



# Saint Monica Catholic Church

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 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

**Brad Geist**  
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bgeist@stmonicakc.org

**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

## 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Striving for the Narrow Gate

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 13:22-30), someone asks Jesus a question that many of us have also wondered: "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" Rather than answering with statistics, Jesus shifts the focus back to us: "Strive to enter through the narrow gate."

That word strive carries the sense of effort, endurance, and even struggle. Salvation is not a passive inheritance but an active journey. Faith is not simply an idea we agree with; it is a way of life that calls for daily conversion and perseverance. Jesus invites us into a relationship with Him that demands more than casual association—it calls us to wholehearted commitment.

We see this same teaching in other moments of the Gospels. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus speaks of the narrow gate that leads to life and warns that the broad road leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13-14). The narrow way is not popular, not easy, and not crowded. It is the path of humility, service, and sacrificial love. It is the way of the cross, which Jesus tells His disciples to take up daily if they want to follow Him (Luke 9:23).

The danger for many of us is complacency. Jesus often warned against the temptation of assuming that proximity to Him is enough. He reminds His listeners that it is not those who cry out, "Lord, Lord" who will enter the kingdom, but those who *do the will of the Father* (Matthew 7:21).



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Our faith is not measured merely by our words, our church attendance, or our association with Christian culture, but by whether our lives are transformed by obedience to God’s will.

The call to strive also speaks to urgency. Jesus tells parables about servants who must be ready when the master returns (Luke 12:35–40) and about bridesmaids who were locked out of the wedding feast because they were unprepared (Matthew 25:1–13). In each case, the message is clear: the time to respond is now. The “gate” of grace is open, but it will not remain open forever. Someday the door will be shut, and the question will not be whether we intended to follow Christ, but whether we actually did.

Yet, even with the seriousness of this warning, the Gospel ends with hope. Jesus proclaims that people will come from the east and west, north and south, to take their place at the heavenly banquet (Luke 13:29). The narrow gate is not narrow because God wants to exclude, but because it requires the surrender of pride, selfishness, and sin. It is narrow because it can only be entered by humility and faith, by recognizing that we cannot save ourselves but must rely on God’s mercy.

To strive for the narrow gate, then, is to live intentionally: forgiving others, practicing charity, persevering in prayer, and trusting God’s grace more than our own strength. It means living as disciples who do not simply hear the Word but put it into practice (Luke 8:21).

The invitation is before us every day. Jesus Himself is the narrow gate (John 10:9). To enter through Him is to walk in His way, to trust His mercy, and to share in His life. Let us not put it off or presume upon tomorrow. Today is the day to renew our striving, knowing that with Christ, the way may be narrow, but it surely leads to life.

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10; Psalm 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Matthew 23:13-22

**Tuesday:** 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Psalm 139:1-3, 4-6; Matthew 23:23-26

**Wednesday:** 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Psalm 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab; Matthew 23:27-32

**Thursday:** 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Psalm 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 and 17; Matthew 24:42-51

**Friday:** 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Psalm 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12; Mark 6:17-29

**Saturday:** 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11; Psalm 98:1, 7-8, 9; Matthew 25:14-30

**Sunday:** Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Psalm 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11; Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a; Luke 14:1, 7-14

## Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, August 31, 2025

Lectors: Gerald Buckman, Darthene Buckman

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Sharon Hardy

Ushers: Volunteers

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

## Offering Reports

Sunday, August 17, 2025

Regular Offering:	\$3,093.00
Building Fund:	\$30.00
Food Pantry:	\$105.00
Second Collection:	\$235.93
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,463.93</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.*

### 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.

### Grief Share Group



If you have experienced the loss of a loved one and would like to participate in the GreifShare Group, please contact Kim Urenda to reserve your spot. This 13 week group will meet after mass on Sundays starting on Sunday, September 7th at 10:30 am. This group has a personalized workbook for you to use during your grief journey for a \$20 fee.

### All St. Monica Ministries



Attention all organizations: As you plan your upcoming events at the church, please remember the importance of notifying the parish council in addition to Fr. Leonard.

Thank you for your understanding and collaboration!

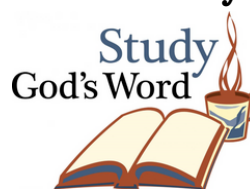
### We Need Your Help



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.

### 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!

### Summer Social Potluck



Join the Ladies of Charity for a Summer Social Potluck on Wednesday, August 27th, at the Church of the Nativity. Mass is at 5 PM, followed by dinner. Enjoy a 50/50 cash raffle and Retro Music Bingo after dinner. There's no cost to attend! Please RSVP by Monday, August 25th, at [signupforlocevents@gmail.com](mailto:signupforlocevents@gmail.com). For more information, visit <https://ladiesofcharitykc.org/>.

### IMPORTANT!

Fr. Leonard will be taking a vacation to visit his family in Kenya from August 26 to October 1. During this time away, he assures you that he will keep you and your families in his daily prayers. He kindly asks that you also keep him in your prayers—for safe travels, a restful visit, and a joyful reunion with loved ones. May this time of renewal strengthen him to return refreshed and ready to continue serving our parish community.

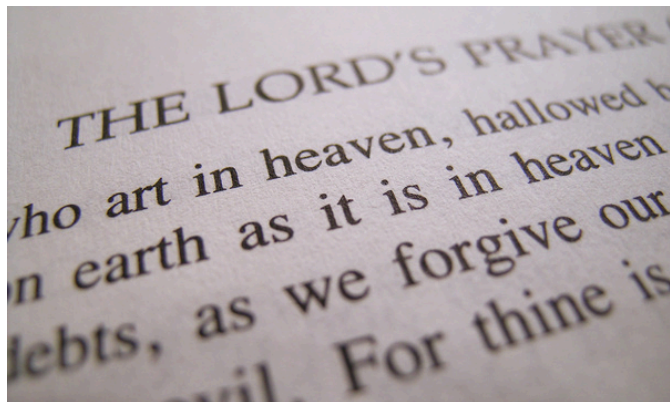
### August 27<sup>th</sup>– The Feast Day of St. Monica of Africa



*Son, for my own part I have no further delight in any thing in this life. What I do here any longer, and why I am here, I know not, now that my hopes in this world are accomplished. There was one thing for which I desired to linger for a while in this life, that I might see you as a Catholic Christian before I died. My God has done this for me more abundantly, that I should now see you, despising earthly happiness, become His servant.*  
~Words of Saint Monica, from Saint Augustine's Confessions

**“A CHURCH ALIVE IS WORTH THE DRIVE!”**

## Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Beverly Dyer, 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, 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, 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](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

### Altar & Rosary Society

President	Treasurer	Secretary
Rosetta Palmer	Crystal Marie Miller	Donna Murff
Paula Nix	Jackie Countee	Remona Miller
Mary Pearson	Angela Curry	Elaine Johnson
Keith Peltier	Beverly Dyer	Cheryl Jones
Rose Roose	Pamela Green	Margaret Jones
Carrie Miller	Pat Williams	Michelle Jones
Kim Urenda	Alma Hughes	Naomi Holt
Ronald Green	Linda Hall	Carolyn Greene
Carol Lewis	Shirley Thaw	Katie Steward
Margaret Sams	Diane Bacchus	
Deborah Scott	Burnetta Burtin	
Phyllis Weaver	Stephanie Broils	
Vickie Shackelford	Dawn Collins	
Annie Marie Lovett	Jenise Comer	
Robin Richardson	Nellie Thompson	
Carmen Johnson	Yvonne Dillahunt	
Chaunceyetta Mize	Sr. Sandra Thibodeaux	

## Calendar of Events this Week

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

9:00 AM	Mass
10:00 AM	Dance Rehearsal (S)
2:00 PM	4 <sup>th</sup> Degree KPC Ladies (STM)

### MONDAY, AUGUST 25

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

9:00 AM	Mass
6:00 PM	Prayer Service

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

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