



Saint Monica Catholic Church

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 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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rdoakes@stmonicakc.org

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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

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Monica: The Power of Faithful Persistence

This weekend, we joyfully celebrate the feast of St. Monica, the patroness of our parish. A patronal feast is more than an annual celebration or a name on the front of a church building. It is an opportunity to remember who we are, to renew our mission, and to learn from the saint whose name we proudly bear.

The life of St. Monica can be summarized in one powerful word: persistence.

Monica lived during the fourth century in North Africa. Her life was not easy. Her marriage was difficult, and her son Augustine wandered far from the Christian faith. Augustine was brilliant, ambitious, and restless. He searched for truth in many places, embraced beliefs contrary to Christianity, and made choices that caused his mother great sorrow. Yet Monica refused to give up on him.

For nearly seventeen years, she prayed for Augustine's conversion. She followed him, encouraged him, wept for him, and placed him continually into the hands of God. At times, it must have seemed that nothing was changing. Nevertheless, Monica kept praying because she trusted that God was working even when she could not yet see the results.



continued on page 2



Her persistence bore extraordinary fruit. Augustine eventually encountered Christ, was baptized by St. Ambrose, became a priest and bishop, and is now remembered as one of the greatest saints and teachers in the history of the Church. Behind the great St. Augustine stood a faithful mother who believed that no one was beyond the reach of God's grace.

St. Monica's story speaks powerfully to us today. Many people carry concern for a child, spouse, sibling, friend, or parishioner who has drifted away from the Church or is struggling with life. We may wonder whether our prayers are making any difference. Monica reminds us that prayer is never wasted. God's timetable may differ from ours, but God is always at work.

Her life also speaks to our parish. St. Monica Catholic Church has endured because generations of faithful people refused to give up. Through discrimination, social change, financial challenges, grief, and uncertainty, our ancestors continued to worship, serve, sacrifice, and hope. They understood that persistence is not simply stubbornness. Christian persistence is faith that keeps moving because it believes God is still writing the story.

As we celebrate our patronal feast, let us ask ourselves: What future are we praying and working for? Are we willing to remain faithful when progress seems slow? Are we building a parish where children and young adults can discover Christ, elders are honored, families are strengthened, and every person knows that they belong?

St. Monica teaches us that holiness often looks like showing up again, praying again, forgiving again, and trying again. Our parish must embody that same faithful persistence as we continue strengthening our ministries, improving our campus, caring for our health, welcoming new members, and sharing the Gospel within our community.

May St. Monica intercede for our families, our parish, and everyone waiting for an answer to prayer. May her example give us courage to believe that tears can become testimony, struggle can produce strength, and faithful prayer can change generations.

Finally, heartfelt thanks to the Black Implementation Team for working so diligently to make this celebration a success. We are deeply grateful for Saturday's enriching Health and Wellness event and Sunday's beautiful and uplifting liturgy. Your planning, service, and dedication have helped us celebrate not only our patroness, but also the faith, history, health, and unity of our parish family.

St. Monica, pray for us!

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Psalm 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102; Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 2:10b-16; Psalm 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14; Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Psalm 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21; Luke 4:38-44

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 3:18-23; Psalm 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Luke 5:1-11

Friday: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Psalm 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40; Luke 5:33-39

Saturday: 1 Corinthians 4:6b-15; Psalm 145:17-18, 19-20, 21; Luke 6:1-5

Sunday: Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, September 6, 2026

Lectors: Youth

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Jackie McGhee-Dinvaut

Ushers: Team A

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Graham, Pamela Green, Ronald Green, Carolyn Greene, Ben Gruber, Sharon Hardy

Offering Reports

Sunday, August 23, 2026

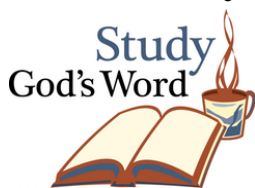
Regular Offering:	\$4,981.00
Fundraising Campaign:	\$834.00
Food Pantry:	\$195.00
Second Collection:	\$1,759.00
Total	\$7,769.00

Fundraising Campaign

Weekly Update

Goal	\$2,500,000
Total Amount Pledged	\$425,872
Percentage of Goal Pledged	17.03%
Actual Cash Received to Date	\$127,041

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!

Legion of Mary Meeting



Please join us for the Legion of Mary meetings here at St. Monica every Monday at 4:00 PM in the St. Monica building. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please reach out to Rose Palmer, Ramonda Doakes, or Yvonne Dillahunt.

Fundraising Campaign



Thank you to all who have already submitted a pledge card for our parish fundraising campaign. If you have not yet participated, pledge cards are available at the back of the church. Please return your completed card in the red collection box. Every gift helps move our parish forward.

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 mspaula.pn@gmail.com.

Religious Education



Religious Education will begin in September, and we are currently looking for parishioners who are willing to help with this important ministry. There are still a few grade levels that need volunteers. If you feel called to share your faith and help form the next generation of our parish, please stop by the table at the back of the church after Mass and see what grade level you may be able to assist with. For those who will be working with our children, VIRTUS training and the required Missouri Mandated Reporter training will be offered. Please prayerfully consider giving your time and talents to this vital ministry of our parish. Your presence can make a meaningful difference in the faith formation of our children and young people.



ST. MONICA MUSEUM
of Black Catholic Culture & History

Capturing The Black Catholic Experience

The St. Monica Museum of Black Catholic Culture & History will be coordinating video tapings to capture and permanently preserve meaningful stories, events, information, and memories that reflect the Black Catholic experience. Initially, the focus for the oral history project will be for the time period prior to 1960. If you or someone you know has memories or information about churches, schools, priests, nuns, meaningful experiences, etc. that occurred prior to the year 1960, we would like to hear from you. Ultimately, the Museum will seek information that captures the Black Catholic experience, not just in Kansas City, but nationwide and worldwide. Please contact Alvin Brooks, Jackie Dinvaute, or Lawrence Blankinship for more information.

Prayer List



Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald Parson, Cheryl Warren, Chaunceyetta Mize, Rhea Holloman, Melva McClellan, 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, Yesheka Alexander (daughter of James and Mary Alexander), Carolyn Turner, Bernadette Cook, Duane Murff

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@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 for more information.

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

Leadership Corner

Stewardship Committee

Lawrence Blankinship
M. Jenise Comer
Fr. Leonard Gicheru
Carolyn Greene
Shirley Thaw
Jackie Dinvaut

Chair
Recorder
Kenneth Bacchus
David Barnes
Alvin Brooks
Angela Curry

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, AUGUST 30

9:00 AM Mass
10:00 AM St. Monica Day Celebration (FH)

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

4:00 PM Legion of Mary Meeting

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

10:30 AM Funeral

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study (STM)
11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal (S)
11:30 AM Knights of Peter Claver (FH)