting Team

### Team Leads

Janice Smith	Burnetta Burtin
Ernest Collins	Jenise Comer
Mary Alexander	Jeanette Countee
Tracy Bradford	Fred Taylor
Marcus Moye	Karen Curls
Fredarecca Parker White	

## 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, MAY 3

9:00 AM Mass  
10:00 AM Silent Auction Meeting (FH)  
10:00 AM Dance Rehearsal (S)  
10:45 AM GriefShare Support Group (CR)  
11:00 AM Ladies of St. Peter Claver (STM)

### MONDAY, MAY 4

### TUESDAY, MAY 5

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

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

### THURSDAY, MAY 7

### FRIDAY, MAY 8

### SATURDAY, MAY 9

11:30 AM Altar & Rosary Society (FH)